

Old BROOKLYN NEWS

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January 2014 Volume 35 Number 11

www.oldbrooklynconnected.com

CVS store at 4240 Pearl Rd. suffers pre-Thanksgiving fire; scheduled to reopen in February

by Dave Goldense
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The CVS pharmacy at the corner of Pearl Rd. and Memphis Ave. continues to recover from a substantial fire in the early morning hours of Monday, November 25th, which caused a reported \$300,000 in damage. Initial reports by the Cleveland Fire Department indicated that the fire originated in a storage area in the back of the building, near the pharmacy section, with flames reaching all the way to the ceiling.

Fortunately, no one was injured despite the severity of the fire.

Shortly after the fire – and assumingly for insurance purposes — every piece of (smoke-damaged) merchandise was removed from the store, packed into trailers and removed from the scene. Employees expect the store to be restored to full capacity sometime in February.

Meanwhile, the mobile pharmacy which opened just west of the building will continue to fill prescriptions. The mobile unit pharmacy is maintaining the usual inside pharmacy hours — Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Non-pharmacy purchases will be temporarily unavailable until the fire damage is completely repaired and the building is fully operational again.

Customers are encouraged to utilize CVS.com for more information concerning

their prescriptions and medical needs. The two other CVS stores nearby, 3728 Pearl Rd. in Brooklyn Centre and 2207 Brookpark Rd. at the southeast corner of Brookpark and Broadview Rd., still have a full service selection.

Individuals with current CVS prescriptions have the option to transfer their prescriptions to these stores and have them filled there while the Pearl/Memphis location is under repair. This transfer process can be done online or over the phone by dialing the number of the CVS where the prescription would be transferred.

CVS' Public Relations Department failed to provide a response to the Old Brooklyn News' request for information for this publication.



Photo by Dave Goldense

The CVS store at 4240 Pearl Rd. is scheduled to reopen in February. Meanwhile, a mobile pharmacy has been set up in the parking lot.

Old Brooklyn resident Mary Hillman turns 100 years old

by Lynette Filips

On Friday, December 13th, Old Brooklyn resident Mary Hillman reached a milestone which few of us will ever achieve --she turned one hundred years old.

Knowing that the big day was approaching, OBCDC asked Ward 13 Councilman Kevin Kelley to have Cleveland City Council issue a proclamation in honor of Mary's long life. In addition, the staff arranged a birthday party with cake and flowers for her at the OBCDC office on Tuesday, December 17th.



On Tuesday, December 17th, Mary Hillman came to the OBCDC office for a birthday celebration with staff, Councilman Kevin Kelley and his Executive Assistant Cindy.

Former OBCDC residential manager Lori Peterson was also invited to the party because in April, 2009 Lori had written a Community Spotlight article about Mary. Lori came up with that idea because she noticed Mary stopping at our old office every month to pick up a stack of *Old Brooklyn News* for the other people in her apartment building.

Mary was never married -- in fact she was a nun in her younger life, but had to leave the convent to care for her aging mother. She told us that her years as a nun were the happiest of her life.

Because she was one of four children, Mary has a number of nieces and nephews who also planned a birthday gathering for her. It took place on Sunday, December 15th,

at the buffet restaurant at Midtown Plaza.

If you ride RTA, you've probably seen Mary on the bus, because she takes it all over town. You might also have seen her at the monthly Community Meal at Mary Queen of Peace Church because she is a regular there.

Mary is one of the most amazing individuals we've ever met. Proud of her Hungarian ancestry, her mind is still sharp as a tack. She never complains about life's challenges; instead she's always thinking about other people. All that age has taken from her is some of her hearing.



Photo by Sandy Worona

This year's first place OBCDC holiday lighting contest winners are (above/commercial) Della's House of Beauty, 2020 W. Schaaf Rd., and (below/residential) Brian Bruncak and Mandy Pekarcsik, 4335 Moonglow Lane.



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Christopher Kuhar

Executive Director of
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

by Jayme Lucas-Bukszar

Christopher Kuhar, PhD, has been at the helm of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for approximately one year. He had been the Animal Curator at the Zoo since 2008.

Raised in Lorain, Christopher's doctorate degree is actually in Experimental Psychology (from Georgia Institute of Technology/Georgia Tech), not in Zoology. He began his career at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo in 1997 as a research intern, and then moved on to Disney's Animal Kingdom in Orlando, Florida.

Christopher has also taught biology and psychology courses at Oklahoma State University, Georgia Tech (in Atlanta), Spelman College (also in Atlanta), the University of Central Florida (Orlando) and Cleveland State University.

Married to Gayle Albers, who also works for the Cleveland Metroparks, the Kuhar family lives in Strongsville. Gayle is currently the Manager of the West Creek Watershed Stewardship Center in Parma; before that she was the Metroparks' Regional Conservation Coordinator.

Christopher and Gayle have two children, ages 5 and 9. "Dangerous" animals like bears, tigers and lions are their son's favorite animals; their daughter likes a more unusual one, the fossa. The fossa is a cat-like carnivorous animal indigenous to Madagascar. (On a side note, fossas are the villains in the Dreamworks Pictures' movie, Madagascar.)

When asked what he finds most challenging about his new role, Christopher said, "It is always challenging to follow a longtime legend. Steve Taylor had been the Executive Director for 24 years and did a great job and everyone was used to how things were done under his lead. But staff is on board and we are moving forward with some great initiatives."

Christopher added, "Another challenge for me is that there has been a huge learning curve with the business side of my position. As

the Animal Curator, I was focused on making decisions about bringing interesting animals and exhibits to the Zoo and providing the best possible care for our animals. I really didn't focus on business development as much."

As for the rewards of his position, Christopher stated, "The most rewarding part of being Executive Director of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo has been the opportunity to take a new team to the next chapter." Under his leadership, the Zoo is working to become a national leader in sustainability, education and conservation.



Christopher Kuhar with one of the Zoo's lemurs

The Circle of Wild Life Carousel project is a great example of this kind of work. Instead of having traditional carousel horses, the Circle of Wild Life will feature wildlife associated with conservation. Programming around the carousel will concentrate on people, animals and habitat, how all life has to share, and the impact people have on the environment and on other people as the circle comes back around.

The Circle of Wild Life Carousel will open on Memorial Day this year. It will be located at the former "Bird Building" which is on a hill in the middle of the Zoo. The carousel will be visible from the entrance. There will be a separate charge to ride the carousel, but combination tickets will be available.

As for any fun, recent happenings at the Zoo, Christopher said, "We are having a baby boom in the RainForest! We have a baby otter, porcupine and our first-ever baby giant anteater. It has been so fun to watch. I encourage everyone to come to the Rain Forest and enjoy the warmth and our new babies."

Upcoming events include the Cleveland Zoological Society's Animal Attraction event at the RainForest on Thursday, February 6th, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Zoological Society will be taking a fun approach to learning about "animal love". Visit *(cont'd. next column)*

Update from Jeff Kipp, OBCDC board president

by Jeff Kipp



of filling this leadership position.

Hello, Old Brooklyn residents and stakeholders. As you learned last month, Robyn Sandys, our executive director for nearly seven years, has left the organization to be closer to family and start a new career opportunity in the Chicago area. She will be missed, and we hope you join us in wishing her the best as she moves on.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC), I would like to thank Robyn for her years of service to the organization and to the neighborhood. The organization is financially sound, provides a robust amount of programming and services, and is respected within Cleveland's nationally recognized community development industry.

Robyn and our entire staff worked very hard to ensure that Old Brooklyn remains one of the best neighborhoods in Cleveland to live, work and raise a family. As the Board continues its search for a new executive director, we can all be confident that our exceptional staff remains committed to their work.

The Board, and specifically its Search Committee members, realizes the importance

OBCDC has consistently been ranked as one of the highest performing CDCs by the City of Cleveland. We have worked diligently to improve our housing stock, attract new businesses to the neighborhood, promote our neighborhood, provide educational and entertaining community gatherings, advocate for better services and infrastructure, and assist residents in need.

We know that big things will be happening in 2014. Old Brooklyn will celebrate its 200th birthday and we will continue to provide our full range of services while also working to revitalize our downtown neighborhood corridor around the Pearl/Broadview intersection. In the coming months, we look forward to identifying — and introducing to you — the next executive director of OBCDC, the person who will continue the fine work of the organization and lead it and the neighborhood into new and exciting times.

As always, we welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Please do not hesitate to contact us. Happy New Year!

<http://clevelandzoosociety.org/events/2014/02/animal-attractions> for more information.

In the near future, the Zoo will be adding some new species and will be improving the tiger, gorilla, and bear exhibits. They are also looking to redo their front entrance.

Summing up his feelings about his position,

Christopher said, "I am proud to be a part of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and proud to be a proud to be part of our community. We will continue to work hard to be a great neighbor and great partner."

(Lynette Filips contributed to this article.)



Photo by Sandy Worona

At the end of November, David Waldman, Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation's part-time Program Service Assistant, left OBCDC to take on a new position as the Outreach Coordinator at Maximum Accessible Housing of Ohio. Located in University Circle, the non-profit owns and maintains five accessible-living properties in Cuyahoga, Lake and Lorain Counties. David's new responsibility is to develop the Anderson Center for Accessible Living, which will provide education and outreach for accessibility design and related issues. David worked at OBCDC for three years, the first year as an AmeriCorps VISTA member, and the next two as a part-time employee. While here he was a member of the Green Space committee, helped to start the Henninger Market Garden, and started Old Brooklyn's City Fresh Stop, which provided locally-grown produce on a weekly basis to over 200 area residents during its three seasons. David said that he will especially miss Honey Hut Ice Cream, pancakes and coffee at Gus's, and seeing everyone out at Pop-UP Pearl. (His favorite thing about Old Brooklyn is the people.) David's parting message to everyone is — "Old Brooklyn has a great, active community and I really enjoyed working with residents."

OLD BROOKLYN NEWS

The Old Brooklyn News will publish its February, 2014 issue on Friday, January 31st, 2014

Circulation 12,000 Published Monthly



Submission Deadlines

Display Ads Fri., Jan. 24th
Classified Ads Fri., Jan. 24th
News Releases Fri., Jan. 24th
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

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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.

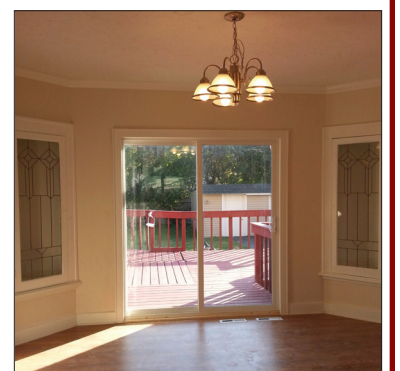


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NEWS & EVENTS

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 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.

Cuyahoga County Public Library

Parma-Snow Branch 2121 Snow Rd.

216-661-4240; 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., Jan. 13th; 6:30 - 8:30 pm; 2nd Mon. each month.

Zentangle® Inspirations - Thurs., Jan. 16th, 7 pm. An art form for everyone from "newbies" to advanced "t anglers."

Book Discussions - Thurs., Jan. 20th - 11 am Mon., Jan. 30th; 7 pm.

WWI Combat Medicine & the Founding of the Cleveland Clinic - Wed., Jan. 22nd; 7 pm. Learn techniques used in combat medicine during World War I that led to establishment of world famous Cleveland Clinic.

Teen Programs - Sat., Jan. 25th; TAG Team - 1:30 - 2:15 pm, grades 6 - 12; & **Board Game Day & Wii Play,** 2:30 - 4:30 pm, ages 10 - 18.

Travel With Road Scholar - Mon., Jan. 27th; 7 pm. Road Scholar programs range from one-day adventures in U.S. to four-week excursions abroad. Hear what's coming up & how you can be part of it.

Monday, January 6th

Cuyahoga Valley Genealogy Society

Independence Civic Center, Willow Room, 6363 Selig Blvd., 7:30 pm. Program: *Using Deeds for Genealogical Research*; speaker: Chris Staats. Contact CVGS president Mary Boehnlein, 440-736 7180, or via www.cuyahogagenealogy.org, for more info.

Monday, January 6th

Old Brooklyn Crime Watch Meeting

St. Barbara's, 1505 Denison Ave. Call Barb Spann at 216-459-1000 for more info.

Wednesday, January 8th

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.
Jan. 8th, Twill candy bowl; wood bottom base with color & natural pattern; 4" round at the bottom, 6" high & approx. 5" across at top. Cost - \$14. **Feb. 12th, Diamond basket tote,** \$46. Supplies to bring when weaving -- old towel, bucket, clothes pins, ruler, pencil, scissors. Call Connie, 216-749-7912, to RSVP.

Saturday, January 11th

United States Polka Association Hangover Dance

Holiday Inn, 15471 Royalton Rd., Strongsville; 8 pm - 12 am. Band: The Knewz from Buffalo. Donation: \$10/person. Call Barb Haselow 440-886-6157 for more info.

Saturday, January 18th

3rd Annual Bridal Soiree

Grand Pacific Hotel, 8112 Columbia Rd, Olmsted Falls; 11 am - 4 pm. Free event for brides & their bridal parties. Select local bridal vendor booths. Tours of Grand Pacific Bridal Chapel & Wedding Gardens. Call Shawn, 440-714-9000, for more info. Registration form is on www.gpjmerchants.com wedding services page. Special drawings for registered brides. Vendor booth space available

American Legion Scholarships

American Legion 13th District (Cuyahoga County) conducting local National High School Oratorical contest Mar. 9th in Parma; all Cuyahoga County high school students (grade 9-12) can participate. Scholarships range from \$2,500 - \$18,000. Winner from Cuyahoga County will compete at Ohio Dominican College in Columbus on Mar. 16th.

Winner from Columbus will compete in Indianapolis weekend of Apr. 4th-6th. All expenses to finals in Indianapolis paid by American Legion. Interested high school students should contact Richard Benz, 440-885-0781, or benzr@cox.net. Deadline to enter & receive application is Jan. 31st. Visit www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2013/11/the_american_legion_announces_for_more_info.

Free Preparation of Your 2013 Income Tax Return

Cuyahoga County Free Tax Preparation Sites: To schedule an appointment go online to 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 - 12 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. Free training is available to become an IRS certified tax preparer. Returns will be prepared and filed by IRS certified tax-preparers and completed while the tax-payer waits. All returns will be screened for eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit & the Child Tax Credit. To qualify, tax-payers must have a 2013 earned income less than \$51,567, & must be filing a simple return. For more info, visit www.refundohio.org or www.cjfs.cuyahogacounty.us.

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 or check them out on Facebook.

No Health Coverage?

MetroHealth Care Plus offers free medical care to low-income uninsured Cuyahoga County residents age 19 to 64 years. Coverage includes doctor visits, medications, hospitalization, dental care, mental health service, medical equipment. Call 216-957-2325 or visit metrohealth.org/careplus for more info.

Call Today if you Need 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.

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 & click on the crime reporting link. You must be 18 years old & have an e-mail address.

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Tips for improving your New Year

by Barbara Spaan
barbaras@oldbrooklyn.com

For most of us, the Holidays are over, the gifts are all open, the special meal is leftovers, the house is a mess, and the kids are home from school..... Call it Cabin Fever, the Holiday Blues or stress, but at this time of year, suicides and domestic violence increase. So what can you do?

First, step back and look at the whole picture. Is it worth the fight? Are you fighting over everything? Do you not know where to turn? Maybe you feel that no one can help or you have no one to listen.

Whatever the case, you can pick up the phone and dial 211 FIRST CALL FOR HELP. It is free and someone can give you an unbiased opinion and help.

Second, we have many churches in Old Brooklyn where the priests or ministers are well-trained and can offer many services to help you out.

Third, what about your health care providers? This route may take more time to get an appointment to see someone, but it is help.

Sometimes you need to reach out to a friend; everyone has at least one of those. And



CRIME WATCH

please don't forget the neighborhood service associations which have people like me who are also trained to assist.

Last, if things are really getting out of hand, call the police. Do not let your children go through an adult problem. It's not OK to beat anyone physically or mentally, even if that's the way you were raised.

There are many people to turn to for help. The materialistic part of the Holidays is over, but the joy, peace and giving can be out here every day for everyone. Kick the Cabin Fever/Holiday Blues by volunteering; check on the elderly on your street; greet someone new; SMILE a little more. It doesn't take a penny and your mind and your heart will thank you.

Begin 2014 healthy and happy for your whole family. Let this be the year you do one thing to spread good will each day. Our community will be a better place to live, work and raise our families because of it. Happy New Year!



BCN reviews last couple of months

by Gloria Ferris
Brooklyn Centre Naturalist

On this longest night of the year, Brooklyn Centre Naturalists (BCN) is taking the opportunity to reflect on the past year and to look toward its future. Already the weather has been cold and blustery giving all of us the chance to feed our feathered friends.

It looks like a warm-up is in the forecast, but if there is one thing we know about the Cleveland weather in winter it is that it will soon turn cold and bleak once more. So be sure to continue to supplement food and water to our wildlife in Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn.

This year's *Short and Sweet Holiday Shop* proved to be a good time for neighbors and friends to offer good wishes to each other while buying unique and handmade gifts for others. The *Shop* was highly successful this year, topping sales from last year. In fact, there were two days when sales doubled. The crafters are sending a big thank you to everyone who 'shopped local'; thereby supporting local artists, Art House and BCN.

The dark, cold and snow of long winter nights are not only difficult for wildlife, but are also a challenge for those in our community who face health, family and employment issues. A stressful situation at any time of year becomes even more troubling now.

Therefore, it is a great time for all of us to share a casserole, a cup of tea and a bit of companionship and conversation with someone who may appreciate a bit of comfort on a cold winter's night. After all the festivities of the holidays, the future can look quite daunting.

BCN wants to thank those of you who took action when you heard the call for help with certifying Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn as a National Wildlife Community by signing up to be a backyard habitat. BCN now needs just 15 more habitats, down from last month's total of 20. As always, call Gloria Ferris at 216-351-0254, email bcnaturalists@gmail.com for an application, or visit www.nwf.org/create to join.



BCN's and all of your efforts have not gone unnoticed by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). The NWF has asked BCN to become a seed team with the NWF's Wildlife Nation effort.

Wildlife Nation is an on-the-ground and on-line kids' and wildlife community of cause created by the National Wildlife Federation which engages parents and other adults to get kids outdoors in nature and foster generations of conservation stewards who care about and for wildlife. Right now, BCN is in the process of helping NWF beta test this new on-line program; they are hopeful that in February they will be sharing it with our wildlife community and beyond.

BCN was saddened to hear of the recent death of Al Penko. Al was a great friend and advocate of the effort to become a wildlife community. From the very first, he understood how it was a perfect fit for the neighborhoods nestled along the west bank of the Cuyahoga with Big Creek running through their middle to become a bigger part of NWF.

Al joined early and supported BCN's efforts by sending information which he thought would be beneficial. He attended BCN's joint mini symposiums with Friends of Big Creek (FOBC) and, in fact, would tell the volunteers that these symposiums were better than ones he had paid money to attend.

Partner organization FOBC has lost a friend and advocate and a valued trustee. Al not only saw the big picture of their mission but also knew the value of taking small steps throughout the journey, making it shorter and more enjoyable. In addition to his family, Al is mourned and missed by the wider community of folks who strive to restore Big Creek and celebrate our connection to nature.

Godspeed, Al Penko.

Mary Queen of Peace School hosts IM4U

by Jayme Lucas-Bukszar
jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com

A group of residents and business owners in Old Brooklyn, spearheaded by resident Mark Angiocchi, raised \$4000 to bring a unique program to Mary Queen of Peace (MQP) Elementary School on Tuesday, November 26th. The program is called the

IM4U Campaign

and is the brain child of Jim Mayer/aka "Uncle Jim", bass guitarist for Jimmy Buffett's Coral Reefer Band. It includes a live performance by

Jim Mayer, aka Uncle Jim, is a guitarist with Jimmy Buffett

books and other program materials.

Jim Mayer created the educational program in collaboration with Ellen Booth Church, a nationally recognized childhood expert. It's designed to create a culture of social and emotional awareness in which bullying is less likely to occur.

When asked about his motivation to bring *IM4U* to Old Brooklyn students, Mark said, "I was inspired to bring this to Mary Queen of Peace because I wanted to do something to reduce bullying in our community. We spoke with several local schools and Mary Queen of Peace was a good fit."

The *IM4U* Campaign to discourage bullying has different messages for different age groups, but focuses on teaching character development and empathy at all levels.

The message to children in kindergarten through second grade was to go to a caregiver if they witness bullying.

The message for children in third grade through fifth grade was to not join in; to encourage others not to join in; to remove the target safely, if possible; and to get help immediately if someone is getting hurt.

The message for children in sixth grade through eighth grade was to send silent support (e.g., a private text, a note in the locker, or a call at home).

Children who come to realize that they have been a bully are instructed to admit that

what they did was wrong, sincerely apologize, and ask what they can do to make the victim feel better.

Mary Queen of Peace Principal Jennifer Berardinelli said she was thrilled to host the *IM4U* program. "It's about learning how to treat people. I liked his approach; it was so

fun that the kids didn't even know they were learning. We can see the impact on a daily basis." She said that MQP already had a character development curriculum which they could intertwine with *IM4U* materials.

Mrs. Berardinelli

also had another message — "We want to give a huge thanks to the sponsors and the Old Brooklyn community. We are so blessed; our kids can see that the community cares."

In addition to the *IMRU* programs and being with Jimmy Buffett's band, Jim Mayer also produces children's music under the name "Uncle Jim". He started writing children's music for fun and found it to be his calling. *Funky as a Diaper* was his first kids' album; Jimmy Buffett put it on his label and it got into the 'Top Ten' in kids' radio, and was #1 a month later.

In 2005, Jim was nominated for and won *Best New Kids Artist of the Year*. He started playing in schools, and asked teachers what messages they would like to hear. The teachers said "anti-bullying and social learning".

Based on that information, Jim started merging fun songs with life lessons, building videos and eventually creating *IM4U* with Ellen Booth Church.

"It is an honor to connect with children," Jim said, "and I'm proud to say that I've played in front of over 50,000 children over the last ten years." He graciously stayed after the MQP performance for this interview.

(Lynette Filips contributed to this article.)



Photo by Sheila Quealy Walter

Jim Mayer, aka Uncle Jim, is a guitarist with Jimmy Buffett

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As was the case last month when we were putting together the Christmas issue before it was even Thanksgiving, this month we are putting together the New Year's issue before it is even Christmas. But at least this time we've already experienced many of the Christmas season's festivities, so I've been in the holiday mood.

I'm feeling especially happy for all the people in our neighborhood who are back in their old churches or happily settled into new ones, but sad for the people who attended **St. Luke's United Church of Christ** and see a "For Sale" sign on their former worship space every time they drive by the corner of Pearl Rd. and Memphis Ave. The last service held there was on Easter Sunday.

Russell Realty is the company listing the 17,000 square foot "religious facility" at 4216 Pearl Rd., and the asking price is \$350,000.

According to the listing agent, Old Brooklyn is viewed to be a viable community and there's been a lot of interest in the building. Possible uses include another religious facility, a community center, and a catering business.

The major drawback to the building is the lack of parking.

There continues to be more follow-ups to the *Church News* in our November and December issues. First, I have some more information about the priests from Tanzania who live in the former **rectory at Corpus Christi Church**. Called the **Apostles of Jesus**, they mostly minister to people in hospitals and nursing homes.

The number of priests varies in the approximately three years during which they've been living on Northcliff, but right now four are stationed there. They are:

Fr. Caroli Shao, A.J., about whom I've

written the last two months. Before he was the Pastor of St. Stephen's and a Pastoral Vicar at St. Colman's, he was a chaplain at Southwest General Hospital. Before that Fr. Caroli was stationed in Portland, Oregon.

Fr. Isidore Munishi, A.J., is a chaplain at St. Vincent Charity Hospital and helps out at St. Colman's.

Fr. Dennis Mrosso, A.J., is a chaplain at Marymount Hospital (for three years).

Fr. Jude Shayo, A.J., is the most recent arrival. He's been in Cleveland for just four months, and is a student in the chaplaincy program at St. Vincent Charity Hospital, as well as working as a chaplain at the hospital.

In addition to losing its pastor, which we reported two months ago, **St. Leo the Great Church** is also losing the lady who was its Director of Music for the past five years.

Claudia Woolard has been driving back and forth from Mentor to fulfill her liturgical responsibilities at St. Leo's, and that's a long way. Just recently she accepted a full-time position as Director of Music at St. Mary of the Assumption in Mentor, which is just a two to three minute walk from her house.

I hope to be announcing Claudia's replacement within the next few months.

Here's some good news from **Mary Queen of Peace Church** -- A new unisex restroom in part of the former baptistry (on the same level as the upper church) has been completed. A percentage of the funds which MQP parishioners pledged to the Diocese's 2011/2012 *Rooted in Faith - Forward in Hope Campaign* is returned to the parish, and thinking of MQP's demographics, Pastor Fr. Doug Brown decided that a bathroom would be a welcome addition.

There's good news from the **Community Meal** (served for free to anyone who would like to come on the third Sunday of the month in the Parish Center's cafeteria) at **Mary Queen of Peace**, too. The volunteers got more than a little help last month from a new group of volunteers -- the **Key Club at Cleveland Central Catholic High School** in Slavic Village. Here's how it happened --

Key Club is a Kiwanis project which aims to instill the concept of community service in

high school students. In the past we have written about the Brooklyn-Cleveland Kiwanis in our neighborhood, but actually there are Kiwanis groups around town, including the **Kiwanis Club of Southeast Cleveland** which serves the Industrial Valley, North Broadway, Fleet, South Broadway and Miles Park neighborhoods of Cleveland.

Southeast Cleveland Kiwanis has service project relationships with a number of other high school groups on the east side of town, most recently, Cleveland Central Catholic.

Sabrina Rivera is a student at Cleveland Central Catholic High School who graduated from **St. Leo School Elementary School**. When her mother, Marylou, was reading about MQP's Community Meal in the *Old Brooklyn News*, she thought that it might be a good service project for the Key Club. One thing led to another and now a group of the high schoolers will be helping at the MQP Community Meal on a regular basis.

Mary Queen of Peace School will have an **openhouse** from 2 to 4 on Sunday, January 26th. I am hoping that in addition to the week-day pre-school and elementary school, the new "Atrium" on the fourth floor, home of a religion program for preschoolers, will be open too.

The *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* is Montessori-style religious education for young children. During times when regular school is in session, it takes place at 9:30 on Sunday mornings.

If you read the *Plain Dealer* and/or the *Catholic Universe Bulletin*, you probably saw that **Bishop Roger Gries, O.S.B.** has retired. Bishop Gries assured me, however, that even though he no longer has any administrative duties, he will still be ministering around the Diocese (including our neighborhood).

The Roman Catholic Church requires that when a bishop reaches the age of 75, (which Bishop Roger did in March of 2012), he must submit a letter of resignation to the Vatican. But it's taken until just a couple of months ago for the Vatican to reply and accept his resignation.

There's a beautiful, 16-page supplement to the December 6th issue of the *Universe Bulletin* honoring Bishop Roger's life. The last time I checked, there were still a number of copies available on the literature rack (next to the *Old Brooklyn News*!) in the vestibule of Mary Queen of Peace Church.

Thanks for sending your submissions for future columns to Lynettef@oldbrooklyn.com.



(left - right) Cleveland Police Department Second Commander Keith Sulzer; OBCDC Outreach Manager Barb Spaan; Acting Director of Community Relations Theasha Danieli; Chief Michael McGrath; Safety Director Marty Flask. Barb was one of the recipients of a Certificate of Appreciation at the Second District awards night on Thursday, November 14th, at OLA/St. Joseph Center on W. 14th St. The Second District's Community Relations Committee recognized Barb's "outstanding community involvement and dedication to the citizens of the Second District"

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by Tom Collins
tomc@oldbrooklyn.com

Occasionally this column is a rewrite of a previous column because the topic is timely or there is a need to update readers on pertinent community information. This column is updated from January of 2013 to inform readers of the assistance that the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation can provide to the businesses in Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn.

Commercial Manager

To develop and revitalize the community by uniting and empowering residents, business leaders and government around plans and initiatives and achieve social, economic and civic improvement. Thus reads the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) mission statement. So just what does the OBCDC Commercial Manager do to fulfill that mission?

The service area of Old Brooklyn and two thirds of Brooklyn Centre has approximately 35,000 residents. An accurate count of businesses is hard to come by because home-based businesses and business which share office space are often not listed in business directories. It is reasonable to project that there are at least eight hundred businesses in the service area.

The Commercial Manager works to retain, expand and recruit businesses in the service area. Within that assignment comes business problem-solving. There is no easy-to-follow operator's or instruction manual when it comes to problem solving, or for that matter, business retention, expansion and recruitment.

In fact, many businesses do not think of community development corporations (CDC) as being a community resource for managing their businesses. Those which do, know that a CDC can help them navigate City code compliance issues, identify financial aid programs, mediate problems with neighbors, find properties for lease or sale, help obtain certificates of occupancy, correct building code violations, promote "Buy Local" campaigns, and facilitate business-to-business networking.

While the Commercial Manager does not know everything going on in the business community, the Manager is knowledgeable about many behind-the-scenes issues, like what properties may have had underground storage tanks (or have had them properly removed), or why a site is unbuildable, or what buildings are eligible for special tax credits. The Manager also knows the history of some business relationships and why they are productive or why there may be some stress associated in the relationship.

Just as a Block Club Captain knows the "climate" of the block, a Commercial Manager learns to listen to the concerns of the business community and develops a sense of the community business "climate".

There are a variety of programs and resources which a Commercial Manager can introduce to a business. The Manager serves as the coordinator for the Cleveland Storefront

Renovation Program and the Storefront Renovation Loan Program. Both programs have requirements which appear overwhelming to the applicants but are made manageable by the coordinator. This program can provide a \$25,000 rebate for the exterior renovation of a commercial building.

The Cleveland Department of Economic Development offers several types of business loans, some with forgivable terms, for business which are creating or retaining jobs in the city. The Commercial Manager can outline these programs and bring the development specialist to the business for on-site assistance.

If business credit is an obstacle to traditional bank financing, the Commercial Manager knows what banks and agencies will work with businesses to secure financing for start-ups and expanding businesses. If the need is to overcome a temporary problem like seasonal inventory purchases, the Commercial Manager can match the need to the lender.

Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre each have Design and Review Districts which means that any changes to the exterior of a building and the outside property must be submitted for local review. The Commercial Manager guides the business through that process and can often be an advocate for approving changes which improve the community.

The most contentious issues a Commercial Manager and a City Council Member deal with are zoning variance

appeals. Often a business needs a zoning variance to relocate, expand or operate in a city where homes are adjacent to commercial property. The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) always asks the business if they have worked out the details with the local community development corporation and the local member of City Council. If not, then most likely the Board will reschedule the hearing until the business and CDC have met.

It is the Commercial Manager and other CDC staff who work with the business and business neighbors to craft a plan which brings benefits to the community. When an acceptable solution cannot be reached, all the parties know exactly why and can present their testimony to the Board for an impartial hearing.

Most often the CDC can work out a solution which is acceptable to the business and the community and then present it jointly to BZA. The Zoning Board is more disposed to approving a variance when all the parties are in agreement. Engaging the Commercial Manager early on can save a business time and money.

The Commercial Manager functions like a consultant to businesses, and at no charge. He or she knows the "go to" people who can help, and can help define opportunities or problems and introduce the resources a business needs to be successful. At the end of the day all business decisions remain with the business owner. If the Commercial Manager can provide information to a business owner which helps the owner make an informed decision, then the mission stated above is being fulfilled.

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New bed bug assistance program for income-eligible seniors

On December 2nd, 2013, The Cleveland Department of Aging launched a new program to help low-income seniors (60 years and older) and disabled adults with the extermination of bed bugs in their homes. To qualify, one must be an owner occupant of his/her home. The income guidelines programs are \$15,540 for a one-person household, \$17,780 for a two-person household, \$19,985 for a three-person household, and \$22,150 for a four-person household.

The program is limited to one service per household; however, one service can include multiple visits from the exterminator. The Cleveland Department of Aging has hired Acme Exterminating to complete the initial check and the exterminating services.

Applicants will be required to submit a signed application, proof of ownership (deed, mortgage statement, property tax records, etc.), proof of residency (current utility bill), a signed liability of waiver, and verify all household income. For more information, contact Jayme Lucas-Bukszar at 216-459-1000 or jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com.

**City of Cleveland
Repair-A-Home program**

The *Repair-A-Home* program is a program designed to help homeowners bring their homes up to building and housing code standards. The program provides a 50% grant and a 50% loan. Interest rates range from 0-3%, depending upon income; in some cases the loan would be deferred until the home is sold.

After an applicant is approved, City inspectors inspect the inside and outside of the home and repair specifications are written based on their findings. The City gets bids and hires and pays the contractor/s.

Note that the homeowner does not get to determine what repairs are made; the specifications are strictly based on the home inspection. That having been said, it is still a great program for those whose homes need to be brought up to standard.

The application process includes credit checks; however, there is no minimum credit score. The City looks at each application on a case-by-case basis. Homeowners need to submit a signed application, proof of income and assets, homeowner insurance and recent utility bills. For more information, contact Jayme Lucas-Bukszar at 216-459-1000 or jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com.

Free snow removal (sidewalk only) & grass cutting for income-eligible seniors

The Cleveland Department of Aging also offers the Chore program. Low income seniors (60 years and older) and disabled adults can qualify for free snow removal and grass cutting services and smoke alarm installations. After an applicant is approved, he/she will receive services all year. Applications are being accepted for 2014.

The snow removal is for the sidewalk only, with the goal of having a safe path to and from the home. Driveways and aprons are not covered with this program. Crews will come out at least once a month for snow removal and grass cutting.

The income guidelines programs are \$15,540 for a one-person household, \$17,780 for a two-person household, \$19,985 for a three-person household, and \$22,150 for a four-person household. For more information, contact Jayme Lucas-Bukszar at 216-459-1000 or jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com.

Tips for safe walking in snow and ice

by the Snow & Ice Management Association

As snow begins to fall over much of the U.S. and Canada, and we gear up for winter 2013-2014, here are several tips to help consumers walk safely in snow and ice from the Snow & Ice Management Association, the North American trade association representing snow removal professionals.

Falls account for more than one million injuries in the U.S. annually. There are four types of walking accidents with the most common being the slip and fall. That's the type of fall that happens when you fall due a surface not cleared of snow or ice.

"Every winter the hazards of driving in snow and icy conditions are noted, but rarely is walking on snow and ice addressed," said Martin B. Tirado, CAE, Executive Director of the Snow & Ice Management Association. "Slipping and falling while walking accounts for a large number of winter-related injuries and can have an impact on the quality of life for the injured person."

SIMA, the national nonprofit organization representing the snow removal industry, has some tips on safe winter walking.

■ TIP #1: Wear proper footwear. Proper footwear should place the entire foot on the surface of the ground and have visible treads. Avoid a smooth sole and opt for a heavy treaded shoe with a flat bottom.

■ TIP #2: Accessorize to see and be seen. Wear sunglasses so that you can see in the reflective light of the snow. Also, wear a bright coat or scarf so that drivers can easily see you.

■ TIP #3: Plan ahead. While walking on snow or ice on sidewalks or in parking lots, walk consciously. Instead of looking down, look up and see where your feet will move next to anticipate ice or an uneven surface. Occasionally scan from left to right to ensure you are not in the way of vehicles or other hazards.

■ TIP #4: Make sure you can hear. While seeing the environment is important, you also want to be sure you can hear approaching traffic and other noises. Avoid listening to music or engaging in conversation that may prevent you from hearing oncoming traffic or snow removal equipment.



■ TIP #5: Anticipate ice. Be wary of thin sheets of ice that may appear as wet pavement (black ice). Often ice will appear in the morning, in shady spots or where the sun shines during the day and melted snow refreezes at night.

■ TIP #6: Walk steps slowly. When walking down steps, be sure to grip handrails firmly and plant your feet securely on each step.

■ TIP #7: Enter a building carefully. When you get to your destination such as school, work, shopping center, etc., be sure to look at the floor as you enter the building. The floor may be wet with melted snow and ice.

■ TIP #8: Be careful when you shift your weight. When stepping off a curb or getting into a car, be careful since shifting your weight may cause an imbalance and result in a fall.

■ TIP #9: Avoid taking shortcuts. Shortcuts are a good idea if you are in a hurry, but may be a bad idea if there is snow and ice on the ground. A shortcut path may be treacherous because it is likely to be located where snow and ice removal is not possible.

■ TIP #10: Look up. Be careful about what you walk under. Injuries also can result from falling snow/ice as it blows, melts, or breaks away from awnings, buildings, etc.

Following these tips will help ensure that you survive the snow and ice season safely. For more snow and ice removal tips, visit SIMA.



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Writing down family memories -- in this case, Christmas -- is a good holiday gift for siblings

by Lynette Filips
lynettef@oldbrooklyn.com

For some folks, Christmas giving was finished on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, and by now the tree is down and the unwanted gifts have been returned/exchanged at the store.

For another group, the Season lasts through Twelfth Night, traditionally the evening before January 6th, and socializing with gift-giving continues during that time.

For yet another small -- but hopefully growing -- group, gift-giving at Christmas is becoming less about buying (and returning) material things and more about sharing experiences and memories.

Judging from the filled-to-capacity performances at Playhouse Square last month, sharing the pleasure of a theatrical experience in downtown Cleveland has been on many tens of thousands of peoples' holiday lists. (How abandoned and lacking in energy today's downtown Cleveland would be if it weren't for Ray Shepardson having the vision and drive in the 1970s to spearhead the movement to restore the theaters there.)

I was fortunate to be able to see a few plays at Playhouse Square this holiday season, and one of them, Cleveland Play House's production of *A Christmas Story*, took me back mentally to a childhood from pretty much the same era. It also made me all the more determined to follow through on a suggestion I had heard last spring at a Cuyahoga Valley Genealogy Society meeting.

The speaker at that particular meeting was from the Church of the Latter Day Saints, and although his stated topic was to update us about recent changes to the Church's genealogy research website, www.familysearch.org, he also recounted how the Christmas present he and his siblings had been exchanging in recent years was pages of written memories from their youth.

(The Mormons are very 'into' genealogy because a part of their religious beliefs is that they can baptize their deceased ancestors.)

I liked the sharing memories idea, and hoped that I could talk my three siblings into doing it. If we would keep at it year after year, we would ultimately have a priceless collection to share with each other and our children/grandchildren.

At first I didn't know which memory to choose the first year, but seeing *A Christmas Story* made me think that writing about Christmas would be an easy way to get into it.

I wrote far more to share with my siblings that I could fit on this page, but in the hope that I might inspire some other readers to do the same thing, the rest of this month's article will consist of a portion of what I sent them.

In one respect, thinking about how we celebrated the holidays from the mid-1950s to

the mid-1960s, the Christmas season for kids, even then, began around Halloween, when the annual Sears & Roebuck toy catalogue arrived in the mail. People talk about all the holiday ads these days, but I have yet to see a toy catalogue from anywhere which compared to that one from Sears. It didn't hurt to dream...

The second stage of the Christmas season came the day after Thanksgiving. That was the time my mother set aside for making the fruitcakes, which had to 'age' for a month in the cool closet in the vestibule. The recipe came from her mother, and it was truly delicious. I could never understand fruitcake jokes until I tasted other peoples' fruitcakes.

Unfortunately, my mother quit making fruitcake after medical science became aware of the damaging effects of fats and cholesterol on the circulatory system. Her family recipe was loaded with too many bad things in that regard. But making Christmas cookies was a big part of the pre-holiday season, too, so then we just concentrated more on that.

Christmas cards were more important in those days than they are today, and the U.S. Postal Service had two deliveries a day, plus Sunday deliveries, when it got very close to Christmas. My mother sent over a hundred

cards, with hand-written messages of varying lengths on each one. (There weren't any Xerox machines, and virtually no one sent mimeographed form letters.) I loved peaking at them to see what she wrote about each of us.

My mother insisted that my father write his own cards to his World War II buddies, though. He pretty much wrote the same thing every year -- about how he couldn't believe another year had gone by. So his notes weren't as much fun to read.

Only a few people sent photo Christmas cards with a picture of their kids on it.

The "Brownies" decorated our Christmas tree on the night before Christmas Eve. As a very young child, I went to bed imagining little elves scampering around the branches, not at all clear on how they did it, but full of anticipation as to what the decorated tree would look like in the morning.

Maybe our tree got decorated so late in the season because we usually didn't have a tree till right before Christmas. My father waited till the Christmas tree lots which sprung up on corners and in parking lots and gas stations around town significantly reduced the price of whatever trees were left. That usually meant a tree with a crooked trunk, but we loved it anyway. I recall that one year he had to attach a hook in the ceiling to stabilize it.

The decorations on our trees were typical of the 1950s -- strings of multicolor indoor lights, multicolor ornaments of varying sizes, silver-colored icicles, which we called tinsel, and a fabric angel with fiberglass hair which attached to the top of tree via a cardboard tube under the skirt...

My memories go on, but the allotted space does not. But I hope that you've read enough to be motivated to do the same thing.



by Gail Ghetia Bellamy
Gray & Co. Publishers; 2012



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"The A.L.I.C.E. Program and the Active Shooter"

Most institutions rely on traditional stand-alone "lockdown" protocols that can be deadly if you are in a location which cannot be secured or your secured location is breached by the intruder. When faced with an Active Shooter, our A.L.I.C.E. Program (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) prepares individuals who may find themselves facing a violent intruder. Our comprehensive approach integrates strategies using environmental design, technology, communication, law enforcement response and proactive mindset for those in immediate danger.

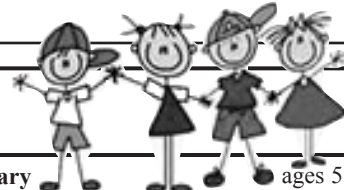
Why does your organization need Violent Intruder Defense Training?

Plain and Simple: To Save Lives! The majority of casualties from Active Shooter events happen within the first four to ten minutes. The critical gap in time between when the shooter first pulls the trigger and when Law Enforcement arrive is where we focus the majority of our training. The action taken by citizens under attack during these critical first minutes can mitigate the number of lives lost. People in the crisis zone have only minutes or even just seconds to live while waiting for law enforcement to respond.

Let us know how we can make your environment a safer place:

Barbara Spaan
216-459-1000
barbaras@oldbrooklyn.com

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Art House
 3119 Denison Ave., 216-398-8556
 www.arthouseinc.org
All Ages Family Open Studios - 3rd Sat. of every month. Make individual pieces or family art works. Each month has different theme; Art House provides materials. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No pre-registration required. *Visit website for other programs or more info.*

Children's Museum of Cleveland
 10730 Euclid Ave. 216-791-7114
 www.clevelandchildrensmuseum.org
 Hours: Mon. - Sun., 10 am - 5 pm. Exhibit areas close 15 min. prior to Museum closing. Cost - \$7, children age 1 - 12; \$6, adults & children 13 & over; free, under 11 months.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration - Mon., Jan. 20th; 10 am - 4 pm. Half-price admission \$4.

Christmas Story House
 3159 W. 11th St. 216-298-4919
 www.AChristmasStoryHouse.com
 Tours of *A Christmas Story House* every half hour beginning at 10:15 am. Last tour begins at 4:30 pm. Purchase tickets at gift shop, 3166 W. 11th St., across from house. Admission -- \$10, adults; \$8, seniors; \$6, children aged 7 - 12; free for children 6 & under. Price includes guided tour of house & yard & admittance to museum. Hours: Mon. - Sat., 10 am - 5 pm; Sun., 12 - 5 pm; year-round.



Cleveland Botanical Garden
 11030 East Blvd. 216-721-1600
 www.cb garden.org
Recycled Bird Feeders - Sat., Jan. 11th, 18th, 25th; 1 - 3 pm. Use recycled items to make feeder to hang outside. No registration required. Free with Garden admission.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Children's craft - Mon, Jan. 20th, 1 - 3 pm. Using seeds & plants important to African-American agriculture, make a children's craft to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. No registration required. Free with Garden admission.

Cleveland Metroparks Winter Recreation Fun
 Enjoy sledding, cross-country skiing, ice fishing & ice skating at various locations. Use caution & proper equipment; use area only when proper weather/snow-ice conditions exist. Call any park district facility, 216-635-3200, or visit www.clevelandmetroparks.com for more info.

Cleveland Metroparks - Brecksville Nature Center
 9000 Chippewa Creek Dr. 440-526-1012
Drop in Discovery - Snowflakes - Sat., Jan. 11th; learn how to capture flakes, make a fossil impressions & observe snowflakes with microscopes & hand lenses.

Drop in Discovery - Box Turtles - Sun. Jan 12th, learn about box turtles & meet ours; make a craft to take home.

Drop in Discovery - Pinecone Birdfeeders - Sun., Jan. 26th; make a pinecone birdfeeder to take home for the birds to enjoy. All programs are 10 am - noon.

Cleveland Metroparks - Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation's CanalWay Center
 E. 49th St. bet. Grant Ave & Canal Rd.
 216-206-1000 or clevelandmetroparks.com
Family Movie Night - Thurs., Jan. 9th; 7 - 8:30 pm. *The Lion King*. Snacks will be available for purchase. Call to register.

Sunday Funday - Sun., Jan. 12th; 2 - 3 pm. A day all about snow. head outside for some snow fort or snow people building. Even if there is no snow you will have plenty of fun. Come back in with hot chocolate & create a snow craft.

Family Camp-in - Fri. Jan. 17th; 7:30 pm - 11 am. both indoor & outdoor fun. meet the nature center animal, go for hikes, play games, & enjoy the park throughout the night & into the morning. Ages 6 yrs. & over with adult. Fee \$25 per family. Registration required.



Cleveland Metroparks Chalet
 Valley Parkway, Mill Stream Run
 Strongsville 440-572-9990
Tobogganing - Open thru mid-March: Thurs., 6 - 10 pm; Fri., 6 - 10:30 pm; Sat., noon - 10:30 pm; Sun., noon - 5 pm. Holiday Cost - adults, \$10; children ages 11 & under, \$8. One time ride tickets, \$4. Season passes -- adults, \$40; children 11 & under, \$30. Family pass (up to four) available. Discount on season passes if purchased before Dec. 24th. Call for holiday hours.



Winterific - Sun., Jan. 6th; noon - 5 pm. Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing or ice fishing; watch dog sled demonstrations, see ice carvings, take a winter hike, build a snow shelter; music, refreshments & more. Call 440-734-0660 for more info.

Cleveland Metroparks - Garfield Park Nature Center
 11350 Broadway Ave.
 216-341-3152
Hibernation Celebration - Thurs., Jan. 17th, 10:30 - 11:30 am; ages: 3 - 5 with an adult; free. Bring favorite stuffed animal or blanket along for this celebration of sleeping animal friends. Read stories, sing songs & make a craft while learning about hibernation. Call to register. Adults must attend, but do not need to register.

Fermentation Workshop - Sat., Jan. 18th; 1 - 2:30 pm. Did you know you can make your own variety of healthful drinks, salads, & side dishes with nothing more than vegetables, salt, & a jar. Learn of the health benefits of fermented foods, sample some new foods, & make your own jar of sauerkraut to take home. Fee \$5/family.

Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Nature Center/Frostville Museum, Rocky River
 Reservation 24000 Valley Pkwy., North Olmsted 440-734-6660
Snow Globe - Tues., Jan. 7th; 1 - 2:30 pm. Join Naturalist Jen Brumfield for a winter wonderland hike through the Rocky River Valley. Learn why snow is important for animals throughout the world, & how how they survive tough winter. 1 mile or less.

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
 3900 Wildlife Way 216-661-6500
 clemetzoo.com
Reduced Winter Admission - Now - Mar. 31st; both Zoo & RainForest. Adult admission, \$8.25; children 2 - 11, \$5.25; under two & Zoo members, free. Complimentary heated transportation; free parking. Open daily 10 am - 5 pm.

Polar Bear Days - Jan., 2nd - 31st; 10 am - 5 pm. Whenever high temperature for day is 32 degrees or below, *Polar Bear Day* declared at Zoo. Zoo visitors receive half-price admission on that day -- adults: \$4.25, children: \$2.75, kids under 2 & Zoo members: free. To confirm *Polar Bear Day* at Zoo, visit Zoo's home page or call 216-661-6500 or listen to Cleveland's New 102, WDOK from 6 - 10 am daily. Polar Bear Days also announced on Zoo's Facebook page & Twitter.

Cleveland Museum of Natural History
 1 Wade Oval Dr.
 216-231-4600 www.cmnh.org
 Hours: Mon. - Sat., 10 am - 5 pm; Wed., 10 am - 10 pm; Sun., noon - 5 pm. Adults, 19 & up, \$12; \$6 after 5 pm on Wed.; Youths, 3 - 18, \$10; College students with ID, \$10; Seniors 60 & up or with a Golden Buckeye card, \$10; toddlers, 2 & under, free.

Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl: Home Sweet Home - Now - Sun. Jan. 19th. The exhibit encourages families to spend time together outdoors & inspires children to discover & care for the natural resources.

Tracks in Snow, Birds in Sky - Sun., Jan. 19th; 1 - 3 pm. Register. Discover what creatures are revealing their movements through tracks & signs in the snow & winter landscape at the Museum's Grimm Fen. If snow is too deep, we can walk the meadow trails at Burton Wetlands area looking for signs of small mammals & birds. Members: \$8; non-members: \$12.

Winter Discovery Day - Mon, Jan. 20th 10 am - 4 pm. Free admission

Cuyahoga County Public Library Parma-Snow Branch
 2121 216-661-4240;
 www.cuyahogalibrary.org
9 am - 9 pm, Mon - Thur.; 9 am - 5:30 pm, Fri. & Sat.; 1 - 5 pm, Sun.
Happy New Year - Happy New Library. Tues., Jan. 7th; 2 pm. or Thurs., Jan. 9th 7 pm. Special tour brand-new library, including the huge auditorium, fun youth space & much more, come back to the story-craft rm & make a souvenir bookmark to take home.

Meet Author, Keith Baker - Wed., Jan. 15th, 7 pm. Family. Author & illustrator of several acclaimed picture books for young children. His book LMNO Peas takes a trip through the alphabet with a cast of playful peas participating in various hobbies & careers.

The Comedy Magic of Michael Mage - Sat., Jan. 18th, 2 pm., All ages. Michael Mage incorporates comedy & audience participation.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Happy Days Lodge
 500 West Streetsboro Rd (SR 303)
 Peninsula 330-657-2909 ext. 119
 Year round, daily, 10 am - 4 pm; free. Some park areas close at dusk; remaining areas open 24 hours.

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad Peninsula Explorer Ride - Rockside Station
 800-468-4070 visit www.CVSR.com
Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (CVSR), Rockside Station, 7900 Old Rockside Rd.
 800-468-4070 www.cvsr.com

Home Depot
 homeimproverclub.com/kdsworkshops
Fun Desk Calendar - Sat., Jan. 4th.
Build a Race Car - Sat., Feb. 1st. Workshops offered 1st Sat. of every month, 9 am - noon. Free hands-on workshops designed for kids ages 5 - 12 at all Home Depot stores.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center
 28728 Wolf Rd.
 440-871-2900 www.lensc.org
The You-niverse - Recommended for families with children of all ages Sat. & Sun. in Jan; 1:30, 2 & 2:30 pm. in Schuele Planetarium; Feb. 8, 15, 22 & 23 only in StarLab. What's up in tonight's sky? Have fun under the stars with the whole family! Locate the Moon! Find the planets! identify the constellations & find out how they got their names. Homework after the show: Discover the universe in your own backyard. Fee: \$3/person.

Owl Prowl - Fri., Jan. 24th; 7 - 8:30 pm. & adult hike. Adults & families with children

ages 5 & up See live owls up close. Younger children & families will make an owl craft, go on a shorter night hike & end the evening warming up with hot cocoa. Adults & families with middle & high school aged students will go on a longer night hike that will end after the Center is closed, bring a thermos to fill with something warm. Fee: \$7/person; \$35/family.

Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage
 2929 Richmond Rd.
 216-593-0575 www.maltzmuseum.org
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration - Mon., Jan. 20th; 11 am - 5 pm. Free admission.

Quicken Loans Arena, 1 Center Court
 1-888-894-9424 www.theQarena.com
Disney On Ice presents "Lets Celebrate" - Jan. 10th - 19th., 7 pm. Tickets: \$17 - \$70. Enjoy a winter wonderland with Mickey Mouse & Minnie Mouse, a Halloween haunt with the Disney Villains, a Very Merry Unbirthday Party, a Royal Ball with the Disney Princesses & more in a magical medley of holidays, celebrations & festivals from around the globe.

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum
 1100 E. 9th St. Rock & Roll Blvd.
 216-781-76257 www.rockhall.com
"Rolling Stones: 50 Years of Satisfaction"
 Open every day, 10 am - 5:30 pm, Wed. until 9 pm. Adults: \$22, Cleveland residents: \$18 (440, 441, 442 or 443 zip codes with ID) seniors (65+)/military: \$17 (with ID), children 9 - 12, \$13; 8 & under free with purchase of adult admission. Members free.

Severance Hall
 11001 Euclid Ave.
 216-231-1111 www.clevelandorchestra.com
Martin Luther King Jr. Community Open House - 12 noon - 5 pm. An afternoon of performances & activities. Free admission, no tickets required.

University Circle
 216-791-3900 www.universitycircle.org
The Rink at Wade Oval - Open now - March 9th; Fri., noon - 9 pm; Sat., noon - 7 pm; Sun., noon - 5 pm. Bring own skates or rent for \$3; hot chocolate & coffee available. Call 216-707-5033 for daily info.



Movie Night at The Rink - Jan. 25th Miracle. Movies will begin at 5pm.

Snowman Making Contest - Sun., Jan. 26th from Noon to 3pm. Come out to Wade Oval to make a snowman! Best snowman wins a great University Circle prize.

THEATER NOTES



Brecksville Theater on the Square
 Old Town Hall, 49 Public Square
 routes 82 & 21
 440-526-3443 Theater@btots.org
"Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"
 Fri. & Sat., Jan. 31st & Feb. 1st, Feb. 7th, 9th, 14th & 16th. Call or email for more info. Tickets can only be purchased online, \$14.

Cleveland Public Theatre (CPT)
 6415 Detroit Ave. 216-631-2727 ext 205
 www.cptonline.org
James Levin Theatre
"Exact Change"
 Thurs., Jan. 9th - Sat., Jan. 25th; 7 pm.

Gordon Square Theatre
"Air Waves"
(Part Three of the Elements Cycle)
 Thurs., Jan. 30th - Sat., Feb. 15th; 7:30 pm.
 \$12 Mon. & Thur. performances - Free beer Friday - mingle with the artists after the show while enjoying a free drink. Tickets: \$12 - \$28.

Playhouse Square Center
 1501 Euclid Ave.
 216-241-6000
 www.playhousesquare.org
Second Stage area of the
Allen Theatre
"Joshua Seth's Beyond Belief"
 Sat., Jan. 4th & Sat. Feb. 8th; 7 & 9:30 pm. Tickets: \$22.

"Last Call Cleveland"
 Fri., Jan. 17th - Sat., Feb. 1st. Tickets: \$18 in advance; \$20 day of show. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm.

Kennedy's Theatre
"Flanagan's Wake"
 Fri., Jan. 3rd - Sat., Apr. 26th; Fri. & Sat., 8 pm. Tickets: \$25.

U.S. Bank Star Performance Series at the Palace Theatre
"Chicago"
 Tues., Jan. 7th - Sun., Jan. 12th. Tues. - Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 1:30 & 7:30 pm; Sun., 1 & 6:30 pm. Tickets: \$10 - \$75.

Cleveland Play House at the Allen Theatre
"Yentl"
 Fri., Jan. 10th - Sun., Feb. 2nd. Tickets: \$45 - \$72. Check website or call for times & days.

Hanna Theatre
"Menopause The Musical"
 Tues., Jan. 14th - Sun., Feb. 2nd. Tues., Wed., Thurs. & Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 1:30 & 7:30 pm; Sun., 1 & 6:30 pm. Tickets: \$10 - \$60.

Ohio Theatre
"The Very Hungry Caterpillar & Other Eric Carle Favorites"
 Sat., Jan. 18th & Sun., Jan. 19th. Sat. 11 am & 2 pm. Sun. 2 pm. Tickets: \$10 - \$15.

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School registration information

Mary Queen of Peace School
 Preschool - grade 8. Cleveland Scholarship & Tutoring vouchers accepted for K - 8. Applications in school office. Student Shadow days welcome! County vouchers OK for Preschool. Stop by for a tour or call 216-741-3685 Mon. - Fri., 7:30 - 3:30. Visit mqp-school.com or school's Facebook page for more info.

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

St. Leo the Great Preschool Registration
 Preschool located at 4940 Broadview Rd. on second floor of St. Leo's Community Center. Licensed by the Ohio Department of Education & operated according to mandated rules & regulations. Part-time am & pm classes & full-day program with option for extended care for 3 & 4 year olds. To be eligible for enrollment, child must be 3 by September 30th. Bring child's birth certificate & \$50 registration fee; registration continues till all classes fill. Contact school's director Lisa Mersek, 216-661-5330, to schedule appointment or for more info.

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
 St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Elementary School, 4600 State Rd., accepting applications for preschool - grade 8. Before/after school services available; also daycare when school's not in session, (inc. summer). FREE tuition possible for every family through Cleveland Scholarship & Tutoring Program. School program includes technology instruction in new computer lab, enhanced learning through use of interactive Smart Boards, instrumental music & art instruction, CYO athletic options, & much more. Call 216-749-7980 or visit www.smbyz.org for more info.

West Side Ecumenical Ministry (WSEM)
 Enrolling for Early Childhood Education. Early Head Start, Head Start & Universal Pre-Kindergarten for children ages birth - age 5. Offers home-based program to meet needs of area families. Free services to eligible families; also accepts county vouchers. comprehensive services to meet educational, health, dental, nutritional, social, mental health & any special needs of children. Several program options & locations. Contact recruitment hotline, 216-961-2997, for more info.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Brooklyn Centre Naturalists annual strategic meeting, Sat., Jan. 18th, 10 am - noon; Cleveland Public Library-Brooklyn Branch. Facilitator Tom Romito will help BCN finalize its goals for 2014.

Brooklyn Genealogy meeting, 2 pm, Sun., Jan. 19th, Brooklyn Fire Station, 8400 Memphis Ave. at Roadan. For information about the group contact president Ann Wojtowicz, wojtowicz6809@roadrunner.com.

Historical Society of Old Brooklyn meeting, 7 pm, Fri., Jan. 10th, Pearl Road United Methodist Church, 4200 Pearl Rd. (Use rear entrance off parking lot.) HSOB members Greg Cznadel & Patti Hjort, dressed in period costume, speaking about Victorian funeral customs. Call president Constance Ewazen, 216-398-8969, for more info.

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.

Second District Police Community Relations meeting, Tues., Jan. 14th (& 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., Jan. 9th (& every second Thurs.), 7 pm, Calvary Chapel Church, 6770 Brookpark Rd.

Ward 13 Democratic Club meeting, Tues., Jan. 21st (& every third Tues.), 7 pm, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 5801 Memphis Ave.

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Cookies & Cocoa with Santa

On Saturday, December 14th, at MetroHealth's Old Brooklyn Health Center, hundreds of children and adults had fun at Cookies & Cocoa with Santa. On the left, John was having fun with the singing and dancing bear. Below Skyleigh and Madison were very excited when Santa came through the door. They followed him to his chair where he sat and listened to all the kids' Christmas wishes and had their picture taken with him. They also made crafts, ate cookies and drank cocoa.



Below and to the right are scenes from the Short and Sweet Shop showing off Art House's shiny, new floor. Twenty five different

artisans sold merchandise at the Holiday Shop over three weekends.



The Short and Sweet Christmas Tree was decorated with knitted, porcelain and canvas ornaments for sale.



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