

# OLD BROOKLYN NEWS

Serving the Community Since 1978

November 2014 Volume 36 Number 9

## Old Brooklyn homeowners transform yard into Halloween tradition

by Ken Kalynchuk

In 2008, when Pete Marin first displayed the character Bumblebee from 2007's hit movie *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen* in his front yard, he had no idea he had begun a Cleveland Halloween tradition.

It all started with his son pushing him to create the next big thing for his already impressive Halloween displays. Built out of wood and foam in six months, Bumblebee was quickly a hit with the public. Requests poured in for other models of characters to be built. An experienced woodworker, Pete obliged several requests and ended up with an Old Brooklyn October destination in his yard which rivals Boo at the Zoo and Honey Hut's pumpkin ice cream.

There are now six large replicas of the extraterrestrial robotic heroes in Pete Marin and Sarah Martinez's front yard at 4809 Wichita Ave. Made mostly of wood and foam, these works of art take Pete about six months to build, although he says the design and sketches take a brief amount of time.

In addition to Bumblebee, the 2014 display includes The Twins, Microbot, Barricade, and Optimus Prime, the beloved patriarch of the good-guy Autobots in the theatrical series. Optimus towers above the street at 17 feet tall. In past years, visitors also saw a full-bodied Megatron, the arch nemesis of the Autobots, at 22 feet tall. With the unveiling of The Twins this year, Megatron's head is now held in Optimus Prime's hand, in a sign of his victory over

the Decepticons.

The Transformers display runs from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. every night, from the beginning of October through the second weekend of November (November 7th this year). The display includes music from the movies, lights, and other effects, which delight kids of all ages from around the state.

While gawking at the craftsmanship of the Transformers, visitors will likely hear from Sarah Martinez, who will gather kids and engage them in Transformers-themed games and related trivia. She admits that the display brings such delight to kids that it makes their day, and sometimes their year — neighbors begin asking about the showcase in the beginning of the summer. As the public relations coordinator for the Transformer display, Sarah agrees with Pete that their work improves the lives of people going through rough times — it provides an escape from their everyday struggles when they can enjoy such a great experience.

In the Transformers' seventh year, Pete says that 2014 has been the most hyped experience yet. National news outlets have caught on to the display, as CNN broadcasted a clip on its success. This summer, Paramount Studios sent a letter of recognition to Pete and Sarah, and invited the duo to help promote the new *Transformers 4: Age of Extinction* with a few of their models. The models were brought to local television studios and shown off at Cinemark Cinemas in Valley View during the movie's premiere.



At Halloween time, Sarah Martinez and Pedro Marin of 4809 Wichita Ave. are dwarfed by the huge Transformer figures which Pedro has made for their front yard over the years.

For their efforts, Pete and Sarah were given 500 movie tickets for fans of their Facebook page, *Transformer Halloween Display*. Approximately 800 fans showed up in an overwhelming sign of support and Paramount paid for tickets for all of them.

If this is being read on the day of print, all are invited to visit the night of October 31st between 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. in a block-closing surprise for Pete, thanks to much work from Sarah and the City of Cleveland.

Looking ahead, Pete and Sarah are planning a float for the 2015 Puerto Rican Day Parade, and are asking for some help to fund its creation. Please visit [www.gofundme.com/4rj36k](http://www.gofundme.com/4rj36k) to help make the float a reality. Although the couple loves providing this experience every year, they are looking forward to an off year to rest up and enjoy October out of state. Perhaps the support they receive from fans of all ages will keep them doing this indefinitely.

## OBCDC's Green Space Committee plants tree and puts marker at Foote Memorial Park

One of the green spaces in Old Brooklyn which has gotten a lot of attention this past summer is Foote Memorial Park -- the area at the southwest corner of the Pearl Rd. entrance to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

In spring, the Zoo replaced the lower-in-height, more natural sign there (and also at its Fulton Rd. entrance) with tall, electronic signage; the new sign is much more visible to visitors to our neighborhood who are unfamiliar with this area and looking for the Zoo.

At the same time they installed the new sign, the Metroparks also put in more elaborate landscaping in the area around it.

This past summer, the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation's (OBCDC) Green Space Committee planted a tree at Foote Park in memory of 2014 being the bicentennial of our neighborhood's settlement by people of European descent.

Then on October 7th, the stone monument OBCDC purchased from Milano Monuments to mark the tree was installed at Foote Park. It reads:

*Black Gum - Tupelo  
Nyssa Sylvatica  
Native Tree Planted By The  
Old Brooklyn Community  
Development Corporation  
in Honor Of  
Old Brooklyn's Bicentennial  
1814 - 2014*

Foote Memorial Park was dedicated to two Brooklyn women, Miss Mabel Foote and Miss Louise Wolf, who on February 16th, 1921, were murdered on their way home (walking to the State Rd. dinky) from teaching school in Parma.

The murder was never solved, and their deaths were highly traumatic for the commu-

nity. Thus, in just over a decade, Foote Memorial Park came into being --

In his book *The History of Parma*, Ernest Kubasek wrote, "On December 1, 1932, in a small park dedicated to the memory of these two Brooklyn teachers, the Women's Civic League of Brooklyn, the Cuyahoga County Teachers and the Brooklyn Memorial M..E. Sunday School and Gleaners Class and the Cleveland Teachers dedicated and placed in this little park three small marble benches, a marble water fountain and a stone in honor of the memory of Mabel Foote and Louise Wolf. The park and the memorials are still seen at the south end of the Brookside Bridge on Pearl Road at the entrance road to Brookside Park."

OBCDC's Green Space Committee also planted a second bicentennial tree at Estabrook Recreation Center, 4125 Fulton Rd.



(Left to right) - Steven Souris and Michael Milano of Milano Monuments and John Jenkins of OBCDC's Green Space Committee enjoy a 'Kodak moment' in front of the marker after it was installed.



New Zoo sign

 Don't Forget  
Coming in December

 Cookies & Cocoa with Santa!

MetroHealth's  
Old Brooklyn Health Center  
4229 Pearl Rd.  
at Devonshire

See next month's  
Old Brooklyn News  
for more information



INSIDE THE OB NEWS

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## Tiffany Sedlacek

by Jayme Lucas-Bukszar  
jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com

Tiffany Sedlacek, a Brook Park native and resident of Old Brooklyn for six years, has been a lifelong volunteer and a dynamic member of our community. In high school, she was a member of Key Club, which is the high school version of Kiwanis. She participated in fundraising and service projects, including socializing at the senior center. She was also a camp counselor for the week-long camp that all 6th graders in the district attend. As a member of National Honor Society, she did yard work for seniors. She was also a teacher's aide who helped grade homework assignments.

Tiffany didn't have the time to volunteer when she was in college earning her undergraduate degree and missed it. She has a Bachelor in History degree from Baldwin Wallace College, an MBA from Kent State University, and a Master of Economics from Cleveland State University. She is also a member of the Cleveland Leadership Center Bridge Builder Class of 2015.

An avid runner, Tiffany noticed Old Brooklyn CDC while doing road races and learned that there was a whole network of community development corporations that did work that she wanted to be involved in. Shortly thereafter, she was invited to an *Old Brooklyn Buzz* meeting and everything took off from there.

Tiffany was inspired to launch the first neighborhood wide *Chili Cook off* last year along with other volunteers from *Old Brooklyn Buzz*. She got the idea from a friend who lives in a tightly knit neighborhood of Akron that holds annual chili cook offs along with other events. Tiffany thought it would be a good way to get people together in the fall, and build community. The event attracted 17 competitors and 75 attendees enjoyed the great chili.

Tiffany is taking the lead on planning the second *Chili Cook off*, which will be held on Saturday, November 15th at Grace Church from 3-5 pm. There is no charge to enter your chili or to taste. For contest entries, please



Photo by Jayme Lucas-Bukszar  
Tiffany Sedlacek

RSVP by November 8th, 2014 at oldbrooklynchili@gmail.com or https://www.facebook.com/events/854741641210883/.

This year, Tiffany took the lead on getting a Neighborhood Connections grant to introduce parents of middle school children in Old Brooklyn to existing resources to help kids prepare for and apply for college. The goal is to reach parents before their children are in high school so they know what classes to take and the importance of their grade point average. Organizations that will participate include College Now, Esperanza, Minds Matter, and Network for Neighborhood Services.

The grant will be used to purchase an I Pad Air to raffle off as a door prize. The date and venue will be announced once the details are finalized. Tiffany stated, "It's important to get parents involved early, many don't learn about the great resources available until it is too late."

When asked, why she wants to be involved with *Old Brooklyn Buzz*, Tiffany said, "I want to spend my money and time doing something to benefit the entire community. Because I don't have children, I have time and money that many parents don't have. And I find it rewarding to spend my resources helping the neighborhood". And she added, "I chose to invest in Old Brooklyn because it is centrally located, it's easy to get everywhere, and I found a great house."

Tiffany wants to encourage everyone who can to get involved in the community, "Don't be afraid to get involved in the neighborhood. Reach out and someone will direct you to a way you can help out!"

## From the desk of the executive director

by Jeffrey T. Verespej  
jeffv@oldbrooklyn.com

Although much of what is accomplished in community can be quantified – dollars invested, new businesses, job creation, Facebook 'likes' – there is a challenge in defining, much less quantifying, the word *community*. Old Brooklyn is filled with *community*, and in this month dedicated to giving thanks, I'd like to use this space to show some very recent examples of *community* building for which I am thankful.

In October we celebrated Fall-O-Ween at the MetroHealth Old Brooklyn campus. Over 500 children and their families enjoyed a few hours of fun – candy, arts and crafts, music, and lunch – for free, courtesy of the Old Brooklyn Community Collaborators. This group of businesses, residents and institutions commits to making this neighborhood better (beyond their daily responsibilities) through the planning and execution of this and other events. On a gorgeous sunny autumn afternoon, all of those costumed kids certainly experienced the pleasure of *community*.

Another example of *community* is the Green Space Committee of Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) working with the Cleveland Metroparks to install a historical marker at Foote Park in celebration of the Old Brooklyn Bicentennial. The Green Space Committee worked diligently throughout the year in partnership with the Cleveland Metroparks to identify a site, pick an appropriate tree to honor the bicentennial, and choose a marker that will hopefully be standing for future centennial celebrations.

Another group related to OBCDC, the Commercial Committee, organized a free educational seminar for their fellow small business owners which attracted dozens of Old Brooklyn enterprises. Both took the extraordinary efforts of *community* members who care for their neighbors and for their neighborhood. In what is becoming a yearly tradition, the gardeners at the Ben Franklin Community Garden donated almost 5,000 pounds of surplus produce to area food banks. This display of good will far exceeds contributions from other *community* gardens in Cuyahoga County.

Less beautiful but equally as important is the hard work put in by the volunteers in our neighborhood who work to keep our streets looking clean through abatement of graffiti. This past month a number of properties were hit by senseless vandals, but these *community* members worked with our businesses to clean up our streets almost as quickly as the graffiti appeared.



The *Old Brooklyn Buzz* continues to create positive change; these residents and business owners gathered to begin planning a college planning event for families of our neighborhood as well as the upcoming Old Brooklyn Chili Cook-off on Saturday, November 15th. In addition to the benefit the events themselves provide, fellow residents partnering for positive solutions cannot be valued enough in building *community*.

An exciting spin-off from all of the *community* building is an emergent group of parents from other neighborhood groups. Gathering around their shared interest in our neighborhood's youth, these parents are discussing ways to connect for programming, education and service. Along the way, they are creating *community*.

Let this be stressed: all of the above examples of *community* happened in the last month alone. And this list is far from comprehensive, but just a few slices of a pie that nourishes the soul of our neighborhood. For this and for so much more, we are thankful.

As is evident in these examples, Old Brooklyn is blessed with by its *community* builders, but more work needs to be done; even the most dedicated volunteers need the partnership of other hands to share the work and/or come up with new ideas to keep projects fresh.

Our neighborhood will fill those needs; we always have. Once that happens, new problems will be solved, and new friendships will be made. Celebrations will occur, and we will move forward. Now that might not be quantifiable, but it is critically important. Thank you for that, *Community*.

### OLD BROOKLYN NEWS

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#### Submission Deadlines

Display Ads . . . . . Wed. Nov. 19th  
Classified Ads . . . . . Wed. Nov. 19th  
News Releases . . . . . Wed. Nov. 19th  
For Information call 216-459-0135  
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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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Kathleen Jackson, Secretary Book Chrobak, Treasurer

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Jason A. Powers, Director of Marketing & Development  
Jayme Lucas-Bukszar, Residential Real Estate Project Manager  
Sandy Worona, Community Outreach Coordinator/OBN Advertising & Sales Manager

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, Ken Kalynchuk, Kim Repinski, 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 November**

**Have A Heart Spay/Neuter Program**  
Valley Save-A-Pet, in cooperation with more than 25 veterinarians offering low-cost spay/neuter services. Call 440-232-2287-Mon., Wed., Thurs or Fri. between 11 am & 2 pm to obtain form or for more info. Feral cat caretaker call Mon. only.

**Monday, November 3rd**

**Cuyahoga Valley Genealogy Society**  
Independence Civic Center, Willow Room, 6363 Selig Blvd., 7:30 pm. Joe Monsman of Hudson Genealogical Society presenting "Slovak & Hungarian Research Strategies". Will provide details about how to use ancestral villages to research church baptism and marriage records before 1895. Contact CVGS president Mary Boehnlein, 440-736 7180, or visit [www.cuyahogagenealogy.org](http://www.cuyahogagenealogy.org), for more info.

**Cemetery Decoration Removal**

Lutheran Cemetery, 4566 Pearl Rd. Removal of all summer/holiday flowers/decorations begins Tues., Nov. 4th. Winter decorations can be placed Fri., Nov. 14th.

**Thursday, November 6th**

**Towpath Trail Open House**

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 2187 W. 14th St.; 5 - 7 pm. Towpath Trail Partnership Committee, DLZ & Michael Baker Engineering will share preferred Towpath Trail route Alternative for Stages 1 & 4, provide land use scenarios for accompanying greenway & introduce interpretive themes & settings.

**Saturday, November 8th**

**Cleveland Grays GI Jive Swing Dance**

Grays Armory Museum, 1234 Bolivar Rd., near Playhouse Square. Swing Dance with Dan Zola Orchestra. Doors open 7 pm, free dance lesson 7:30 pm. Band plays 8 - 11 pm. Cash bar, raffle, prizes, armory tours. WWII era military & civilian attire encouraged but not required. Admission: \$25. Call 216-621-5938 or [www.graysarmory.com](http://www.graysarmory.com) for more info.

**Saturday, November 8th**

**4th Annual Stepping 4 Life Greek Step Show Competition**

Cleveland Public Auditorium/Music Hall, 500 Lakeside Ave. Presented by LifeBanc, to bring attention, education & awareness re: need for multicultural organ, eye & tissue donors through entertainment provided by step teams from Divine 9 Black Greek Organizations. Family-friendly show will feature 2 special guest comedians, Elec Simon & D'squared step team & Joe Torry. Attendees will have chance to win gift cards & prizes. Doors open 5 pm; show starts 6 pm. Tickets: \$15 in advance; \$20 at door. Children 12 & under: \$7 in advance & \$10 at door. Call LifeBanc, 216-752-5433, for more info.

## Veterans' Recognition Ceremony

To celebrate Veterans Day, Senior Citizen Resources (SCR) will be honoring those who served in the United States military with a special pinning ceremony at the Deaconness-Krafft Center, 3100 Devonshire Rd., on Tuesday, November 18th, at 10 a.m. Jan Lovelace from Hospice of the

Western Reserve will perform the welcome and the pinning ceremony. There will be a patriotic sing-a-long and blessing for our troops.

Veterans who would like to attend should R.S.V.P. by Tuesday, November 6th by calling 216-49-5367. Spouses of veterans are encouraged to attend. Bring a picture of yourself from your military days to display.

Americans have been blessed to live in freedom and safety, in a land full of opportunity. SCR's veterans believe that if it weren't for the United States military, we would not be the strong nation of people we are today.



**ATTENTION**  
**all Old Brooklyn residents!**  
**There is NO City**  
**pick-up of leaves.**

**You must bag**  
**the leaves and**  
**put them out**  
**with the trash.**

**Do not push them**  
**to the curb or the street.**

**Sunday, November 9th**

**The American Red Cross Blood Drive**  
St. Leo's Lux Hall, 4940 Broadview Rd.; 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Registering online @ [redcross-blood.org](http://redcross-blood.org) after you create a profile is optional. Or just stop by & donate.

**Monday, November 10th**

**Monday Night at the Movies**  
**"Beast of the Southern Wild"**

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

**Wednesday, November 12th**

**Westside Basket Guild**

St. James Lutheran Church, 4771 Broadview Rd., upstairs hall. Class starts at 5 pm; come any time up to 6:30 to start weaving. Meets on second Wed. every month. **Nov. 12th - Southwestern Work Basket**; \$21. **Dec. 10th - Candle Jar Basket**; \$20 w/jar & votive; \$17 w/jar or votive; \$14 without either (just the basket). Supplies to bring when weaving -- old towel, bucket, clothes pins, ruler, pencil, scissors. Call Connie, 216-749-7912, to RSVP.

**Thursday, November 13th**

**Antique Collectors Club**

Busch Community Meeting Rm., 7501 Ridge Rd., 7 pm. Speaker: Kevin Horak; Topic: Trimming the Christmas Tree from Royalty to Retail. Call Robert Murdoch, Publicity Chairman, 440-845-7046, for more info.

**Saturday, November 15th**

**America Recycles Day**

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, 10 am - 4 pm. One free admission with bag of aluminum cans or old cell phone & purchase of one regular admission. In addition to aluminum cans, cell phones & accessories, also recycle newspaper, catalogs, junk mail, magazines, & ink jet & toner print cartridges. Follow signs to collection area where staff members will assist you. Some restrictions may apply. Call 216-661-6500 or visit [clemetzoo.com](http://clemetzoo.com) for more info.

**Saturday, November 15th**

**Sokol Greater Cleveland's Holiday Fair**

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Historic Bohemian National Hall, 4939 Broadway Ave., 10 am - 4 pm. Imported Czech & Slovak items. Traditional Czech holiday foods for purchase. Dinners in lower level dining room, 11 am, featuring pork dinners, potato pancakes, garlic sausage, Kuba (barley casserole), stuffed cabbage, strudel, coffee & tea. Cash bars with Czech beer. Upper dining room menu: Chlebicky (open face sandwiches), Schnitzel, pastry, coffee. Admission & parking free. Contact [www.sokolgreatercleveland.org/HolidayFair](http://www.sokolgreatercleveland.org/HolidayFair) for more info.

**Saturday, November 15th, Friday, December 5th & Saturday, December 20th**

**Jim Ptacek Ornament Signing**

Ameriflag Inc., 3307 Broadview Rd.; 10 am - 2 pm. Local artist Jim Ptacek selling/signing new collection of 2014 pewter holiday ornaments. Ornaments as well as prints, Christmas cards & postcards also available. Call 216-661-2608, see the Ameriflag ad on page 12 of this issue, or visit [Ameriflag.com](http://Ameriflag.com) for more info.

**Saturday, November 22nd**

**Fall Harvest Dinner Dance**

Holy Spirit Party Center, 5500 W. 54th St.; Doors open 6 pm, w/hors d'oeuvres; buffet dinner, 7 pm; dancing & activities, 8 pm. Catering by Wal-Tams, entertainment by TKO. Tickets: \$40 per person. Call 330-322-4152 or visit [living-traditions.org](http://living-traditions.org) for more info.

**Sunday, November 23rd**

**Arts Renaissance Tremont Concert**  
**Members of The Cleveland Orchestra bass section Alicja Basinska, piano.** Pilgrim Congregational Church, 2592 W. 14th St.; 3 pm. Freewill donations.

**Monday, November 24th**

**Western Reserve Rose Society Meeting**

North Royalton Public Library, 5071 Wallings Rd; 7 pm. Edgar Stehl will discuss orchids (lovely indoor plants during cold winter months). Refreshments; all welcome.

**Mondays, November 24th - December 29th**

**Tai Chi Easy**

River's Edge, 3430 Rocky River Dr.; Mon., 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Fee: \$50/6 week session. Walk in \$10 Seated & standing flowing tai chi movements, self-healing techniques, & relaxation. For adults of all ages. Mike Reiling, Instructor. Call 216-688-1111 ext. 251 or email: [info@riversedgecleveland.com](mailto:info@riversedgecleveland.com) for more info or to register.

**Saturday, November 29th**

**The Cleveland Polka Association's Annual "Turkey Trot" Dance**

St John Byzantine upper hall, 1900 Carlton Rd. off Broadview just south of Snow Rd. (by elevator or stairs). Doors open 6; music 7 - 11 pm. by New Brass Express. Donation \$12, 18 & under free. No b.y.o.b., snacks are welcome. Call Jill at 440-319-1877 for large table reservations or more info. Public is welcome.

**Cuyahoga County Public Library**

**Snow Branch - 2121 Snow Rd.**  
**Computer Essentials.** Mon., Nov. 3rd, 1 pm.  
**Coping With Stress During the Holidays.** Mon., Nov. 3rd, 7 pm.

**Overview of Windows 8.1.** Wed., Nov. 5th, 2 pm.  
**The Golden Age of Shopping in Cleveland.** Sat., Nov. 8th, 2 pm.

**WWI Combat Medicine & the Founding of Cleveland Clinic.** Tues., Nov. 11th, 7 pm.

**Plain Dealer E-Edition Workshop.** Wed., Nov. 12th, 2 pm.

**Genealogy is a Journey of Discovery.** Sat., Nov. 22nd, 2 pm.

**Adult Book Discussions - Mon., Nov. 17th, 7 pm**  
- *The House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton; **Thurs., Nov. 20th, 11 am** - *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* by Karen Joy Fowler.

**Saturday, December 20th**

**Christmas Polka Night**

Durty Nelly's Pub, 1151 Pleasant Valley Rd; (in the shopping plaza @ Broadview & Pleasant Valley Rds. Koledy Music by: Honky Express, 7 - 11 pm. No cover charge. Great food, prices & wood dance floor. Call 440-845-1275 for more info.

**Volunteer tax preparers are needed**

Cuyahoga EITC Coalition, which provides free tax preparation services to 10,000+ community members annually, is looking for volunteers to help greet clients & prepare taxes at 25+ Cuyahoga County locations. Anyone can become a volunteer; no experience necessary. Just attend Coalition led training to become IRS-certified volunteer tax preparer. Sign up today by visiting [www.refundohio.org](http://www.refundohio.org). Contact Keely Andrews, [kandrews@enterprisecommunity.org](mailto:kandrews@enterprisecommunity.org), for more info.

**FREE!**  
**THANKSGIVING**  
**DINNER**

**Thursday November 27th**  
**11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**Mary Queen of Peace Church**  
**Parish Center cafeteria**  
**4423 Pearl Rd.**  
(meal site of St. Augustine Hunger Center)

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**AUCTION**

*ALL NEW ITEMS, INCLUDING: sporting goods, jewelry, games holiday items, small appliances, yard tools, toys and much more*

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Doors open at 12:00 noon at the  
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## Learn to become a Graffiti removal volunteer

by Barbara Spaan  
barbaras@oldbrooklyn.com

Do you ever wonder what graffiti means and why someone would put it on someone else's property? Why don't they get caught or be seen by someone?

These are all good questions about a negative action which occurs in Old Brooklyn almost once a week.

Graffiti has become a way for some people to express themselves. It's a form of art to them, and gangs mark territory with it. It's not nice

for the rest of us to look at, though, and most importantly, it's *against the law*.

People feel frightened, angry and/or sad when something is destroyed for no reason. Schools, businesses and communities spend

millions of dollars each year to clean up graffiti, repair buildings and replace vandalized equipment.

If you see any graffiti or know who is doing it, please contact Barb at 216-459-1000. The Old Brooklyn Community

Development Corporation (OBCDC) will document the graffiti with pictures and notify our graffiti volunteer of the location. He cleans or repaint jobs big and small.

OBCDC is looking for additional volunteers to help clean up a growing problem on our streets. If you would be interested in volunteering, contact Barb at the same phone number about that, too. Only together can we keep Old Brooklyn clear of graffiti.



Photo by Anthony Petti

Graffiti removal on Broadview Rd.- before and after



Photo courtesy of Dan Smith  
Familyography, 4193 Pearl Road

## Business owner dedicated to preserving family histories shares some of his own

by Jason A. Powers  
jasonp@oldbrooklyn.com

Old Brooklyn is home to a unique business. Familyography, located at 4193 Pearl Road, opened two years ago. I recently sat down with the owner, Daniel Smith, to learn more about this business and why he chose to locate it in our community.

Dan let me know that idea behind Familyography is that many people need help to preserve their family memories. As families grow, and new generations are born, many people do not have the equipment, knowledge or time to digitize their family memories and pass them on. Familyography's first store opened in Columbus, Ohio in 2008. "My original idea was to put together life stories, programs where families could put together interviews and photographs to preserve their past," Dan said. "But early on customers came to me with other requests, like photo scanning, videotape transfer or film transfer, and I quickly made adjustments to make Familyography a full service destination for preserving family memories."

When asked about why this is so important to him Dan shared a bit of his own family history. After graduating from Hiram College, his grandmother gave him a box full of family photographs and shared with him the history of each image. He took notes to go along with the photos, planning one day to write down the great story of his family.

"Years turned to decades and finally when I took a look through the box I realized that I hadn't taken the great notes as I had remembered and that many of the comments and dates had faded, as well as my memory of them." This experience inspired Dan to help others avoid his mistake.

to make informed, and intelligent choices in their own lives and for their future. That is why this is something worth doing."

Dan lives in Columbus, Ohio but is a Cleveland native. He was born at the former St. Alexis Hospital in what is now called Slavic Village. His parents moved to the suburbs when he was a young boy, but after a divorce, he moved back to the city with his mother and he attended South High School, graduating in 1975. "As a kid moving back into the city, I was probably a little scared. My mother put me in summer school the summer that we moved back in, mainly so she knew what I was doing during the day. I didn't like it, but I made good friends that I otherwise would not have made, and it helped with that "new kid" transition. I have great memories of my high school years. I had great friends and great teachers. I don't think I could have received a better education anywhere." After graduating from college, he studied American history at Vanderbilt University before getting a law degree at the Ohio State University. He practiced law for about 25 years before he put together the idea for Familyography.

Cleveland was always his first choice for Familyography's second store. "I have always proudly identified myself as a Clevelander," Dan said. "I had good business reasons for selecting Old Brooklyn as the location for my second store. It's easy to get to, close to downtown, relatively inexpensive and has the right neighborhood "vibe." But I have to admit, I am emotionally attached to this city. I am up here to manage the business every other week, and love every minute of it."

Whether it is scanning slides or transferring tape, Familyography has the capacity to digitize all of your family memories. Other big box stores offer similar some of these same services, but they ship your stuff out to facilities in other states, and sometimes out of the country, increasing the chances that priceless memories could be lost or damaged. That's one big way Familyography differs from the others. "All of our work is done at the store. Nothing is shipped. And just as important, you will meet the people who will be working on your stuff. We will have real conversations with you. You will, in a way, become part of our family. Our customers know that their memories are being protected and taken care of by someone they trust."



As a person with training as an historian, Dan knows that the importance of knowing your own family's history. "Knowledge of history is important. You get it from the news, from school and from your family. If your kids, and their kids, and their kids don't know where they came from, of the sacrifices that their mothers, father, grandparents and such made for them, then you deprive them of an important source of information that they need

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Although we didn't get to experience much of Indian Summer because we were in the office working on this issue of the newspaper, we were still very happy for the 60 to 70-degree temperatures this past week. Among other things, the warm, dry weather made the October 25th **Fall-0-Ween Festival** for almost 500 neighborhood children (See photos on page 12) a lot more pleasant than some other years. It took place inside and outside at **MetroHealth's Old Brooklyn Campus**.

Two weekends earlier, on Saturday, October 11th, **MetroHealth** conducted its first public meeting concerning the new **main campus** they're hoping to build. It was held at the **Family Ministry Center** at the corner of Trowbridge Ave. and Fulton Rd.

(That building was formerly **Blessed Sacrament Church**, and it sure was different being inside it now that the stained glass windows have been replaced with clear glass. The windows didn't go too far, though, as **St. Leo the Great Church** purchased them and had them installed over the modern variety of colored glass windows which were in style when that church was built.)

If MetroHealth goes through with what they have in mind, things will be very different at Trowbridge Ave. and W. 25th St., too. But the graphic -- minus a caption -- we had accompanying the article on the front of last month's *Old Brooklyn News* was not a picture of the new campus; it was merely an architect's version of what a new campus could look like. More green space is definitely in their plans though.

The October 10-12th weekend was also when the **Rhodes High School Alumni Association** hosted its **Hall of Fame induction** dinner and program. The Friday evening event was held at **Ridge Park Party Center** and some of the alums there came in from out-of-town to attend it.

Four people received awards -- Alum

**Frank Crisafi** (1952), alum **Nancy Wagner Elliott** (1959), alum **Pamela Barker** (1975) and current teacher and coach **Jim Zickel** were the four people recognized.

Summer has traditionally been the time when I've talked about changes in personnel at neighborhood churches (as well as student awards). This year I'm a little tardy in reporting that **Pastor Ivy Kirtdoll Smith, D.Min.**, has been a part-time local pastor at **Pearl Road United Methodist Church (UMC)**, 4200 Pearl Rd., since July 1st.

Pastor Ivy replaced **Rev. Bohyun Yu**, who served at Pearl Road for the year before that. Rev. Yu is now dividing his time between two Korean United Methodist churches, one in Parma and one in Mansfield.

The daughter of a minister, Pastor Ivy is from Mingo Junction, Ohio. In addition to her high school diploma from Mingo High School, she has earned a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications from the UMC's Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida; a Master of Theological Studies degree from the UMC's United Theological Seminary (UTS) in Trotwood (a suburb of Dayton); and a Doctor of Ministry degree, also from UTS.

Pastor Ivy is still in the process of ordination, but after she's ordained the prefix to her name will be Reverend instead of Pastor. Her past affiliations include being a member of the Shared Ministry of Simpson United Methodist Church and Phillips Chapel CME Church in Steubenville; and being the Director of Christian Education at McKinley Church in Dayton.

The Bishop of the UMC's East Ohio Conference chose Pastor Ivy for Pearl Road UMC at the Church's annual conference at Lakeside (between Sandusky and Cedar Point) in June. Pastor Ivy and her family (husband David and daughter Lydia) live in Parma. The Bible verse which most resonates with her is "With God all things are possible". (Mark 10:27)

Again I'm out of room before I'm out of church and school news. But if there's been a change of personnel in your church, or scholarship information from your school to share please email it to [Lynettef@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:Lynettef@oldbrooklyn.com) or snail mail it to 2339 Broadview Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44109.

## Rosemary Mudry joins OBCDC as Director of Economic Development.

(Editor's note: On October 28th, a newly created position at the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) was filled when Rosemary Mudry became a member of the Old Brooklyn team. So how did Rosemary go from being a student at Laurel School in Shaker Heights to our first Director of Economic Development? Here's her story in her own words --)

"While I was still in high school, I became very interested in issues around social justice and urban education. That led me to pursue a degree in Latin American Studies and Politics at Oberlin College. While at Oberlin, I got involved with the local schools and a summer program for at-risk youth.

After I graduated I moved back to Cleveland to coach high school field hockey and track and teach Spanish. Like many other young people who move back to Cleveland after college, I saw the City from a different perspective and enjoyed exploring neighborhoods and seeing historic buildings come to life through new uses.

My interest in cities grew from just issues around education to revitalization as a whole. A neighborhood planning class with Professor Norm Krumholz in Cleveland State's Master of Urban Planning Design and Development program introduced me to the world of community development.

I love how community development strives to improve the quality of life of people in the neighborhoods through the lens of physical development as well as social and human capital development. Since that course, I have become more involved in the field, completing a capstone project on the role of community development corporations in education and health initiatives as well as working as Near West Recreation Coordinator for Ohio City, Incorporated.

To me, what makes a neighborhood great is that human scale -- the ability to walk to the corner and grab a bite to eat with friends. Vibrant storefronts and restaurants spill onto the sidewalks with planters and patios and streets are lively. Great neighborhoods take advantage of their assets and celebrate and preserve their historic structures as well as their diversity.



Rosemary Mudry

I am excited to be a part of the team at OBCDC because Old Brooklyn is a neighborhood which has so many of those characteristics that make a place special and unique -- excellent assets from the Zoo and Cleveland Metropark's Brookside Reservation to beautiful old homes and longstanding businesses.

There are also plenty of spaces which give young professionals and entrepreneurs space to design and develop into small businesses and other community assets. I am inspired by the committed residents of this community and look forward to seeing challenges become opportunities for creating an even more complete neighborhood.

While I grew up on the east side in University Heights, I now live on the west side of Cleveland in the Jefferson neighborhood (the eastern edge of West Park). My husband Joel grew up in Old Brooklyn, and I have spent years listening to his nostalgic stories about growing here. So there's a personal reason for my wanting to improve the community which means so much to people I know.

We love exploring the Metroparks on weekends; there are so many amazing hikes and we discover new places and favorite spots all the time. We also enjoy taking advantage of the great culinary scene as well as going to Indians games in the summer and having friends over for Browns games in the fall. We also have a blast as tour guides convincing our friends and family from out of town how awesome Cleveland is."

## THEATER NOTES



### Beck Center

17801 Detroit Ave.

216-521-2540 [www.beckcenter.org](http://www.beckcenter.org)

#### Mackey Main Stage

"title of show"

Now - Sun., Nov. 16th. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Tickets: \$12 - \$29.

#### "Mr. Toad's Mad Adventures"

Fri., Nov. 7th - Sun., Nov. 9th; 3 pm. Student matinee: Thurs., Nov. 6th, 10 am. Tickets: \$10 - \$12.

### Cassidy Theatre

6200 Pearl Rd. 440-842-4600

[cassidytheatre.com](http://cassidytheatre.com)

#### "The Sound of Music"

Fri., Nov. 21st - Sun., Nov. 7th. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Tickets: adults, \$20; students/senior citizens, \$15.

### Cleveland Public Theatre (CPT)

6415 Detroit Ave. 216-631-2727 ext 205

#### "Y-Haven Theatre Project: What Is Inside"

Gordon Square Theatre - Thurs., Nov. 6th - Sun., Nov. 9th. Thurs. & Fri., 7:30 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Tickets: general admission, \$28 (\$3 discount for students & seniors); Thurs., \$12.

### Playhouse Square Center

1501 Euclid Ave. 216-241-6000

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

#### CSU at the Allen Theatre

"The Dybbuk"

Thurs., Nov. 6th - Sun., Nov. 16th. Thurs., Fri. & Sat, 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Tickets: \$10.

### Cleveland Play House at the Allen Theatre

"A Christmas Story"

Fri., Nov. 28th - Sun., Nov. 21st. Wed., Thurs. & Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat. & Sun., 2:30 & 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$55 - \$75.

### Great Lakes Theater at the Hanna Theatre

"Les Misérables"

Now - Sun., Nov. 9th. Wed., Thurs. & Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 1:30 & 7:30 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Tickets: \$15 - \$70.

### Connor Palace Theatre

"Disney's Newsies"

Tues., Nov. 4th - Sun., Nov. 16th; Tues. - Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 1:30 & 7:30 pm; Sun., Nov. 9th, 6:30 pm; Sun., Nov. 16th, 1 & 6:30 pm. Tickets: \$30 - \$100.

### Helen Rosenfeld Lewis Bialosky Lab Theatre

"The Three Sisters"

Wed., Nov 12th - Sat., Nov. 22nd; Wed., Thurs. & Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 3 & 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$15, Students under 24 with student ID, \$7.50.

### Kennedy's Theatre

"Cleveland Comedy Festival"

Mon., Nov. 17th - Sun., Nov. 23rd., 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$10 advance; \$12 day of show.

### Great Lakes Theater at the Ohio Theatre

"A Christmas Carol"

Sat., Nov. 29th - Tues., Dec. 23rd. Wed., Thurs., Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 1:30 & 7:30 pm; Sun., 3 & 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$15 - \$70.

### Cleveland Play House at the Outcalt Theatre

"How We Got On"

Now - Sun., Nov. 16th. Tues., 7 pm; Wed. & Thurs., 7:30 pm; Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 2:30 & 7:30 pm; Sun., 2:30 pm. Tickets: \$15 - \$59.

### Cleveland Public Theatre

at the Outcalt Theatre

"The Santaland Diaries"

Fri., Nov. 28th - Sun., Dec. 21st; Times vary check website. Tickets: \$30.

### State Theatre

"The Cleveland Orchestra presents

The Joffrey Ballet's Nutcracker"

Wed., Nov. 26th - Sun., Nov. 30th. Wed., 7 pm. Fri., Sat., Sun., 2 & 7 pm. Tickets: \$15 - \$97.

"Irving Berlin's White Christmas"

Tues., Dec. 2nd - Sun., Dec. 14th. Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 2 & 8 pm; Sun., 3 & 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$30- \$100.

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# Brooklyn Centre Naturalists & Art House organizing third Short and Sweet Holiday Shop

by Gloria Ferris  
Brooklyn Centre Naturalists

Brooklyn Centre Naturalists, Art House and their committee of local residents are working hard to set up the third annual *Short and Sweet Shop*, changing the Art House Studio (3119 Denison Ave.) into a shop filled with handcrafted gifts made by local artists and artisans.

Almost like magic, this special, unique holiday shop will "pop-up" on Friday, December 5th, and be a place for local shoppers to choose presents for the special people on their holiday lists. It will be here for two weekends and will disappear on Sunday, December 14th. The shop days will be Friday, December 5th; Saturday, December 6th; and Sunday, December 7th; Friday, December 12th; Saturday, December 13th; and Sunday, December 14th. The shop hours on Fridays will be from 4 to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Opening day Friday, December 5th will again feature the artist reception. Many artists will be on hand from 6 to 8 pm to visit with shoppers as well as to answer questions about technique or other aspects of their art.

The Art House studio, will again be transformed into a "shop" by a committee of local residents and the Stockyard, Clark-Fulton and Brooklyn Centre Community Development Office (SCFBCCDO) staff. These neighbors and friends will come together to create a unique opportunity for the artists and artisans who live in their midst. The Shop will showcase the art and crafts made by returning talented artists and artisans as well as some new ones.

This year, they are pleased to announce that three artists from the Hildebrandt Artist Collective will be joining them as well as other contributors who have been inspired to not only volunteer but to add their merchandise to the mix. With the support of SCFBCCDO, space at the Art House Studio and 25 participating vendors, the group intends to build on the success of previous years.

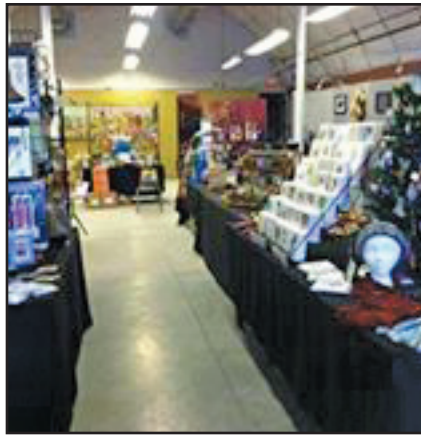


Photo courtesy of Gloria Ferris

This pop-up shop is different from similar events as it is completely organized and maintained by volunteers. Residents, the SCFBCCDO staff, Art House staff and board members and the contributing artists volunteer to run the shop. Volunteers are always welcome so please join if you would like.

Each year many returning artists and artisans because they enjoyed working at the shop, mingling with the community and sharing how they create their art. In fact artist Cat Zurchin of Prosperity Glass considers herself a founding member of the event. Here is her response to our invitation to participate.

"Yes, we will participate in your lovely show again this year. I feel like a founding member or pioneer and have a loyalty to the Short and Sweet Shop. I like supporting Art House; it is a fun time, and then there's the part where we make some money."

We have listened to our patrons and tried to include some of their gift requests to our array of merchandise. Our artists have proved to be a valuable resource in finding other artists who can expand our offering of gifts to the public.

Merchandise this year will include ceramics, stained glass, prints and cards, photos, knitted hats and scarves, purses made from neckties, aprons, books, pyrography (wood  
See *Holiday Shop* page 8

# OBCDC conducts Annual Meeting; Honors 3 inaugural Old Brooklyn Founders Awards



Photos by Jayme Lucas-Bukszar

John Young was honored for his leadership in and around Old Brooklyn. In addition to being an incorporator of OBCDC, he served as Board President, was the third generation owner of Speed Exterminating, and has been civically active in numerous business and community organizations around Cleveland. John is pictured with OBCDC Executive Director Jeffrey T. Verespej and his son, John Young.



Constance M. Ewazen received the Old Brooklyn Founders Award for her role in the founding of Old Brooklyn Montessori School, now called Old Brooklyn Community School. Constance is pictured with OBCDC Executive Director Jeffrey T. Verespej.



The Old Brooklyn Community Collaborators were honored for providing high quality programming for the youth of Old Brooklyn. This group of neighborhood leaders annually present Fall-O-Ween and Cookies & Cocoa with Santa. Pictured from left are George Jicha, Tom Kehoe, Lori Peterson, Kathy Violand, Dr. James Campbell, Amy Craft, Kathleen Jackson, John Young, Jenn Childs, and Roger Bundy. Not pictured are Katie Austin, Katie Bukowski, and Steve Shroka.

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## Demystifying the home mortgage process

By Jayme Lucas-Bukszar  
jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com

Sources: Lending professionals from US Bank and Key Bank. Additional sources: <http://www.mtgprofessor.com/glossary.htm> <http://www.mortgagecalculator.org/helpful-advice/mortgage-terminology.php>

We spoke with several local lending professionals about home mortgage programs and requirements, including common stumbling blocks and how to overcome them. We hope this will clarify the process and make purchasing a home simpler for our readers. Below are some general lending terms and requirements.

**Credit Score Requirements:** A credit report is based on the bill payments you have missed or been paying late, loans you have paid off, plus your current amount of debt. Credit scores are calculated by three national credit bureaus: Experian, Transunion, and Equifax. Lenders will use the lowest of the middle credit score of all persons going on a loan. For example if Joe has credit scores of 630, 640, and 645 and his wife Jane has scores of 650, 660, and 700, the lender would use Joe’s score of 640 to see if the couple would qualify for a loan.

**Private Mortgage Insurance:** If your down payment on a home is less than 20 percent of the appraised value or sale price, your lender will require you to get mortgage insurance. A mortgage insurance policy protects your lender in case you default on the payments. As a borrower, you pay the premiums, and the lender is the beneficiary. This insurance is called private mortgage insurance or PMI.

**Loan to Value Ratio:** This represents the ratio of the mortgage lien as a percentage of the total value of a home. For instance, if someone borrows \$130,000 to purchase a house worth \$150,000, the LTV ratio is \$130,000 to \$150,000 or \$130,000/\$150,000, or 87%. The higher the LTV ratio, the riskier the loan is for a lender. This is why Private Mortgage Insurance is required for loans with down payments of less than 20% or to flip it around an LTV of 80% or lower.

**Front end Debt to Income Ratio:** This tool is used by lenders to make sure the mortgage payment will be affordable. It is usually calculated as housing expenses (such as mortgage payments, mortgage insurance, etc.) divided by gross income. Lenders want to see a Front end Debt to Income Ratio of 40% or less to qualify for a mortgage.

**Back end Debt to Income Ratio:** This is a more comprehensive measure. This ratio is the percentage of income that goes toward paying all recurring debt payments, including those covered by the first DTI, and other debts such as credit card payments, car loan payments, student loan payments, child support payments, alimony payments, and legal judgments. Lenders want to a Back end Debt to Income Ratio of 43% or less to qualify.

Real life example of front and back end debt to income ratios using monthly figures:  
Gross Income of \$4,000 (\$48,000 annual salary)

$\$4,000 \times .40 = \$1,600$  allowed for housing expense.

$\$4,000 \times .43 = \$1,720$  allowed for housing expense plus recurring debt

**Underwriting:** An underwriter’s main task is to assess a borrower’s risk. Have you ever declared bankruptcy or gone into foreclosure? Or, do you always pay your bills on time or have a fantastic credit score? These questions will reveal how you manage debt. They will also predict your ability to make the proposed mortgage payments. It is important to be upfront and honest about

bankruptcies, foreclosures, judgment liens, etc. so that the underwriter can help advise on how to best clean up your credit report and get approved. Mortgage underwriters follow a set of guidelines – the 3 C’s of underwriting which are capacity, credit, and collateral.

1. *Capacity – Do you have the resources and means to pay off your debts?*
2. *Credit – Do you have a solid repayment and credit history?*
3. *Collateral – What is the value and type of property being financed?*

**How the Home Mortgage Process Works:**

Get pre-qualified, or pre-approved, first. You will need to submit 3 pay stubs and two years of tax returns. The lender will pull credit, with your permission, and figure out how much you can afford to borrow. In some cases, you will need to pay off old bills or make corrections to your credit history to be pre-approved.

Get a signed purchase agreement for a home. Lenders cannot lock an interest rate until there is a signed purchase agreement.

Apply for a mortgage. You will need to submit checking and savings account statements, verifications for down payment funds, and records for any IRA accounts, CD’s, and other assets.

If approved, it normally takes 30 days for a loan to close. Please note, that it is common for the underwriter to request additional information and actions to clean up credit reports.

**Home Mortgage Programs & Requirements:**

There are many types of loan products available, three of the most common are: FHA loans (US Federal Housing Administration mortgage insurance backed mortgage loan), VA loans (a mortgage loan guaranteed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs), and conventional loans. There are pros and cons for each product and we will try to outline the programs below. Please note to qualify for any of them, lenders will consider your credit history. For example, you must have a credit score of 640 or higher to qualify for a mortgage at US Bank. At Key Bank, there is no specific minimum credit score but they are looking at credit history, length of time at current employer, and other factors.

**FHA Loans:** are a great option for buyers

who do not have a large down payment. There is a minimum 3.5% down payment requirement compared to a minimum of 5% for conventional loans. One downside is that FHA loans come with a higher PMI rate. The PMI rate for an FHA loan can be up to 1.75% (\$175 monthly payment for a \$100K loan) compared to 0.3% PMI rate\* for a conventional loan (\$50-60 a month for \$100K loan).

\* The PMI rates listed above are for Dollar Bank. Key Bank reported the following: FHA – Upfront 1.75% and monthly ranges from 1.35% to 1.50%; Conventional ranges from 1.55% -1.80%.

**VA Loans:** are loans available for United States veterans (VA requirements for service are below). They can be 0% loans with no PMI requirement, making the loan more affordable.

Veterans Affairs Requirements:  
Served 181 days during peacetime (Active Duty)

Served 90 days during war time (Active Duty)

Served 6 years in the Reserves or National Guard

Is the spouse of a service member who died while in service or from a service-connected disability

**Conventional Loans:** require a minimum down payment of 5%. There is no PMI if the down payment is 20% or more.

**Additional Programs:** Many lender have special programs. For example, Key Bank offers the Key Community Program which can allow clients to buy a home with little or no down payment (Home must be in a Low-Moderate Income Census tract or 80% of HUD median income met). Simply contact the loan officer at your preferred bank or credit union and ask what they offer.

**Loan Terms:** or length of time for the loan, can vary. Fifteen year and thirty year loans are common terms. The longer the term, the lower the monthly payment will be, however you will pay more interest over the course of the loan. For example, the monthly payment on a \$95,000 mortgage with a 30 year term and 4% interest would be \$550 a month, and the total interest paid would be \$64,594. The payment for a 15 year term would be \$806 a month, but the total interest paid would only by \$30,061.

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# OBN history series leads to recovery of original (1818-1837) Brooklyn Township ledger - II

by Lynette Filips  
lynetfef@oldbrooklyn.com

(Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the February, 1995 issue of the Old Brooklyn News. Since it is the second of two articles recounting the story of discovering the earliest record of Brooklyn Township government, it seems fitting to reprint it during 2014, the bicentennial year of the settlement of our neighborhood by people of European descent.)

In lieu of an outside speaker, the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn (HSOB) periodically hosts a "Show and Tell" meeting at which collections of individual members and/or the organization are featured. When such a meeting was planned for last month, no one could have guessed that the ultimate Show and Tell would be there - the original 1818-1837 records of Brooklyn Township!

As those of you who read last month's article about our exciting find know, the old ledger has made the trip back home to Seal Beach, California. Priceless and fragile as it is, we did not allow it to be handled at the meeting. We did, however, want the people who are most involved in Old Brooklyn's history to be able to see it before we turn it over to The Western Reserve



Essie, Margaret Gates Daniels, the 92-year-old lady from Seal Beach, California who found the original Brooklyn Township ledger among her family papers.

Historical Society.

And what did HSOB members view? Names, mostly names, on lists of electors at each of the polls taken during those years.

For one of the members, however, the

names were more than just those of the first settlers. Neil Richardson is descended from many of southeast Brooklyn's early residents, so he had the unique thrill of reading the names of his ancestors - the Fishes, the Brainerds, the Chesters, the Youngs.

But looking at the book — seeing the old script, reading the names in the order that the-families arrived, observing how the number of people in the community increased, and learning who held the first offices — was still exciting for the rest of us. It was also fascinating to read the settlers' names with the street index in back of one's mind. Remembering that Brooklyn extended north to Lake Erie then, the names of a number of streets can suddenly be explained. Without having the old plat maps in front of us, we can still assume that the many Brainerd properties, plus Isa Clark's, John and Cornelius Valentine's, Josiah Barber's, John Denison's, Simeon Chester's (Landchester) and all the Storer's farms are the reason for the streets which bear the same names today.

Referring to the old ledger is also interesting when used in combination with the *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History* because some of the people listed in the ledger are discussed in it. Since Josiah Barber was one of the west side's most important early residents, let's compare what the *Encyclopedia* and the 1818 ledger have to say about him.

Josiah Barber and his father, Samuel Lord, and his brother-in-law, Richard Lord, were original investors in the Connecticut Land Company. In 1807, when the last division was made, they were given the land immediately west of the Cuyahoga River from Lake Erie south to Royalton Township. Eventually the area came to be known as Brooklyn Township (and later, the southern half of it, as Parma Township).

History has it that, to expedite the survey and sale of their land, Samuel, Richard and Josiah formed the Lord and Barber Realty Company and came to Brooklyn Township. In 1818, Josiah constructed a log house on a bluff overlooking the Cuyahoga River, near what is now W. 25th St. and Franklin Ave. (Later he replaced it with a brick house, the first in Cleveland.)

We haven't noticed the names of either of the Lord men in the original Brooklyn Township ledger, but, beginning in 1819 when he was first listed as an elector,

Josiah's name is there.

When it was written in 1987, *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History* could go back only as far as the second Brooklyn Township record book (1837) for information about our neighborhood's earliest history. It stated that "by the mid-1830s, (Josiah) Barber was increasingly active in the politics of Brooklyn Twp..." Now, with the original township record in our possession, we can definitively speak of his involvement in earlier years.

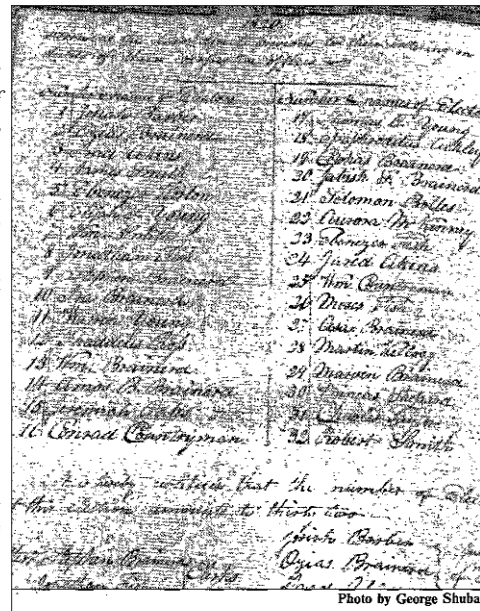
Already in 1819, Josiah Barber had been voted in as Justice of the Peace. Also in 1819, he was elected to a three-year term as County Commissioner. In 1820, he was sworn in as one of Brooklyn Township's two clerks. He served as one of the three judges who presided at township elections in October and November, 1820 and April, 1821.

At the end of 1821, Josiah Barber unsuccessfully ran for a position in the Ohio state legislature. In 1821, he was Brooklyn Township's treasurer. In 1822 he was re-elected as Justice of the Peace, and in 1823, he served as one of the township's three trustees.

In an October 14, 1823 election, Josiah Barber received the majority of the votes for the position of State Senator. In April, 1824, Josiah is again listed as a judge of the election, and was again sworn in, as a township trustee. And so the ledger continues year after year.

Our point in mentioning all this is simply that information which had been hidden from historians' view for all these years is written in the old ledger. As we wait to see if any of western Cleveland's history will be rewritten because of it, we're feeling happy about having played a part in the ledger's rediscovery.

Politics was not Josiah's only contribution to the township, however. Rather early



Page from the original Brooklyn Township ledger identifying the 1820 electors.

on, *The Encyclopedia* tells us, he opened a store at what is now W. 25th St. and Lorain Ave. At the same intersection in 1840, he and Richard Lord dedicated a larger portion of land for an open air market (the forerunner of The West Side Market).

Josiah Barber also played an active role in the Episcopal Church community. In 1828, when the congregation moved from a Brooklyn home to Trinity Episcopal Church at W. 3rd St. and St.

Clair Ave. (the first such edifice within the boundaries of Cleveland), Josiah was one of the founding members. In 1834, when the Episcopalians in Brooklyn wanted the convenience and safety of a church back on their side of the river, he helped organize St. John's Episcopal Parish at W. 26th St. and Church Ave. in Ohio City. (The building is still standing and has the fame of being the oldest church in Cleveland.)

Also in 1834, Josiah became one of the three men who incorporated the Cuyahoga Steam Furnace Co., Cleveland's first manufacturing concern, and the company which built, among other things, the first locomotive operated west of the Allegheny Mountains.

Josiah Barber was appointed a circuit judge in 1834. He stepped down from that position in 1836 to become the first elected mayor of Ohio City, that early subdivision of Brooklyn Township which has enjoyed a revival in recent years.

Josiah Barber is, of course, just one of hundreds of people whose names are recorded in the Brooklyn Township ledger. When we next write about it, we'll likely turn to some of the other well-known names in Cleveland, Old Brooklyn and Parma history. Though touching their lives isn't the same as discovering family ancestors, it's still wonderful to have regained this contact with our community's past.


### Holiday Shop from page 6

(burning), leather bookmarks, jams and jellies, handmade chocolates, jewelry, holiday decorations, and some unique gifts not seen in other years. The variety must be seen to be appreciated.

The committee's goal is to expand on this father's comment "who knew when I stopped in with my daughters that I would leave with all my shopping finished for my wife, their mother." We hope to continue to provide quality merchandise to our patrons making it easy to support our local economy and Art House.

Check out the new Short and Sweet Holiday Shop page on Facebook or our page on [www.arthouseinc.org](http://www.arthouseinc.org) and the "artist of the day" posts at [www.brooklyncentrenaturalists.net](http://www.brooklyncentrenaturalists.net) for updates, photos and posts for more information.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions please contact [gloria.ferris@gmail.com](mailto:gloria.ferris@gmail.com) or call her at 216-351-0254.



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Members of the Buffalo District's project delivery team will be available to answer your questions regarding the Harshaw Chemical Company Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program Site and the upcoming deconstruction of Building G-1 to allow further investigation of the groundwater at the site.

The 55-acre Harshaw Chemical Company FUSRAP Site is located at 1000 Harvard Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio. From 1944 to 1959, the former Harshaw Chemical Company was contracted by the Manhattan Engineer District and the Atomic Energy Commission to produce uranium that was then sent to Oak Ridge, Tenn., for isotopic separation and enrichment. Building G-1 contained the major uranium processing plants for this work.

The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program was initiated in 1974 to identify, investigate, and clean up or control sites throughout the United States that were part of the nation's early atomic energy program.

For additional information about the site please visit:  
<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/HarshawSite.aspx>  
We can be reached at [fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil)



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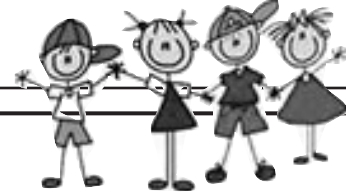
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**Children's Museum of Cleveland**  
10730 Euclid Ave. 216-791-7114  
www.clevelandchildrensmuseum.org  
Hours: Mon. - Sun., 10 am - 5 pm. Exhibit areas close 15 min. prior to Museum closing. Cost - \$7, children age 1 - 12; \$6, adults & children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

**Sid the Science Kid's Magical Experiments-**  
Sat. & Sun., Nov. 22nd & 23rd; noon & 2 pm. Sid & friends will perform experiments. Families participate in science demos then have chance for photo op with Sid the Science Kid. Free with paid Museum admission or Museum membership.

**"Terrific Tuesdays"** - second Tues. eve. of month, 5 - 7:30 pm, through 2014. Admission free during this time.

**The Lantern Theatre at Canal Corners Farm & Market**  
7243 Canal Rd, Valley View  
216-401-5131 www.lanterntheatreohio.com  
**The Cold, Cold Reading of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol,** - Sat., Dec. 20th, 6 pm. Presented by 6 brave actors & piano accompanist. Hot cocoa, cider & Christmas cheer followed by Christmas carols sung by all. Dress warmly; it's in a barn. Cost: adults, \$12; children 12 & under, \$8; no credit cards. Call or visit www.lanterntheatreohio.com for more info.

**Cleveland Metroparks - Brecksville Nature Center Rt. 82 entrance 440-526-1012**  
**Drop-In Discovery: Make a Bird Treat** - Sun., Nov. 16th; 2 - 4 pm. Make tasty treat for birds to hang in yard. Learn about seasonal diets of birds & adaptations that help them survive winter.

**Cleveland Metroparks - CanalWay Center E. 49th St. bet. Grant Ave & Canal Rd. 216-206-1000 or clevelandmetroparks.com**

**Hunt of the Month: Turkeys** - Through Nov. 30th. Twenty spiders hidden in Center. Also some live spiders to look at. Mon. - Sat., 9 am - 5 pm; Sun., noon - 5 pm.

**Sunday Funday** - Sun., Nov. 16th; 3 - 4 pm. Find out what kind of mammals live in the Metroparks & your own backyard.

**Family Movie Night** - Fri., Nov. 21st., 7 - 8:30 pm. Watch *Dr. Seuss's Horton Hears a Who*. Snacks available for purchase or bring your own. Register by phone or online.



**Tellebration! 2014** - Sat., Nov. 22nd, 7:30 - 9 pm. GLOBAL celebration (24th year) of story-telling in over 350 locations worldwide, on every continent except Antarctica. Variety of tales & tellers; adults & older children.

**CanalWay Matinee** - Fri., Nov. 28th, noon - 2 pm. Bring family & friends to watch *Free Birds*. Travelback in time with two turkeys who try to keep their species off Thanksgiving menu. Snacks available for purchase.

**Cleveland Metroparks - Chalet**  
16200 Valley Parkway, Mill Stream Run Strongsville 440-572-9990

**Tobogganing** - Season kicks-off with special hours - Fri., Nov. 28th, noon - 10:30 pm. Open thru March 8th -- Fri., 6 - 10:30 pm; Sat., noon - 10:30 pm; Sun., noon - 5 pm. Cost - adults, \$12; children ages 11 & under, \$10. One time ride tickets, \$6. Season passes -- adults, \$40; children 11 & under, \$30. Family pass (up to four) available, \$110. Receive gift pack with each season pass purchased through Dec. 24th.



**Cleveland Metroparks - Garfield Park Nature Center**  
11350 Broadway Ave. 216-341-3152  
**Homemade Suet** - Sat., Nov. 22nd; 10:30 am - noon. Learn easy, inexpensive way to make bird feed cakes. Bring large-well muffin tin. Ingredients provided. While treats cool, take brief hike to locate wintering species.

**Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Nature Center / Rocky River Reservation**  
24000 Valley Pkwy., North Olmsted 440-734-6660

**First People Festival** - Sat., Nov. 22nd; 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Watch primitive skills demonstrations, learn about tribes who lived here, hike in search of natural foods & tools of indigenous people & make craft. Face painting, flint knapping demos, grind corn with mono & matate. Make deerskin pouch, while supplies last; fee \$5.



**Nature a la Carte: Mammals** - Thurs., Dec. 4th; 9:30 am. Discover how humans differ from wild counterparts & what wild mammals do to cope with drop in temperature.

**Cleveland Metroparks Zoo**  
3900 Wildlife Way 216-661-6500 clemetzoo.com

**Thanksgiving Day** - Thurs., Nov. 27th, free admission to Zoo & RainForest; 10 am - 5 pm. Special animal enrichment demonstrations & complimentary heated transportation.



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**Cleveland Museum of Natural History**  
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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.; Youth 3 - 18, \$10; College students with ID, \$10; Seniors 60 & up or with a Golden Buckeye card, \$10; toddlers 2 & under, free.

**Animal Secrets Exhibition** - Use imaginative role-play & hands-on activities to discover nature from animal's point of view. Explore five naturalistic environments -- stream, meadow, woodland, cave & naturalists tent.

**Cuyahoga County Public Library Parma-Snow Branch**  
216-661-4240; www.cuyahogalibrary.org  
9 am - 9 pm, Mon - Thur.; 9 am - 5:30 pm, Fri. & Sat.; 1 - 5 pm, Sun.  
**Teen Programs** - Sat., Nov. 29th, TAG Team, 10:30 - 11:15 pm. Grades 6 - 12 & **Board Game Day & Wii Play**, 11:30 - 12:30 pm, ages 10 - 18.

**Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad Peninsula Explorer Ride - Rockside Station**  
800-468-4070 visit www.CVSR.com  
**The Polar Express™** - Fri., Nov. 14th - Sun., Dec. 21st. from Rockside Station in Independence & Northside Station in Akron. Trains depart 7 pm for two-hour round trip. Also departing at noon on Sat. & Sun. in Dec. No trips on Nov. 17th - 19th, & 26th - 27th. Tickets must be purchased through website. Everyone age 2 & up requires ticket. Visit www.cvsr.com/the-polar-express for more info.



**Hale Farm & Village**  
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330-666-3711 halereservations@wrhs.org  
**Fun on the Farm - Abraham Lincoln & The Thanksgiving Story** - Mon., Nov. 17th; 10:30 am. Includes craft, story & visit to farm site. WRHS members: \$8 per child with one adult free; non-members: \$10 per child with one adult free; additional adults: \$5 each. Reservations required.

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**Lake Erie Nature & Science Center**  
28728 Wolf Rd.  
440-871-2900 www.lensc.org  
Open daily: 10 am - 5 pm; free admission  
**Christmas Carousel a Craft Fair** - Sat., Nov. 8th; 9 am - 4 pm. Over 20 local artisans & vendors. Refreshments & baked goods in Carousel Cafe. Raffle. Admission: \$3 includes 1 raffle ticket.

**Family Astronomy Day: Rockin' on the Moon** - Sat., Nov. 15th; 11 am - 3 pm. Learn what makes up rocky planets & 175+ known moons orbiting planets of the solar system. See how craters happen on rocky worlds, touch a real moon rock, see a special planetarium. Fee: \$4/person.

**Thanksgiving Week Programming** - star shows & animal encounters for whole family. Wed., Nov. 26th, Fri., Nov. 28th, Sat., Nov. 29th, Sun., Nov. 30th. Programs: \$2 - \$5 perperson. Details & schedules available on website or by phone.



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**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, \$40. Class times, 9 - 11:15 am. Call 216-447-9145 for more info.

**St. Leo Preschool & Open House Registration 2014-2015 School Year**  
 Preschool, 4940 Broadview Rd. 2nd flr of the St. Leo Parish Community Center. Open house & open enrollment, Aug. 10th; 11 am - 1 pm. Preschool is licensed by the Ohio Department of Education & is operated according to mandated rules & regulations. 3 & 4 yr old part-time am & pm classes as well as a full-day program with an option for extended care. To be eligible for enrollment, the child must be 3 yrs old by Sept. 30th. Bring the child's birth certificate & \$50 dollar registration fee. Registration continues until all classes are filled. Call 216 661-533 for more info or to schedule an appointment.

**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.

**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** -- Sat., Nov. 8th; breakfast 9:30 am., business meeting 10 am - noon. Tour immediately following meeting. Business Meeting facilitated by Tom Romito including "Looking Back to Move Forward" & A walking tour of the Nature Preserve as well as a tour of the home led by John Young. RSVP to: Gloria Ferris 216-351-0254 or gloria.ferris@gmail.com. Reservations required.

**Brooklyn Genealogy Club** meeting, Sun., Nov. 16th, Brooklyn Fire Station, 8400 Memphis Ave. at Roadan). No word yet about speaker or topic. For information about the group contact Ann Wojtowicz, wojtowicz6809@roadrunner.com.

**Brooklyn Kiwanis** - every Tues., 12 - 1:30 pm. Golden Corral, 8676 Brookpark Rd.

**Cleveland Republican Organization** meeting, Tues., Nov. 11th (& every second Tues.); 7 pm, Brooklyn Hts., UCC, 2005 W. Schaaf Rd. Call 216-832-9195 for more info.

**The Historical Society of Old Brooklyn** annual potluck supper, 6 pm, Fri., Nov. 9th, Pearl Road United Methodist Church, 4200 Pearl Rd. (Use rear entrance off parking lot.) Members encouraged to bring items of historical, genealogical or antique interest for show-and-tell segment of evening. Call president Connie Ewazen, 216-398-8969, with questions.

**Old Brooklyn Crime Watch** meeting, Tues. Nov. 4th, 7 pm, Mary Queen of Peace, 4423 Pearl Rd. Call Barb Spaan, 216-459-1000, for more info.

**Second District Police Community Relations** meeting, Tues., Nov. 11th (& every second Tues.), 7 pm, Applewood Center, 3518 W. 25th St.

**Southwest Citizens Area Council** meeting, Thurs., Nov. 6th & every first Thurs., 7 pm, Gino's, 1314 Denison Ave.

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

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 Old Brooklyn CDC 2339 Broadview Rd. Cleveland, OH 44109 www.oldbrooklyn.com 216-459-1000



## Ben Franklin Garden "closed for the season"

by Kim Repinski  
Ben Franklin Garden

The Ben Franklin Community Garden's gates have been closed for the season since Saturday, October 18th, but it saw a lot of activity in September and October.

On September 6th the Garden held its annual Harvest Picnic. Intermittent showers kept some away, but many still showed up for the potluck lunch and conversation. The picnic also provided the forum for electing the Operating Committee. Current Committee members John Jenkins, Mark Tapajna and Lisa Young were re-elected. Elicia Polacek and Joe Jerdonek were elected for the first time and will serve three-year terms.

After the general election the Committee met and elected John Jenkins and Phyllis Crespo as chairman and vice-chairman respectively. Lisa Young and Jennifer Terry will return as secretary and treasurer.

With the season ended, the produce donated to area churches, donation centers and senior centers could be totaled – almost 500 pounds! The Garden also welcomed a number of volunteers at the end of the season –

On September 20th approximately twenty MetroHealth employees and their families and OBCDC Executive Director Jeff Verespej weeded and cleared brush from the woods. They also built a hugelkultur (a raised bed of dirt built on logs, branches, twigs, leaves and mulch gathered in the woods). In the spring an assortment of plants and flowers will be planted on the top of it and it will serve as the base for the praying mantis sculpture which was donated to the Garden this past spring.

On October 11th about twenty-five members of the "Scots in Service" program returned

to the Garden and spent three hours doing a myriad of jobs. Wooster College alumni and their families cleaned gutters, raked black walnuts, laid mulch and removed tree stumps, among other projects. This was the second year the alumni volunteered at the Garden.

The work performed by these two groups and all volunteers this year is much appreciated; the five-acre property requires a lot of upkeep and the extra hands help make the work go faster.

Following the close of the Garden, a brush hog worked through the field cutting down all vegetation. A deep plowing followed, turning over all vegetation into the soil. It will remain untouched until May when it will be turned over again for the new planting season.

The Ben Franklin Community Garden welcomes gardeners of every skill level. Whether you are currently gardening in your backyard and would like to have more ground to plant, or if you think you may have a "green thumb" and would like to try growing vegetables, there could be a place for you at Ben Franklin. Anyone interested is encouraged to check out the website at [www.oldbrooklyn.com/BFCG/](http://www.oldbrooklyn.com/BFCG/) and read about the Garden.

If you decide to pursue gardening at Ben Franklin, contact Sandy at the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation, 216-459-1000, to add your name to the waiting list. Plots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. If you call promptly, there could be a plot with your name on it next year.

Garden Committee continues to meet and plan for the upcoming year during the off-season. They work on fundraising, purchasing and enrollment. Watch for updates in the coming months.



Photos by Gregory Noeth



Photo by Dana Lamphier

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo personnel recently trimmed the Mulberry trees at Ben Franklin Garden. The two men at work are Dana Lamphier and Jeff Brown, and the elephant eating the boughs they trimmed is the Zoo's male elephant, Willie.

**VOTE ON ELECTION DAY**  
**Tues. Nov. 4th**  
 The polls will be open for voting from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.  
**Bring identification:**  
 A valid, state issued photo ID card, driver's license or military identification.  
 A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name & current address.



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**6:00-10:00 PM**  
**ST. MARY CRYSTAL CHALET**  
**3600 BIDDULPH AVE.**  
**CLEVELAND, OH 44109**

**6:00 PM - 7:00 PM**  
 COCKTAIL HOUR (2 DRINK TICKETS AND CASH BAR)  
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**7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**  
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**8:00-10:00 PM**  
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RSVP by:  
 Tuesday, November 4th

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Do you make amazing chili? Do you like eating prize-winning chili?

**Old Brooklyn Neighborhood Chili Cook-Off!**  
**November 15th 3 - 5 p.m.**  
 Grace Church 2503 Broadview Rd.

Bring a pot of your favorite recipe to share with the community and see how it compares with your neighbors'. Even if you don't cook, come out and try them all! Vote for your favorite: prizes will be awarded for the top 3 finisher's by popular vote. Prizes have been generously donated by local businesses fabulous prizes and special guests!" The cook-off is free to enter and free to taste.

**All are welcome!**  
 For more information and to sign up, go to the Facebook group "2014 Old Brooklyn Neighborhood Chili Cook-Off" or email [oldbrooklynchili@gmail.com](mailto:oldbrooklynchili@gmail.com)  
**RSVP by November 8th**

Sponsored by: Old Brooklyn Buzz with help from Old Brooklyn CDC