

## The Irish — and others — look forward to celebrating St. Patrick's Day this month

by Lynette Filips  
lynettef@oldbrooklyn.com

"Everyone," some folks say, "is Irish on St. Patrick's Day," but going downtown to watch a parade pass by, sporting a green carnation or a comical green hat, eating corned beef sandwiches and imbibing quantities of green beer on March 17 are hardly all that defines daughters and sons of Ireland. Descendants of the tenacious individuals who left the "olde sod" for a better life in America have maintained their ethnic identity as few others have.

Michael, Sean, Ian, James, Matthew, Colin, Brendan, Kyle, Kieran, Aidan, Rory, Ryan and Seamus... in addition to Patrick;

- your female family members have names like Bridget, Colleen, Cecilia, Eileen, Sheila, Deirdre, Margaret, Meghan, Nora, Maeve, Ellen, Moira, Patricia, Grace, Kathleen, Caitlin, Katie and a host of two-part names which begin with Mary;

- your earliest Cleveland ancestors came from "the Angle" (near St. Malachi Church), but now you live in the Westpark neighborhood of Cleveland;



Some folks say that it always snows on St. Patrick's Day. While that isn't 100% true, it is usually cold and snowy. Rarely has that stopped a parade, though, such as the one in 2004 in which the Cleveland Firefighters Memorial Pipe and Drum Band marched and played.

Several years ago, the *Cleveland Free Times* sponsored a contest called, "You're so Cleveland if..." This month our ethnic history article will borrow on that theme, not as a contest, but as a sort of Irish 101 about the attributes and habits (in no particular order) of Cleveland's Irish population —

So,

"You're so Irish if..."

- family gatherings on St. Patrick's Day are as important as those on the major Christian holidays;

- St. Patrick's Day begins with Mass at St. Patrick's, St. Colman's or St. William's (if you live on the east side);

- no matter what the weather, you've either participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade or watched your family participate in it, on virtually every March 17th of your life;

- your male family members have names like Daniel, Thomas, Kevin, Brian,

- someone in your family is a judge, a political figure, a fireman, a policeman, a priest, or a nun;

- you belong to the Democratic party or at least usually vote Democratic;

- at a meal, you prefer potatoes over rice, noodles, pasta or any other starchy side dish;

- you know that cottage ham is as popular as corned beef in a "boiled dinner";

- Irish soda bread is your idea of a tasty treat (or, for some, a penance);

- your mother also bakes/baked Irish brown bread;

- you understand the meaning of words like hoolie (an Irish party), boxtie (Irish potato pancakes) and colcannon (an Irish mashed potato and cabbage side dish);

- you took — or your children take — step dancing lessons;

See *St. Patrick's Day* page 8

## MetroHealth introduces new community discount program

On Monday, March 2, MetroHealth will introduce its new Community Discount Program for Cuyahoga County residents, which eliminates the previous rating system. The new Community Discount Program will be *simpler to understand, easier to qualify for, and accessible to a larger number of uninsured patients.*

Most uninsured patients who have upcoming appointments in the next month are being notified by mail of the new program. They do not have to do anything to be enrolled. MetroHealth sent copies of letters, and the flyers they created for their current patients and they are in their waiting rooms.

The most noticeable change is the elimination of the six "rating" categories. Now there are three discount levels based on family income.

- Up to 200% of federal poverty level (FPL)
- 200% to 300% of FPL
- 300% to 400% of FPL

Patients with family income of less than 200% FPL (e.g. family of four earning less than \$44,100 per year) will be asked to pay a \$5 time-of-service fee at their appointment with a MetroHealth doctor. This \$5 fee is among the lowest in Greater Cleveland. Other applicable fees are included in the table on page two with the eligibility income levels.

MetroHealth encourages uninsured residents of Cuyahoga County to contact a financial counselor at 216-778-7878 to see if they qualify for these discounts. *Over the last few years, MetroHealth has doubled the number of financial counselors available to make it easier for patients to qualify for discounts and receive care.* Prospective patients will need to bring the following documents to the appointment with a Financial Counselor:

- Picture identification
- Proof of all sources of income from the last 3 to 12 months (tax returns, pay stubs, etc.)
- Proof of a family size (birth certificates, marriage license, etc.)



Photo courtesy of MetroHealth Medical Center  
John Chae, M.D., utilizes his expertise as a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation physician at MetroHealth Medical Center.

- Proof of residency in Cuyahoga County (a utility bill mailed to their home, bank statement with their address, etc.)

The new Community Discount Program is founded on MetroHealth's mission as "an academic health care system, committed to our communities by saving lives, restoring health, promoting wellness and providing outstanding, life-long care accessible to all."

If you have any questions about the program, or would like to receive more copies of flyers explaining the program both in English or Spanish, please contact Eileen Korey, Vice President, Communications, at [ekorey@metrohealth.org](mailto:ekorey@metrohealth.org) or 216-778-5002.

See *income table* on page 2

**2009/10 Old Brooklyn Brooklyn Centre City of Brooklyn BUSINESS DIRECTORY & Service Guide**

OLD BROOKLYN, BROOKLYN CENTRE & CITY OF BROOKLYN BUSINESS DIRECTORY & SERVICE GUIDE 2008 2009



If you're a business owner and would like to be listed or run an ad in the OBCDC 2009/10 Business Directory, please call Sandy at 216-459-1000. **Directories** will be distributed **FREE** to area residents and businesses in spring.

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## Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation 4th Annual Neighborhood Safety Summit

Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Corpus Christi School  
4850 Pearl Rd.

**FREE EVENT!!**

9 a.m. -- registration & breakfast with

Commander Keith Sulzer & Councilmen Brian Cummins & Kevin Kelley

Choose two workshops!

Workshops are 1 hour long

- \*Rape Crisis
- \*Self Defense
- \*Cleveland SPCA
- \*Defensive Driving
- \*Sex Offender Next Door

Free door prize raffle!

**GUN DROP OFF**

NO restrictions, NO questions;  
Just leave your unwanted firearm

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



## MK2 Technologies

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

MK2 Technologies an IT company is new to the Old Brooklyn neighborhood, but they have been in business for the last three years. MK2 Technologies is located at 4650 State Rd. on the corner of Germaine Ave. This location in Old Brooklyn sat vacant for months before Mr. Donald Kasper, President and Founder found the building, renovated it, added some exterior beautification and opened the doors for its 50 plus employees in October 2008.

MK2 started out in Solon three years ago. They then acquired another firm which had an office in downtown Cleveland. After working out of the Solon and Cleveland offices, Mr. Kasper recently decided to consolidate offices in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood.

Donald Kasper is a seasoned IT professional with over 25 years of experience in the industry. The office on State Rd. houses 20 employees with another 30 employees on site at client's offices to help with all of their IT needs.

Mr. Kasper has owned and operated a series of companies since 1995 and has built his career and newest company into what is now MK2 Technologies. Mr. Kasper and a partner started Geschke Kasper & Associates in 1995, sold this and started Fathom IT solutions in 1998. Mr. Kasper and a partner then founded eXLTech in 2000. This led the way to MK2 Technologies in early 2006 and the move to Old Brooklyn back in October.

All of Don Kaspers' businesses have been award winning and Mr. Kasper himself has been recognized as an entrepreneur of

the year finalist, the North Coast 99 Award, and the Team NEO Success award. Mr. Kasper was also named to the Board of the Ohio Canal Corridor of which Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation is a major supporter.

MK2 technologies offer four major areas of professional IT solutions for business needs. For starters, MK2 technologies is a professional staffing firm, they offer technology consultants and staff for projects. MK2 also helps companies find qualified permanent information technology employees.

Secondly, MK2 offers custom development. MK2 has experience designing, developing and maintaining browser based software and business applications. MK2 can create your solution by using such technologies as Microsoft .NET C# and SQL server.

MK2 also offers a few commercial based software products. The best known of which is Advantage Zone. Advantage zone a private label software technology that companies can use to offer products and coupons to other area companies and employees using their company's website. Please visit [www.advantagezone.com](http://www.advantagezone.com) for more information.

Lastly, MK2 offers website hosting and data center technology. MK2 has designed a successful way to efficiently and effectively develop what may be the best way for individual companies to manage their usability services via the internet. MK2 Technologies does not have a retail set up in its offices but if you are in need of services please contact the offices by calling 216-739-0652.

MK2 technology says it is a good fit for the Old Brooklyn & Brooklyn Centre neighborhoods, many of their employee's frequent local restaurants for lunch, dinner and after work events. Mr. Kasper expressed how happy he is to be in such a safe and accessible neighborhood and looks forward to a long future in the neighborhoods.

## From the desk of the executive director

by **Robyn Sandys**  
[robyns@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:robyns@oldbrooklyn.com)



As we all try and prepare for warmer days, think about ways you can participate in your community. The first chance you have this month will be a special neighborhood event that is being spearheaded by a neighbor who works at Case Western Reserve University, Maria Domingo. She applied for and received a special community service grant from Case called "Case Cares about Cleveland." The date to show your support and help out is March 28th. Maria is the coordinator and she is planning to work with volunteers to decorate storefronts, wash windows and more in area business districts. For more information contact Maria at 440-258-4995 or visit <http://blog.case.edu/cleveland>.

There are more volunteer opportunities you can plan for being held in May. River Sweep always a rewarding and fun activity will be held on Saturday, May 9th this year. And OBCDC is participating in 100 hours of community service being sponsored by City Year. That will be held on May 12 through 16. We are still planning volunteer activities for the City Year event. If you have any ideas, please contact OBCDC staff member Donn Heckelmoser at 216-459-1000.

And, as I always mention in this article we would like volunteers from the community to submit articles or short news items for the Old Brooklyn News. If you are a shutter bug, feel free to submit digital photos as well of sites in Wards 15 and 16. All articles and photos should be sent to Sandy Worona at [sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com). If we use them we will get back to you to verify information.

On Thursday, April 23rd we are holding an informal community open house which will provide an update of our activities since we last met in late October. There will be a review of several planning grants that have come to a conclusion: the Master Plan, Transportation for Liveable Communities (TLCI) along with an update on our strategic planning process for OBCDC. This meeting will also be your opportunity to provide input and ask questions. It will be held from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Gavin Lee Party Center, 3315 Broadview Road.

There is a new community blog that

recently started that is worth checking out. It was developed by one of our new board members Jeff Rhodes and a friend of his Jeffrey Sugalski. The address is <http://oldbrooklyn.blogspot.com/>. There are some great photos of the Ben Franklin Community Garden and other sites around town. We look forward to more great things from this new blog. OBCDC is always updating our web site. We are in the process of redesigning the home page. The new look will be up for all to see sometime later in March.

Hopefully by the end of this month we will feel a bit of spring outdoors and in our step as we march on toward April.

**Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation** is looking for residents who would like to be involved in promoting and marketing the neighborhood which they love and are passionate about being a part. We are looking for interested people to participate in the planning and implementation of the **Second Annual All-Access Housing Fair**. The committees are: Marketing, Housing Tour, Hospitality, Sponsorship and Merchant Liaison. Please call Lori Peterson or Donnald Heckelmoser at 216-459-1000 if you are interested in becoming part of this exciting event or would like to learn more.

**Common Grounds Coffeehouse**  
 (Located in Brooklyn Heights UCC)  
 2005 West Schaaf Road  
 216-741-2280  
**Fish Fry**  
**Fridays during Lent**  
**February 27th thru April 3rd**  
**5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

**MJG Mechanical Heating & Air Conditioning Construction, LLC.**  
 Cleveland, Ohio 44109  
**WHERE QUALITY AND QUANTITY MEET**  
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**MJG Heating & Cooling**

**Trivia Question**  
 I grew up in Old Brooklyn back in the 70's. There were a few corner stores we used to frequent as kids. One was Shorty's near Stickney Ave. Then, there was another one right on the corner of Northcliff Ave. and Pearl Rd. right next to the Corpus Christi parking lot. My sisters and some old neighbors of ours cannot for the life of us remember the name of that store.  
 If you could put this trivia to rest? We would appreciate it.  
 Call Sandy @ 216-459-1000 or email [sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com)

**MetroHealth income table from front page**

**Time-of-Service Payments**

	Up to 200% FPL	Up to 300% FPL	Up to 400% FPL
Physician Visit	\$5	\$15	\$30
ER - Urgent/Emergency	\$10	\$25	\$50
ER - Non-Emergency	\$75	\$75	\$75
Outpatient Procedure	\$10	\$25	\$50
Hospital Admission	\$15	\$45	\$90

Non-Cuyahoga County residents are not eligible for the Community Discount Program.

**Eligibility Income Levels**

Family Size	Up to 200% FPL	Up to 300% FPL	Up to 400% FPL
1	21,660	32,490	43,320
2	29,140	43,710	58,280
3	36,620	54,930	73,240
4	44,100	66,150	88,200
5	51,580	77,370	103,160
6	59,060	88,590	118,120
7	66,540	99,810	133,080
8	74,020	111,030	148,040
9	81,500	122,250	163,000
10	88,980	133,470	177,960

\* FPL = Federal Poverty Levels 2009

**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

Greg Huth, President    Lynea Derwis, Vice President  
 Ed Pryll, Jr., Secretary    T.J. Lewarchick, Treasurer

Robyn Sandys, Executive Director  
 Cynthia Cejka, Office Manager  
 Tom Collins, Commercial Program Manager  
 Donnald Heckelmoser, Jr., Residential Services Coordinator  
 Lori Peterson, Residential Program /Marketing Manager  
 Sheila Quealy-Walter, Code Enforcement Manager  
 Barb Spaan, Community Outreach Manager  
 Sandy Worona, Community Outreach Coordinator/OBNA Advertising & Sales Manager

**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 Assistant Copy Editor -- Robyn Sandys; this month's Proofreader -- Cynthia Cejka  
 This month's OBN writers -- Lynette Filips, Dana Korosi, Tom Romito, Walley Two Hawkes & OBCDC staff

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

**OLD BROOKLYN NEWS**

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**Submission Deadlines**  
 Display Ads . . . Wed., March, 25th  
 Classified Ads . . . Fri., March, 27th  
 News Releases . . . Fri., March, 27th  
 For Information call 216-459-0135  
 E-mail: [sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com)  
 FAX NUMBER 216-459-1741

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# NEWS & EVENTS

**Thursday Afternoons now thru April 9th**  
**Income Tax Preparation Assistance**

Steel Valley Federal Credit Union, 3840 Pearl Rd. Income Tax preparation through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program will assist in preparing 2008 Federal & Ohio tax returns. Qualified personnel available by appointment only Thursday afternoons, 4 pm - 8 pm. Call 216-741-9430, Option 1, to make appointment.

**Every Friday now thru April 9th**  
**Tax Preparers**

Cleveland Public Library, South Brooklyn Branch, 4303 Pearl Rd.; Fridays, 9:30 am - 1 pm by appointment. Tax Preparers help seniors & low income people. Call 216-623-7067 to make appointment.

**Monday, March 2nd**

**Cuyahoga Valley Genealogy Society**  
Independence Civic Center, Willow Room, 6363 Selig Blvd., 7:30 pm. Norm Davis presenting "Looked Everywhere? Tried Everything? What's Next? Find out how to locate elusive info you're looking for. All welcome; coffee & refreshments. Call president John Stoika, 216-524-3472, for more info.

**Wednesday, March 4th**  
**Near Westside Public Meeting**  
**Cleveland City Council - 2009 Ward Redistricting Process**

Applewood Center, Jones Campus, Multi-purpose Room, 3518 W. 25th St. (entrance off Daisy Ave.), 7 pm. Community meeting to share info with the public pertaining to the approved Charter Amendment that requires Cleveland City Council to re-divide the City into wards using a population-based model with a ratio of one ward for every 25, 000 residents. Cleveland population is 427,000; City council will be reduced by 2 seats.

**Saturday, March 7th**  
**Hope For Healing**

Cornerstone of Hope, 5905 Brecksville Rd., 9 - 11 am. In partnership with Legacy of Love; 8-week support group for persons who have experienced miscarriage, still birth, neo-natal or other infant losses. Babysitting provided. Call 216-524-HOPE to register (by Wed., Mar. 4th). www.cornerstoneofhope.org.

**Saturday, March 7th**  
**REIKI I Training**

MetroHealth Medical Center, 2500 MetroHealth Dr., (R172 A&E), 9 am - 5 pm. Class size maximum - 12 participants. Bring a pillow & blanket. Cost - \$80; includes "Reiki: The Healing Touch" First & Second Degree Manual. Contact Rosanne Radziewicz at [Rradziewicz@metrohealth.org](mailto:Rradziewicz@metrohealth.org) or 216-778-4120 with questions or to register.

**Saturdays, March 7th & 14th**

**Little League Baseball with OBALL**  
Knights of Columbus Hall, 4730 Broadview Rd., 9 am - 12 pm. Boys & girls ages 4 - 19. Cost: TBall, \$35; PeeWee, Little F & Big F, \$45. (Family discount offered for more than one child.) Must bring 2 wallet-size pictures & copy of birth certificate. Save time; go to [www.oball.org](http://www.oball.org), fill out registration form & register on line (or bring it in).

**Parents or relatives interested in coaching** can print a coaching form off the website or fill it out on registration day. For each child registered, receive one free Indians ticket for OBALL Day at Progressive Field (scheduled for June 12th). Children must be accompanied by parent, guardian, or authorized responsible adult at Indians game. Additional tickets for families at discounted prices.

**Girls interested in Girls Fast Pitch Softball?** Contact [oballhelp@att.net](mailto:oballhelp@att.net). (See display ad this page).

**Saturdays, March 7, 14, 21 & 28 and April 4**  
**Free Tax Services at Old Brooklyn Neighborhood Family Service Center**

Cuyahoga Employment & Family Services, 4261 Fulton Pkwy. (at Memphis Ave.), 8:30 - 11:30 am. *Walk-ins only.* Returns prepared electronically in Career Center on first floor. Call 216-635-2970 for information only.

**Thursday, March 12th**

**Antique Collectors Club Meeting**  
Busch Funeral Meeting Room, 7501 Ridge Rd., 7:30 pm. History & collectability of radios by Nick Jelenic. Guests welcome.

**Saturday, March 14th**

**Night at the Races Festival '09**  
Saint Joseph Academy Center, 3430 Rocky River Dr., 6 - 11 pm. Tickets, \$15 per person. Sponsor a table of ten & receive 10 free raffle tickets. Horse purchase price - \$20 per horse. No one under 21 years of age permitted. Call Kevin Kreuz, 216-521-0835, or Mary Bole, 440-356-5980, for tickets or more info.

**Sunday, March 15th**

**Pancake Breakfast to Benefit St. Herman's House of Hospitality**  
St. Ignatius High School Atrium, 1911 W. 30th St., 8 am - 2 pm. Adults (13-64), \$6; seniors (65+), \$5; children (under 12), \$4. For tickets mail check to St. Herman's Friends, c/o Gary Pescatrice, 26016 Detroit Rd., Suite 1, Westlake, 44145. Call Jon, 440-327-6229, or Dennis, 216-741-9960, for more info.

**Sunday, March 15th**

**"Italian Afternoon"**  
The Czech Cultural Center of Sokol Greater Cleveland, Bohemian National Hall, 4939 Broadway Ave. **Italian dinner 1 - 2:30 pm**, downstairs dining room. Cash bar with beer & wine. Donation, \$12. Call Mare Bella, 216-662-6130, or [skojam@aol.com](mailto:skojam@aol.com) **Performance of Mascagni's L'amico Fritz, 3 pm**, in grand ballroom of historic Bohemian National Hall. For tickets & info call 216-441-2822 or email [www.operacircle.org](http://www.operacircle.org). General admission, \$20; student, \$10.

**Thursday, March 26th**

**Health Care System in Crisis! Learn about the Single-Payer System Approach**  
Laborers Hall, 3250 Euclid Ave. (basement), 7 pm. Free admission; plenty of parking next to meeting hall. Speaker - Dr. John Ross. Layoffs & employers cutting health care benefits means more uninsured & underinsured. No one is safe! How much worse can it get? When will it end? What can be done about it? Learn about the best kept secret.

**Saturday, March 28th**

**Community Day Volunteers Needed for "Case Cares About Cleveland" Initiative**  
Students from Case Western Reserve University volunteering their time to decorate storefronts, wash windows, & help business owners. Community members needed to meet with students, serve as project coordinators & oversee projects in 2 or 3 hour shifts. Local artists interested in volunteering or displaying artwork in storefront windows also wanted. Business owners who need assistance with cleanup can call Maria Dimengo, 440-258-4995, or e-mail [maria1526@earthlink.net](mailto:maria1526@earthlink.net). Site locations still being determined; visit <http://blog.case.edu/cleveland/> for updates.

**Monday, March 30th & Tuesday, March 31st**

**Women and Money in three parts:**  
Cleveland Public Library, South Brooklyn Branch, 4303 Pearl Rd.; Mon., March 30, **Budgeting**, 2 - 3 pm; Tues., March 31, **Savings**, 12 - 10 pm; & **Credit**, 1 - 2 pm. Presenter -- Bob Houston of WECOFUND. Call 216-623-7067 for more info.

**Thursday, March 31st**

**CCBMR/DD Open House for Community**  
Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Southwest Adult Activity Center, 4720 Hinckley Industrial Pkwy. (off W. Schaaf Rd.),

12 - 1:30 pm. Hosted in celebration of March being "National Mental Retardation Awareness Month". Call to RSVP and to find out where to park -- 216-749-0356.

**Saturday, April 4th**

**48th Annual Evening in Warsaw**  
Birchwood Banquet & Party Center, 7540 Northfield Rd., Walton Hills. Doors open, 4 pm; Ice Breaker, 4-5 pm; dinner, 5:30 pm. Ralph Szubski, the Accordion Man, playing ethnic & American music for dancing, 6-10 pm. Drawings, sideboards, baskets & Chinese raffle. Tickets - \$30; includes dinner & open bar. Advance sales only due to prior sellouts. Deadline - March 28th. Can reserve tables for eight. Call Dick Boll, ticket chairperson, at 440-885-5925 or Audrey Newlin, event chairperson, at 440-516-1224. Sponsored by Polish Legion of American Veterans & auxiliaries to support veterans at local medical center & US troops.

**Careers Available with Cleveland Department of Public Safety**

Cleveland EMS, Fire, Police, Kennel, Division of Corrections. Competitive salary, excellent benefits, paid training, career for life. Call 216-623-5233 for more info & to sign up for notification of employment opportunities.

**America Reads Tutors**

Cleveland Public Library, South Brooklyn Branch, 4303 Pearl Rd. Tutors available to help grades K-4 with reading & math. Call 216-623-7067 to make an appointment.

**WSEM Food Center**

WSEM Food Center at Brookside Center, 3784 Pearl Rd., 216-749-4295. Open Mon. - Fri., 10 am - 2 pm, & last Sat. of month, 10 am - 1pm, except for holidays when WSEM is open the Sat. before the holiday. Call WSEM helpline for food stamp applications, 216-749-4295 & ask for appointment with Jaci, who helps fill out & deliver completed food stamp applications to Dept. of Job & Family Services.

**West Side Ecumenical Ministry (WSEM)**

**Enrolling for Early Childhood Education**  
All locations for ages birth through age five. WSEM offers infant & toddler care, Head Start, the Early Learning Initiative (ELI) program as well as a home-based program to meet the needs of area families. WSEM offers free serv-

ices to eligible families, health & developmental screenings, comprehensive services to address educational, health, dental, nutrition, social, mental health & special needs. Variety of program options & locations. Accepts county vouchers. Call 216-651-2037 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](http://www.olgoodcounsel.com) for up to date info.

**St. Leo the Great School Registration**

**Kindergarten & grades 1-8.** Pick up registration forms in school office, 9 am - 3:30 pm weekdays. Children must be 5 years old by Sept. 30th to be eligible to register. Bring child's birth & baptismal certificates along with a \$50 non-refundable registration fee. Participates in Cleveland Scholarship & Tutoring Program. County vouchers accepted. Call 216-661-2120 for more info.

**St. Mark Lutheran School Registration**

St. Mark Lutheran School, 4464 Pearl Rd. Applications accepted throughout school year for kindergarten - grade 8. Participates in 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 school, 216-749-3545, or visit [www.orgsites.com/oh/stmarklutheran](http://www.orgsites.com/oh/stmarklutheran).

**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](http://www.smbyz.org).

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**MARCH 17**



**Special Flavors of the Month:**

**Pistachio Nut & Pure Maple Walnut**

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**4674 State Road**

## One more month for SNR classes at Mooney

by Lynette Filips  
lynettef@oldbrooklyn.com

Another term is winding down for the Schools as Neighborhood Resource (SNR) program at Charles A. Mooney Elementary School, 3213 Montclair Ave., but it's still not too late to be a part of it. Class time is 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Both children and adults can participate for free by simply signing up any time between now and the first week in April.

Basketball, which is offered on all three evenings, is the most popular offering this term, but young people are also enjoying Arts & Crafts on Monday evenings, Cooking on Wednesday evenings and Games on Thursday evenings. James Burton is the basketball coach, and Kim Csomos and Katie Zenczak teach the Arts & Crafts, Cooking and Games sessions.

As has been the case for many terms, adults can sharpen their Computer Skills at classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; David Csomos teaches that class. Adults are also improving their health at Walkercise/Exercise classes on the same evenings. Sandra Worona, a name many read-

ers recognize because of Sandy's position at the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation, teaches the fitness classes.

Classes in the martial arts are also offered at Mooney. In past years, the Taekwondo (Korean) form of karate was offered, but that has changed. Robert Madison, an instructor in Gung Fu (Chinese) karate, is at Mooney on Monday and Wednesday evenings. A Wrestling instructor, James Greenwood, is at the school on Thursday evenings.

This year, Yoga is also being offered at the SNR program. The instructor, Lawrence Young, is an Old Brooklyn resident who has many years of experience in bringing the "body, mind and spirit" together.

If the Cleveland Municipal School District (CMSD) is closed on a Monday, Wednesday or Thursday, either for a scheduled holiday or because of inclement weather, the evening classes at Mooney will not be in session (even though these classes are not taught by CMSD personnel).

Winter is almost over! Come out of hibernation and schedule a self-improvement class or two into your week before another semester ends.



Photo by George Shuba

At James Ford Rhodes High School on Wed., February 18, Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Area 3 managers conducted an inspection and pass-in-review ceremony.

## 2009 Benjamin Franklin Community Garden gardeners and prospective gardeners

by Tom Sargent  
toms@oldbrooklyn.com

Though the air is warm and dry in Arizona, where the Cleveland Indians are preparing for the upcoming 2009 baseball season, snow and ice still cling to the ground here in town, and temperatures still hover around the freezing mark. Nevertheless, the calendar still reminds us that opening day for the tribe is barely more than a month away. Given the certainty of moderating weather and the thought of baseball soon being played at Progressive Field, it is inevitable that the minds of gardeners, and especially Benjamin Franklin Community Garden gardeners, wander to the upcoming gardening season.

The Ben Franklin garden, located on Spring Road, directly in back of the elementary school of the same name, is the largest community garden in Cuyahoga County. In addition to growing table fare for their own personal use, each year "Benjie" gardeners generously donate between six and eight thousand pounds of fresh produce to various food pantries and kitchens in the area. Included in these are the

Brookside Center, St. Herman's House of Hospitality, St. Augustine's, and other area institutions that serve the disadvantaged.

Garden plots at "Benjie" are available for a \$30 donation to the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) which manages the garden. There are 210 plots of roughly 20 by 25 feet (approximately 500 square feet). Water is provided free of charge via standpipes located throughout the garden; some seeds and plants are also provided free by the City of Cleveland Summer Sprout Program, administered by the Ohio State University Extension Service.

Established gardeners will receive applications in mid-March. These should be completed and returned to the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation office by April 15. Applications for new gardeners will be available after April 15. It is anticipated that good number of garden plots will be available to first time Benjamin Franklin gardeners.

For additional information, contact Sandy Worona or Tom Sargent at OBCDC, 216-459-1000 or email: toms@oldbrooklyn.com.

### LENTEN FISH FRIES

**Dr. Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church**, 4470 Ridge Rd., Brooklyn. **Fri., March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 3, 4 - 7 pm.** Shrimp, pierogi & cabbage & noodle dinners also offered. Call 216-749-5585 for more info.

**Our Lady of Good Counsel Church**, 4427 Pearl Rd., Parish Hall. **Fri., March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 3, 4:30 - 7 pm.** Adult dinners, \$7; Sr./child, \$5. Breaded baked fish, non-breaded fish, homemade pierogi, battered shrimp, combo fish/pierogi. All dinners include cabbage & noodles or french fries, cole slaw or apple sauce, roll & butter, coffee/tea/fruit punch. Also a la carte items. Eat in or take out.

**St. Leo Church**, 4940 Broadview Rd., **Fri., March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 3, 4:30-7 pm.** Adult dinners, \$8. Fish, shrimp, pierogi or combo dinners with choice of 1 side (fries, baked potato), & cole slaw or apple sauce, roll & butter. A la carte items - pierogis, pizza, macaroni & cheese, cabbage & noodles, soup & dessert. Kids' meals, \$3.50. Carryouts available.

**St. Mary Catholic Byzantine School PTU**, 4600 State Rd., **Fri., Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 3, 4 - 7 pm.** Feb. 27th & Mar. 20th - meatless spaghetti dinner - \$7; served w/salad, roll & butter. Mar. 6th & Mar. 27th -

fish fry dinner, \$8; shrimp dinner, \$9; served w/fries & coleslaw. Mar. 13th & Apr. 3rd, 6 piece potato & cheese pierogi dinner, \$7; also cabbage & noodles, served w/applesauce, roll & butter. Coffee & uncarbonated beverage included. (Take out available.) Kids' meals available each week; \$5. Soft drinks & dessert sold separately. Call the school office, 216-749-7980, 9 am - 2 pm for more info.

**St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church**, 5375 Broadview Rd., **March 13 & 27. 4 - 7 pm.** Dinners, \$8. Beer-battered cod, homemade pierogi, coleslaw, dessert & coffee. Carry-outs available.

**Cleveland Maennerchor**, 4515 State Rd., **Fri. 5:30 - 8:30 pm.** Fish, shrimp, scallops, schnitzel, bratwurst, pierogis, potato pancakes, German potato salad. All dinners include bread & butter & choice of potato salad or french fries & apple sauce, coleslaw or salad. Specials every Fri. Call 741-7728 for more info.

**Lady Z's (formerly Zelezniks)**, 4002 Jennings Rd. Fish Fry Wed. & Fri., 11 am - 11 pm. Homemade potato pancakes & pierogis. Fish Fry, \$7.50; pierogis, \$1 ea.; 3 potato pancakes, \$6.95. Call 741-0010 for more info.

### It's that time again to get ready for Little League Baseball with

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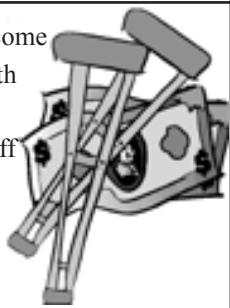
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## On Your Feet

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Jeffrey A. Halpert,  
D.P.M.\*

### SIGNS OF TROUBLED FEET

Thomas J. DePolo,  
D.P.M.\*

If you're having a problem with your feet, you may think it's minor until the discomfort and foot fatigue get out of hand. Any limiting activities on the job or at home can be a serious problem until your feet get the treatment they need. There are many signs of troubled feet, and here are a few to watch for. CORNS AND CALLUSES are caused by friction and pressure that may be attributed to defects in the foot's bone structure. WARTS may be mistaken for calluses, but they are really quite different. A wart is a skin growth which has its own blood and nerve supply and tends to spread if left untreated. BUNIONS are caused by misaligned toe joints, usually the big toe, and can become swollen and tender FUNGUS CONDITIONS such as athlete's foot tend to attack the feet in the warm, moist areas between the toes. TOENAIL INFECTIONS sometimes caused by improperly trimmed nails, can also be caused by structural defects. If you have any of these signs of troubled feet, see your foot specialist for examination and treatment.

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Daylight savings time is arriving just about the time you'll be picking up your copy of this month's *Old Brooklyn News*, and the first day of spring is just a few weeks away. We've almost survived another northern Ohio winter! Knowing what we experienced with extreme snowfall in April, 2007, and March, 2008, however, we'd better hope that what's official will also be real!

One advantage of being snow-bound (or just being unwilling to go out in sub-zero temperatures) is that the extra hours spent at home can be a good time for actually doing things which have been on the "to do" list for too long.

A number of folks, I hear, have been sorting through papers and other miscellaneous items during these post-Christmas months. If you are one of them, please keep your eyes open for anything which might be of interest to the **Historical Society of Old Brooklyn (HSOB)**.

Although the historical society still doesn't have a museum, it does have a small room with shelves and six large almost-empty filing cabinets on the third floor of Pearl Road United Methodist Church, the location where HSOB meetings are conducted. This past winter, armed with newly purchased archival-quality boxes and folders, a few of the members began to organize the group's holdings.

Items related to our neighborhood which don't seem like much now will probably be of interest to the future generations who'll one day live here. Or perhaps you have assorted items which are already old.

Categories of particular interest are Old Brooklyn's schools, churches and other institutions/former institutions (e.g., Deaconess Hospital), banks and commercial establishments, and, of course, back issues of the *Old Brooklyn News* and the Ward 15 and 16 papers published by our councilmen. Both paper and specialty advertising are welcome.

Call Lynette, 216-398-5868, if you have something to donate, to arrange a time to drop it off at the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation office.

Purchasing the necessary supplies has taken a substantial chunk of the HSOB's savings, so the society is again selling Harry London chocolate bars to help restock the treasury. Four varieties - Buckeyes (with

peanut butter), The London Mint, Chocolate with Almonds Bars and Chocolate Krispie Bars - are available for \$1 each. **Don Workman**, owner of **Ameriflag, Inc.**, 3307 Broadview Rd., has again agreed to stock the bars in his store. Ameriflag is open Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Candy bars can also be obtained directly from candy committee chairperson Gayle Cummins, 216-661-6821.

While the HSOB is working to enhance the neighborhood from an historical perspective, another group of people in Old Brooklyn have been working to build up the business community...

In October of 2007, OBCDC's Tom Collins organized the initial gathering, and the attendees so enjoyed getting together they've been meeting once a month for breakfast ever since. **Dee's Old Brooklyn Diner**, 4326 Pearl Rd., is the place; a core group of local business owners come to every gathering, and others drop in when they can.

(New business people are also welcome to attend. Contact Tom if you are interested in being a part of it.)

Eight of the businesses - **Ameriflag, Inc.**, **Dee's Old Brooklyn Diner**, **Broadview & Schaaf Marathon**, **M & W Meats**, **Michael's Bakery**, **South Hills Hardware**, **Speed Exterminating** and **Westerfield Sales & Service** - came up with the idea for their first project, aimed at boosting their sales. They shared the cost of eight plastic holders with places for eight business cards. They each have one on their counters and can thereby promote each others' establishments.

(We don't usually accompany entries in *The Town Crier* with photos or graphics, but in this case, "one picture is worth a thousand words"; you can get an idea of what the card-display looks like by viewing the "faux-ad" on page 6 of this issue.)

The snowflakes on the flagpoles and in the windows of some of the "downtown" Old Brooklyn businesses at Christmas were also one of the outcomes of these meetings; reproducing historical photos and displaying them in storefront windows is something which is being discussed as a future Memphis/Pearl/Broadview enhancement.

Although it is not located in Old Brooklyn, **Near West Theatre (NWT)**, which holds its performances at St. Patrick Church's Club Building at 3606 Bridge Ave. in Ohio City, often appears in this column because numerous actors and actresses from this neighborhood regularly appear in its performances.

For the past eleven years, NWT has temporarily left its Bridge Ave. stage for the stage lights of downtown's Playhouse Square Center for an annual benefit fundraiser. This year it was called *Look to the Rainbow*, after a song in *Finian's Rainbow*, one of NWT's recent

shows.

Held on Sunday, February 15, the social was in the lobby of the Ohio Theatre, the performance was in the Ohio Theatre, and the hors d'oeuvres and sweets (catered by Sammy's) and raffle were in the Allen Theatre. NWT's benefit performance included scenes from *Finian's Rainbow*, *Tommy* and *West Side Story* plus a solo by NWT's Executive Director, Stephanie Morrison-Hrbek.

A number of people who were in the musical revue live in our neighborhood - student actors/actresses **Alana Jarrell**, **Laura Kalynchuk**, **Adele Schumann**, **Andy Schumann**, **Ben Schumann**, **Grace Schumann** and **Taylor Slivka**, and adult actress **Jennifer Gutauckas**.

In addition to "looking to the rainbow", Near West Theatre is also looking to build a new home in the Gordon Square Arts District (Cleveland Public Theatre and the Capitol Movie Theatre) in the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood.

They've already purchased land on the

northwest corner of W. 67th St. & Detroit Ave., and secured the services of an architect and a contractor. Soon they'll be fundraising in earnest so that they can build the handicapped accessible and air-conditioned theater they have in mind.

And while we're on the topic of the performing arts, **Terri Slivka** (who's often involved with Near West Theatre performances) was on stage at the **House of Blues**, 308 Euclid Ave., on Saturday, January 10. The occasion was the Tri-C High School Rock Off sponsored by Cuyahoga Community College.

Terri, a junior at St. Joseph Academy, another girl from St. Joe's and some guys from St. Ignatius High School are all in a band called Red Velvet. Terri is a back-up singer, and according to her mom, "their music is favorable to the ears of older folks, too".

Please help us keep this column full of interesting news by sending your ideas to: Lynette Filips, *The Town Crier*, c/o the *Old Brooklyn News*, 3344 Broadview Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44109

## COMMUNITY MEETINGS

**Brooklyn Centre Community Association** meeting, fourth Thursday of each month, 6:30 pm, Brooklyn Memorial United Methodist Church, 2607 Archwood Ave. (corner of Archwood and Pearl).

**Brooklyn Centre Naturalists** meeting, Sat., Mar. 21st Cleve. Public Library, Brooklyn branch, 3706 Pearl Rd., 2:15 pm.

**Brooklyn Genealogy Club** meeting, Sun., March. 15, 2 pm, Brooklyn branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 4480 Ridge Rd. CVGS member John Stoika speaking about how computers can help your research. Refreshments served; prospective members welcome.

**Historical Society of Old Brooklyn** meeting Fri., March 13th, 7 pm, Pearl Road United Methodist Church, 4200 Pearl Rd. (Use rear entrance off parking lot.) MetroParks' historical interpreter Sherrie Tolliver will speak. Refreshments.

**Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation** board meeting every fourth Tues. of the month, March. 24th, 6 - 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 date.

**Second District Police Community Relations** meeting, Tues., March. 10th (& 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., March. 24th (& every fourth Tues.), 6:30 pm, Estabrook Recreation Center, 4125 Fulton Rd.

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

**Community Dialogue with Mayor Frank Jackson**, Thursday, March 26th, Estabrook Recreation Center, 4125 Fulton Rd., 6 - 8 pm. Limited parking. Contact Erin Dorsey at [edorsey@city.cleveland.oh.us](mailto:edorsey@city.cleveland.oh.us) or 216-420-7606 for more info.

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## Membership Community Open House Thursday, April 23, 2009

OBCDC will be hosting a membership/community open house from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on **Thursday, April 23**, Gavin Lee Party Center, 3315 Broadview Rd. This meeting will include:

- Results of planning studies recently completed by OBCDC on behalf of the area we serve (Master Plan, Transportation for Livable Community (TLCI) and Lower Big Creek.
- Update on OBCDC current and future projects
- Discussion/Q&A

Hope to see you there, and if you are not a member of OBCDC, please consider joining. Membership applications in the OBN and on line at [www.oldbrooklyn.com](http://www.oldbrooklyn.com).



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by Tom Collins  
tomc@oldbrooklyn.com

**It's in the Plan- Starting a New Business**

There is something about January that brings out entrepreneurial spirit in people. For about five years I have noted that my phone rings more in January from people looking for rental space or intending to start a business. Perhaps it is the result of a New

Year resolution. Perhaps it is the long winter days that push people to ask how they can improve their lives. Perhaps it is none of this and I just seem to notice it more. Whatever it is I received about a dozen telephone calls from people looking for storefronts or office space.

Part of what I do at Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation is helping people find the resources they need to be successful in business. Most often the request is for office or storefront space. Unfortunately, too many people think once they have found a location everything else will work out just fine. As important as finding a good affordable location is it is not the first or even the most important thing for a start up business.

The goal for every business is to make a profit. Take in more money than you pay out. Logical statement, difficult goal!

To do it you need a business plan. So, the first question I ask is do you have a busi-

ness plan? The reaction tells me pretty much what I need to know. For some there is a silent pause followed by "I am working on it". Others say "What do you mean? I am going to sell jigamabits because people need jigamabits. I just need a place". Then there are those who know just what I mean and are ready for the next question.

The next question asks if the business plan is in writing? This is the real demarcation point between those who are preparing to operate a business and those who are dreaming. If you cannot put your plan in writing then it is just an idea.

Business planning is not difficult. It is however time consuming. Think of it as an investment of time before you spend any money. Think of it like shopping for a car or a refrigerator, or flat screen television. For those purchases most people do a little research and comparison-shop. If you are prepared to work 60-70 hours a week to be successful in business then allow yourself 40 hours to prepare a plan and get it reviewed by people who know something about business.

**Small Business Administration**

The Small Business Administration ([www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)) is the best source of information for preparing a business plan. And it is free. You can download formats that will match your particular business. You can meet with a counselor if you wish. You can attend a business-planning seminar. Associated with the Small Business Administration (SBA) is

SCORE, a non-profit organization of volunteers with practical business experience. A SCORE (Service Core of Retired Executives) member will mentor a new business (or even a working business needing a review) to help insure that the business plan is both realistic and inclusive of all the necessary components.

The SBA does not write the plan, it teaches you how to do it at your own pace. It will start with a basic set of questions to help you first determine if you are really ready to go into business on your own. The SBA site will guide you to help you:

- Determine how to structure your business as a legal entity;
- Decide the best methods for keeping and managing business finances;
- Learn what permits, licenses and taxes are associated with your business;
- Understand what laws and regulations you must follow if you have paid employees;
- Determine what kind of insurance you should purchase.

In business the unexpected comes through the door almost every day. A business plan cannot anticipate everything but the lack of a written business plan means that everything becomes unexpected. Unexpected can be translated as expensive. What you do not plan for is like having a flat tire when you are driving. It stops you from getting to where you are going.

If you are thinking about starting a new business or are in business but having a hard time take a look at what the SBA can offer. If you are thinking about operating a new business in Brooklyn Centre or Old Brooklyn please call me. I can help you get started on that written business plan. The bottom line is that a written business plan saves a lot of money and a lot of time.

**Birds of Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn**

by Tom Romito  
Brooklyn Centre Naturalist

Birdlife in the Brooklyn community is similar to that found throughout the Northern Ohio region, and year-round, one can find the same species of birds here that are found outside of this community. That is because Brooklyn is on a principle flyway for bird migration, thanks largely to its location on the south side of Lake Erie.

No matter what the time of year, winged residents populate this neighborhood. They are birds that can subsist on available plants and vegetation in all kinds of weather and they remain in the region.

One example is the American Robin. While the robin traditionally signals the return of spring, many robins remain here over the winter.



American Robin

Another example is the Carolina Wren. This talented songster can be heard in woods and ravines year-round.



Carolina Wren

Others species

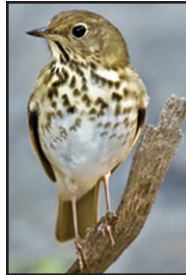
depart in the fall, not to return until spring. Spring migration brings myriad species that have been wintering in Central and South America.



Cedar Waxwing

First, around March, come the blackbirds, such as Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles and Rusty Blackbirds. Other common songbirds, such as Cedar Waxwing, Hermit Thrush and Brown Thrasher, arrive in April. Then in May the Wood Warblers arrive in several phases.

Most of these colorful birds stop over in neighborhood woods and gardens for only a brief period, and then head north to their breeding grounds in Michigan and Canada.



Hermit Thrush

While the Brooklyn neighborhood is typically urban, many wooded areas exist where residents can spot their avian counterparts. Check out Riverside Cemetery on Pearl Rd. and the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, both excellent locations right in the heart of Brooklyn Centre.

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

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Over 100 moms and children at Charles A. Mooney Elementary School participated in Muffins for Moms on Wednesday, February 11. Here the Perez children and their mom pose for a photo after muffins, juice and coffee. Each mom received a pink carnation, and after breakfast, everyone enjoyed activities in the children's classrooms.



Opera Cleveland, fourth graders at Charles A. Mooney Elementary School and their teachers, Meg Ehlinger and Sharon Cohen, presented the opera, The Magic Flute, on Wednesday, February 11 in the school's auditorium.

# Community Toolbox

"It's about your home; it's about your neighborhood."



## Free annual credit report - not score

by Lori A. Peterson  
lorip@oldbrooklyn.com

Did you know every year you are entitled to a free credit report? The Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) requires each of the nationwide consumer reporting companies — Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion — to provide you with a free copy of your credit report, at your request, once every 12 months. However, this does not mean that you will get your credit score. This must be obtained at an additional cost through one of the three consumer reporting companies.

The transaction is simple and painless. Go to the website [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) and simply complete the form; within minutes your results will be e-mailed to you. If you are not comfortable with giving your information over the internet, call 1-877-322-8228, or complete the Annual Credit Report Request Form and mail it to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

Beware - There are fraudulent websites that promote free credit reports and they will generate one for you but you are then charged a monthly fee. Most people aren't aware of this. If you do obtain a credit score from one of the three consumer reporting companies, be

sure to cancel your membership; otherwise you will be charged a monthly fee.

The only legitimate website is [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com). Others may try to use the same address but misspell a word in hopes of getting people to their website. Do not contact the three nationwide consumer reporting companies individually as they only provide the free reports through the [annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) website.

To be confident that you are receiving the correct website you can also access it through the Federal Trade Commission's website <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/edcams/freereports/>.

You may ask yourself, why should I get a credit report? Your credit report can affect your ability to get any type of loan, credit card and your interest rate for a car or home loan. Also it helps to guard you against identity theft. That is when someone uses your personal information to open a credit card, purchase a car or worst to purchase a home!

If your credit report needs some repairs call Lori, Donn or Sheila at Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation at 216-459-1000 for a referral to a source that will assist you in helping to repair any credit problems you may have and make you more credit-worthy.

## Basic steps to financial fitness

by Dana Korosi  
Steel Valley Federal Credit Union

As we enter the season of tax filings, one of the natural results of collecting all of our income, dividend and interest forms, mortgage statements, property tax payments and other pertinent information is that we can assess where we were and what we did financially in 2008 to adequately prepare for 2009.

When all of this information is sitting right in front of us, it's an ideal time to take a few extra minutes to strategize the current year's activity.

Your finances and the decisions you make about them change over time and are different from your neighbors', your boss' or your parents'. Still, some broad guidelines may help you get a handle on your financial plans.

How much should you be saving? The conventional wisdom is to accumulate three to six months' take-home pay (income after taxes, Social Security and other deductions) in a liquid savings vehicle. Let's call this the rainy day or emergency fund. That can take time to build up, and from time to time you may need to tap into your account even while you're adding to it. Still, if you consistently put aside 3-5% of your take-home pay using payroll deduction, you'll reach your goal.

For long-term retirement savings, at the very least put a percentage into your 401(k) which equals what your employer will match.

You're actually giving up free money if you save anything less. While many employers have cut back or eliminated altogether their matching contributions, the ideal is to contribute the maximum your employer allows, typically 15%.

If you can't swing that much while you're saving for your child's future education expenses, keep this in mind — you can borrow to meet higher education expenses, but you can't borrow for retirement expenses.

If you are preparing to buy a new home (and what a great time, with prices and interest rates as low as they've been in years), here are a few numbers to consider —

Lenders expect your mortgage payments to amount to no more than 31% of your monthly gross income (income before taxes, Social Security, and other deductions).

Another method says that your PITI — principal, interest, property taxes and insurance — plus your total long-term debt (say, for car payments, college loans and installment payments) should not exceed 43% of your gross income.

Talk to the professionals at Steel Valley Federal Credit Union to learn about all the services available to help you meet your goals. We will be conducting monthly Financial Literacy Seminars the last Saturday of each month. Call for more information and to reserve your spot in an upcoming seminar (216-741-9430).

## Doing residential or commercial repairs? What permits do you need?

by Sheila Walter, OBCDC Code Compliance Manager

I've run across many residents who don't know that they needed a permit to repair/replace anything around the house. They often think that if it is routine maintenance, there is no need for a permit. However it is always better to be safe rather than sorry. This article provides a quick review of when you need a permit.

Separate permits are required for each separate trade (e.g., general, plumbing, HVAC, electrical and elevator). Contractors must be registered with the City of Cleveland within their trade in order to obtain permits. Other departments and divisions may require additional permits (e.g. water and sewer connections, fire protection equipment, etc.).

Permits are required for the installation of plumbing, heating, ventilation, central air conditioning, refrigeration, electrical, elevators, escalators, lifts, dumbwaiters, and amusement rides, garages, sheds, decks, swimming pools, awnings, canopies, fences, signs, parking lots, site development and temporary uses/special events.

If a homeowner is planning to complete the work himself, an Affidavit for Home Owner's Permit plus any additional permit depending on the scope of work are required. An affidavit must be **signed** in City Hall Room 505 affirming owner-occupied status. Submit the completed Residential Building Permit Application with four sets of plans, drawn to scale.

Residential Building Permit Applications can be also obtained in Room 505 of City Hall from 8 am to 5 pm weekdays.

Below are a few questions that are on the City of Cleveland's Website regarding Housing Permits that will help to clear-up some of the permit confusion.

### Who should get the Permit?

If the homeowner hires a contractor, the contractor must apply for a permit after a contract for work has been signed but before any work is started.

Homeowners can apply for a permit by completing the permit application along with the Homeowner's Affidavit stating that the owner or a family member will complete the work without compensation. Always remember, *if you have hired a contractor, your contractor is responsible for getting all of your permits.*

### How can I find out if my contractor is registered with the City?

Call 216-664-2910. Your contractor must be registered with the City of Cleveland in order to obtain permits. To be registered, **contractors** must have current copies of their liability insurance and contractor's compliance bond on file with Contractor's Registration Section in Room 505 of City Hall. For further information, call 216-664-2910. There is a separate bond required for demolition.

### My contractor said he would take care of all the permits and inspections. Is there anything I should be doing about them?

Request copies of all the permits from your contractor before the work is started.

### How can I tell if I have a good contractor?

Check references by contacting the Better Business Bureau at 216-241-7678 or

the National Association of the Remodeling Industry at 216-739-0079. Ask for names, addresses and phone numbers of past customers, then contact them to determine their level of satisfaction. Make sure a contractor is licensed, insured and bonded.

### When is a plumbing permit required?

You'll need a permit when changes are made in a dwelling or commercial building which includes the installation of toilets, kitchen, bath sinks, dishwashers, etc. Plumbing permits are also required for work on water supplies, drainage systems, sewer work on the property and gas piping for heating and other gas appliances. Get the permit before the project starts.

### When is a HVAC permit required?

Whenever changes are made to a HVAC system in a dwelling or commercial building which include the installation, replacement or alteration of furnaces, heat pumps, space heaters, boilers, air-conditioning equipment, refrigeration units, kitchen exhaust hood, ductwork and other devices or systems that provide heating, ventilation or air-conditioning. Get the permit before the project starts. NOTE: Window air-conditioning units do not require a HVAC permit.

### When is an electrical permit required?

Electrical permits are required whenever changes are made to the electrical systems in a dwelling or commercial building. This includes the installation of electrical service (remodeled or upgraded), panels, devices, additional circuits, etc. You should get the permit before the work begins.

### How long does it take to get a building permit which was ordered online through Permit Manager?

Most "simple permits" are approved within 72 hours. Simple permits (also called "over-the-counter" or "trade" permits) don't require the submission of drawings or documents. All that is required is the completion of the online submission and payment of the permit fee. Currently these are the only type of permits that the Permit Manager can process.

For more information, go to the City of Cleveland's web site at:

<http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us/CityofCleveland/Home/Government/CityAgencies/BuildingHousing/ConstructionPermitsDivision>



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Se Habla Español



**St. Patrick's Day from front page**

- you like bagpipe music, and probably want a bagpiper at your wake;
- you look forward to other peoples' wakes because of the opportunity for socializing with family and friends which they afford you;
- you have a piece of jewelry featuring a claddagh (a heart between two hands) or have an artistic representation of one hanging on your wall;
- you had "The Irish Blessing" prayed at your wedding;

*Danny Boy, My Wild Irish Rose, When Irish Eyes Are Smiling, and Too Ra Loo Ra Loo...Irish Lullaby* and are among your favorite songs;

• you regularly tune in to Jerry Quinn's Irish radio show on WHK on Sunday mornings, and catch the Irish programs on WRUW (Case Western Reserve University's station) and WCPN from time to time, too;

• you've visited the Emerald Isle and still identify with your family's County there;

• you know the story of — maybe even read the book about — *The Great Famine*;

• you have drinking relatives and teetotaling relatives, including ancestors who belonged to the temperance societies and total abstinence associations which were popular here before the founding of AA;

• you remember being greeted by Pat McIntyre at Pat Joyce's;

• Standard Brewing Company's Erin Brew was once your local beer of choice, and Guinness is your favorite import;

• Irish setters are your favorite dogs;

• when you've headed for the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds during the summer, you were more likely to be attending the Irish-American Festival than the County Fair.

• you belong to one of the 25 United Irish Societies of Greater Cleveland listed on page 8 of this issue of the *Old Brooklyn News*; and

• you don't need to read what we're printing about the parade or the Mass times because you already know about all of it!

For the benefit of the rest of us, though, we include the following information —

Cleveland's 142nd St. Patrick's Day parade on Tuesday, March 17th, will step off at 1:04 p.m. at the intersection of E. 18th St. and Superior Ave. The new route will take the parade west to East Roadway (on the east side of Public Square), then north one block to Rockwell Ave., and then back east to E. 6th St.

Whether in bands, drill teams, marching units or otherwise on foot, on floats or in other vehicles, many, many thousands of Greater Clevelanders will be participating in one of America's largest St. Patrick's Day parades. Visit the parades' website, [www.clevelands](http://www.clevelands)

[irishparade.org](http://irishparade.org), for more information.

The St. Patrick's Day Mass at St. Patrick Church, 3602 Bridge Ave., will be at 9:30 a.m. Auxiliary Bishop Roger Gries will be the principal celebrant. The Cleveland Firefighters Memorial Pipe and Drum Band (which performed in Washington, D.C. in January at the presidential inauguration) will play the bagpipes.

The Mass at St. Colman Church, 2027 W. 65th St., will be at 10:30 a.m. Fr. John Manning will be the celebrant; members of the West Side Irish-American Club will be in attendance. Arrive early to have any chance of a seat!

The Irish Heritage Club will be present at the St. Patrick's Day Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, at the corner of E. 9th St. and Superior Ave. downtown. It is scheduled for 10 a.m.; the Cathedral's rector, Fr. Ed Estok, will be the celebrant.

The East Side Irish American Club will host another 10 a.m. Mass at St. William's Church at 367 E. 260th St. in Euclid. Bishop Richard Lennon will celebrate the Mass.

As is the case every day, St. Malachi Church, 2459 Washington Ave., north of the Detroit-Superior Bridge, will have Mass at noon. Other than being offered in a church recommended-to-be-closed which once served the Irish community, the Mass will not have any special trimmings for St. Patrick's Day.

Be vigilant and stay safe, whatever you choose to do.

Erin go braugh! (Ireland forever!)

**Member organizations in the United Irish Societies of Greater Cleveland who organize our St. Patrick's Day parade**

- Ancient Order of Hibernians
- Celtic Athletic Foundation
- Cleveland Ceili Club
- Cleveland Comhaltas
- Cleveland Gaelic Society
- Cleveland Pioneers Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart
- Greater Cleveland Feis Society
- Greater Cleveland Police Emerald Society
- Irish American Archives Society
- Irish American Club - East Side, Inc.
- Irish Civic Association
- Irish Cultural Festival
- Irish Heritage Club
- Irish Northern Aid Committee
- Irish Public Affairs Council
- Irish Summerfest
- Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians
- Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland
- Murphy Irish Arts
- Padraic Pearse Center
- Retired/Retireable Irish Police Society
- St. Jarlath's Gaelic Football Club
- St. Pat's Gaelic Football Club
- The Shamrock Club
- The West Side Irish American Club



**March 6th is "D-Day" for Catholic Churches; possibility of appealing decision still exists**

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

Pastors throughout the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland have received word from the Chancery telling them to be expecting the arrival of a letter on Friday, March 6th, via Federal Express. That letter will be the one many of them have been fretting over for months -- the official communication from the Diocese informing them of the decision regarding the fate of their church and/or parish school. The contents will be announced at Masses on the weekend of March 7th and 8th.

Although the ultimate decision will have been made by Bishop Richard Lennon, it will have taken into consideration the recommendations of the neighborhood clusters, and other "Downtown" people will also have had considerable input.

According to information on Future Church's web site, an organization which has been helping parishes in similar situations across the country, Canon Law allows a parish ten days to appeal, in writing, to the hierarchical superior of the person who made the decision the parish opposes.

Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre Catholics, as well as others who have been following our coverage of the situation, know that several neighborhood congregations have reason to be concerned.

The voting majority in the cluster of parishes north of the Big Creek Valley has recommended that St. Barbara Church be closed; the cluster of parishes south of the Big Creek Valley has recommended that St. Leo the Great, Corpus Christi and Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) Churches merge/combine into a new parish and school which would utilize the buildings on St. Leo's property.

The same cluster to which the Old Brooklyn parishes belongs also submitted a "dissenting opinion/minority plan" recommendation that only St. Leo and Corpus Christi Churches merge, and that Our Lady of Good Counsel Church and School remain open.

The cluster to which St. Leo, Corpus Christi and Our Lady of Good Counsel Churches belongs also includes St. Thomas More Church in Brooklyn and St. Charles Church in Parma. No reconfigurations to either of them were recommended.

The cluster to which St. Barbara Church belongs also includes St. Michael the Archangel, Blessed Sacrament, St. Rocco and St. Boniface Churches. A majority of the cluster participants also recommended that Blessed Sacrament Church be closed, but since Blessed Sacrament is not in as strong a position (financial and otherwise) as St. Barbara is, they are

not seriously protesting being closed. Months ago, hundreds of St. Barbara parishioners wrote letters to the Chancery asking that their parish remain open. Last month, both Ward 15 Councilman Brian Cummins, a member of OLGC, and Ward 16 Councilman Kevin Kelley, in whose ward OLGC is located, wrote letters to Bishop Lennon asking that Our Lady of Good Counsel remain open.

In their letters, both councilmen cited OLGC's centrality to the neighborhood, not only to Old Brooklyn Catholics, but also as a local landmark on a major thoroughfare.

"We are struggling to deal with over 400 vacant residential and commercial properties," Brian Cummins wrote, "and the vacancy and abandonment of such an important institution such as OLGC would be devastating."

In addition to advocating on behalf of Old Brooklyn, Councilman Cummins is also looking at the situation from the standpoint of historic preservation. He is involved with Ward 17 Councilman Matt Zone, Cleveland City Council President Martin Sweeney and the Jackson administration to determine how the City can work with the Diocese to find appropriate uses for the churches which will be vacated. As many as 50 of the 277 churches in the Catholic Diocese could be closed by the time the clustering process is completed, most of which will be in the city of Cleveland.

Parishioners at St. Stephen's Church in Councilman Zone's ward are extremely concerned about the future of their church, which has also been recommended for closing. Michael O'Malley and Robert Smith wrote a sensitive article about their situation in the Monday, February 23rd, edition of the *Plain Dealer*. (The same article mentioned St. Barbara and included a quote by St. Barbara's administrator, Fr. Lucjan Stokowski.)

A segment of The Future Church web site, [www.futurechurch.org/sopc/howtoclaim-parishrights.htm](http://www.futurechurch.org/sopc/howtoclaim-parishrights.htm), has pages of guidelines for parishes to follow if they decide to appeal a Diocesan decision to close them.

The pastor or administrator, someone else on the pastoral staff, the pastoral or finance council, parishioners and even certain church officials outside the parish have the right to initiate an appeal. They would write first to the Congregation for the Clergy in Rome, and then, if that appeal has been denied, they could appeal to the Church's Supreme Court, the Apostolic Signatura, also in Rome.

The parish will likely remain open during the appeal process. (Some closed parishes in Boston have remained open for years.)

By our next edition, we will know how our parishes' fared in terms of the episcopal decisions and what they're doing about it.

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## Art House volunteer to unveil original mural at Browns Lanes this month

by Walley Two Hawkes, the artist who painted the mural, and Lynette Filips

When Art House, 3119 Denison Ave., was founded in 1999, some folks welcomed its presence here, and others felt that it was an expensive and unnecessary addition to the neighborhood. Those with the negative attitude felt that because it catered to only a relatively small number of residents, it was a waste of the City funds which contributed to its operation.

While it is true that people who are struggling with the basic physical needs of life have cause to regard the arts as luxuries, it is also true that life would be quite empty without the outlet for creativity which art – in all its forms – provides. Art can be a powerful outlet for self-expression, and one might never know the talent hidden inside himself/herself if an organization like Art House weren't there to help them discover it.

The following story from one Art House student and volunteer ought to give many people in this community the nudge they need to take a class at Art House and find out what's hidden inside of them –

*I'm a retired carpenter (Local 212) who has been doing art for about five years now. I've taken various classes at the Art House, where I'm also a volunteer teacher's aid, studio assistant, handyman, etc. I assist the resident artist teach the Urban Bright program, the after-school kids and the Family Open Studio. I've learned quite a lot just by helping other people.*

*In addition to the Art House classes, I took drawing and some life drawing at Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus. I'm learning printmaking at Zygote Press, and help out there as well. I've also been serving a kind of apprenticeship by helping my friend, artist Melissa Daubert, install some of her work. I'm her aide in the classroom a lot, and have*



The new mural at Brown's Lanes, 3857 Pearl Rd., employs the artistic principle of perspective. Walley drew a few graphite & pastel studies and a final working drawing before painting the six-foot long mural above the bowling lanes.

*assisted her at art festivals like Ingenuity, Pandemonium and Akron's First Night.*

*While volunteering at Art House's Open Studio last autumn, I learned that Brown's Lanes, 3857 Pearl Rd., wanted a mural. Never having done that kind of thing before, I asked if I could help. As it turned out, I had volunteered to do the whole thing! I'm glad that it happened this way, though, because it's the coolest mental exercise I've ever done. The image that I came up with is basically the result of walking downtown and taking pictures, first from the Lorain-Carnegie Bridge, then the Veterans' Memorial Bridge, and combining the different views (arranging them like a still life). I did a few studies in graphite & pastel, and my final working drawing, drawn to scale, is six feet long. The actual mural will be unveiled at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 13.*

In addition to encouraging readers to try a program at Art House, Walley's story is also testimony to the saying that "in giving we receive". Art House gave to Walley, and now he's giving back to both Art House and the neighborhood (and also being further enriched himself).

Walley started the actual painting of his design shortly after Christmas. It's located over the middle four bowling lanes and he's using acrylic colors. He works on it a few times a week, moving the ladder as he goes. The community will, of course, be welcome to visit Browns Lanes to view

this new piece of neighborhood art (in the second-oldest "sanctioned" bowling lanes in the United States!) after it's finished and unveiled.

*(Editor's note: Walley is familiar with this neighborhood because he formerly lived on Valley Rd. He has since moved to the Detroit-Shoreway neighbor-*

*hood of Cleveland, but he is still very involved here because of Art House as well as the American Indian Education Center at 1314 Denison Ave. A member of the Native American community, to honor that segment of his heritage, Walley legally changed his surname to one representative of the Indian culture.)*

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