

PearlWind turbine finally whirling

by Lynette Filips
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We've seen one whirling in front of the Great Lakes Science Center in downtown Cleveland, perhaps we've seen one whirling on a farm while travelling in urban areas of our state, and now, at last, we see one whirling in Old Brooklyn.

The wind turbine may very well be the energy solution of the future, and Pearl Road Auto Wrecking/Pearl Road Auto Parts, 5000 Pearl Rd. is the first business to install one in Cleveland, and one of the first in the world to be installed on an urban setting.

In June, the *Old Brooklyn News (OBN)* reported the groundbreaking for this project. Close to I-480 and the intersection of Brookpark Rd., the fourth generation business is located on 4.7 acres. Myron Kaplan owns the business; two of his three sons, Jon and Kevin, are officers of the organization. (Myron's other son, Michael, owns the Glass Bubble, a glass blowing studio on W. 25th St.)

It was Jon Kaplan who spearheaded the wind turbine project. Initially looking to the economics of operating a business even more than to ecological issues, Jon viewed the installation of a wind turbine as a way to ensure fixed costs for electricity.

Jon said that in just eighteen days of operations, the wind turbine has produced over 3.5 megawatt hours of electricity. What makes that even more amazing is that some of those eighteen days were without wind, which means that the turbine's wings did not spin and thus it did not generate any power on those days.

The Vestas V-20 remanufactured wind turbine sits atop a 140-foot tower; the turbine's wing span is 60 feet. That compares to the turbine at the Science Center which sits on a 100-foot tower, and has an 81 foot wing span.

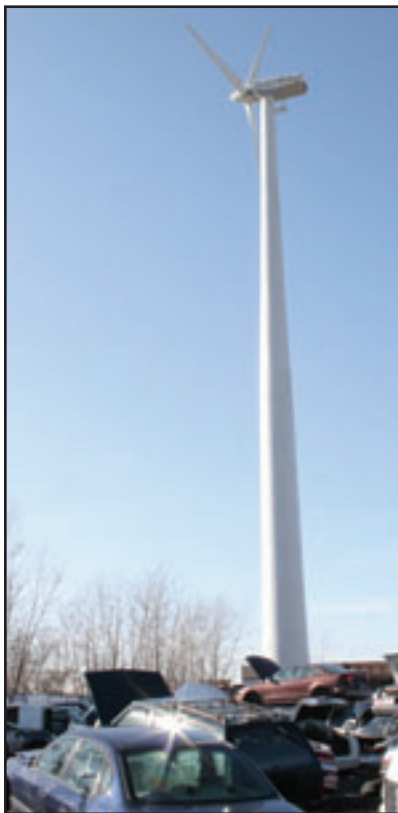


Photo by George Shuba
PearlWind, the wind turbine at Pearl Road Auto Wrecking/Pearl Road Auto Parts, 5000 Pearl Rd., began whirling on Friday, November 13th.

Donald L. Geitz & Associates was the architect for the Pearl Road project; Alber & Rice, Inc., the engineering firm; Great Lakes Construction Co., the construction contractor; Affiliated Metal Industries Inc., the steel fabricator; and The Job Shop, the electrical contractor.

Pearl Road's wind turbine is expected to generate nearly 100 percent of their electricity needs, or approximately 128 kwh of electricity each year. If it produces more power than Pearl can use, they can sell it to the Illuminating Company annually.

Because almost 90% of the electricity in north-east Ohio is produced by burning coal, a wind turbine also helps to lower the carbon footprint here. That's a good thing, because carbon dioxide emissions contribute to global warming and climate change.

Pearl Road Auto Wrecking/Pearl Road Auto Parts received a partial grant for erecting the wind turbine from an Advanced Energy Fund Program of the Ohio Department of Development's Ohio Energy Office. The Kaplans hope to have their investment returned within eight years.

The wind turbine says PearlWind on it because that is the name of another business which Jon incorporated on July 28th. Jon is hoping that

Pearl Road's wind turbine will spawn a new business selling small-scale wind turbines to other businesses and farms throughout the state and country. While installation of already-produced wind turbines is the only alternative now, Jon hopes to someday manufacture wind turbines in Cleveland.

To folks whizzing along I-480 or driving leisurely around the neighborhood, Pearl Road's wind turbine is a visible sign of the future-thinking mentality of at least one of our businesses. View photos of the construction process at www.PearlWind.com.



Photo by George Shuba

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the "Christmas Story" movie, James Barilla of The Trading Post Train Shop, 4384 Pearl Rd., has the new The Lionel Christmas Story train set, Red Ryder B-B gun and leg lamps for sale.

Churches spread "Christmas Spirit"

by Sheila Quealy-Walter
and Nora Q. Owens

As the Christmas season approaches, many are looking forward to a time of celebration and joy with family and friends. This season is also the perfect time to remember people who are in need, and there are many opportunities in and around the community where people have been coming together and showing their support and gratitude.

"Adopt a Child for Christmas" - St. Leo the Great, 4940 Broadview Rd. ~ 216-661-5330. Parishioners purchase, wrap and tag gifts that will be distributed to children receiving help from these area organizations: Transitional Housing, Catholic Charities, Maggie's Place and St. Aloysius Church. This program has been in existence since the early 1970s.

"A Giving Tree" - St. James Lutheran, 4771 Broadview Rd. ~ 216-351-6499.

St. James will be collecting items for new babies and moms in need throughout the month of December. Consider donating clothing and gently used baby items to be distributed through the Cleveland Pregnancy Center.

"Toys for Tots" Cub Scout Troop 45 and Boy Scout Troop 88 - Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) are assisting the Marines in their "Toys for Tots" campaign. New or gently used toys may be placed in designated boxes outside the Marian Lounge after all weekend Masses.

The students of OLGC school will spread the holiday spirit by caroling at the

Hopkins Airport in the ticketing area on Tuesday, December 8th, 10:15 am - 12:30 pm.

"Breakfast with Santa" - OLGC, 4423 Pearl Rd. Parish Center ~ 216-749-2323. Sponsored by PTU, Saturday, December 12th, 9 am - noon. The breakfast will consist of French toast sticks, sausage, juice, milk and coffee. The \$6 cost also includes a picture with Santa and a small craft to take home. To reserve a seat, call the school office by Tuesday, December 8th.

"Christmas in July" - Corpus Christi, 5204 Northcliff Ave. ~ 216-351-8738. As the title suggests, it's been scheduled during the summertime because so many other churches help out during the holiday time, but charitable organizations need help year round. The Holy Name Society sets up a Christmas tree in church for the entire month of July. Anyone is welcome to take as many ornaments as they wanted and buy the items on the ornaments. At least five car-loads of gifts were delivered during the first week of August to the West Side Catholic Center.

See *Christmas Spirit*, page 5

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OBCDC Holiday lighting contest



Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation and area merchants are sponsoring an

Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre lighting contest for residents and businesses.

If you would like to have your home judged for best decorations of 2009, the process is simple: complete the application on page 6 and mail it to: OBCDC, 3344 Broadview Rd., Cleveland, OH 44109; fax : 216-459-1741, or email: sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com

Submissions must be returned by Friday December 18th, 5:00 p.m. Judging will take place Monday, December 21st.

Prize will be given for best decorated.



Lunch with Santa



Saturday, December 19th
Noon - 2 pm

The Senior Health & Wellness Center Atrium
MetroHealth Old Brooklyn Campus
4229 Pearl Rd., at Devonshire
Free parking in garage

Goodie bag for the first 300 kids
(10 years and under)

Refreshments
Hot Dogs, Chips, Soda,
Hot Chocolate & Popcorn
Photo with Santa \$2

For reservations call 216-459-1000

Sponsored By:
The Senior Health & Wellness Center
MetroHealth Old Brooklyn Campus
Old Brooklyn CDC
Kiwans Club of Brooklyn-Cleveland
Deaconess-Krafft Center
Deaconess-Zane Center
Art House
Concordia Care
Visiting Nurse Association of Ohio
Senior Citizen Resources
Old Brooklyn Merchants





Morningside Ave. man hosts weekly local radio

by Donald Heckelmoser
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Joe Nicholls has lived in and around the Cleveland area since he moved to the United States in 1955. In 1984 he began hosting an hourly radio show for National Public Radio, 90.3, WCPN (now Ideastream). The show was called the "Sounds of Britain and Ireland". Kevin McGinty came on board as Joe's co-host in 1989.

The "Sounds of Britain and Ireland" airs on Sunday afternoons from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.. It provides its listeners with entertainment and "everything local" information that has to do with their British and/or Irish ancestry.

Joe and Kevin love to have theme shows as much as they can, and themes seem to work out the best at Christmastime.

Last year Joe and Kevin enjoyed some live Christmas entertainment and took a "journey of the mind". The "journey" was a pseudo trip to England using local actors to portray a group of characters on a vacation to England and Ireland. They did such a good job that many people who saw them after the show were very confused as to why they were back home so soon!

This year's Christmas show will air from 4 - 5 p.m. on Sunday, December 20th. It is going to be an encore mix of live entertainment and guests from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales reminiscing and telling stories about past Christmases, especially from their childhoods. Joe and Kevin think this show will be a big hit for a lot of listeners as Christmas is the holiday to look back and remember the great times that have been had and dream about the futures that those memories help build.

On a regular Sunday show, Joe and Kevin talk about everything from sports, music, local

events and the British and Irish community in northeast Ohio. They have many guests on their show as well; some famous ones have included Engelbert Humperdinck, Tom Jones and British and Irish politicians and diplomats.

Joe stated that he keeps politics and opinions regarding hot button topics out of the show, however, focusing on simply informing listeners instead.

Joe and Kevin enjoy having live entertainment on to capture listeners with local sounds of the old country. Joe calls it folk music, but at the same time he's wondered what folk music was exactly. He explains it as "music of the people and their lives".

Joe himself grew up in the small town of Birkenhead, just outside Liverpool, on the western coast of England. During his childhood Joe moved to Wales to live with his grandparents because of the danger World War II posed. In Wales, Joe lived in the small town of Holyhead, also on the western seacoast.

When Joe was 21, he decided to move to North America. He set out for Canada with a friend (having all of \$48 in his pocket!) and after some hard times, found enough work to "get by".

Then, after about a year in Canada, Joe moved to the Cleveland area and he's been here ever since. He was in the United States less than a year before he was drafted into the U. S. Army, back in the days when immigrants could be drafted.

Joe's wife of 39 years, Jean, died in 2002. The couple parented two girls, Mary and Ann, both of whom still live in Old Brooklyn. Mary and her husband have blessed Joe's life with three grandchildren.

During his time in America, Joe has also worked in the advertising field, owned a British Irish import store, and been a video producer. But the job he's loved the most is what he does now for WCPN. Joe said that he has so much fun doing this show that he will continue doing it as long as he can.

Joe has family still living in England and it came to his attention one year that his brother had been doing a radio show in Coventry, England for years. Neither knew of the other's radio career. Perhaps radio is in the Nicholls' blood!

(Lynette Filips contributed to this article.)



Photo from WCPN's web site
Joe Nicholls (left) and Kevin McGinty, (right) hosted live shows at WCPN until last summer, when everything became computerized.

From the desk of the executive director

by Robyn Sandys
robysn@oldbrooklyn.com



December is a busy month for everyone. It seems time just flies by between Thanksgiving and the New Year.

OBCDC is sponsoring "Lunch with Santa" another special event with our friends from the Kiwanis Club, MetroHealth Senior Health and Wellness Center and many more on December 19th. Additional information about this event is on the front page.

The "Fall-O-Ween" event was such a huge success that we decided quickly to co-host another event. We are always open for ideas to co-plan and host events, feel free to contact me if you have any specific ideas.

The rehab of our home at 2915 Tampa is moving along nicely, so far it has a new roof, windows, plumbing, electric and more. We will be planning an open house sometime in January for all to see. The CDC is in the process of purchasing a few other homes through the HUD/City of Cleveland program. Rehab and sale will start on those after the Tampa home is sold.

We are sending out a community survey to all members with the distribution of the newspaper this month. (If you do not have the paper mailed to you, you can pick up a survey

form at the OBCDC office.)

Please complete it to the best of your ability and get it back to us by December 18. If you do, there will be a drawing for a \$50 Visa card. We want to get back as many as possible so that we can evaluate our programs and also understand your issues and concerns about this area of the City of Cleveland.

In the January issue of the OBN we will provide readers with the results of the survey. We may also do some additional surveying over the coming months that will relate more to the marketing of the area.

We are always looking for volunteer writers for the OBN. We love stories about the people and places of Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre. If you have something that you think your neighbors and friends would like to read, please submit it to info@oldbrooklyn.com.

Hope your Thanksgiving was warm and happy and don't forget about shopping as much as you can within our neighborhoods and within the City of Cleveland, the tax revenue is very much needed by the City of Cleveland.

Brooklyn Centre Naturalists offer holiday gift idea -- a Certified Backyard Habitat TM

by Gloria Ferris

The Brooklyn Centre Naturalists, a group of neighbors and business people in the 44109 zip code area who are working to make Brooklyn Centre a registered National Wildlife Habitat, think that they have come up with a unique holiday gift idea for the nature lover or gardener on your Christmas list - a gift of a Certified Backyard HabitatTM.

The recipient(s) of your gift will receive a membership in the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), including a one-year subscription to the award-winning National Wildlife magazine with inspiring wildlife articles and nature photography. They will also receive a personalized certificate and quarterly newsletters, and will be eligible to post NWF's special outdoor sign designating their yard or garden as a wildlife-friendly Certified Wildlife HabitatTM.

If you would like to explore this idea for a truly one-of-a kind gift to the gardener in your life, check out www.nwf.org/habitat or call 216-351-0254 and a Brooklyn Centre Naturalist will be glad to help you.

Any habitat enthusiast can create a certified habitat; many of your friends and relatives probably already provide the four basic elements that all wildlife need: food, water, shelter and places to raise young. Employing sustainable gardening practices is also important.

One of the ways to achieve the goal of a community wildlife habitat -- a designated area that promotes and fosters the vigor and diversity of native birds and animals -- is to certify local backyards as habitats.

Habitat restoration is critical in urban and suburban settings where commercial and residential development encroaches on wildlife areas, limiting the availability of the resources wildlife need to survive and thrive.

Creating habitats not only helps wildlife, it also can help to reduce global warming pollution and save energy costs. Burning fossil fuels to heat and cool homes and maintain lawns releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which is the maximum greenhouse gas responsible for global warming. Replacing lawns with strategically located trees and other native vegetation can insulate homes from heat, cold and wind, reducing heating and cooling needs and thus carbon dioxide emissions.

Living in The Big Creek Watershed which empties into the Cuyahoga River and encompasses the Metroparks Zoo (a certified Natural Habitat) makes our area unique and a natural place to live.

This holiday gift-giving season, consider surprising someone with a truly unique gift and at the same time promote our neighborhoods as places where residents make wildlife a priority. The health of our community depends upon the health of our environment!

(Lynette Filips contributed to this article.)

Wounds That Won't Heal Need Special Attention.



Wound Healing Center:
Specialized Care
Clinical Expertise
Innovative Treatments
Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy

Lutheran Hospital
a Cleveland Clinic hospital

If you have a wound that isn't showing improvement, the expert attention you need is at Lutheran Hospital. Our Wound Healing Center is home to doctors, nurses and specialists who are experts in using the latest and most proven technologies, including Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy and specialized treatment for diabetic wounds.

To make an appointment, call 216.939.8866.
3600 Franklin Boulevard, Cleveland, OH
Near Lutheran Hospital

lutheranhospital.org

OLD BROOKLYN NEWS

The Old Brooklyn News
will publish its
January, 2010 issue on
Tuesday, December 29th, 2009

website: www.oldbrooklyn.com

email: sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com



Submission Deadlines

Display Ads Wed., Dec. 16th
Classified Ads Fri., Dec. 18th
News Releases Fri., Dec. 18th
For Information call 216-459-0135
E-mail: 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

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Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation Board Meetings, are every fourth 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; Lynette Filips -- Copy Editor; George Shuba -- Photographer

This month's OBN writers -- Lorene Bowles, Gloria Ferris, Lynette Filips, Dana Korosi, Congressman Dennis Kucinich, Nora Owens, Matthew Wilder & 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

Monday, December 7th
Cuyahoga Valley Genealogy Society
 Independence Civic Center, White Oak Room, 6363 Selig Blvd., 7:30 pm. Surprise program, coffee & refreshments. All welcome; call president John Stoika, 216-524-3472, for more info.

Seventh Annual "Trains of Puritas Nursery"
Now through December 24th
 Puritas Nursery, 19201 Puritas Ave., Sat., Dec. 5th & 12th; visit with Santa Claus, 1 - 3 pm; Free; bring a camera. Train display also free. Mon. - Fri., 9 am - 8 pm; weekends, 9 am - 6 pm. Fresh cut Christmas trees, fresh wreaths, swags & roping for sale. www.puritasnursery.com

Friday, Dec. 4th, & Saturday, Dec. 5th
Cleveland Public Library Used Book Sale
 Brooklyn branch, Cleveland Public Library, 4303 Pearl Rd., 216-623-7067. Fri., 10 am - 5 pm; Sat., bag of books, \$4, 10 am - 5 pm. Bring own bag.

Saturday December 5th
BCCA Santa's Gift Boutique
 Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2928 Scranton Rd. (corner of Scranton & Seymour), 10 am - 4 pm. Brooklyn Centre Naturalists will also have nature items for sale.

Sunday, December 6th
St. Nicholas Visits Museum
 Carpatho-Rusyn Heritage Museum, 1900 Carolton Rd. St. Nicholas will visit the museum with gifts for the children; also many other activities. Visit www.c-rs.org, Cleveland Chapter, for hours & events.

Sunday, Dec. 6th & Tuesday, Dec. 8th, 15th & 22nd
The Brooklyn Historical Museum Gift Shoppe
 Museum, 4442 Ridge Rd., Sun., Dec. 6th, 1:30 - 3:30 pm & Tues., Dec. 8th, 15th & 22nd, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm. Warm, hand-knitted scarves & hats, hand-loomed rugs; Amish jams & jellies; handmade gift cards; potholder towels; baby boutique -- toddler pillows & cases; dog blankets; fleece throws; purses; lavender & catnip bags & misc. crafts. Featured items for Christmas are holiday potholders, runners with napkins & slates. Call Barb, 216-941-0160, for more info.

Wednesday December 9th
Monthly Family Workshop - Christmas Ornament Workshop
 Cornerstone of Hope, 5905 Brecksville Rd., Independence, 4 - 8 pm. Special holiday workshop to decorate a ceramic ornament in memory of your loved one. Enjoy some cookies & refreshments. Each participant receives his/her own ornament free of charge. Extra ornaments may be purchased for \$2 each. To register, call Paula at 216-524-HOPE (4673), ext 231, or email paula@cornerstoneofhope.org.

Wednesday, December 9th
10th Annual Holiday Tour - Historic Warehouse District
 Tour loft apartments, condos & office space. Sample food from some of Cleveland's finest restaurants. Enjoy festive entertainment. Evening kicks off at Bridgeview Apartments

Atrium. Tour stops -- The Bingham, Bradley Building, Cloak Factory, Kirkham Place, Perry Payne Building, Pinnacle Condominiums & Water Street Condominiums. Dessert finale at the offices of Global Prairie, the event's stakeholder sponsor. Tickets - \$60 in advance. Groups of 10 or more, \$35. Downtown residents, \$35. Call 216-344-3937 for reservations. Price includes tours, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, beverages & entertainment.

Friday, December 11th
Annual Winter Dance Concert
 Tri-C Western Campus Theatre, T building, 11000 W. Pleasant Valley Rd., 7:30 pm. Annual dance concert explores many styles & disciplines inc. hip-hop, jazz & modern dance. General admission, \$10; students, seniors & staff, \$8, Tri-C students free with valid student ID. Group rates available for parties of 10 or more. Free parking in the B lot (enter via Pleasant Valley); parking also available in designated visitor lots for \$1 for a two-hour time block. Call 216-987-5536 for reservations or more info.

Friday & Saturday December 11th & 12th
CityMusic Cleveland - "Mainly Mozart"
St. Ignatius of Antioch Church, 10205 Lorain Ave., Fri., Dec. 11th, 7:30 pm; 216-251-0300.
Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus, 3649 E. 65th St., Sat., Dec. 12th, 7:30pm; 216-341-9091. Free childcare at both locations; call the church to arrange for your child. Visit www.citymusic.org for other performance sites.

Saturday, December 12th
Cornerstone of Hope's (a grief center) Christmas Candle Lighting & Remembrance
 St. Michael School, Bishop Rappe Hall, 6906 Chestnut Rd, Independence, 1 & 3 pm. Call 216-524-HOPE for more info.

Thursday, December 17th
Cuyahoga County Government Reform: What Will it Mean for Health & Social Services?
 Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, The Atrium, Cleveland State University, 1717 Euclid Ave., 9 - 11 am. Free & open to the public. Call 216-523-7330 or visit www.urban.csuohio.edu/forum for reservations.

Sunday, December 20th
Jaslickari
 Carpatho-Rusyn Heritage Museum, 1900 Carolton Rd., Parma. Performance & a skit telling the significance of the Velija (Christmas Eve dinner). Foods to sample & demonstrations of how to prepare these foods. Anyone wanting to help with the event should contact bonnie@theburkebunch.com or call 440-729-2045. Also visit the Museum during December to see a display which features the foods served on Christmas Eve and the recipes. Visit www.c-rs.org, Cleveland Chapter, for more info.

Join the District Police Community Relations Committee
 Meaningful working relationship between Cleveland Police Officers & the citizens they serve. This relationship would be instrumental in building a close, proactive dialogue that results in residents & police having a better

understanding of each others' concerns & experiences. Committees meet each month in each district in order for residents to bring their concerns to the District Commander for a timely & personal response. Call Community Relations Board, 216-664-2277, for more info.

Free Flu & Pneumonia Shots
 For people living in Cleveland who: are between 6 months & 18 years old; 50+ years or older; have a long-term illness (high blood pressure, liver, heart or lung disease, diabetes, asthma, pregnancy, cancer or a weakened immune system); live with or take care of someone who is 0-5 yrs old, 50+ years old or have a long-term illness.
Every Friday, now thru Dec. 29th, McCafferty Health Center, 4242 Lorain Ave., 8 - 11 am; 216-651-5005.
 Call 216-664-4621 or visit www.cleveland-health.org for additional locations & dates.

Cuyahoga County seeks tax preparation volunteers - training provided
 Volunteer tax preparers needed for the V.I.T.A. site at the corner of Memphis Ave. & Fulton Pkwy. Both classroom & web-based training provided began in late November. Tax returns for the Old Brooklyn V.I.T.A. site are simple; training is not difficult. If interested call 216-987-6620 or email: sullie01@odjfs.state.oh.us.

Join Old Brooklyn Browns Backers
 Cleats, 3995 Jennings Rd. Enjoy Cleveland Browns games with Old Brooklyn's own Browns Backer Chapter. Contact the Old Brooklyn Browns Backers, 216-536-6496, for more info.

First Friday of Every Month
Free Hot Meal
 St. Boniface Campus School Hall, 3555 W. 54th St. (enter from side parking lot on W. 52nd St.) Doors open, 4 pm; dinner served, 5 - 6 pm. Sponsored by St. Boniface Church & St. Rocco Church.

City of Cleveland, Division of Police, Citizen On-line Reporting System
 As of July 7th, file your own police report on-line for the following types of incidents/crimes -- lost property; damage to property; criminal damaging; petty theft/theft from a motor vehicle; supplemental reports. These types of reports may be made only if there is no suspect, suspect vehicle, or serial number information. To make an on-line report go to www.city.cleveland.oh.us/police & click on the crime reporting link. You must be 18 years old & have an e-mail address.

Corpus Christi Class of 1968 & 1969 Reunion
 Planning a reunion before the parish closes. Contact Janice (Gulan) Havasi "68" at 216-267-3812.

America Reads Tutors
 Cleveland Public Library, South Brooklyn Branch, 4303 Pearl Rd. Tutors from Cleveland State University available to help school age children available Tues., Wed. & Thurs. until the end of the school year. Call 216-623-7067 to make appointment.

WSEM Food Center
 WSEM Food Center at Brookside, 3784 Pearl Rd., 216-749-4295. Food service available Mon. - Fri., 10 am - 2 pm. Resale shoppe open

Mon, Wed. & Fri., 10 am - 2 pm. Call 216-749-4295 for appointment for help with completing food stamp applications or walk-in & ask to speak to an outreach advocate. Applications will be completed & delivered to Dept. of Jobs & Family Services. Other outreach services available; call for details.

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.

Our Lady of Good Counsel School
Registration for Kindergarten & Preschool
 Are you interested in an excellent Catholic Education? Call now for a tour & registration packet for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year. Kindergarten registrants must be 5 yrs old by Sept. 30, 2009. Cleveland Tutoring & Scholarship vouchers are accepted as well as county vouchers for preschool/after care. Call Ms. Patty at 216-741-3685 between 8:15 am & 2:30 pm for more info. Visit website www.olgoodcounsel.com for up to date info.

St. Leo Preschool Registrations
2009-2010 School Year
 St. Leo Preschool is located at 4940 Broadview Rd in the Parish Community Center. The preschool offers programs for skill development & kindergarten readiness for 3 & 4 year-old children. A full-day 8 am-2:30 pm. Mon. - Fri. program is available, with after school care at an additional charge. In addition to the full day program, Mon., Wed., Fri. half-day classes are available for 4 year-old children. Tues., Thurs., half-day classes are available for 3 year-old children. Children must be of age by Sept. 30. County vouchers are accepted. A \$50 nonrefundable fee & a copy of the child's birth certificate are required at the time of registration. For more info., call Jeanne Sabol at 216-661-5330.

St. Mary Byzantine School Registration
 St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Elementary School, 4600 State Rd., now accepting applications for preschool - grade 8. Before/after school services available. Local tuition assistance available to all families; participates in Cleveland Scholarship & Tutoring Program. Updated computer lab, interactive Smart Boards in all classroom, instrumental music & art instructor, athletics & more. Call 216-749-7980 or visit www.smbyz.org.

MANDY'S
 4703 Pearl Rd. 216-398-8066

Monday - 1 dozen wings \$1.25 (3 - 9 pm)
Tuesday - 50¢ & \$1.50 Tacos (all day)
Wednesday - \$3 Steak dinner
Thursday - Free hot dogs (all day)
Friday - Fish Fry \$8
Saturday & Sunday - Steak dinners
T-Bone \$8 or Porterhouse \$10

All above specials are "Eat in Only"

Come watch your favorite sports games here!

Best Gyros in Town
 Buy 1 get 2nd 1/2 price
 with this ad Expires 12/31/09

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Brooklyn Centre Naturalists - No December meeting. Contact Brooklyn Centre Naturalists, bcnaturalists@gmail.com, for more info.

Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation board meeting, this month on Tues. Dec. 15th 7:30 pm, OBCDC meeting room (3344 Broadview Rd., upstairs). Meetings open to public for review & comments, but board reserves right to close portions of meetings from public. Call 216-459-1000 to confirm.

Second District Police Community Relations meeting, Tues., Dec. 8th (& every

second Tues.), 7 pm, Applewood Center, 3518 W. 25th St.

Southwest Citizens Area Council meeting, every first Thurs., 7 pm, Gino's, 1314 Denison Ave.

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

Ward 16 Democratic Club meeting Tues., Nov. 17th (& every third Tues.), 7 pm, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 5801 Memphis Ave.

Fred's Christmas Trees
 2330 Broadview Road • Cleveland • 216 - 458 - 2134

Big Variety - Small Prices
Free Old Brooklyn delivery for those who need it
Free coffee & hot chocolate with purchase
Fresh cuts made on all trees

* Purchase any tree and receive a free loaf of bread at Fred's Breads & More. (\$2.00 max value)

Sunday - Thursday: 8:00am - 8:00pm
Friday & Saturday: 8:00am - 9:00pm



FRESH CUT CHRISTMAS TREES

Blue Spruce
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U.S. Congressman Dennis Kucinich explains his Affordable Health Care Act vote

After voting against H.R. 3962 - Affordable Health Care for America Act, Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) made the following statement:

"We have been led to believe that we must make our health care choices only within the current structure of a predatory, for-profit insurance system which makes money not providing health care. We cannot fault the insurance companies for being what they are. But we can fault legislation in which the government incentives the perpetuation, indeed the strengthening, of the for-profit health insurance industry, the very source of the problem. When health insurance companies deny care or raise premiums, co-pays and deductibles they are simply trying to make a profit. That is our system.

"Clearly, the insurance companies are the problem, not the solution. They are driving up the cost of health care. Because their massive bureaucracy avoids paying bills so effectively, they force hospitals and doctors to hire their own bureaucracy to fight the insurance companies to avoid getting stuck with an unfair share of the bills.

The result is that since 1970, the number of physicians has increased by less than 200% while the number of administrators has increased by 3000%. It is no wonder that 31

cents of every health care dollar goes to administrative costs, not toward providing care. Even those with insurance are at risk. The single biggest cause of bankruptcies in the U.S. is health insurance policies that do not cover you when you get sick.

"But instead of working toward the elimination of for-profit insurance, H.R. 3962 would put the government in the role of accelerating the privatization of health care. In H.R. 3962, the government is requiring at least 21 million Americans to buy private health insurance from the very industry that causes costs to be so high, which will result in at least \$70 billion in new annual revenue, much of which is coming from taxpayers. This inevitably will lead to even more costs, more subsidies, and higher profits for insurance companies — a bailout under a blue cross.

"By incurring only a new requirement to cover pre-existing conditions, a weakened public option, and a few other important but limited concessions, the health insurance companies are getting quite a deal.

The Center for American Progress' blog, Think Progress, states "since the President signaled that he is backing away from the public option, health insurance stocks have been on the rise." Similarly, healthcare stocks rallied

when Senator Max Baucus introduced a bill without a public option.

Bloomberg reports that Curtis Lane, a prominent health industry investor, predicted a few weeks ago that "money will start flowing in again" to health insurance stocks after passage of the legislation. Investors.com last month reported that pharmacy benefit managers share prices are hitting all-time highs, with the only industry worry that the Administration would reverse its decision not to negotiate Medicare Part D drug prices, leaving in place a Bush Administration policy.

"During the debate, when the interests of insurance companies would have been effectively challenged, that challenge was turned back. The "robust public option" which would have offered a modicum of competition to a monopolistic industry was whittled down from an initial potential enrollment of 129 million Americans to 6 million.

An amendment which would have protected the rights of states to pursue single-payer health care was stripped from the bill at the request of the Administration. Looking ahead, we cringe at the prospect of even greater favors for insurance companies.

"Recent rises in unemployment indicate a widening separation between the finance econ-

omy and the real economy. The finance economy considers the health of Wall Street, rising corporate profits, and banks' hoarding of cash, much of it from taxpayers, as sign of an economic recovery. However in the real economy - in which most Americans live -- the recession is not over. Rising unemployment, business failures, bankruptcies and foreclosures are still hammering Main Street.

"This health care bill continues the redistribution of wealth to Wall Street at the expense of America's manufacturing and service economies which suffer from costs other countries do not have to bear, especially the cost of health care. America continues to stand out among all industrialized nations for its privatized health care system. As a result, we are less competitive in steel, automotive, aerospace and shipping while other countries subsidize their exports in these areas through socializing the cost of health care.

"Notwithstanding the fate of H.R. 3962, America will someday come to recognize the broad social and economic benefits of a not-for-profit, single-payer health care system, which is good for the American people and good for America's businesses, with of course the notable exceptions being insurance and pharmaceuticals."

Old Brooklyn News expands online presence

by Matthew Wilder
CSU journalism student

The *Old Brooklyn News* (OBN) is evolving as a newspaper. Just as so many large metro daily and smaller community newspapers have done, the *Old Brooklyn News* is having a larger online presence. Donnal Heckelmoser, Jr., program services manager of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC), has been posting the *Old Brooklyn News* on Facebook and Twitter, two online social networks.

Donn said that it is good for readers and other community development corporations to see how we do our newspaper and see how the OBN compares to other community newspapers across the nation.

Donn also said that Facebook is very user-friendly. Readers are able to leave comments to stories and other postings. OBCDC encourages users to discuss the articles and perhaps even suggest new story ideas based on what they want to read. He is unsure if the pages on Facebook and Twitter will look anything like Cleveland.com since it is a different type of online forum, dedicated specifically to news.

Donn feels that it is important for the OBN to have an online presence since that is what many readers want. It is his personal opinion that because of the economy and increasing access to electronic forms of media, that print media will have a much smaller presence than in the past.

To see the OBN pages on Facebook and/or Twitter, people need to set up an account with

one or both web sites and then search for Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation. Anyone can also read the OBN on OBCDC's web site, www.oldbrooklyn.com.

The OBN's larger online presence reflects a national trend in the newspaper industry. In a report from the Congressional Research Survey, Suzanne M. Kirchoff, Analyst in Organization and Business, listed newspapers that declared bankruptcy or became online publications only. She believes that smaller community newspapers are doing much better financially than large metro daily newspapers.

Dr. Cheryl Campanella Bracken, Associate Professor in the School of Communication at Cleveland State University, said readers are going online for information both for local news and national news. (Younger readers in particular are reading stories online.)

Dr. Bracken also talked about the evolution of newspapers. She said they first have gone from small, handwritten pamphlets to the printing press. Also in the 1800s in the United States, there were smaller versions of modern newspapers called "penny presses". They were sold very inexpensively, typically by street vendors. In that time period, they were the major source of news and had a great number of readers.

In the earlier 20th century, newspaper readership declined due to competition from radio and television. Dr. Bracken does not expect newspapers to die out completely, though, because it is difficult for younger people to read a massive amount of information on the internet. Long exposure to a computer screen can fatigue people's eyes. But she, too, believes that there will be less newspapers in the future.

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It is already December as we ready this month's issue of the *Old Brooklyn News* for the printer. And, due to the way the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays fall, our January issue will go to the printer and "hit the news stands" in December, too. But we're not complaining about doing two issues in the same month; in light of the layoffs at many of the country's daily papers, we're happy to still be rolling.

We've been working on organizing back issues of the *Old Brooklyn News* in our "new-to-us", second-hand file cabinets at both the **OBCDC office** and at the **Historical Society of Old Brooklyn's** archives. Court Community Service workers and our Cleveland State journalism intern have been helping us with the process. As we go, we realize how many of the papers are missing, in poor condition, or in short supply. So again we ask readers who may have saved odd issues over our 31-plus year history to give us any copies they no longer want to save.

In keeping with our recent trend of mentioning new publications and books in each column, we bring to your attention two soft-cover books which **John Sabol**, a longtime member of **St. Leo the Great Church**, has recently had published. One is called *Cleveland Slovaks* and the other is called *Cleveland Czechs*; both are in **Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America"** series.

Arcadia is the leading local history publisher in the United States, having thousands of titles available about small towns, big cities, ethnic groups, colleges and assorted institutions and organizations across the country. (Visit www.arcadiapublishing.com to get an idea of the scope of their work.)

Wanting to chronicle the Czechs and the Slovaks in Cleveland, Arcadia contacted Lisa Alzo, a Slovak author in Ithaca, New York with

whom they'd already worked. After networking, she came up with John Sabol, who's been active in Cleveland Slovak genealogical community for many years.

John agreed to co-author with Lisa in March, 2007. The process could have been completed in 2008, but then a decision was made to introduce the books in October, 2009 at the conference of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, held at the Holiday Inn South in Independence.

Each book has 200 (mostly vintage) photographs of organizations, churches, individuals, businesses and events important to the Cleveland Slovak and Czech communities. John selected the photos, researched and wrote the captions for all of them (as well as writing the introductions in each book), and laid out the pages according to the chapter headings, always following Arcadia's guidelines.

The books, priced at \$21.99 each, are available directly from John, as well as at Borders, Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com, some Walgreens stores, and certain Cleveland Czech and Slovak churches and organizations.

Last month we printed a letter from **Sandy Manson** about her son, Fred's flea market, thanking the community for its support and asking them to save their "wares" till spring when they'd open up again. Since, then, as evidenced by an ad on page 3 of this issue, there's been a change of plans --

Fred Manson owns a number of commercial buildings in Old Brooklyn, and due to vendor demand, on November 1st he was able to open **Fred's Indoor Flea Market** at 2155 Broadview Rd., one of his empty storefronts. They'll be there until March 1st.

Although there are fewer booths, there are still many good buys, and the indoor location offers much longer shopping opportunities than the Sunday flea market did. It's open from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. on Thursday and Sunday, and from 10 a.m. till 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Prince of Patchouli, 2151 Broadview Rd., is another new tenant on the same block. The store opened October 1st, and features gently-used resale items (clothing and household), posters and Sixties memorabilia as well as Prince of Patchouli aromatherapy and incense products.

Prince of Patchouli is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. till 8 p.m. On Sunday, too, it opens at 10 a.m., but Sunday hours will vary. The proprietors, Jerry and Nancy Clough, have previous retail experience at shops on Warner Rd. and at the W. 130th St./Brookpark Rd. Bazaar.

A block south of these two businesses, at 2125 Broadview Rd., a little lady named Constance has been operating quite a large second-hand store since March 16th. Called **Robinhood's Resale**, it's open Monday thru Saturday from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. (and later during the summer months.)

It's good to have all these storefronts occupied, and in these challenging economic times, thrift-store shopping may be just what many people here need to help balance their budgets.

One of Old Brooklyn's greatest fans of resale stores and garage sales was a man who lived on Spring Rd. named **Paul Melnick**. Retired from United Airlines, Paul had a plethora of interests which kept his life full of activities and people.

Unfortunately, Paul passed away due to heart and lung problems in August. But several aspects of his life are ensuring "Eternal Memory" for him, including the pottery and ceramics with which he became involved subsequent to his retirement.

After a couple of years of taking pottery

classes, Paul was hired as a "Studio Assistant" at the Metro Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (CCC). (He also was an instructor at the City of Cleveland's Cudell Recreation Center.)

Following Paul's death, Paul Miklowski, head of the Art Department at CCC's **Metro Campus**, decided to honor him with a memorial exhibit. Thus some of Paul's work is currently on display in the lobby of CCC's Art and Music Building (MAM204) at 2900 Community College Ave.

The exhibit opened on November 4th with a small reception for Paul's family and close friends, and it will run through December 18th. A few dozen pieces of Paul's pottery and sculpture are very attractively displayed in the cases, along with photos and an assortment of pottery-decorating instruments.

We have much more news -- some old, some new -- which didn't make it to the page this month, but as I said in the first paragraph, we'll be going to print again in three weeks.

There is room, however, before I sign off this month, to remind followers of neighborhood barber **Dan Plescia** that he is again cutting hair, this time at **Mario's Barber Shop**. Read the details in their ad on page 6.

Please continue to send your ideas for this column to: Lynette Filips, The Town Crier, 3344 Broadview Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44109.

Christmas Spirit from front page

Christmas Dinner - St. Edward High School, 13500 Detroit Ave., ~ 216- 221-3776 Wednesday, December 23rd, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. A Christmas meal will be served beginning at 6 p.m. Call if you are interested in helping.

Christmas Breakfast - St. Augustine's OLA/St. Joseph Center, 2346 W. 14th St., 216-781-5530, Friday, December 25th, beginning at 8 am. Call if you are interested in helping.

Nearby food pantries offering

assistance & accepting donations
American Indian Education Center, 1314 Denison Ave., Suite 102; 216-351-4488;
United Hearts Life Mission Center, 3339 Broadview Rd.; 216-459-9839;

Hunger Network, Brookside Center, 3784 Pearl Rd.; 216-749-4295;
Salvation Army, Ohio City Corps, 4402 Clark Ave.; 216-631-1515;
St. Michael The Archangel Catholic Church, 3114 Scranton Rd.; 216-621-3847;
Trinity Assembly of God, 3801 Clark Ave.; 216-631-6764

Organizations soliciting donations of gifts & toys to distribute

Salvation Army, main office, 2507 E. 22nd St.; 216-861-8185
Westside Ecumenical Ministry-WSEM at Brookside Center, 3784 Pearl Rd.; 216-749-4295
Toys for Tots - Estabrook Recreation Center 4125 Fulton Rd.; 216-664-4149
West Side Catholic Center, 3135 Lorain Ave.; 216-631-4741

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Don't Give UP!

The Holidays are a making of the end of another year. For me it is difficult, most of my work is on the outside, weather related. I'm like a farmer I need to work when the sun is shining.

I know first hand living in Cleveland can be very difficult. In time like these, what can an individual do to change a hopeless situation to a hopeful one? We look at our economy, it is not good and this is an understatement. As blue collar and white collar employees, it's not our fault that the economy is bad. Cleveland is primarily an industrial town with a very strong labor force. One thing about Clevelanders, we are a strong type of people, with strong ethnic background, a diverse culture, and work ethics.

In these trying times we must ask ourselves these questions.

- With our churches, where is compassion?
- With our government, where are our leaders?
- With our Unions, where is our unity?
- With our families, where are our fathers?

In what category can we instill change as an individual? This is where we have to start, to help change the hopeless situation that we are in. Complaining and criticizing will not change anything. We have to look at our own situation, and say where can I make a difference.

We need to figure out what is important and what is valuable. We need to maintain our health, without good health we have numbered our days. Lack of sleep, steals our emotional wellbeing. We become like a walking zombie.

It's not the end of the world if lose your credit score, or you are late on a payment. It's not your fault that you got laid off, or your income was cut in half. If we had jobs, we would not be in this mess. So don't blame yourself, or your employers they are doing the best they can in this tough times.

Do what you can do, that's all you can give.

I got this chubby Italian off of the couch and started to exercise, it was something I could change, my weight and physical condition. It has helped my outlook tremendously.

Bottom line is don't give up! We live in a wonderful community and you are part of it. Compared to many parts of the country, Cleveland, Ohio does have many rich commodities and resources. We need to also utilize an interstate commerce both in agriculture and industry. We need to have more creative merger in our industry, in our unions, in our schools and in our churches.

Let's offer a positive change for Cleveland...We are Cleveland, You and I, Let's make a difference.

From the Joe Gigante Family, we wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

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by Tom Collins
tomc@oldbrooklyn.com

More on Energy

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has a division named Main Street. Main Street is a national program focused on restoring and preserving traditional town centers and the older commercial districts found in the large cities across the nation. Old Brooklyn CDC adopted Main Street tactics in 2001 to retain older commercial buildings with unique architectural features and restore such buildings as opportunities arose.

Main Street takes a building-by-building approach that has been effective even if not widespread:

*The Cleveland Storefront Renovation Program provides technical and financial assistance with exterior renovations.

*The Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre design and review committees work to preserve building facades and ensure that new construction respects existing buildings.

*The Cleveland Restoration Society can provide extensive interior and exterior restoration consulting.

*Old Brooklyn CDC assists building owners in finding tenants for vacant units and promoting the area for new business development.

In addition, a new area of assistance from the National Trust for Historic Preservation is emerging. Energy conservation, sustainability and "green" initiatives are being woven into the restoration and preservation programs because making buildings more energy-efficient makes them less costly to operate and more attractive to tenants.

Last month this column was about the practical reasons for obtaining an energy audit before renovating and to learn how a building uses energy. The Main Street web site, www.preservation.org/main-street/, has an article by Kennedy Smith about how older buildings were originally built for energy conservation but those practices became lax during the rapid new construction in the 20th century when fuel and electricity were inexpensive.

Accompanying the article is a check list

of older building features that can be used or restored for energy conservation and sustainable operations.

Double hung sash windows have a circulation function. Opening the top sash, even partially, allows the warmer air nearer the ceiling to move outside while an open lower sash lets cooler air in to rise in the room. So rather than exchanging double hung sash windows, consider restoring them with thermal glass and preserving the circulation function.

Transom windows, those smaller windows above doors or display windows, can also be used for improving circulation, thereby reducing the need for air conditioning (cooling) units. If they are not the kind that open, they still serve the function of increasing the amount of natural light coming into the interior. Covering or removing them is generally not consistent with energy conservation.

Awnings add a stylish flourish to buildings while also serving the functional purpose of reducing the sunshine that heats the interior side of a window. If they are operational awnings, then they can also be compressed to allow light to penetrate at different times of the day or seasonally. Of course, interior window blinds can do something similar but they do not keep the sun off the window surface.

Tall ceilings are functional because they are intended to let warm air rise. Before deciding upon installing a dropped ceiling, consult an energy engineer to learn what the impact will be on air circulation and natural light penetration and reflection. It just might be better to restore or resurface the ceiling to increase light distribution and improve air circulation with ceiling fans.

Learn how thick outside walls and shared interior walls are before making changes. If they serve to retain warmed or cooled air, then replacing or altering them may not be energy efficient. Here again, an energy engineer can assess their structure and composition and suggest how to maximize the energy efficiency with "green" surface treatments.

Older buildings may have sky lights or may have had them removed in previous renovations. Sky lights bring natural light to interior spaces like staircases and rooms lacking outside windows. If sky lights can supply needed light for six to eight hours a day, that translates to six to eight hours of electricity not needed.

Plumbing in older buildings is always a mystery stocked with challenges. Always research the entire plumbing and heating systems before initiating any system changes. Older buildings often stored water on the roof and fed it to lower floors by means of gravity. There is no charge for gravity. Capturing rain water has been rediscovered as a source of water for purposes other than drinking or where purified water is necessary. Storm water captured on the roof can be used for flushing toilets and irrigating landscaping. Water

diverted away from storm sewers may reduce sewer bills.

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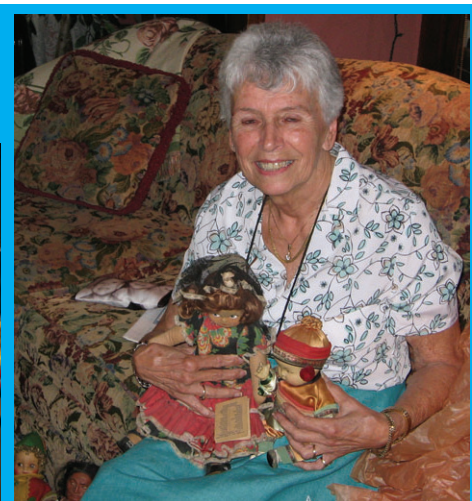
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Laverne Maximuk reunited with long-lost doll collection

Photos and text by Lorene Olson Bowles



Many Old Brooklyn News readers will remember Laverne Maximuk, who was OBCDC's executive director from Feb. 1980 - Oct. 1987. When Laverne was a child, her parents and a neighbor went to Atlantic City each summer and her neighbor bought her a new doll every year. When Laverne reached her high school years, her boyfriend, Paul Maximuk, was in the "service", and he sent her a doll from the ports he visited. She treasured all of these dolls and kept them to pass down to her daughter someday. In 1989, Laverne and Paul sold their house on Saratoga Ave. to Richard and Lorene Bowles and moved to the Marblehead area. A few years later, Laverne called Lorene to ask if by any chance she'd found a box of dolls. Lorene hadn't, and Laverne concluded that they must have been lost in the move. This past spring, Richard saw a water spot on the ceiling and went upstairs to see where it originated. He couldn't find any leaking water, but he thought it odd that there was a large cardboard box on the framework of the drawers Paul had built for Laverne in what was formerly her sewing room. Richard got the box down, looked at its contents, and asked Lorene if she'd stored some dolls up in the crawl space. Lorene knew immediately that those dolls had to be Laverne's. After making several phone calls and leaving messages, Lorene heard from Laverne, who was spending the winter in Texas. She was so excited to hear about her dolls and said that they'd be coming home in mid-June and would call as soon as they got back to Ohio. They did that, and the pictures you see here are the results of their visit with Richard and Lorene. Laverne and Paul told stories about the dolls, their former home and the street, and the four of them enjoyed a lovely visit. Laverne said her daughter was already building shelves to showcase those dolls. The most exciting doll was the Indian doll with a little papoose. Attached to the doll was a plain white string with a mailing label dated in 1946 and having 1 1/2 cents of postage. Paul had mailed this doll to his girlfriend Laverne from Seattle. It was mailed just as it was--the doll, the string and the label. It arrived safely, and here in 2009 it is still just as it arrived in 1946. What a great thrill for both of them.

OBCDC Holiday lighting contest
entry form



Complete the application below and mail to: OBCDC, 3344 Broadview Road, Cleveland, OH 44109, fax 216-459-1741 or email: sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com
Submission must be returned by **Friday, December 18th, 5 p.m**
Judging will take place Monday, December 21st.

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\$8,000 and \$6500 tax credit for first time and repeat home buyers

by Lori Peterson
lorip@oldbrooklyn.com

Good news to all potential homebuyers: The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 has extended the tax credit of up to \$8,000 for qualified first-time home buyers purchasing a principal residence. And in addition, authorization of a tax credit of up to \$6,500 for qualified repeat home buyers. The following information was obtained from www.federalhousingtaxcredit.com and Progressive Urban Real Estate website.

If you have questions about the recently extended and revised federal tax credit, here are a few answers.

Q: Who is Eligible?

A: First-time homebuyers, who are defined by the law as buyers who have not owned a principal residence during the three-year period prior to the purchase, may be eligible for up to an \$8,000 tax credit. Existing homeowners who have been residing in their principal residence for **five consecutive years out of the last eight** and are purchasing a home to be their principal residence ("repeat buyer"), may be eligible for up to a \$6,500 tax credit.

Q: What Are the Income Limits?

A: Homebuyers who file as single or head-of-household taxpayers can claim the full credit (\$8,000 for first-time buyers and \$6,500 for repeat buyers) if their modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) is less than \$125,000. For married couples filing a joint return, the combined income limit is \$225,000. Single or head-of-household taxpayers who earn between \$125,000 and \$145,000, and married

couples who earn between \$225,000 and \$245,000 are eligible to receive a partial credit. The credit is not available for single taxpayers whose MAGI is greater than \$145,000 and married couples with a MAGI that exceeds \$245,000.

Q: How much time do I have?

A: Home purchases subject to a binding sales contract signed by April 30, 2010, will qualify for the tax credit provided closing occurs prior to July 1, 2010.

Q: What types of homes qualify?

A: All homes with a purchase price of less than \$800,000 qualify, including newly-constructed or resale, and single-family detached, town-homes or condominiums, provided that the home will be used as their principal residence.

Q: How does the tax credit actually work?

A: A refundable credit means that if the amount of income taxes you owe is less than the credit amount you qualify for, the government will send you a check for the difference. For example, if you owed \$3,000 in taxes, then you'd get a \$5,000 check from the IRS. All qualified homebuyers can take the tax credit on their 2009 or 2010 income tax return.

Q: Will I ever have to pay it back?

A: The credit does not have to be repaid unless the home owner sells or stops using the home as their principal residence within three years after the purchase.

Check out www.federalhousingtaxcredit.com for more information.

Disclaimer The OBN is trusting the aforementioned website's accuracy but cannot guarantee or take responsibility for its content.



Photos by Sheila Quealy-Walter



Jim and Kathy Krupar of 3707 Dawning Ave. went beyond what was required when they answered a code enforcement complaint. In addition to having the house painted, they also added a family room, rebuilt the front porch and extended the back deck! Finding a dependable, qualified painting contractor took time and patience, but from the looks of the work, it was well worth it. Jim and Kathy have owned the home for 29 years. OBCDC hopes that more residents will be willing to invest in improvements that beautify their homes.

When a 'Free' credit report is not really free

by Dana Korosi
Steel Valley Federal Credit Union

A member came to my office the other day to discuss qualifications for a mortgage loan. She indicated that she had run her credit report so I asked her to bring it along with a few other pertinent documents to review. When she proudly showed me her "credit report" I respectfully acknowledged this, reviewed the brief and nearly non-informative information and promptly turned to my computer to request a complete and accurate report.

On the surface, it seems logical: You type the phrase "free credit report" in a search engine to access the Web site that offers free reports—which you're entitled to, by law. But here's the catch: Your search results might not drive you to the one legitimate Web site operated by the Federal Trade Commission.

Q: Which site allows access to free credit reports without trying to sell unnecessary services?

A: Go to annualcreditreport.com, which was established after the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 gave consumers the right to obtain—once a year—a free credit report from each of the big three credit reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. Or, you can call toll-free 877-322-8228.

Q: What are some sites to stay away from?

A: The one most heavily advertised is freecreditreport.com, the site our member visited! Other variations include freecreditreports.com, freecreditreportsinstantly.com,

thefreecreditreports.com, creditreport.com, creditreporting.com, and nationalcreditreport.com.

Q: What's the danger in going to the wrong Web site to get your free credit report?

A: These sites hook you with offers of so-called free credit reports while aggressively marketing other services. Go to any site other than annualcreditreport.com and you may wind up paying needlessly for services you don't want. Or, you could pay \$75 for a credit score that otherwise costs \$8 to \$12. In one example, a site advertised a "free credit report" but failed to disclose adequately that, if you signed up, you automatically would be enrolled in a credit-monitoring program and charged \$79.95. Many disclosures are in fine print and easy to overlook.

Q: Should I order the three annual free credit reports all at once?

A: You can order them all at the same time. A better strategy is to stagger your requests throughout the year. Order a free report from one agency, then wait four months and order a report from a different agency, then wait another four months and order the third report. After a year, start the process over again. That way, you're more likely to detect errors—or even fraudulent accounts set up in your name—than if you wait a whole year to look at all three of your reports.

With the significant role that credit plays in our daily lives, don't be fooled by the assortment of fake offers that abound in this important area. Follow the steps above or visit with your financial institution as they may be only too happy to help you.

Tax Incentives Assistance Project (TIAP)

by Nora Q. Owens

We've had a stunning autumn; however the cold of winter – and associated heating costs – have now arrived. Those of us who have not yet replaced our exterior heat-related items may still be eligible for federal tax credits through December 31, 2010.

Thanks to the passage of a congressional stimulus package known as The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (February 17, 2009), existing homes are eligible for a variety of home maintenance upgrades worth 30% of the cost of materials and equipment. There is a maximum credit of \$1,500 per home and labor costs are not included.

What's eligible for tax credit!

- **Insulation:** Meets the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (and IECC) specifications;
- **Replacement Windows, skylights and exterior doors:** below a 0.30 U factor and a Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) of 0.30;
- **Selected window films** which meet the "qualifying insulation systems" guidelines;
- **Selected pigmented metal or a asphalt roofs with cooling granules;**
- **Sealing cracks in building shell:** Meet 2009 IECC;
- **Furnaces (gas and propane):** Meet Annual Fuel Use Efficiency (AFUE) 95 or higher;
- **Boilers (oil and propane):** Meet AFUE of 90 or better;
- **Air Conditioning units:** requires a Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) of 16;
- **Water Heaters (gas or propane):** Energy factor of at least 0.82 or thermal efficiency of at least 90%;
- **Water Heaters (heat pump):** Energy factor of at least 2.0.

The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is used to ensure the buildings are designed with energy efficiency in mind based on their climate zones. All of the upgrades and repairs must meet the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) specifications listed above. **Good contractors are familiar with these requirements; be sure to get it in writing that their materials meet these codes. If you plan to do your own repairs, make sure you get written confirmation that your repair items meet the codes.**

Specifications details are available in easy-to-understand language at <http://www.energy-codes.gov>

Were you hoping to get a 2009 tax credit, but couldn't get scheduled until 2010? If you pay for the work this year, you may declare this payment on your 2009 Federal tax form. Remember, there is a \$1,500 cap for materials only – not the labor.

Interested in more details? Check the following websites:

National Fenestration Rating Council (windows)
<http://www.nfrc.org/codesinfo.aspx>

Tax Assistance Project
http://energytaxincentives.org/consumers/insulation_etc.php

IECC Climate details
<http://reca-codes.org/pages/iecc2009.html>

Solar Heat
http://www.energycodes.gov/support/shgc_faqs.htm

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Old Brooklyn artist Jim Ptacek (right) has once again teamed up with local businessman Don Workman (left) to provide a selection of Cleveland area prints and Christmas cards for the holiday season. The prints consist of local landmarks such as stadiums, ballparks, downtown skyline, lighthouses, high schools, etc. The Christmas cards are a collection of 20 years of limited edition cards, each signed and numbered by Ptacek. Shop Ameriflag for your gift giving needs.

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"Year of the (Cuyahoga) River" concludes this month

by Lynette Filips
lynettef@oldbrooklyn.com

The year which is about to end, 2009, has been designated the "Year of the River", and although the *Old Brooklyn News* has given some coverage to community events which were part of that recognition (e.g., last summer's Riversweep, River Day and Brookstock), not once during the past twelve months did we devote an article exclusively to the Cuyahoga, what the designation means and/or why 2009 was the "Year of the River".

So this month, with just a few weeks left in the year, we'll attempt to address all three issues.

Anyone who had any awareness of the City of Cleveland in 1969 most likely knows that July 22nd was the day that the Cuyahoga River caught fire and thereby gained nationwide notoriety for our city. A bit of molten steel had splashed from a railroad car which was crossing a bridge over the River. When it landed on a slick of industrial waste floating on the Cuyahoga's surface, the slick caught fire.

It wasn't the first fire on the Cuyahoga (or on any river which passed through an industrialized area), nor was it the worst fire the Cuyahoga ever experienced. Reportedly, the Cuyahoga had caught fire at least thirteen times since 1868. A 1912 fire, for instance, killed five dock workers when the blaze spread to nearby shipyards, and the worst one, in 1952, caused an estimated \$1.5 million in damage to boats and a riverfront office.

But the world in those years was not as ecologically conscious as the world of 1969 was. Before, the emphasis in newspaper reports had been on the railroad trestles the fires damaged, not the unacceptable quality of the water which allowed the fire to happen in the first place.

In 1969, however, Cleveland Mayor Carl Stokes didn't see it the way previous generations had. The day after the fire, he announced that he was filing a formal complaint with the State of Ohio, claiming that a clean river was beyond the City's control. Ohio's response was that a dirty river was the fault of a failing City sewer system. The City replied that they couldn't fully upgrade the sewers unless the State supplied more money to help them. But there was no State income tax in Ohio in those

days, and the requested help from the State never arrived.

Cleveland voters approved a \$100 million bond issue in November 1968 to upgrade the City's sewer system, but the real help for the Cuyahoga River came in 1972 when the federal government enacted the Clean Water Act. Supported by U.S. Rep. Louis Stokes, the brother of Cleveland's mayor, it demanded that all waterways eventually become "fishable and swimmable."

The 1969 fire on the Cuyahoga River also contributed to the establishment of Earth Day, the enactment of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, and the creation of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA).

In December 1970, the cover story of the *National Geographic* magazine was "Our Ecological Crisis"; Cleveland's own Cuyahoga River was one of the streams featured in it.

To give a better picture of the Cuyahoga River, here's the description of a Cleveland section from a 1968 symposium sponsored at Kent State University (It's no wonder that the segment of the Cuyahoga between Akron and Cleveland was totally devoid of fish!)



Cuyahoga River Fire Nov. 3, 1952. Courtesy of Cleveland Press Collection at Cleveland State University Library.

The surface is covered with the brown oily film observed upstream as far as the Southerly Plant effluent. In addition, large quantities of black heavy oil floating in slicks, sometimes several inches thick, are observed frequently. Debris and trash are commonly caught up in

*these slicks forming an unsightly floating mess. Anaerobic action is common as the dissolved oxygen is seldom above a fraction of a part per million. The discharge of cooling water increases the temperature by 10 to 15°F. The velocity is negligible, and sludge accumulates on the bottom. Animal life does not exist. Only the algae *Oscillatoria* grows along the piers above the water line. The color changes from gray-brown to rusty brown as the river proceeds downstream. Transparency is less than 0.5 feet in this reach. This entire reach is grossly polluted.*

From a river thus described, in 1998 the Cuyahoga went on to be designated as one of fourteen Heritage Rivers in America; 44 species of fish inhabit its waters as it flows

100 miles through Geauga (its source), Portage, Summit and Cuyahoga (its mouth) Counties.

Parks and recreational areas have developed around many of the Cuyahoga's tributaries. In Cuyahoga County, the names are familiar -- Big Creek, West Creek, Mill Creek, Tinkers Creek and Chippewa Creek. Other Cuyahoga County tributaries of the Cuyahoga River include Old River, Kingsbury Run, Morgan Run, Burk Branch and Furnace Run.

The Iroquois Indians who named our Crooked River would no doubt approve of the strides ecologists have made in the past forty years, but although the River is much

improved, it's still not in optimum condition.

Organizers of The Year of the River recognize that there's more to be done before the fiftieth anniversary of our famous burning river, but wanted to continue to raise public awareness with this celebration along the way.



Church closing/merging process moves along here and throughout the Diocese

by Lynette Filips
lynettef@oldbrooklyn.com

Chronicling the same events can often take on different slants depending on the viewpoint of who's doing the reporting. The secular press has been writing about the reactions of parishioners at church closings where extreme anger has pervaded, and the Catholic press has been writing about the joyful "Coming Together" of Catholics from closed parishes as they've formed new parishes or joined existing ones.

For more than a year now, the *Old Brooklyn News*, too, has been trying to present a balanced view about what's going on, both with the buildings and in the hearts of Catholics thus affected across the Diocese of Cleveland.

Since last month's issue was published, six more Roman Catholic parishes have closed — St. John the Baptist in Akron, St. Margaret of Hungary in Orange, Holy Trinity in Bedford Hts., St. Mary in Bedford, St. Paul in Euclid and Christ the King in Akron. That brings to twenty-five the number of parishes already closed during the 3-1/2 year episcopate of Bishop Richard Lennon. Dozens of additional northern Ohio parishes will also be off the map by the end of June, 2010.

The potential ramifications of this situation are so far-reaching that even the **City of Cleveland** has become involved. On Tuesday, November 10th, Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) executive director Robyn Sandys attended a meeting at City Hall with other Cleveland CDC directors whose neighborhoods have been/will be touched by the church closings.

In alphabetical order, the conveners of the City Hall meeting were: Robert Brown, Director, City Planning Commission; Kevin Burke, Associate General Counsel, Diocese of Cleveland; Colleen Gilson, Executive Director, Cleveland Neighborhood Development Coalition; John Maimone, Finance Officer, Catholic Diocese of Cleveland; Ken Silliman, Chief of Staff, Mayor Frank Jackson's Office; and Chris Warren, Chief of Regional Development, Mayor Frank Jackson's Office.

The meeting's purpose was to let the CDCs know that the Diocese is interested in working with them and the community regarding the churches that will be sold after they are vacated. They have hired three commercial real estate firms to handle the sale of the empty buildings — Chartwell Group, CB Richard Ellis and Grubb and Ellis.

Because the Diocese is interested in creative and innovative solutions and ideas, last month's meeting was possibly only the first of many to address the topic of what the vacant church buildings will mean for Cleveland's neighborhoods.

At least one nearby building, the **former St. Procop convent** at Fulton Rd., is already accounted for. Bishop Richard Lennon has donated it to the Community Service Alliance (CSA), which has operated a housing program

known as **Procop House** there for the past five years.

A parent organization which assists men moving out of homelessness into self-sufficiency, CSA is actively involved with job placements (22 thus far in 2009) in the local community. Annually, the forty to fifty men housed at Procop House participate in employment training and community service while learning the skills they need to break the cycle they've been in.

St. Procop Parish closed on August 30, 2009. Keeping the Procop House segment of the facility open, however, is consistent with the Catholic social teaching of reaching out to those in need.

CSA is launching a capital campaign for a new roof, a boiler and other immediate needs at the St. Procop site. Contact CSA's Jeff Nichols at 440-315-6301 or jeff@comservealliance.org for more information.

Closer to home, **St. Barbara Church** has informed us that the documentation associated with their appeal to the Vatican was sent to the Congregation of the Clergy in Washington, D.C. in mid-November. The coordinator of the effort, Michael Minich, subsequently received word that it had been received, and that a copy of it had been put in the pouch with other important correspondence and forwarded to Rome.

At **Corpus Christi** and **Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) Churches**, the processes described in last month's *OBN* re: choosing a name for the merged parish is underway. From the names suggested as possibilities, adult parishioners were able to vote for up to the six they considered to be the best choices. After the Naming Committee tabulates those votes, the most popular ones will be submitted to Bishop Lennon, who will make the final decision.

On the same weekend that they were voting for a new name, OLGC parishioners also received a visit from Fr. Anthony Angelo, the Provincial of the Cincinnati Province of the **Missionaries of the Precious Blood (CPPS)**. He preached at all the Masses, delivering a difficult homily with the not-totally-surprising news that when Our Lady of Good Counsel Church closes in April, Precious Blood priests will no longer be staffing the newly-formed parish which will gather there.

At the beginning of the millennium, the CPPS had committed their continued service (based on the number and ages of the priests in their Order) to serve at OLGC through at least 2014. But the restructuring of the Diocese has forced them to rethink that commitment and return the care of the OLGC flock to Diocesan priests.

The CPPS had ministered at OLGC for over 100 years, having come to Brooklyn Township at a time when this was a German-speaking neighborhood.

No doubt Christmas services at numerous parishes this year will be ones to remember; some will know it's their last, and some will still be wondering

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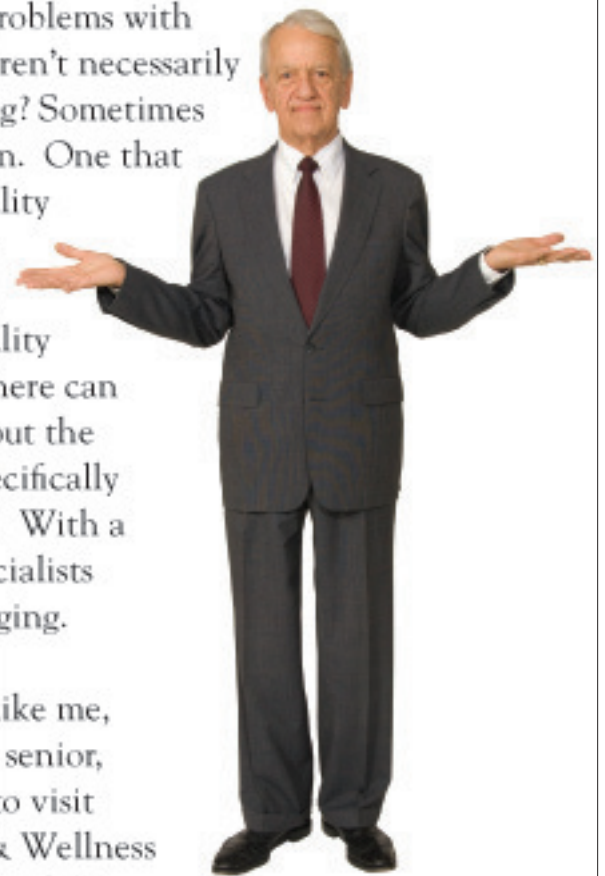
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Everyone wants to know what causes neck pain and why it gets worse when you're under stress. Well, this is the tricky part. Most people think it's just the muscles. Once in a while that's the case. Often it's not. So first, you need to find out what's causing the neck pain. And just taking a wild guess isn't the right way. That's why you still have pain now, right?

Pain Pills Making You Feel Like a 'Misfit Toy'?

Everyday people come in to our clinics with neck pain. And tons of them just treated it with pain pills, wondering why the pain just keeps coming back and slowly getting worse like clockwork. Then they end up with things like slipped discs and nasty arthritis. The thing is, this isn't normal. If you let it go

too far, nothing's going to help. Then you're stuck with pain for life. Not good. Surgery: *not good either.*

So the reason the Christmas stress and tension makes things worse is because it just tightens things up. And if it's screwed up already, tightening it up makes it much worse. We've got some good news for that... in just a moment.

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Do you want to find out how to get rid of the pain? If so, there's just a couple of things you need to do, and we'll make it simple for you.

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I had "extreme disabling pain in my neck, back, and shoulder and inability to raise my left arm. I have gone from a 10 on the pain scale to a one. I am able to lead a normal life again." —Michelle Zelazny

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P.S. Don't put this aside. Don't put off making the phone call. The response from your neighbors has been overwhelming and this opportunity will not last if demand becomes too high. Our #1 priority is giving the personal and individual attention folks like you deserve. This may be your last notification. Don't spend another minute suffering needlessly. But you MUST NOT WAIT. This offer is only available until for the next 7 days.



Community Service Screening

"A great way to find out about your pain..."

Whether or not you feel pain right now, let our team of doctors find out for sure with a 19-point, detailed service screening (a \$189 value) that'll identify even the smallest of problems. We'll even throw in the X-rays if we feel you need them. Just bring in this coupon, and we'll take care of the costs. We're not promising a cure or claiming to be superior, we simply like to believe that our clinic is built on helping people feel better.

THERE'S NO OTHER OBLIGATION. Just call and you're guaranteed to get in today! Once we track down your pain, we'll work on getting you back to doing the things you love—FAST! Make your appointment TODAY! 216-398-PAIN (7246)

P.S. It's Time to STOP wondering "What If," and time to START putting the confidence back in your body and your life. There's **ABSOLUTELY nothing** to lose. **CALL RIGHT NOW!** 216-398-PAIN (7246)

P.P.S. Be one of the first 7 people to call and receive a relaxing 1/4-hour massage. Start on your road towards recovery TODAY!

HS HealthSource®
 Chiropractic & Progressive Rehab™

BROOKLYN 216-398-PAIN (7246)

4370 Ridge Road

Dr. Maziar Nejad | Dr. Matthew Woodworth

This offer does not apply to federal insurance beneficiaries and ACN participants.