

## Old Brooklyn looking toward bicentennial

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In December of 2012, the installation of seven welcome signs on the main thoroughfares (e.g., Broadview Rd., State Rd., Pearl Rd., Memphis Ave.,) leading into our neighborhood, began, welcoming motorists to Old Brooklyn. The signs, one of which is pictured below, read, "OLD BROOKLYN SINCE 1814."

I'm not sure who came up with the wording for the sign, because our neighborhood has not been known as Old Brooklyn since 1814.

But it is true that 1814 is the year that what is now the Old Brooklyn neighborhood of the city of Cleveland was first settled by folks from New England. And so 2014 is the bicentennial year of that milestone, and reason for some special celebrations.

To acknowledge the neighborhood's rich history, Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC), in conjunction with community partners like the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn, is planning a variety of family-friendly events and programs for later this year.

Historical displays and other bicentennial type programs will be incorporated into Old Brooklyn's

warm-weather events -- **Pop UP Pearl Complete Street Festival** on Saturday, May 17th; the **Wings & Things Cookoff** on Friday, June 27th; **Pierogi Fest** on Friday, July 18th; and **Burger Fest** on Thursday, August 14th.

The next bicentennial planning meeting will be on Thursday, February 6th, at 5 pm at the OBCDC office, 2339 Broadview Rd. All are welcome to attend.

So when did the 'Old Brooklyn' designation originate? So far, no one has definitively been able to tell me, but I can say for sure that it wasn't being used in 1946, when the senior class at James Ford Rhodes High School titled their neighborhood history book *South Brooklyn*. (The book was written in the year of Cleveland's Sesquicentennial celebration.) But the Old Brooklyn 'moniker' was being used less than thirty years later, when, on Oct. 10th, 1975, the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation was incorporated.

Some people suspect that our neighborhood began to be referred to as 'Old Brooklyn' to differentiate our Cleveland neighborhood from that of the growing --



Welcome sign on State Rd.

but younger -- community to the west, now the city of Brooklyn. The younger Brooklyn was first settled in 1818, four years after ours was. In 1927, it incorporated into a Village form of government, and in 1952, when the population surpassed 5000 residents, it became a city.

Geographically and historically, Brooklyn may be one of the most confusing place names in Ohio because there are

so many variations on it.

The original Brooklyn Township was surveyed in May 1809, six years after Ohio

See **Old Brooklyn Bicentennial** page 5

## Ward 13 Councilman Kevin Kelley elected Cleveland City Council president

by Jim Kopniske  
Communications Director  
Cleveland City Council

Following the recent November election, Ward 13 Councilman Kevin Kelley was selected by his colleagues to serve as president of Cleveland City Council. On January 6th, 2014 Councilman Kelley was officially sworn in.

During his swearing in remarks, Councilman Kelley thanked Ward 13 and the Old Brooklyn community for the years of support and said, "...while my role may change somewhat, and I will be more involved in city-wide issues, I will always be the Councilman from Ward 13 first, and I will never forget the neighborhood that sent me here and supported me throughout the years."

As Council president, Councilman Kelley is committed to continued constituent service. To assure that constituents continue to receive the same level of service and responsiveness that they deserve, Kelley will keep his Ward Office on State Rd., and Cindy Flanagan will continue to serve as his Executive Assistant.

Further, Councilman Kelley plans to keep regular office hours at the Ward Office on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. "While my duties have expanded on Council, the people of Ward 13 are still my top priority," said Kelley. "I am grateful to the support this community has given me over the years, and I hope in my new position I can bring growth and improvement to Old Brooklyn."

Finally, Old Brooklyn will always be on the forefront of Councilman Kelley's mind as he hired Old Brooklyn resident and community activist Cyndi Carter to be his Assistant in the City Hall office.

Councilman Kelley joined Cleveland City Council in 2005. Since then he has worked to promote the progress and growth of the city of Cleveland and Ward 13. One of his core beliefs is that a strong city is built upon strong neighborhoods. Kelley's priorities include assuring quality City services, promoting safety, and using any and all resources to promote neighborhood development.



Ward 13 Councilman Kevin Kelley

One of Councilman Kelley's first significant acts was to merge the former Old Brooklyn Neighborhood Services with the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC). Since that time, he has been a steady supporter of OBCDC. Working with the CDC, Kelley funded and participated

in the planning and drafting of the Old Brooklyn Master Plan, which focuses on green space and commercial development as well as housing issues in Old Brooklyn.

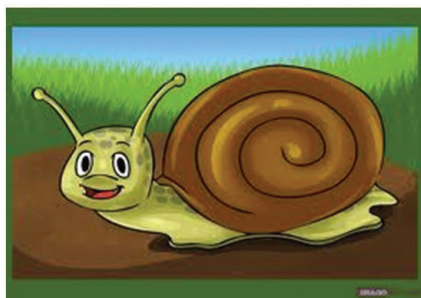
Councilman Kelley also sponsored a Transportation for Livable Communities to revitalize the Pearl Rd. commercial corridor. Expect a significant announcement regarding Pearl Rd in the very near future. Councilman Kelley also launched *Old Brooklyn Connected* to help all Ward 13 residents connect to the Internet free of charge.

Kelley has a strong community service background. Following his graduation from Marquette University, he volunteered at the West Side Catholic Center as a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. He later worked at Recovery Resources assisting mentally ill adults while earning a Master's Degree from Case Western Reserve University in social administration.

Councilman Kelley graduated Magna Cum Laude graduate from Cleveland Marshall College of Law, and has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Dean's Community Service Award, J. Patrick Brown Award for Academic Excellence, Anderson Publishing Company

See **Councilman Kevin Kelley** page 12

### Join us for a night of great food, snail racing, and fun! A benefit for Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp.



**What:**

- A "Night at the Races" with animated snails! This is the only race of this kind in Northeast Ohio!
- Italian chicken, penne pasta, California veggies, with salad & garlic sticks.
- Draft beer & pop included. Bring your own liquor & munchies/snacks if you like.

**Sponsorship & advertising:**

- Place an ad in the event program. 1/3 page for \$25; 1/2 page for \$40; whole page for \$60.
- Sponsor a race. Name every snail in a race and get a 1/3 page ad for only \$160. (\$25 savings)

**When:** Friday, March 28 at 6PM-10PM

**Where:** Knights of Columbus, 4730 Broadview Rd

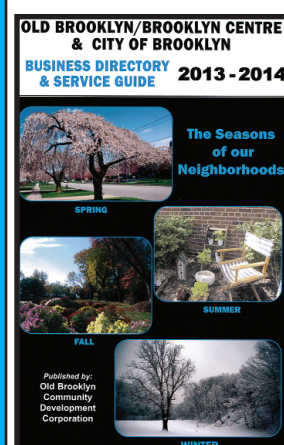
**Tickets:** \$15 for Members in advance, \$20 for nonmembers and at the door.

**More info:** jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com or 216-459-1000.



### 2014/15 Old Brooklyn - Brooklyn Centre & City of Brooklyn BUSINESS DIRECTORY & Service Guide

If you're a business owner and would like to be listed or run an ad in the OBCDC 2014/15 Business Directory, please call Sandy at 216-459-1000.



Directories will be distributed FREE

to all area residences and businesses in late Spring.

### INSIDE THE OBN



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## John Jenkins

John Jenkins, an Old Brooklyn resident for over 50 years — he was originally from Philadelphia — has dedicated his life to service. He was in the active and reserve military for 32 years; is involved with the Benjamin Franklin Community Garden Committee; and is in his sixth year on the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) Board.

John served in the United States Army Corps of Engineers where he has served in various command and staff positions at the Company, Battalion, and Brigade levels in the Combat Engineer unit for approximately twenty years and was stationed in Germany for three years. The Battalion was responsible for maintaining floating bridges and roads between East Germany and the former Czechoslovakia. (The Czech Republic and Slovakia were created when Czechoslovakia was dissolved on January 1st, 1993.)

John was in the National Guard for the remainder of his service. He attained the rank of full Colonel and was qualified for promotion to General at the time of his retirement.

John met his wife Rosemarie in Germany. She was an agent and interpreter for an American car insurance company. They moved to Cleveland after his time in Germany. His mother had already moved here, as had some other relatives.

At first Rosemarie and John lived in Brooklyn Acres. Their two sons attended school in Old Brooklyn at the former Mark Twain Elementary School (6000 Memphis Ave.), the former Memphis School (4103 Memphis Ave.), Charles A. Mooney Junior High School and James Ford Rhodes High School. Now adults, one lives out-of-town, and the other lives in Brooklyn.

John had been trained as a machinist through a vocational program at his high school. He later earned a Bachelor's of Science in Liberal Studies from the University of New York in Albany, NY and is a graduate of Army's Command and Staff College (Missouri) and graduate of the

National Defense University in Washington D.C.

One of John's early jobs in Cleveland was as a purchaser of materials which needed to meet military procurement standards. Subsequent employers included Clark Cable, Goodyear Aerospace, Gould, Inc. (which made torpedoes) and McDonald Douglas (which made F18s, F15s, C17s and other aircraft). He also worked for Rockwell; McDonald Douglas and Rockwell have since merged with Boeing. He retired from Boeing Aerospace in 2002.



John Jenkins

Photo and article by Jayme Lucas-Bukszar

John became involved in the Benjamin Franklin Community Garden when his two sons were children and had garden plots there. The Garden was temporarily closed in 1977 when the Cleveland Metropolitan School District canceled the gardening program.

In 1980, OBCDC worked out an arrangement with Benjamin Franklin Elementary School to reopen the Garden; the school retains ownership of the property but OBCDC is responsible for its maintenance.

John was active in creating the Benjamin Franklin Community Garden "Operating Committee" which drafted working rules for the gardeners. John was the Chairman of the Garden Committee from 2007 to 2012.

During his time as Garden Committee Chair, Benjamin Franklin Community Garden received approximately \$20,000 in grants from Neighborhood Connections for storage space and tools. The Garden started entering the Cuyahoga County Fair in 2008, and has won blue ribbons for "Best Community Garden" ever since.

## Update from Jeff Kipp, OBCDC board president

by Jeff Kipp

Hello Old Brooklyn residents, businesses and stakeholders,

I hope you are staying warm and finding ways to enjoy the winter in Cleveland. While it might require a little extra motivation to leave the house in sub-zero weather, be assured that the City of Cleveland - and especially our own Old Brooklyn - has plenty to offer.

As always, we encourage you to patronize our local shops, restaurants and retailers. We love that they choose to operate their businesses in Old Brooklyn and want to make sure they stay here and keep the neighborhood supplied with quality goods and services.

The Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation is dedicated to keeping the neighborhood strong, safe and stable. We work closely with residents, businesses and local institutions to sustain our

solid housing stock, commercial districts and community partnerships. Our programs and activities are intended to improve housing values in the

neighborhood, retain and attract quality businesses and ensure that all of Old Brooklyn's assets and amenities contribute to a high quality of life. We aim to keep Old Brooklyn one of the most desirable neighborhoods in Cleveland.

Your input and participation is welcomed and encouraged. Please consider becoming a member, getting involved with one of our committees or joining us at one of our many festive events throughout the year. We look forward to seeing you in 2014.



John said that the most rewarding part of being Chairman of the Garden Committee was watching the democratic process at work and being part of positive changes.

John is currently the Chairman of OBCDC's Green Space Committee, a body which has been in place for the last five years. It reports to OBCDC's Board of Directors. Under John's leadership, the Green Space Committee received a grant to remove dead and/or unhealthy trees on Broadview Rd. and replace them with "Spring Snow Crabapple" trees, a variety which has lovely blossoms but doesn't bear fruit; helped create the Henninger Garden on Henninger at W. 24th St.; and is active in a variety of regional environmental issues.

John is in his second year as the vice president of OBCDC's Board of Directors (and therefore is a member of the Board's Executive Committee). He is on the Governance Committee and is a past chairman of the Code of Regulations Committee. After his allotted time on the Board is up, John plans to continue to participate in OBCDC activities as a resident member of committees.

John is also proud of his work with the 37th Infantry Division Veterans Association. It was a unit of the United States Army in World War I and World War II, as well as a National Guard division from Ohio — nicknamed the "Buckeye Division". The group is part of a national organization whose headquarters are in Columbus. John is the head of the Governance Committee, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee and the Trustee of scholarship fund investments for this organization.

(If it sounds like this all takes a lot of time, it does. John appreciates the fact that his wife is very supportive of all his volunteer work in the community.)

When asked why he stayed in Old Brooklyn for so long and dedicated so much time to the community, John replied, "Old Brooklyn is the best location in the county.

We are conveniently located to hospitals, highways and wonderful amenities. And people care about this neighborhood; there is a lot of community pride. It is also a safe place to live."

(Lynette Filips contributed to this article.)

### OLD BROOKLYN NEWS

The Old Brooklyn News will publish its March, 2014 issue on Friday, February 28th, 2014

Circulation 12,000 Published Monthly



#### Submission Deadlines

Display Ads . . . . . Fri., Feb. 21st  
Classified Ads . . . . . Fri., Feb. 21st  
News Releases . . . . . Fri., Feb. 21st  
For Information call 216-459-0135  
E-mail: sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com

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

Jeff Kipp, President John Jenkins, Vice President  
Kathleen Jackson, Secretary Book Chrobak, Treasurer

Cynthia Cejka, Office Manager

Tom Collins, Commercial Manager

Jayme Lucas-Bukszar, Residential Marketing Manager

Sheila Quealy-Walter, Residential Code Manager

Barb Spaan, Outreach Manager

Sandy Worona, Community Outreach Coordinator/OBN Advertising & Sales Manager

Dave Goldense, Americorps VISTA

Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation Board Meetings, are every fourth Tues. of the month, 6 - 7:30 pm. OBCDC office (2339 Broadview Rd.). 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

This month's OBN writers - Gloria Ferris, Lynette Filips, and OBCDC staff

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

### Now accepting applications for 2014 scholarship awards!

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce once again offering three scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,000

**The first** will be awarded to a graduating Brooklyn High School senior who currently resides in the City of Brooklyn and will be attending a recognized college or university full-time in the fall.

**The second** will be awarded to a Rhodes High School graduating senior who will be attending a recognized college or university full-time in the fall.

**The third** will be awarded to any Brooklyn or Old Brooklyn resident who will be attending a recognized college or university full-time in the fall.

For application visit: <http://brooklynohiochamber.org> or call 216-288-5484 for more info.

Completed packets must be postmarked by April 4, 2014



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

Boys and girls ages 4 - 19

Where: St. Mark's school gym, 4464 Pearl Road (enter gym from Ardmore)

When: Saturdays, March 15th, 22nd & 29th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Where: Tremont Location - PLAV Post 30, 1041 Starkweather Ave, across from Lincoln Park.  
When: Saturdays, March 22nd & 29th from 3:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.

Cost: TBall (4-6 years old) is \$50.00; PeeWee (7-9 years old), Little F (10-12 years old), Big F (13-15 years old), Girls Fast Pitch (12U & 14U) are \$60.00 (family discount offered for more than one child)  
Bring: 2 wallet size pictures & a copy of your birth certificate.

To save time, go to our website and fill out the registration form and bring it in or register on line at [www.oball.org](http://www.oball.org) - If you have a parent or relative interested in coaching, a coaching form can be printed off the website or filled out on registration day.

To save time, go to our website and fill out the registration form and bring it in or register on line. [www.oball.org](http://www.oball.org)

If you have a parent or relative interested in coaching, a coaching form can be printed off the website or filled out on registration day.

Get ready for Little League Baseball with OBALL! [www.oball.org](http://www.oball.org)

NEWS & EVENTS

Now thru April

**Schools as Neighborhood Resources (SNR)**  
James Ford Rhodes High School, 5100 Biddulph Rd. Class days & times are 6 - 8:30 pm. Mon., Wed. & Thurs. Sign up anytime, through April 2014. Both children & adults can participate for free. If the Cleveland Municipal School District (CMSD) is closed on a Mon., Wed. or Thurs., either for a scheduled holiday or because of inclement weather, the evening classes at Rhodes will not be in session. Call 216-812-8700 or website: [www.neighborhood-leadership.org/programs/snr](http://www.neighborhood-leadership.org/programs/snr) for more info.

Now - Sunday, February 9th, 2014

**World Premiere Exhibition**

**Traitor - Spies, Lies and Justice Denied: The Dreyfus Affair**

Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, 2929 Richmond Rd., Beachwood. Exhibition developed exclusively for Maltz Museum. Free with general museum admission; to schedule guided-tour for groups of 10 or more, call 216-593-0575.

**Rising Harvest Farms**

**2014 Market Basket Share Sign-Ups**

Sign-up to receive 22 weeks of continuous local flavors starting May 31st. Go to "Market Basket" section of website [risingharvest-farms.org/marketplace/market-basket-shares](http://risingharvest-farms.org/marketplace/market-basket-shares) for details. **Brown free-ranged eggs for sale** from Farm's free-range hens. Winter hours: Mon. - Fri., 8 am - 3 pm & 1st Sat. of month, 10 am - 1 pm; 4103 Memphis Ave.

Thursday, February 6th

**Bicentennial Planning Meeting**

OBCDC's office 2339 Broadview Rd.; 5 pm. OBCDC along with community partners planning family- friendly events & programs throughout 2014. Historical displays & other bicentennial related programs at "Pop UP Pearl Complete Street Festival", "Wings & Things Cookoff" & two new events: "Pierogi Fest" & "Burger Fest". All welcome.

Friday, February 7th

**Ales on Rails, Beer-tasting**

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, 13512 Station Rd., Brecksville Station; 7 pm. Tickets: \$45 - \$80. Call 800-468-4070 or visit [www.CVSR.com](http://www.CVSR.com) for more info.

Saturday, February 8th

**American Red Cross Blood Drive**

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Fellowship Hall, 8235 Memphis Ave., 9 am - 1 pm. Light lunch will be served.

Saturday, February 8th, 22nd & March 22nd  
**Free Legal Advice**

**2014 Brief Advice & Referral Clinics**

**Sat., Feb. 8th;** 9:30- 11 am. - Cleveland Public Library - Fulton Branch, 3545 Fulton Rd. **Sat., Feb. 22nd;** 9:30- 11 am. - Spanish American Committee, 4407 Lorain Ave. **Sat., March 22nd;** 10 - 11:30 am. West Side Catholic Center, 3135 Lorain Ave. First come first served. Bring important papers with you. Call 216-687-1900 or [www.lasclev.org](http://www.lasclev.org) for more info. or locations. The Legal Aid Society.

**Cuyahoga County Public Library**

**Parma-Snow Branch** 2121 Snow Rd. 216-661-4240; [www.cuyahogalibrary.org](http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org)  
**9 am - 9 pm, Mon - Thur.; 9 am - 5:30 pm, Fri. & Sat.; 1 - 5 pm, Sun.**

(Unless otherwise noted, registration is required.)  
**Parma Snow Saves Coupon Club - Mon., Feb. 10th;** 6:30 - 8:30 pm; 2nd Mon. each month. Bring unwanted coupons & scissors & swap with others.

**Bootlegging, Detectives & Mobs - Tues., Feb. 11th;** 7 pm. Using pictures & memorabilia, Sgt. Jerry Brown of Cleveland Police Museum will present history of Cleveland Police Dept. during Prohibition (1920-1933).

**Resume' & Cover Letter Tips & Trends - Thurs., Feb. 13th;** 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Help for writing resume' & cover letter.

**Book Discussions - Mon., Feb. 17th;** 7 pm; *The Impeachment of Abraham Lincoln* by Stephen L. Carter; **Thurs., Feb. 27th;** 11 am; *Killing Kennedy* by Bill O'Reilly.

**JFK Assassination - What We Know 50 Years Later - Tues., Feb. 18th;** 7 pm; Beverly Sadowski. (Local historian who's done extensive research on JFK's Assassination.)

**Friends of the Parma Libraries Book Sale - Sat., Feb. 22nd;** 9 - 10 am, members. 10 - 12 noon, general admission.

**Teen Programs - TAG Team - Sat., Feb. 22nd;** 1:30 - 2:15 pm, grades 6 - 12; & **Board Game Day & Wii Play;** 2:30 - 4:30 pm, ages 10 - 18.

Monday, February 3rd

**Cuyahoga Valley Genealogy Society**

Independence Civic Center, Willow Room, 6363 Selig Blvd., 7:30 pm. Program: **"My Most Interesting, Dangerous, Funny, Scandalous, or ??? Ancestor" - CVGS, It's Your Turn...** to share stories, photos or special memorabilia about your ancestors, whether they are humorous, incredible, tender or just plain ordinary. Contact CVGS president Mary Boehlein, 440-736 7180, or via [www.cuyahogagenealogy.org](http://www.cuyahogagenealogy.org), for more info.

Monday, February 10th

**Monday Night at the Movies**  
**"The Engine 2 Kitchen Rescue"**

River's Edge, 3430 Rocky River Dr. 7 pm. Free will offerings accepted. Optional discussion following. Register at [www.riversedgecleveland.com](http://www.riversedgecleveland.com).

Wednesday, February 12th

**Westside Basket Guild**

St. James Lutheran Church, 4771 Broadview Rd., downstairs in fellowship hall. Class starts at 5 pm; come any time up to 6:30 to start weaving. Meets on second Wed. every month. **Feb. 12th & March 12th, Diamond basket tote,** \$46; will take two months to make. Supplies to bring when weaving -- old towel, bucket, clothes pins, ruler, pencil, scissors. Call Connie, 216-749-7912, to RSVP.

Friday, February 14th

**"Grape Escape" Wine-Tasting**

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, 13512 Station Rd., Brecksville Station; 7 pm. Tickets: \$57 - \$90. Each wine served with a chef-prepared hors d'oeuvres from Moe's Restaurant of Cuyahoga Falls.

Saturday, February 15th

**Valentine's Valley Walk**

Friends of Big Creek "Lower Big Creek Valley Greenway Redevelopment & Restoration Plan". Hike Treadway Trail & Harmody Park; 10 am. Afterwards, chili, hot chocolate, coffee & desserts at 1708 Granby Ave. Call Ann, 216-645-8705, for more info.

Sunday, February 16th

**CPA President's Day Dance**

St. John Byzantine Upper Hall (accessible by elevator or stairs), 1900 Carlton Rd.; 3 - 7 pm. (doors open 2 pm) Music by Henny & the

Versa J's. Donation: \$12; 18 & under, free. No BYOB. Beverages available; snacks welcome. Call Sylvia or Paul, 216-228-1134, for large table reservations or more info. Or visit [www.clevelandpolkaassociation.com](http://www.clevelandpolkaassociation.com) or check them out on Facebook.

**Art House Fundraisers**

**3119 Denison Ave. 216-398-8556**

**Mask-Making Workshop - Tuesday, February 18th,** 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Cost: \$15.

**Mardi Gras Party - Saturday, February 22nd**  
Cake Walk + Chinese Raffle +Food & Spirit + DJ = FUN. 7 - 10 pm. Festive attire encouraged! Party ticket prices: \$25 for one; \$40 for two. Both events: One party ticket & mask-making workshop, \$35; two party tickets & mask-making workshop, \$60. Purchase Tickets on line at [www.arthouse.org](http://www.arthouse.org) or call above number.

Tuesday & Wednesday February 18th & 19th  
**Citizen Police Academy Classes**

Seven week free courses sponsored by City of Cleveland will be held Tues. at Public Safety Central, 2001 Payne Ave. & Wed. at Kamm's Corner Dev. Corp., 17407 Lorain Rd.; 6 - 9 pm. Class size limited to 25 students per session. Information & registration forms available at each of five neighborhood police districts. Deadline for registration is Fri., Feb. 14th. Submit applications by telephone -- 216-623-5080 -- or mail to Cleveland Division of Police, Bureau of Community Policing, 2001 Payne Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114.

Saturday, February 22nd

**A Taste of Brooklyn and All That Jazz**

Ridge Manor Party Center, 4630 Ridge Rd.; 7 - 10 pm. Cost: \$20. Fun, food & entertainment provided by Brooklyn High School Jazz Ensemble. RSVP by Feb. 15th. Email [asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org](mailto:asstdir@brooklynohiochamber.org) or call 216-288-5484 for tickets or more info.

**ATIKA Beauty Salon Raising Funds along with Harvest for Hunger**

Saturday, March 1st - Mon., March 31st

Send donations to 4488 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, 44109. Make checks payable to: Harvest for Hunger. Each \$1 provides 4 nutritious meals. Call 216-459-8874 for more info.

Friday, March 7th

**Wine/Beer Tasting & Silent Auction Benefit**  
Grand Pacific Hotel, All proceeds benefit - Heritage Days & Olmsted Bicentennial. Tickets: \$30, available at Olde Wine Cellar & Shamrock & Rose Creations. Call Shawn at 440-714-9000 for more info.

Saturday, March 8th

**West Creek Conservancy Second Annual Blues for Greens Fundraising Gala**

St. Michael's Woodside, 5025 E. Mill Rd., 6 - 11 pm. Tickets: \$55 individual; \$100 couples. To become a sponsor or donate call Dawn at 216-749-3720, ext. 10. Purchase tickets @ [www.2014bluesforgreens.eventbrite.com](http://www.2014bluesforgreens.eventbrite.com).

Thursday, March 20th

**Brooklyn City Schools**

**Kindergarten & Preschool Registration**

Brooklyn Board of Education Office, 9200 Biddulph Rd., 10 am - 12 pm & 4 - 6 pm. Obtain registration packets at Board of Education office or download one at [www.Brooklyn.k12.oh.us](http://www.Brooklyn.k12.oh.us). Bring completed packet to registration student records - original

birth certificate; social security card; immunization record; guardianship papers, if applicable; proof of residency - 2 current utility bills, homeowner - home deed or Truth-in-Lending (renter - lease/rental agreement). Call 216-485-8112 for more info.

**Street Operations: Potholes**

Residents can report potholes to 216-664-2510 & they will be added to the schedule for repair. Individuals whose vehicles are damaged may file a claim by calling 216-664-2671, Department of Law, Moral Claims Division. Instructions & claim form are on website -- [www.city.cleveland.oh.us](http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us)

**Free Preparation of Your 2013 Income Tax Return**

Cuyahoga County Free Tax Preparation Sites: To schedule appointment visit [www.211.org](http://www.211.org) or call 211/United Way First Call for Help.

**Westshore Neighborhood Family Service Center,** 9830 Lorain Ave., Career Center. Tues. & Thurs., 5:30 - 7 pm; Sat., 9 am - noon.

**Southgate Neighborhood Family Service Center,** 5398 1/2 Northfield Rd., Maple Heights Career Center. Wed. 5:30 - 7 pm; Sat., 9 am - 2 pm. **Bring with you:**

- IRS 2013 W2s & 1099s
- Social Security Cards for all family members
- Government issued photo of each person signing the return.
- Child care expense statement including provider tax I.D. number.
- Bank account & routing numbers for direct deposit of refund.
- Form 1099-INT for any checking or savings interest.

**Community members who want to volunteer to prepare taxes** can register online at [www.refundohio.org](http://www.refundohio.org). Free training available to become IRS certified tax preparer. Returns will be prepared & filed by IRS certified tax-preparers & completed while taxpayer waits. All returns will be screened for eligibility for Earned Income Tax Credit & Child Tax Credit. To qualify, tax-payers must have a 2013 earned income less than \$51,567. & be filing a simple return. For more info, visit [www.refundohio.org](http://www.refundohio.org) or [www.cjfs.cuyahoga-county.us](http://www.cjfs.cuyahoga-county.us).

**Help with Winter Heating Bills**

Apply for HWAP, HEAP & PIPP with one application form - the Energy Assistance Programs Application which may be obtained by calling ODSA at 1-800-282-0880. Applications also are available at libraries, some banks & local county auditor's office. Download the form at [www.energyhelp.ohio](http://www.energyhelp.ohio).

**City of Cleveland, Division of Police, Citizen On-line Reporting System**

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. Make an on-line report at [www.city.cleveland.oh.us/police](http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us/police) & click on the crime reporting link. You must be 18 years old & have an e-mail address.

**Volunteer Drivers & Runners needed for Meals on Wheels**

Senior Citizen Resources need volunteer one day a week Mon. thru Fri. to Old Brooklyn residents. Call Kim at 216-749-5367 with any questions.

**Green Team Landscaping**

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Get your tickets early; all tickets are \$35 at the door.

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**Festive Attire Encouraged!**

**\$15 for workshop only!**

Join artist, Sharon Martin, for a festive mask making workshop on Tues., Feb. 18 from 6:30- 8:30 at the AH studio. Make your very own mask to wear at the event. All materials included

## Do you know how to handle an accident?

*What to do if you are' involved in a car crash*

According to The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, there are more than six million U.S. motor vehicle crashes per year reported in the United States. The odds are that you'll find yourself involved in a vehicle accident at some point in your life. Would you know what to do?

Once the initial shock wears off and you've checked for injury, attempt to exit your vehicle. You might need to use a window if your door has been damaged.

If your vehicle is drivable, move it to a public location. From there, you'll be able to safely exit the vehicle and report the accident. Moving the vehicle is a good idea if there's an immediate danger like being hit again on a busy interstate. Do keep in mind that some states require you to stay on the scene.

In the event that your vehicle ends up in water, stay calm. You won't be able to open the door due to the pressure from the water if the vehicle submerges. Take a deep breath and roll down the window to escape. If the electric windows won't work, then break the window by hitting it with an object or kicking it.

Dial 911 to report the crash. In most cases the dispatcher will automatically know your location using GPS technology. Otherwise, look for mileage markers or directional signage.

Most insurance carriers recommend the following steps following an accident:

- Take note of how many passengers are in the other vehicles involved in the accident, as this will help prevent the future addition of passengers during insurance scams.

- Collect the full name, insurance information, and home address of all other drivers involved in the accident. You should also provide your information to the other driver(s).

- Write a brief summary of the accident, recording as many details as possible - the make, model and year of the vehicles involved; the time of accident; and weather conditions.

- Take photos. Most of us carry cell phones with the ability to take photographs. Pictures really DO tell a story.

- Collect the names and contact information of any witnesses, especially if you feel something or someone other than yourself caused the accident.

- While it's okay to express concern over what happened, you should never admit that the accident was your fault or claim liability.

- Have your insurance information, driver's license, and vehicle registration available for the police. Information will be collected and the officer will ask all the drivers what happened and record the account(s).

- Ask for the police report so that you can give it to your insurance carrier.

- Contact your insurance agent or carrier as soon as possible. Most major insurance companies have a 24-hour phone number for claim reports.

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*This article ran in the January, 2014 Northeast Ohio Edition of AAA Motorist magazine.*



**CRIME WATCH**

## Discount computer and laptop program continues in February

by Dave Goldense  
[daveg@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:daveg@oldbrooklyn.com)

In collaboration with RET3, Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) is pleased to announce that refurbished computers and laptops will once again be available for purchase to all Old Brooklyn residents.

The computers and laptops will be distributed on Saturday, February 22nd, between 10 and 11:30am at Estabrook Recreation Center, 4125 Fulton Rd. Desktop computers start at \$50 and laptops start at \$75. At this time we can only accept money orders or cashier's checks; they

should be made out to RET3. We apologize for any inconvenience this may create.

Interested residents should contact OBCDC, 216-245-2980, and leave a voice mail message, which will be returned as soon as possible by an OBCDC staff member. An order form will need to be filled out and returned by Wednesday, February 19th at 5 pm to receive a computer or laptop on the 22nd.

Payment is not necessary until the day of the distribution. Email [obcomputerprogram@gmail.com](mailto:obcomputerprogram@gmail.com) with any additional questions regarding the Old Brooklyn Computer Program.

## Brooklyn Centre Naturalists now part of Wildlife Nation

by Gloria Ferris  
Brooklyn Centre Naturalist

Brooklyn Centre Naturalists (BCN) is proud to announce that they are a "seed" team for the National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) launch of Wildlife Nation. NWF's mission is to inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our Children's future. In an ongoing effort to connect today's youth with wildlife, NWF has launched [www.wildlife-nation.org](http://www.wildlife-nation.org).

BCN is part of sixteen founding teams representing the states of Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Virginia, and Vermont who are participating in the launch of the social media platform.

Last spring, Sharon Martyn and Gloria Ferris, two members of BCN met with Great Lakes Regional Director Becky Lentz. The Great Lakes Regional Center of NWF was founded in 1982 and works with people in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin to protect the largest freshwater ecosystem on earth, connect kids with wildlife, and confront the challenges for wildlife in a warming climate.

At that meeting, Sharon and Gloria were asked if BCN would like to be part of Wildlife Nation. Wildlife Nation is an on-line community that connects on-the-ground wildlife communities so that they can support and learn from each other and share stories celebrating the connection between kids and wildlife. They were happy to accept the invitation.

Becky Lentz, Regional Director of Great Lakes programs and operations at the NWF's Great Lakes office, which initiated the community says, "We started Wildlife Nation because we can't imagine a world where nature and wildlife are not a part of kids' lives. Our goal is to create a community where we all help each other so that kids today can enjoy the wonders of wildlife whether they live in a large city, a suburb, or rural community."

Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn residents, groups, and organizations are a natural fit for this on-line community. We live on the banks of Big Creek -- an urbanized stream that flows into the Cuyahoga River that flows into Lake Erie.

We live adjacent to the Metroparks zoo, the center of the Emerald Necklace.

Our Metroparks joins the Cuyahoga Valley National Park-one of the most visited

parks in the United States.

We live in an area that knows the importance of our connection to nature.

Now, we have a way to share our stories on Wildlife Nation. In the words of Julia Liljegen, Great Lakes regional education manager, "We view Wildlife Nation as a kind of 'niche Facebook' for adults who care about wildlife and want to pass that sense of caring on to the kids in their lives -- whether those are their own kids, grandkids, or the kids at their school, church or down the



block."

Many of us grew up in a time when exploring the woods behind our house, or playing in a babbling brook down the street, or taking a hike with our friends was what we did after school or all summer long.

Today, that is often not the case. Increasingly, children are spending more time indoors passively enjoying electronic devices. Wildlife Nation intends to help reverse this trend by inspiring kids and the adults in their lives to get outdoors every day to enjoy the beauty and wonder that exists around them, thus, creating a generation of happier, healthier children with more awareness and connection to the natural world.

What an opportunity for Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn residents, groups, and organizations to become part of the future of wildlife stewardship.

"Wildlife Nation is open to adults who want to help create a future in which kids develop and retain a wonder, respect and appreciation for wildlife," said Lentz. "There is no one right way to get kids outdoors. We're forming a community that is helping grow the next generation of wildlife stewards."

Given the nature of this on-line community and its reach, most of the groups are private and therefore, by invitation only. You can join the Brooklyn Centre Naturalists group on Wildlife Nation by emailing them at [bcnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:bcnaturalists@gmail.com) or by calling Gloria Ferris at 216-351-0254. They will be sending out invitations to members and friends shortly.

Thanks to those of you who have supported our certification effort by joining us as a backyard habitat. The magic number is now 18 instead of 24.

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Hooray for February, a short month which will bring us to March and the official arrival of spring. Polar vortex wasn't even in my vocabulary when I was writing last month's column, and in just a few weeks we've experienced it twice. (I dismissed the current occurrence as 'media hype' when I first read about it returning.)

But as miserable as this winter has been -- the outside temperature is below zero as we're getting this February issue ready for the printer -- I am especially concerned about the well-being of our letter carriers, utility workers and garbage collectors. I do not know how their bodies (and souls!) tolerate this extremely cold weather. No doubt we can all say that we are more than ready for the 2013-2014 winter to be over!

Sometimes I begin this column with add-ons or updates to information in past issues. This will be one of those months; in fact, I can actually fill the entire column with such things.

Last month the headline for the front page, above-the-fold article about the fire at the **Old Brooklyn CVS pharmacy (4240 Pearl Rd.)** stated that the store was scheduled to reopen in February. Since then, while shopping at the **Brooklyn Centre CVS (3728 Pearl Rd.)**, I've learned that the target reopening month is now March. I immediately thought of the truth in the Murphy's Law which states, "Everything

takes longer than you think."

Right below the CVS photo on the January issue's front page was a photo of Old Brooklyn centenarian **Mary Hillman** at the little party we had for her in OBCDC's conference room.

I took a stack of January newspapers to give to Mary at last month's **Community Meal at Mary Queen of Peace Church**. She was still 'flying high' from all the excitement associated with her big day (especially the creamy frosting on the cake at our office party, and the **resolution from Cleveland City Council** which **Councilman Kevin Kelley** got for her).

Although most of us will never reach the 100-year milestone, we certainly want to acknowledge in this column any Old Brooklyn or Brooklyn Centre residents who do. Please advise us if you hear of any other seniors in our neighborhood who are turning 100.

The front page of our January issue also featured photos of OBCDC's two **Christmas lighting contest winners**, one commercial and one residential. While we did identify the names and addresses of the winners in the photo caption, we didn't list their prizes.

Residential winners **Brian Bruncak and Mandy Pekarcsik** received a \$10 gift certificate to **Ameriflag, Inc.** (3307 Broadview Rd.); a \$10 gift certificate to **Villa Mia Restaurant** (4890 Pearl Rd.); and a \$30 gift certificate to **Wexler's Tavern & Eatery** (4555 State Rd.); Commercial winner **Della's House of Beauty** on W. Schaaf Rd. received the same package. Congratulations to our winners and thank you to the generous neighborhood business owners who donated the prizes.

In just about every *News & Events* and *Family Fun* sections of the newspaper, we list upcoming programs at the **Cuyahoga County Public Library's Parma-Snow branch**. One of the listings in the December

issue was that on Saturday, December 7th, the Library would be hosting a **grand opening** celebration in honor of its greatly enlarged facility at 2121 Snow Rd. (During its construction, the Library operated out of temporary quarters across the street in the Midtown Plaza Shopping Center.)

I didn't get to the grand opening itself; I thought that it would be a mob scene, and I heard that in fact it was. But I did visit the new building last month, and in many ways it is 'take your breath away' construction.

The Library now has an auditorium which can seat 400 patrons for special lectures. The one I attended on January 15th, sponsored by the **Friends of the Parma Libraries**, was a delightful presentation by children's book author and illustrator **Keith Baker** from Oregon.

**Old Brooklyn Bicentennial from front page**

became a State. The reason for the delay -- Moses Cleaveland's surveyors began surveying the townships east of the Cuyahoga River in 1796 -- was that until 1805, the Cuyahoga River was the western boundary of the United States, and territorial issues had to be resolved.

The townships in the Connecticut Land Company's Western Reserve were roughly 'five miles square' (five miles by five miles). But Brooklyn was double that at first because the township to the south which eventually became Parma didn't have enough inhabitants initially to have a separate governing body.

After Parma reached the minimum population requirement in 1826, the boundaries of Brooklyn Township became Lake Erie to the north, the Cuyahoga River to the east, today's Brookpark Rd. to the south, and today's W. 117th St. to the west.

Brooklyn Township's designation before the settlers chose its name was Range 13, Township 7. Although the first settlers came in 1814, The township government wasn't established until June 1, 1818.

The westside of Cleveland Community Development Corporations (CDCs) of Cudell; Detroit Shoreway; Ohio City Near West; Old Brooklyn; Stockyards, Clark-

Although Keith spoke about many book titles over his long career, the one of particular interest is an alphabet book called **LMNO peas**. As the title suggests, little green pea persons are at the center of the action.

Lately, the Cuyahoga County Library System has been using themes from actual children's books to decorate the children's areas in their libraries. And at the new Parma-Snow branch, the theme is **LMNO peas**.

When you're in the vicinity, do stop by to see the new library in general and that area in particular.

And do continue to send news for this column to: Lynette Filips, 2339 Broadview Rd., 44109 or Lynettef@oldbrooklyn.com.

Fulton, Brooklyn Centre; and Tremont West; as well as the City of Brooklyn, the Village of Brooklyn Heights (which also includes land which was part of the original Independence Township) and the Village of Linndale are all located within the boundaries of the original Brooklyn Township.

When reading a general history of Brooklyn Township, the name James Fish and family from Groton, Connecticut (and later his cousins Moses and Ebenezer Fish) are always listed as the first settlers. They came to Brooklyn Township in 1812, having spent the winter of 1811-1812 in Newburg Township. But they settled north of the Big Creek Valley (at today's Pearl Rd. and Mapledale Ave.), and it was their arrival that Brooklyn Centre celebrated two years ago.

The Ozias Brainard family came from Connecticut in 1813, also north of the valley.

Local histories list six Connecticut families coming to Brooklyn Township in 1814 -- Isaac Hinckley, Asa Brainard, Elijah Young, Stephen Brainard, Enos Brainard and Warren Brainard, all of whom were from Chatham, Connecticut.

Isaac Hinckley bought land in the area which is now Schaaf Rd., and I assume that he is the settler whose arrival we will be celebrating this year. I'll talk more about him and the other Brooklyns and areas which were once Brooklyn Township next month.

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by Tom Collins  
tomc@oldbrooklyn.com

**Cleveland Storefront Renovation Program**

If you own a commercial building in Old Brooklyn or Brooklyn Centre you may be eligible to receive a 40% rebate on exterior renovations pre-approved by the Cleveland Storefront Renovation Program. The emphasis here is on pre-approval.

Eligible buildings are those originally built with a storefront or storefronts on the first floor facing a main street. Structures originally built as gas stations or auto repair facilities are also eligible, even if the current use has changed.

The "main streets" recognized for the program are Pearl Rd. from Interstate 71 to Brookpark Rd.; Broadview Rd. from Pearl Rd. to W. Schaaf Rd.; and a portion of Memphis Ave. and Fulton Rd. near where they intersect. Eligible buildings within the defined target area have a maximum rebate of \$25,000. Buildings outside the target area have a maximum rebate of \$15,000.

This does not mean that every business which houses a retail or commercial business is eligible. Buildings which are not eligible include buildings which were built as homes and had a storefront unit added later.

Also not eligible are warehouses, manufacturing/factory buildings, retail strip shopping centers, churches and schools. Depending upon use and job creation, these ineligible buildings may qualify for other City programs but not the storefront program.

The program is designed to improve the appearance of the building as viewed from the street. Only exterior renovations on the visible façade of the building qualify. A corner building would have two visible facades. A free standing building with a side parking lot may have two visible facades.

The renovations which qualify for a rebate include new windows, doors, façade repair, painting, lighting, roof if it is visible, signage, sidewalk repair/replacement and landscaping.

Qualifying buildings must be current on real estate tax payments; be free of any government liens; and have no outstanding building code violations. If there are outstanding building code violations on the visible exterior, they can be corrected using the rebate program.

There is also a signage-only program if the building does not need more extensive renovations and meets the design standards of the program. The sign-only rebate is capped at \$3,000, requires a minimum sign investment of \$1,000 and is pre-approved by the City design specialist.

This program uses federal funding subject to the Davis Bacon Act regulations. That means that any labor (not product fabrication or manufacturing) performed on site in excess of \$2,000 done by paid employees is subject to prevailing wage. The details are fully explained to the applicant prior to signing a rebate agreement.

There is also a loan program associated with the storefront program. Building eligibility requirements are the same but this is city wide program not subject to a target area. The loan program is not limited to the visible facades so that all the building facades and roof may be renovated based upon need.

Applicants must be the building owner, or a tenant who has been designated the agent for the program by the building owner.

No funds are provided in advance of the project being completed. The rebate is paid when all work is completed, the City design specialist has approved the renovations, and proof of payment for all invoices is submitted.

**CLEVELAND STOREFRONT RENOVATION PROGRAM**

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Call Tom Collins @  
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For more information contact  
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Commercial Program Manager  
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## Cleveland's automated recycling program offers option for getting huge carts to curb

by Jayme Lucas-Bukszar  
jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com

The City of Cleveland is in the process of implementing a new waste collection program which includes new, 48-gallon refuse containers. The new containers, depending on fullness, require five to eight pounds of force to wheel to the curb and three pounds of force to wheel them back when empty. If you are physically unable to do this, the City offers an exemption and will have the containers carried to and from the curb by City employees.

The exemption can be permanent or temporary. Reasons for a temporary exemption could include a broken limb, post surgery recovery, etc. The application process includes a "Doctor's Certification for Exemption Services" that needs to be signed by the appropriate physician.

To receive an application, call Doris at

216-664-2397 (Division of Waste Collection and Disposal). She will send you an application packet. Once the application is completed, including the certification signed by a physician, notify Doris who will schedule a one time on site evaluation. The completed application packet will be processed after the evaluation.

Upon approval, the nearest Station will be notified that you qualify and your refuse container will be carried to and from the curb by the City. It takes approximately 14 to 21 days from approval for the City to start carrying the containers to and from the curb.

If you have been approved, but the City is not taking the container to the curb, call Doris at 216-664-2397. She will contact the nearest Station to verify the approval and make sure it gets picked up. Please note that the pickups will be on the same day as regular waste collection, but not necessarily the same time; a different crew takes the containers to the curb.

## Denison Avenue reconstruction project Phase I Work

Source: Press Release from Maureen Harper, Chief of Communications, Office of the Mayor

Construction began on the Denison Ave. reconstruction project on January 20th, 2014. Phase 1 of the construction will be along W. 62nd St., from Denison Ave. south to Barberton Ave. This phase of the project includes the installation of a new water main and duct bank. On-street parking restrictions will apply. One southbound lane of traffic will be maintained along W. 62nd St. during this phase of construction. Driveway access will be maintained. This phase of construction is anticipated to be complete in four months at which point the roadway will be reopened to normal traffic patterns.

The project will include the installation of a Cleveland Public Power underground power line duct bank and associated utility relocations, pavement reconstruction and resurfacing, curb, sidewalk and driveway repairs. This Project is scheduled for completion by December 2015.

Further work on Denison Ave.e (W. 62nd St. to Fulton Rd.) is anticipated to commence

on or about February 3rd, 2014 as the maintenance of traffic and detour routes are being finalized. A 72 hour notice will be issued prior to implementing a change in traffic patterns on Denison Ave. The anticipated project schedule is as follows:

**Phase 1A** - W. 62nd St. to Fulton Rd. - January to August 2014

**Phase 1B** - Ridge Rd. to W. 62nd St.- January to June 2014

**Phase 2** - Fulton Rd. to Pearl Rd. - August 2014 to April 2015

**Phase 3** - Pearl Rd. to State Route 176 - April to December 2015

Vehicular and pedestrian traffic will be maintained during construction and one-way traffic will be maintained at all times along Denison Ave. Traffic will be maintained to all businesses and residences. Signed detour routes along Clark Ave. will be provided for traffic traveling in the direction of the closed lanes.

For specific questions about the project, call Frank Keehl, Project Manager for the City of Cleveland, at 216-664-2256.

## Cleveland Restoration Society launches new "Heritage Home Purchase Program"

Source:

[www.heritagehomeprogram.org](http://www.heritagehomeprogram.org)

On January 16, 2014 the Cleveland Restoration Society (CRS) launched its new "Heritage Home Purchase Program" in partnership with First Federal of Lakewood (FFL) and Cuyahoga County. Through this program, home buyers can get loans for the purchase price and rehab work all in one transaction. One of the advantages of this approach is that the buyer knows upfront how much rehab costs would be, what he/she can afford. The process includes a post rehab appraisal which says how much the property is worth after the rehab work is completed.

### This is how it works:

- Find a house in a Heritage Home Program participating community that is more than 50 years old that you want to buy and fix up. Ward 13 is eligible in OBCDC's service area. (Ward 12 is not participating.)

- Develop a wish list of repairs and improvements that you would like to complete – almost everything is eligible – inside and out.

- Consult with CRS about the repairs and improvements and get unbiased and impartial advice regarding materials, contractors and the scope of work.

- Get contractor quotes. CRS can help you determine exactly what to request from the contractor, making sure you're getting the most accurate estimate with no hidden surprises.

- Apply to FFL for a combination of a home purchase loan and a Heritage Home Program<sup>SM</sup> rehab loan.

- Qualified buyers will have access to an adjustable rate purchase loan for a ten to thirty year term.

- FFL will obtain an after-rehab appraisal of the property and lend up to 90% of the post rehab appraised value at a special low-interest rate and term. For more information about the loan terms contact Julia Rutkowski at 216-337-6657.

- CRS will monitor the rehab process and work for your benefit to get what you are paying for.

- Move in to your customized dream home!

### Here's an example:

Purchase Price	\$20,000
After-Rehab Appraised value	\$100,000
Loan from FFL at 90% of Appraised Value	\$90,000
Less Purchase Price -	\$20,000
TOTAL rehab loan	\$70,000

The Heritage Home Purchase program is very flexible; however, there are a few items that Cleveland Restoration Society cannot fund including vinyl products, luxury items such as swimming pools and hot tubs, landscaping and driveways.

General program guidelines can be found online at [www.heritagehomeprogram.org](http://www.heritagehomeprogram.org).

For more information contact Jayme Lucas-Bukszar at 216-459-1000 or [jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com) or Heritage Home Program staff at 216-426-1000.

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## Spreadable Edibles, neighborhood cottage industry

by Dave Goldense  
daveg@oldbrooklyn.com

Long-time Old Brooklyn residents Gayle and Phil Bartosh are marketing their time-tested family recipes for homemade jams and jellies with Spreadable Edibles, a project which has turned a hobby into a small business.

Gayle and Phil are masters of their trade of preparing tasty jams and jellies and in their first two years of entering the Cuyahoga County Fair have won seven blue ribbons. They've each been making jams and jellies for over 25 years, and their recent foray into the world of beekeeping has led them to add honey to their already impressive selection.

All the Bartosh's products contain the freshest ingredients which they can get and have absolutely no preservatives. Like all of the freshest cooking, they make their jams and jellies based on the fruits which are available.

The list of ingredients is short and sweet. Jellies typically have fruit and just a couple other ingredients to keep the spread at the right consistency. Phil explained that their jellies

this spread are only ripe for picking over a seven-day period in July.

The Bartosh's pursuit of the best local fruit has led them to orchards as far away as Norwalk (Huron County) and Mogadore (Portage County). They insist on using fruit which has not been sprayed with chemicals or treated with chemicals in any way.

Listening to Gayle and Phil explain the process of making their Spreadable Edibles makes it easy to see how much passion they share for their craft. Look for a new flavor, mango hot habanero, when the couple returns to their stand at Frostville Farmers Market in North Olmsted (at Lewis & Cedar Point roads) every other Saturday beginning in April.

While the Bartosh's experience with preparing jams and jellies dates back two decades, their production of honey is more recent. Although Gayle and Phil had had an interest in beekeeping, they received a little extra push when Gayle won a package of bees from a contest ran by the Greater Cleveland Bee Association. Just like that, Spreadable Edibles expanded to include honey as part of

their already elaborate selection. Their involvement with the B e e Association has helped connect them with other avid beekeepers in the immediate area, as well as experienced beekeepers who have offered Gayle and Phil great advice.

In just a few short years, Gayle and

Phil have quickly become experts. With great detail, they shared their insight, explaining that honey from the same beehives will have considerable variety in flavor and color depending on the season. The lightest of their honeys is produced in spring, whereas honey from the fall is much darker in color (reddish brown). The change of color is because of the different flowers which the bees pollinate.

Both Gayle and Phil commented on how they found a noticeable improvement in the flowers on their street since they got their first bees three years ago. The bees travel up to three miles to pollinate flowers. Both Gayle and Phil were quick to mention that honeybees don't sting people that often, and will only do so out of self defense.

The City of Cleveland updated its regulations on beekeeping in 2009 at the same time that it expanded the parameters for livestock, as it continues to promote urban agriculture. Apiaries are also an emerging scene in Old Brooklyn, and the Bartosh's expressed their appreciation that there are more than a handful of residents who are harvesting honey in the area.

Spreadable Edibles embodies everything that is great about cottage industry projects — It is a product of the highest quality, made by people who truly love what they do who are sharing their passion.

Phil asserted that for him and Gayle, making jams, jellies and honey is something "for love more than for money," a fresh reminder of the benefits of homemade goods and family businesses.



Photo by Dave Goldense

Gayle and Phil Bartosh's Spreadable Edibles is proof of the adage, "Do what you love, and success will follow".

and jams contain more fruit, and in turn, a more intense flavor than what can be found on grocery store shelves.

Gayle proudly stated that they outdid Baskin Robbins, offering 32 flavors.

Each of the Bartosh's flavors is unique and special in its own way. The multiple fruits in a jelly blends seem to be the most popular choices among Gayle and Phil's clientele. One such blend is the award winning Tropical Fruit Jelly which includes mango, pineapple and papaya.

Another blue ribbon recipient was the Sugar Plum Jam, which is a favorite during the holidays and features a nice combination of the spiciness of cinnamon and the sweetness of plum.

Phil's pride and joy is the Razzle Dazzle, which contains both red and black raspberries. Razzle Dazzle is not only Phil's prize creation, but it also serves as a testament to how much effort goes into obtaining the best fruits possible; in our area the black raspberries used in

## Memphis Dairy Queen celebrating its thirtieth anniversary

by Jayme Lucas-Bukszar  
jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com

When the Neuzil family took over Memphis Dairy Queen in 1984, Ken's parents Don and Jean had a vision of their family supporting themselves through running ice cream stores. Ken now owns the Memphis Dairy Queen and his brother David owns the Dairy Queen on Ridge Rd. by Pearl Rd. To celebrate their 30th anniversary, there will be specials to enjoy throughout the year.

In 1984 there were three employees plus

or was gutted and the exterior received a complete face lift. Since 1991, Ken has invested over \$880,000 in the facility which sets near the busy corner of Memphis Ave. and Fulton Rd.

When asked why his father chose the Memphis location, Ken said, "My dad grew up at W. 50th and Woburn. He knew and loved the area. Our store is in a great location, on a good artery and intersection." Ken's store ranks among the top five performing Dairy Queen locations in Cleveland.



Memphis Dairy Queen, 5501 Memphis Ave.

Ken to run Memphis Dairy Queen from 'open to close' every day. He now employs up to 27 people in the summer.

Ken said, "Working at Dairy Queen is a very fun but challenging job. There are over 45 items on the menu and the variations are endless. My employees have to remember the recipes for 85 Blizzard flavors alone!" He compared that to about 25 menu items in 1984.

Ken said that the Blizzard is their number one top seller and that his favorite flavor is "S'mores! " It's really good. It's like a campfire in your mouth. The Pumpkin Pie Blizzard is our biggest fall seller and is also very good."

Ken's sons Jordan and Matthew and Matthew's wife Claudia run the store on a day-to-day basis. Claudia is the main cake decorator and handles ordering and inventory. Ken describes her fondly as a hard worker and a real star. Jordan is the store's General Manager. Matthew, Ken's oldest son, is the main cake maker.

All of the cakes at Memphis Dairy Queen are made by hand. Ken said of their cakes, "We can order cakes from Dairy Queen's warehouse, but our handmade cakes are fresh and better quality". Custom handmade cakes can be ordered online at DQcakes.com.

Memphis Dairy Queen underwent an extensive \$350,000 rehab in 2012. The interi-

Ken said of Memphis Dairy Queen, "We wouldn't be in existence without our customers and we can't say 'thank you' enough. I also want to extend special thanks for supporting our annual fundraiser for Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. With the community's support, we raise \$7,000 to \$11,000 annually for them. All of our employees graciously donate their time for the event and we can't thank them enough either."

Ken also extended gratitude to his parents. "My family thanks my parents for us being where we are. We are living their vision of being self-employed and successful".

The Memphis Dairy Queen was first owned by Steve Ferman and it was located where Taco Bell currently is. Steve was an original Dairy Queen franchisee from 1940. It was then owned by Will Taylor who moved it to its current location in the 1960s.

The Neuzil family purchased the franchise from Will. Since that time, they have employed between 600 and 700 local residents; their longest running employee worked for Ken for 14 years.

Ken also operates a snow plowing operation and works to keep sidewalks clean for many of the businesses on Memphis Avee. He plows driveways in the Old Brooklyn area and can be reached at 216-375-4426 for a quote.

## Oldest hippo in North America euthanized at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

Article submitted by Joe Yachanin,  
Cleveland Metroparks  
Communications Department

Blackie, the oldest Nile hippopotamus in North America, was euthanized in his off-exhibit enclosure in Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's Africa barn last month due to advanced age-related ailments. He was estimated to be 59 years old, and it is believed he set the record for the oldest male Nile hippo ever recorded.

He sired three offspring, all males, during his time at the Zoo and he was a favorite of many guests and staff members.

Due to his advancing age, the Zoo built a special addition with a heated pool onto the Africa barn for him in 2008. He lived out his last several years contentedly eating copious amounts of produce and floating lazily in a pool he didn't have to share.

Blackie came to the Zoo from Africa in 1955 when he was about one year old, and generations of Clevelanders grew up seeing him in the former Pachyderm Building. He was born at the Mount Meru Game Sanctuary in

Tanzania and brought to Cleveland by Zoo officials and board members, including Vernon and Gordon Stouffer, who were gathering animals on a safari, which was an acceptable method of acquiring zoo animals prior to the passage of the Endangered Species Act.

Hippos typically live between 30 to 40 years in the wild and can live a few years longer in captivity. They are herbivores, and in the wild they graze mostly on grasses. They eat a wider variety of foods in the zoo including hay, vegetables, fruits and other produce.

Hippos spend the majority of their time in the water, hence their name which is from the ancient Greek for "river horse." Despite the name, however, the hippo's closest biological relatives are whales and dolphins.

Hippos are classified as "vulnerable" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Hippo populations are declining due to habitat loss and poaching but are still found over a large range of eastern and southern Africa.

For more information, visit [cleveland-metroparks.com/zoo](http://cleveland-metroparks.com/zoo) or call 216-661-6500.



Blackie, the oldest Nile hippopotamus

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# COMMUNITY MEETINGS

**Brooklyn Centre Naturalists** meeting -- Sat., Feb. 1st; 9:30 - 11:30 am. Panera Bread, 5090 Tiedeman Rd. To discuss : "The threat of Phragmites\* to our Ecosystem". To tour: a section of Brooklyn, Old Brooklyn & Brooklyn Centre to assess the threat To Take Action: Plan a strategy to make our community a Phragmite Free Zone

**Brooklyn Genealogy** meeting, Sun., Feb. 16th, 2 pm, Brooklyn Fire Station, 8400 Memphis Ave. at Roadan. Suzanne Hastings, a member of Cuyahoga Valley Genealogical Society and an avid scrapbooker, will talk about "Scapbooking and Family History." For information about the group contact president Ann Wojtowicz, wojtowicz6809@roadrunner.com.

**Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation** board meeting, 6 pm, fourth Tues. of month; OBCDC meeting room, 2339 Broadview Rd. Meetings open to public for review & comments, but Board reserves right to close portions of meetings from public. Call 216-459-1000 to confirm.

**Old Brooklyn Crime Watch** meeting - Mon. Feb. 4th; 7 pm. St. Barbara's, 1505 Denison Ave. Call Barb Spaan at 216-459-1000 for more info.

**Second District Police Community Relations** meeting, Tues., Feb. 11th (& 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 13 Republican** meeting, Thurs., Feb. 13th (& every second Thurs.), 7 pm, Calvary Chapel Church, 6770 Brookpark Rd.

**Ward 13 Democratic Club** meeting, Tues., Feb. 18th (& every third Tues.), 7 pm, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 5801 Memphis Ave.

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**St. Leo the Great Preschool Registration**  
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**St. Leo the Great School Registration**  
 St. Leo the Great School, 4900 Broadview Rd, grades K - 8. Children must be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 30th to be eligible for all-day kindergarten. \$50 non-refundable registration fee required along with birth & baptismal certificate. Pick up registration forms from school or rectory office. For new students grades 1-8, copy of most recent report card also required. Applications for Cleveland Scholarship Voucher Program available. Call 216-661-2120 with questions or to schedule tour of school.

**St. Mary Byzantine School Registration**  
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