

OLD BROOKLYN NEWS

2015

Serving the Community Since 1978

January 2015 Volume 37 Number 1

b.a. Sweetie candy company to move into new, bigger home in Old Brooklyn this month

by Rosemary Mudry
rosemarym@oldbrooklyn.com

On January 2, 2015, b.a. Sweetie candy company, inc. will open in its much anticipated new home at 6770 Brookpark Rd. After nearly three years of work, owner Tom Scheiman's new store will have roughly 40,000 square foot space — nearly twice the size of the old location — making it one of the largest candy stores in the world.

The upcoming move is not the first for the more than 60-year-old company; they have moved four times, but have always remained on Brookpark Rd. And, Tom, who purchased b. a. Sweetie's from the first owner about 32 years ago, intends to keep it that way. The building is brand new and there is plenty of room for growth on the site.

Customers will find the new store easier to shop, with wider aisles and even bigger departments. Because of the expanded floor plan, Tom is able to have more fun with the

displays (e.g., a 12-foot long gummy display with thousands of bags of every imaginable variety of gummy candy). In addition, an expanded selection of more than 4,500 different sweets will be available and there are several new departments.

To put together one of the unique new sections - the old fashioned soda pop display - Tom and his staff logged more than 100 hours of research and found nearly 240 brands of soda to showcase. Sweetie's will keep close to 17,000 bottles in stock.

The company has also added a premium chocolate section that includes high-end brands like Godiva, Ghiradelli and Lindt. In total, the new store will have approximately 450,000 pounds or \$3 million in inventory.

In addition to major brands, customers will find an array of candies from smaller manufacturers, such as Smarties, which are still family businesses. Products from these companies are often not available at large retailers because they cannot fill the volumes required or meet price demands to compete with large companies like Nestle. b.a. Sweetie also works with many of Cleveland's small manufacturers as a distributor for companies including: Lilly Handmade Chocolates, Campbell's Sweets Factory, Carmen, and Fantasy Chocolates.

Tom got his start in retail early in life, helping his

grandparents restock grocery orders in their Italian market at Union Ave. and E. 110th St. As a young boy he loved the assignment of unpacking because it meant putting away all the candy. Tom got into the candy business as an adult in 1970, working for a wholesale distributor of candy and tobacco products which sold to independent drug stores around Cleveland.

Today, much of Tom's business is still wholesale; b.a. Sweetie supplies candy to just about everybody in town including the Cleveland Cavaliers, Cleveland Indians, Heinen's Fine Foods, Dave's Supermarkets, Pat Catan's and most area hotels.

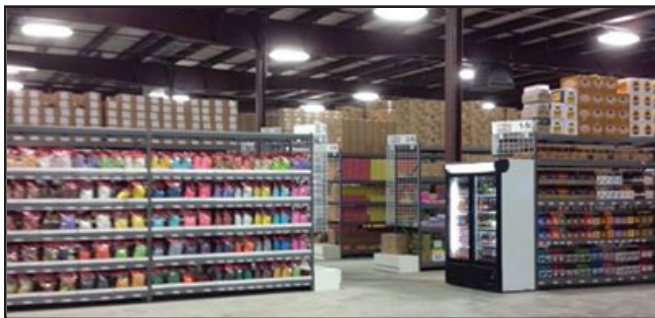
Each week the company also ships more than 1,000 packages from website sales all over the country, mostly to people looking for hard to find items and nostalgic candies. But even with a large emphasis on wholesale clients, more than 260,000 people came through the store in 2013.

Customers will now have two reasons to pop into the shop, as the new location is located next to the completely remodeled Sweetie Golfland. Opened in summer 2012 after Tom purchased the property, the miniature golf course provides an escape from the hustle and bustle of Brookpark Rd. with large trees, waterfalls, benches, coy fish and bridges.

Now that the store is complete, Golfland will extend its season in 2015, opening around Easter and waiting to close until around Halloween.

For more information about Sweetie's Golfland visit: <http://www.sweeties-golfland.com/>

To find out more about b.a. Sweetie candy company, inc. visit: <http://www.sweetiescandy.com/index.php>.



Interior view of b.a. Sweetie's new store



b.a. Sweetie's old fashioned soda pop wall

Computer and internet education center opens in Brooklyn Centre

by Bill Callahan, Director
Connect Your Community 2.0

Residents of Old Brooklyn, Brooklyn Centre and nearby neighborhoods have a new opportunity to gain basic computer and Internet skills at the nonprofit "Connect Your Community Center" in the Brooklyn Centre Plaza. Through the courses and sessions, residents can learn about online tools for better living, as well as find affordable computers and information on broadband connections.

The CYC Center, as it is called by staff and students, offers free twelve-hour basic training courses in computer and Internet use for neighbors whose digital experience is limited or nonexistent. This hands-on training takes place in two-hour blocks, twice a week for three weeks. Sessions are held Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10 p.m. to 12 p.m..

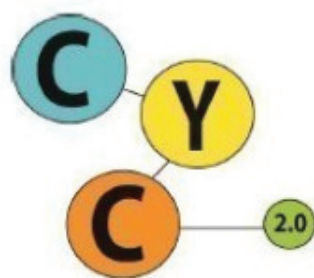
The Center also offers short, one-time "How to do it online" sessions covering important online resources like job search, online medical records, and secure online shopping. Also available are refurbished home computer systems from nonprofit computer rebuilder RET3 (same as those offered by Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation), and help in identifying low-cost home Internet options. The full class schedule can be found on the CYC Center's website at <http://cyccenter.blogspot.com/> or by calling 216-548-8651.

Interested neighbors can sign up for classes or learn more about them by leaving a message on the voicemail at 216-548-8651 or sending an email to cyccenter@connectyourcommunity.org. Or they can visit the CYC Center during working hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

The Center's address is 3730 Pearl Rd. It's in the former Best Cuts storefront,

between CVS Pharmacy and Georgio's Pizza.

CYC Center is sponsored by the Ashbury Senior Computer Community Center (ASC3), a community organization that has provided digital literacy classes for thousands of Northeast Cleveland and East Cleveland residents since it opened in 2002.



Connect Your Community 2.0

Digital Literacy and Access for All
 Our Neighbors and Neighborhoods

Many of ASC3's students were participants in the Connect Your Community Project, a multi-city program supported by Federal stimulus funds between 2010 and 2013, which held computer literacy classes throughout Cleveland and helped over 5,000 local residents to get refurbished computers and affordable home Internet access.

After Federal funding for the CYC Project ended in early 2013, several of its local partners — including ASC3, the Housing Network, Cuyahoga Community College and OneCommunity — formed a collaborative called CYC 2.0 to continue their efforts to reduce Cleveland's digital divide. CYC 2.0 director Bill Callahan, a Brooklyn Centre resident, approached ASC3 executive director Wanda Davis about the possibility of extending her organization's services to a West Side location. The two met with Ward 14 City Councilman Brian Cummins and got his support for a trial project in Brooklyn Centre based on the successful Connect Your Community Project.

"The so-called digital divide is a city-wide problem," Davis says. "Almost half of Cleveland households still don't have cable modem or DSL service, according to the 2013 Census, and a third don't have home

access to the Internet of any kind. Tens of thousands of our neighbors still don't know how to use a computer to look for a job, pay a bill or email their political representatives. ASC3 is excited about this opportunity to work with neighbors on both sides of the city to close the technology gap that threatens all of our futures."

The new "ASC3 Connect Your Community Center" first opened in July with a short-term lease in the Masonic Temple building at Pearl Rd. and Garden Rd. In November, the project moved to Brooklyn Centre Plaza, thanks to an agreement with the Plaza's owner, the Coral Company, for temporary use of the former Best Cuts site.

Callahan, who set up and manages the Center, says the Brooklyn Centre location provides easier parking for students and much more neighborhood foot traffic than the original site. The owners of the Masonic Temple are very supportive, and we are grateful to them for the opportunity to get started there. Our new location will help us reach many more of our neighbors who need to get trained and connected.

Callahan says a number of Old Brooklyn residents have already taken classes or contacted him about future sessions. Old Brooklyn Connected Wifi, and OBCDC's partnership with RET3 to get affordable computers for neighbors who need them, are both big steps toward making the neighborhood a model connected community. We hope the CYC Center can help those great efforts succeed.

So far, the Center's operation has been supported primarily by funding from Councilman Cummins' ward allocation. In December, ASC3 received a grant from the Care Source Foundation to help low-income patients learn to use MyChart, the online patient health information service offered by MetroHealth and other local providers; much of this training will happen in the CYC Center. Also in December, the CYC Center was awarded a Neighborhood Connections grant to train and provide refurbished computers for grassroots neighborhood activists and block leaders who aren't yet digitally connected.

Other grant applications are in the

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Sue Alexander

by Jason A Powers
jasonp@oldbrooklyn.com

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

At eight years old, sitting in the backseat of her mother's car with her sister, three cats and her governess, Sue's family pulled up to a crossroad on Route 66. "We hit a turn where we could either go south toward Texas or continue west to California. My mom flipped a coin."

It turns out it wouldn't matter on which side the coin landed; Sue was destined for a life of challenging and wonderful things.

Born in Springfield, Massachusetts Sue always had a connection with New England. After her parents separated she moved to California, but by the time she was finished with school, she was back in Vermont living on a dairy farm with her husband in Peacham, a town of 500. Working on a dairy surrounded by Holstein cows Sue learned new skills and trades that for most would seem random but as Sue said, "There is a purpose to the randomness of life."

After eight years of cows and fields, Sue moved on with her three children and spent some time New Hampshire where she taught children before finding her way to Cleveland.

"I went to visit a friend of mine. I had an old Buick, a basset hound, a big bag of dog food and \$35." Arriving in the Western Reserve she felt at home recognizing similar homes and churches from her childhood in New England.

When her friend encouraged her to find a job in Cleveland she agreed and eventually found employment as a teacher for unemployed and at-risk minorities. Many of these individuals, she admits, were smarter than she was. "They had a higher propensity for math than I. So instead of using textbooks we used a pool table to work on geometry and finding angles."

Working with these individuals wasn't about teaching them facts and information, but rather helping them prepare for interviews. "I showed them how to present oneself, every-

thing from combing your hair a certain way to understanding what vocabulary was appropriate in an interview." Helping others prepare for and find work was second nature for Sue; her personality was suited for it, something that would play a role in future endeavors.

But life is full of challenges and after just two years the company at which Sue worked shut down. Unemployed now herself and with dwindling savings Sue turned to the social safety net and went downtown to apply for welfare. She took her last 50 cents and spent the day in a downtown office waiting in line to sign up.

After nine hours an administrator announced they were closing for the day and everyone would need to come back in the morning. When Sue protested, pointing out that she didn't have the fare to get home and



Photo by Sheila Quealy Walter
Sue Alexander

back the next day the officer said there was nothing she could do. Sue stood outside the Cleveland Public Library downtown and asked passersby for change.

At this point in the interview Sue's otherwise booming and joyous voice was reduced to a whisper and a crack. Her eye's watered, "Growing up in New England my father taught me about hard work and self-reliance. That became very important to me, being independent, and it was hard to accept that I needed the help."

That bit of help was repaid one-hundred fold as Sue was put back on her feet and found various small jobs. She worked as a bar maid, served Amy Joy doughnuts and even drove a Westlake Cab. "That was the only job I was ever fired from," Sue joked. "I backed up over an industrial vacuum in the garage!"

See Sue Alexander page 9

From the desk of the executive director

by Jeffrey T. Verespej
jeffv@oldbrooklyn.com

The calendar flips into 2015 and the new-car scent dissipates rearding my role as Executive Director of Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC); it is appropriate to set an agenda for the upcoming calendar year and share it with our community.

This past year was one of transition for this organization -- a new Executive Director, new staff members, and even some new members of the Board of Directors. Through it all, the staff performed professionally and made significant strides in many areas of our core mission. Greater strides are expected in 2015.

In 2015, serious discussions are expected about a variety of infrastructure projects, notably the Pearl Rd. streetscape improvements and the former Henninger Road Landfill. The Henninger Rd. site is currently being environmentally studied to determine what level of remediation will be required for our community to enjoy this terrific greenspace, while the Pearl Rd. improvements are going to begin final construction engineering in 2015. Both are critical to the neighborhood's next two generations as they offer opportunities to shape Old Brooklyn for decades to come.

The Pearl Rd. streetscape project's importance cannot be overstated. In addition to being the most important north-south corridor in Cuyahoga County, it is our neighborhood's main gateway to the rest of Cleveland. It is home to many of our strongest assets including MetroHealth Old Brooklyn Health Center and the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

Ensuring that this corridor is built inclusively for all members of our community is essential. That includes adequate parking for small businesses, appropriate sidewalk width for residents and pedestrians, attractive public realm amenities for visitors and employees, and an improved experience for cyclists.

Although far too often lost in the discussion of roadways, these corridors are first and foremost opportunities to move people. If designed for people, it will serve people. If designed for cars to pass through, then cars will pass through.

Also in 2015, although less physical in nature, will be a revamped marketing effort to impact how Old Brooklyn is viewed locally, regionally and globally. This neighborhood has great stories, but they have not been told often enough, repeated again, and reiterated a third time to finally sink in.

Working with what is already here (talented individuals, multi-generational companies and regional attractions), OBCDC will ensure that our website is updated and that all of our marketing mediums use the same language.

That will go a long way, but the real target is far deeper than that. The aspirational goal, and one that must begin in 2015, is to change the conversation about this community. Slowly but consistently that means turning the flywheel until it turns on momentum alone.



In 2015, OBCDC looks to celebrate and support small businesses. Without the jobs and vibrancy created by these businesses, no community can thrive. The major preponderance of this support will be through encouraging new and existing entrepreneurs to view this neighborhood through a different lens. The future Community Café at the South Brooklyn branch of the Cleveland Public Library, as well as the recent openings of BA Sweeties and Cake Royale are prime examples of what we have to celebrate and look forward to.

Potentially without parallel importance is the need for community involvement in 2015. Old Brooklyn is massive. On a recent visit with Cuyahoga County Executive-elect Mr. Armond Budish, a map was prepared that showed three other neighborhoods all fitting nicely into the borders of Old Brooklyn. Nine square miles and nearly 35,000 people is significant territory for a small and lean staff. However, if partnered with an engaged community, it is manageable.

This neighborhood's roots in community activism run deep. Decades before it was deemed cool in magazines around the country, the Ben Franklin Community Garden was started. Well before the phrase "education portfolio" was created, the Old Brooklyn Community School was founded because our parents wanted more options for their children. OBYL and OBALL have existed for decades, as have many of our block clubs and associations. Others like *Old Brooklyn Buzz* and *Pedal for Prizes* are newer, but they have equally impacted the neighborhood.

This patchwork of community is wonderful and, at times, overwhelming when attempting to comprehend. However, that symphony of sounds is what ends up as a masterpiece.

This concept was recently framed quite beautifully: when we all share the same goal of improving our community, how can we go wrong? That is absolutely right, and that is why Old Brooklyn CDC will continue to emphasize community outreach in 2015.

We encourage every stakeholder -- teachers, parents, business owners, residents, employees and youth -- to get involved. This year should be one of building bridges, and together our many hands will make light work.

Bonnie Robertson is SCR volunteer of month

by Bethany Hicks

Senior Citizen Resources (SCR) is honored to announce its Volunteer of the Month for December: Bonnie Robertson. Throughout her twenty-three-year affiliation with SCR, she has answered phones, set tables, sold 50/50 raffle tickets to support the Center, and occasionally helped with pouring coffee and serving food.

Not only has Bonnie had a long involvement at SCR, but she has also been an active volunteer in the community. Her past experiences have included delivering the *Old Brooklyn News*, assisting St. Augustine Church with its mailings, and ushering and selling popcorn at the former Broadview Theater.

While Bonnie continues to be very involved and spirited in her work, it has not been without overcoming the challenge of legal blindness. After being told as a 14-year-old that she would no longer be able to be taught in school due to blindness, she decided to keep learning and bettering herself.

"I didn't believe that I couldn't do anything," she stated. This came with the motivation to attend St. Augustine's Learning Center and work with a tutor to assist her in reading. "I'm not sure how Fran does it, but she's very patient with me," Bonnie said of her tutor.

During this season, Bonnie reflected on her favorite holiday memories: the times she got to spend with her sister, and Christmas dinner at her aunt's house. Bonnie is most thankful for "being alive," her friends, the ability to go to church on Sundays, and for Senior Citizen Resources.

"Without SCR, I'd be bored," she said, as it is her main hobby. Her ultimate goal is to be an inspiration to "keep on going and keep smiling." to the other seniors at the Center.

Senior Citizen Resources is thankful for its volunteers, a vital component of the organization. Ask any staff member or a current volunteer about opportunities to make a difference for SCR and the community and you will be appreciated greatly, too!



Bonnie Robertson

OLD BROOKLYN NEWS

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Submission Deadlines

Display Ads Wed., Jan. 21st.
Classified Ads . . . Wed., Jan. 21st.
News Releases . . . Fri., Jan. 23rd
For Information call 216-459-0135
E-mail: sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com

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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

John Young, President Kathleen Jackson, Vice President
Christina DelNegro, Secretary Book Chrobak, Treasurer

Jeffrey T. Verespej, Executive Director

Cynthia Cejka, Office Manager

Barb Spaan, Outreach Manager

Sheila Quealy-Walter, Residential Code Manager

Rosemary Mudry, Director of Economic Development

Jason A. Powers, Director of Marketing & Development

Jayne 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 - Bill Callahan, Gloria Ferris, Lynette Filips,

Bethany Hicks 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.

NEWS & EVENTS

Now - Monday, January 5th

GLOW at the Garden

Cleveland Botanical Garden, 11030 East Blvd. Fri., 10 am - 9 pm; Sat., 10 am - 5 pm; Sun., noon - 5 pm. Tickets: \$12/non-member adult; \$8/non-member child; free for members & children under 3. Festive train ride, decorate your own gingerbread house, live performances of favorite holiday classics & much more. Call 216-721-1600 or www.cb garden.org for more info.

Monday, January 5th

Cuyahoga Valley Genealogy Society

Independence Civic Center, Pin Oak Room, 6363 Selig Blvd., 7:30 pm. **"Industrial History of Cleveland"** -- David Bernatowicz, Associate Professor of History, Cuyahoga Community College, with narrative history of industries that developed in Cleveland area from 1940 to end of 20th century. Contact CVGS president Mary Boehlein, 440-736 7180, or visit www.cuyahogagenealogy.org for more info.

Monday, January 5th

Rockin' the 216!

South Brooklyn Library, 4303 Pearl Rd., 2:30 pm. Cleveland Public Library & College Now Greater Cleveland presents 8-week program for high school students to enhance math & reading proficiency through ACT test prep, video & recording arts training, \$100 stipend, complimentary bus tickets, field trips & potential internship opportunities. Interested high school students or parents should call 216-241-5587 or email rockinthe216@collegenowgc.org. Visit www.collegenowgc.org/community-based-programs/rockin-the-216 to apply &/or for more info.

Wednesday, January 14th

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. **Jan., 14th - Spring plant basket. Feb. 11th - Kisses.** Supplies to bring when weaving -- old towel, bucket, clothes pins, ruler, pencil, scissors. Call Connie, 216-749-7912, to RSVP.

Mondays, January 5th - February 9th

Tai Chi Easy

River's Edge, 3430 Rocky River Dr.; Mon., 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Fee: \$48/6-week session; \$10 walk in. Antoinette Horn, Instructor. All movements can be done standing or sitting. Call 216-688-1111, ext. 251, or visit www.riversedgecleveland.com to register or for more info.

Saturday & Sunday, January 24th & 25th

Inaugural Polar Fest

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, 164 Eastland Rd, Berea. Parking & admission free. Interactive winter festival will feature juried art show, live music & family-friendly activities, indoors & out. The Polar Fest art exhibit with live demonstrations by local artists & craftspeople. Ice wine & craft beer tastings, unique dining opportunities provided by local restaurants & food trucks. Snowman-building area outside, indoor hands-on craft activities & indoor photo booth provided by Clear Choice Photo Booth Rentals. Artists interested in submitting work should visit http://www.clevelandpolarfest.com/for-artists/ to download application & complete instructions. Visit

http://www.clevelandpolarfest.com/ or call Lisa Nemeth/Northcoast Promotions Inc., 216-570-8201, for general info.

Cuyahoga County Public Library Snow Branch - 2121 Snow Rd. ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) - Mon., Wed. & Fri. mornings, 9:30 am - noon.

Steps to Effective Interviewing - Mon., Jan. 12th, 6:30 p.m.

Fun with Zentangle® Inspirations Club. Sat., Jan. 15th, 7 pm. Grades 4 & up.

Adult Book Discussions - Mon., Jan. 19th, 7 pm - A Secret Gift by Ted Gup. Thurs., Jan. 29th, 11 am - Frog Music by Emma Donoghue.

Presidential Trivia - Wed., Jan. 28th, 7 pm. Gerry Nemeth hosts interactive game to test audience's knowledge of U.S. Presidents. Win prizes.

Sunday, January 11th

Polka Event

Holiday Inn, 6001 Rockside Rd; 3 - 7 pm. Cleveland Polka Association Lounge party music/dancing by NuTones. Donation - \$8. Call Jill, 440-319-1877, for table reservations or more info.

Sunday, January 11th

The American Red Cross Blood Drive

St. Leo's Lux Hall, 4940 Broadview Rd.; 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Register @ redcrossblood.org after you create a profile. (Registering optional; it just helps with staffing.) Stop by & donate!

Volunteer tax preparers needed

Cuyahoga EITC Coalition, which provides free tax preparation services to 10,000+ community members annually, 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. Contact Keely Andrews, kandrews@enterprisecommunity.org, for more info.

Monday, January 28th

Duct Tape Universe

South Brooklyn Library, 4303 Pearl Rd., 3:30 pm. Duct tape's been seen on MythBusters & the Duct Tape Guys have written several books about its uses. It can be used for everything from securing air ducts together to creating prom dresses & tuxedos. Learn how to craft this popular tape into everyday objects to use yourself.

Free Preparation of Your 2014 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. Mon. evenings & Sat.

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:**

- Current photo I.D

- 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.
 - If the taxpayer purchased health insurance under the Affordable Care Act, bring 1099 tax credit from health insurance company
- 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. For more info, visit www.refundohio.org or www.cjfs.cuyahogacounty.us.

Brooklyn High School 50th Reunion

1965 graduating class planning a 50 year reunion in 2015 & needs contact information for many. Members of that class should email: reunionbrooklyn65@gmail.com or visit Facebook page Brooklyn Reunion.

Volunteer Drivers & Runners needed for Meals on Wheels

Senior Citizen Resources. We deliver Mon. -Fri. to Old Brooklyn residents. Call Rosemary at 216-749-5367 with any questions.

NEW YEAR'S EXERCISE BLAST!
Customer Appreciation Weekend
January 17 & 18

SATURDAY	SUNDAY
9:00 Jazzercise	10:30 Splash (Aquacise)
10:30 Splash (Aquacise)	12:00 Jazzercise
1:00 Traditional Yoga	1:30 Traditional Yoga
2:15 Jazzercise	3:00 Deep Water Fitness
3:30 Deep Water Fitness	4:30 Jazzercise

Check out Brooklyn Recreation's group exercise classes. All Free during our customer appreciation weekend. Try one, or try all.

ALL CLASSES ARE FREE! FREE! FREE!

OBCDC's most recent intern returning to CSU

by Stephanie Canfield

For the last three months I have been an intern at Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC). I was excited to be able to work with OBCDC since I had just started living in the neighborhood. My time with OBCDC will be coming to an end soon, which is why I was asked to write this article about myself and my time here.

I grew up in Warren, Ohio which is about an hour southeast of Cleveland. I graduated from Warren G. Harding High School in 2010 and after that I attended the Trumbull County branch of Kent State University for a year until I decided that I wanted to go to Cleveland State University (CSU) to get my degree.

I am currently an undergraduate in the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, set to graduate in the spring with a major in Environmental Studies and minor in Environmental Science. I was originally an Environmental Science major, but switched to Studies because it focuses more on the environment and how it interacts with the urban community.

(I am interested in the health of both neighborhoods and the environment, and finding ways for communities to incorporate more environmentally-friendly practices.)

I lived in the dorm buildings at CSU for three years and had a wonderful experience living and learning in downtown Cleveland. This past August I moved to Old Brooklyn to live in an apartment during my final year of college. I think that this is the perfect place to live because it is affordable, conveniently located 20 minutes away from campus, and is a vibrant community.

During my internship I mostly work with Sheila Quealy-Walter, the Housing & Building Code Manager, helping her with building and housing code enforcement in the neighborhood for the Code Enforcement



Photo courtesy of S.C. Stephanie Canfield

Partnership that OBCDC is involved in with the City of Cleveland.

I have developed an appreciation for housing code enforcement because it helps keep people safe from potentially dangerous properties and makes the area look more attractive, which encourages community pride. Driving up and down the streets of Old Brooklyn has really allowed me to learn about my neighborhood and get to know its assets, such as the many local businesses and the community members who are committed to seeing Old Brooklyn succeed and grow.

I am glad that I got to learn about everything the CDC does for the residents. Among other things it: redevelops houses to revitalize the neighborhood, helps refer people to various assistance programs for different issues, hosts events for residents and publishes the *Old Brooklyn News* every month.

I have enjoyed getting to know the staff and getting to know my new home. I look forward to discovering more about Old Brooklyn and hope to spread the word that Cleveland is a truly terrific place to live and visit.

Are you or someone you know
FACING FORECLOSURE?

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE
Call today to see if you qualify
216.458.HOME
 (4 6 6 3)



Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland
 5700 Broadway Avenue . Cleveland, Ohio 44127
 216.458.HOME (4663) . www.nhscleveland.org

Se Habla Español 

Sign up for a refurbished computer system

For an application - call Barb 216-459-1000 or email: barbaras@oldbrooklyn.com

Basic Computer Systems
 Laptop Systems
 LCD Flat Screens
 \$90 - \$195



Money orders only due on day of pick-up

Computers for:
Residents, Businesses, Churches, Wards 12 & 13 only

CPD's Cops for Kids Christmas program got started at Second District station in 1982

by John J. Thomas, aka J.T.,
co-founder of Cops, Kids & Christmas
via Barbara Spaan
barbaras@oldbrooklyn.com

Thirty-two years ago, in the summer of 1982, my youngest son Jimmy was in the Cleveland Clinic. While he was being treated for his illness, I met families from all over the country and the world.

Imagine for a moment that you are the parent of a seriously ill child from Asia, Europe or Africa and your doctor says that for your child to be cured of his/her illness, you must go to Cleveland, Ohio USA and get treatment at the Cleveland Clinic or University Hospitals Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. You agree and bring your sick child and other children to Cleveland and stay at the Ronald McDonald House. You are in a foreign country, you don't speak English, and you are afraid for your children. How stressful for everyone!

Jimmy got well, but while talking to the parents of other children I counted my blessings that we were from Cleveland, because many of them were not as fortunate.

I was a young police officer in the Second District. I felt that we had to do something for the families to let them know that they were a part of our family whom we had not yet met, that their children were our children, and that they all belonged to us and we belonged to them.

On November 10, 1982, my fellow officers and I were celebrating U.S. Marine Corps birthday because my partner, Richard Auner, plus Ronald Guttu and several of my good friends were -- and still are -- Marines. We were at a tavern called Bobby's Place at Fulton Rd. and Sackett Ave. and I told them about what I had seen and experienced at the Clinic. We all agreed that we would have a Christmas party for the families.

We collected \$20 from every member of the Second District and bought gifts which our wives and girlfriends wrapped. Father John Cregan from Blessed Sacrament Church brought the church choir and we had a clown band and a small pipe band. We decorated the Pal (Police Athletic League) bus. We had party trays and other food donated for the families.

Santa and his elves' first stop was the old Ronald McDonald House on Abbingdon Rd. It was a small home but we had fun and

the families enjoyed the festivities. The next stop was the Cleveland Clinic's Pediatric Floor for more fun. And we had even more fun at the final stop, Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital.

We repeated this process in 1983.

The Cleveland Police Department liked the idea so much that in 1984 they expanded it and had the entire Department involved. Under Department Coordinator Joe Sadie it took off and every hospital in Cleveland as well as daycare centers and families-in-need got a visit that year, and every Christmas since then.

My group, however, continued to go to the Ronald McDonald House for Christmas every year. On Wednesday morning, December 17th, this year we again traveled there to let the families know that their children belong to us, and we belong to them, and we are their family in Cleveland.

When we visit Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, however, it remains *Cops, Kids and Christmas*. The individual responsible for the original name was the late Dale Solly, a reporter for Channel 8 News. He was part of our team, too, and when he gave his report on TV, on the air he named it *Cops, Kids and Christmas*.

Today *Cops and Kids* is part of the Cleveland Police Foundation and this year they had a party for kids at the Cleveland Convention Center. We now have *Shop with a Cop* and a lot of other wonderful programs to help children not just at Christmas but all year round. Who woulda thunk it?

As for Jimmy, he made a full recovery, grew up, enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, had two tours in Iraq, worked at Cleveland EMS, and is now a Cleveland Police Department officer in the Fourth District (and is doing well there). He is the lion of our family with a very generous, kind and loving heart, and good looks, too. (He takes after his mom!)

The Good Lord has blessed my wife Paula and me with six children and five grandchildren. We thank God every day for them and for the fact that Jimmy recovered. Jimmy was our inspiration for the program, and we ask that you join us in bringing smiles to the faces of the very young and the young at heart. Become a part of the *Cops, Kids and Christmas* team at the Ronald McDonald House.



On Wednesday, December 17th, Santa visited the Ronald McDonald House, 10415 Euclid Ave., accompanied by the Second District police elves who distributed gifts for everyone. The citywide program is known as *Cops for Kids*, but it retains its original name, *Cops, Kids and Christmas* when the crew visits Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital.

Minimize chance of holiday auto theft by following these precautions

by Barbara Spaan
barbaras@oldbrooklyn.com

If you own a car in Old Brooklyn, please read this -- since Thanksgiving and the onset of colder weather, auto theft has gone up 52%! The colder weather is a factor; no one wants to walk in the cold.

You read that right. If you drive an older model Olds, Buick, Toyota, Honda, etc., you need to take extra care. Here are a few tips about how to keep your car:

Never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when you are away from the car even if it just for a minute.

Only unlock the door you are entering, either to drive or to put in children or other items you're transporting. Lock that door and repeat.

Always roll up the windows and lock the vehicle, even if the car is in the garage or parked in the driveway.

Never leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Put the stuff in the trunk or take it along. Remove really expensive radios, tape players or CD players, if possible. Don't give the Grinch a reason to break in.

Park in busy, well-lighted areas. Don't leave money, personal identification documents or credit cards or cell phone in your vehicle.

When you pay to park in a lot or garage, leave just the ignition key with the attendant. Don't have any personal information attached. Do the same when you take your car for repair.

Buy a mechanical locking device -- called clubs, collars or J-bars -- which lock to the steering wheel, column or brake to prevent the wheel from being turned more than a few degrees, and use it.

Investigate automobile security systems; it may entitle you to a discount on your auto insurance.

Be on the Lookout

If your car is stolen, report it to the police immediately.

Also report an abandoned car on your street by calling 216-621-1234 and giving the address of where it's parked, a brief description and the license plate number, if it has one.

If you see strangers looking in or trying doors on cars parked in the street, call the police.

Whenever possible, park the car in the garage or the yard and close the gate.

Following these steps makes it just a little harder for a thief to take your car than to take someone else's.

We work too hard to give our valuables away! Lock things up and send the Grinch a packing...

Have a happy holiday season.

Understand meaning of 'Snow Emergency' to avoid expense of ticket or tow this winter

from the City of Cleveland's 1996
Codified Ordinances (traffic code)

451.17 (a) Whenever, during any period of twenty-four hours or less, snow falls in the City or in a section thereof to a depth of two inches or more, an emergency is declared to exist in that such a heavy snow storm constitutes a serious public hazard impairing transportation, the movement of food and fuel supplies, medical care, fire, health and police protection and other vital facilities of the City. The emergency shall continue until an announcement by the Director of Public Safety that snow plowing operations have been completed, which announcement shall be made in the same manner as outlined in subsection (b) hereof.

(b) Whenever such an emergency exists the Director shall request the cooperation of the local press and radio and television stations to announce the emergency and the time that emergency parking regulations will become effective, which time shall be no sooner than one hour after the first announcement. Such announcement by two local radio stations or two local television stations or in a daily newspaper of general circulation published in the City shall constitute notice to the general

public of the existence of the emergency. However, the owners and operators of motor vehicles shall have full responsibility to determine existing weather conditions and to comply with the emergency parking regulations.

(c) During the period of the emergency, the Director may prohibit the parking of any vehicles upon any or all of the City streets designated as a through street or highway by Section 413.02, or as a snow emergency street in the regulations adopted pursuant to the authority of section 403.03. During the emergency, no person shall park or cause or permit to be parked or permit to remain parked or nance restricting parking as to place or time is violated thereby.

(d) Any motor vehicle parked in violation of this prohibition may be in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 405 at the cost and expense of the owner thereof. If the Director of Public Safety authorizes additional emergency equipment to be used, the fees to be charged for towing and storage by such authorized agents shall conform to the fees assessed by the City for the same service. (Ord. No. 1684-76. Passed 6-29-76, eff. -676 76)

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www.BrooklynHeightsCemetery.com



Putting together this January *Town Crier* I find myself in a similar situation to the one I was in last month -- writing in past tense about a holiday which hasn't even happened yet (except that this time it's New Years before it's Christmas.)

And it looks like the content of this month's column will be a 'deja vu' experience, too, because all my entries will be follow-ups to topics I've already written about in *Town Crier* or which have appeared somewhere else in the newspaper.

I ended last month's column with a couple of paragraphs about **Near West Theatre's** production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* in their temporary quarters at West Side United Church of Christ on Bridge Ave. Since then I've received more definitive information about the new home they've been building in the **Gordon Square Arts District** on Detroit Ave. at W. 67th St. It's slated to open this spring.

We will, of course, advertise each of these events in future *Theater Notes* listings, but if you're a theater buff, you'll want to take note of these dates --

On Saturday, February 28th, Near West will welcome the community to a free open house from 1 to 5 p.m. On Saturday, March 14th, they will host a "Blowout Party" from 8 p.m. to midnight. On Saturday, March 21st, Near West will sponsor its annual benefit and gala from 7 to 11 p.m. The 2015 theme is "There's No Place Like Home".

Moving on to the nitty-gritty of what theater lovers are really waiting for --

From Friday, April 24th through Sunday, May 17th, Near West will present the first show in its new quarters -- *Shrek the Musical*. And from Friday, July 24th, through Sunday, August 9th, Near West will present its second show there, *Hair* (another iconic American musical).

I'm expecting that some of our Old Brooklyn neighbors will again be members of the casts, since one of Near West's missions is make the theater experience accessible to everyone.

If you've already paged through this issue and read last month's *Old Brooklyn News*, too, you may have wondered why we've again listed the **City of Cleveland's ordinances regarding a 'snow emergency'**.

Actually, I hope that we will have space to list the rules every month this winter, to save residents who've been ignorant of the law the distress of a \$50 ticket (or worse, being charged for a tow, too) for parking in the street

at a time when it's not allowed.

I got the idea of printing the rules after this season's first 'snow emergency' was issued on Friday morning, November 7th. Cars all along W. Schaaf Rd. (and probably elsewhere in Old Brooklyn, too) were ticketed.

Although for extenuating circumstances such tickets can sometimes be dismissed, filing the forms and going to the Justice Center for the hearing take times and money. It's better to be aware of the law and not get a ticket in the first place.

The front page of last month's *Old Brooklyn News* featured local artist **Jim Ptacek's** Christmas ornaments. Jim's artwork, of course, encompasses much more than that. Last autumn he designed a print of St. Thomas More (4170 North Amber Dr. in Brooklyn) and donated a quantity of them to help the parish raise money for rebuilding its organ.

The 14" x 20", hand-signed, three-image prints which Jim created include views of the church, school and Utopia Hall. A sample is on display in the vestibule at the rear entrance of the church. The price is \$25; order one by calling 216-749-0414.

Going back a few more months to the September, 2014 *Old Brooklyn News* reveals an article about a new business which we'd spotlighted -- **Pupuseria Katarina** at 4848 Broadview Rd. The Salvadoran restaurant is owned and operated by immigrants from El Salvador.

It looks like the restaurant's reputation is becoming known around because last month I was eating their pupusas at a program at **John Carroll University (JCU)** in University Heights.

The reason for the December 2nd gathering, "Documentary, Discussion & Dinner: Martyrs of El Salvador", was actually very somber. JCU's Office of Mission and Identity (in conjunction with other departments) organized it as part of the Jesuit university's commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the assassinations of six Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter on November 16th, 1989.

An earlier part of the program included the viewing of the PBS documentary film, *Enemies of War*, and some of the scenes in it were so brutal that it's amazing we could even eat the meal which followed.

But we did eat and enjoy the two varieties of tortilla-like cornmeal pupusas and the appropriate accompaniments of cole slaw, salsa, beans and rice. Some of the people who attended had worked in El Salvador and were very familiar with the Salvadoran diet. I told them all that Pupuseria Katarina is in Old Brooklyn, and how to get there.

We've written about our former **St. Luke's United Church of Christ (UCC)** numerous times since it closed on March 31st, (Easter Sunday), 2012. The building has been for sale, and from time to time UCC employees have been spotted emptying things out of the massive space.

This past autumn **Don Workman**, the owner of **Ameriflag, Inc.** and a former member of the congregation, arranged with **Fr. Doug Brown**, for two huge pictures of Jesus to

find a new home at **Mary Queen of Peace Church**. I'll start next month with how that came to pass. (LynetteF@oldbrooklyn.com)

Brooklyn Centre Naturalists share ideas to help birds & wildlife get through winter

by **Gloria Ferris**
Brooklyn Centre Naturalists

Each year as the holidays wind down the question of what to do with the soon-to-be-discarded Christmas tree is raised. You could put it on the curb for the trashmen or you could turn it into a bird feeder by hanging ears of corn on its branches as Brooklyn Centre Naturalist Greg Cznadel does. Our feathered friends will appreciate it.

This year Brooklyn Centre Naturalists (BCN) decided to share more of their ideas about how to make inexpensive treats to add to the repurposed tree which originally graced your living room this past Christmas.

After the decorations and tinsel are carefully taken off the tree and put in their containers, you will have the foundation for creating an outdoor feast for the birds and wildlife which visit your backyard. The essential tools for making this wildlife extravaganza are as simple as a butter knife, yarn or twine, peanut butter, and a bird seed mix.

A good starting point could be a garland of popcorn and cranberries if this is part of your holiday tradition. If it's not, consider making one next year. No plastic or fishing twine should be used on your "wildlife tree".

Ears of corn attached with twine are a colorful treat which deer and squirrels will enjoy so if you do not love that kind of wildlife, stick to smaller, colorful treats for the birds. Stale bagels slathered in peanut butter and dipped in wild bird seed mix with a few additional nuts added is a great treat.

Pine cones covered with peanut butter then rolled in bird seed mix will be gone in a minute. It's a good idea to always tie the twine hanger to both of these treats before adding the other ingredients.

Fruit baskets often include more fruit than can be consumed before it reaches the stage where it remains in the bottom of the bowl. Turn it into another great treat for the birds by slicing apple rounds and oranges thinly and tying them onto the tree with twine.

Be sure to keep a small container of water with a small rock in it nearby so that a quick drink before the birds depart is easily available. A small, metal fry pan or dish is a great receptacle for this purpose.



Photo by Greg Cznadel
Christmas tree turned into a bird feeder

There is not enough space here to explain all the ways that homemade suet cakes can be added to your tree, but *The Backyard Bird Feeder's Bible*, authored by Sally Roth and published by Rodale, has a lot of suggestions about feeders, seed mixes, projects and treats, including how to make homemade suet.

If you long ago gave up the tradition of a cut Christmas tree, you may use existing pines and conifers to string bird feeders that not only provide food but also shelter and cover throughout the cold winter months.

BCN hopes that you will consider adding a few traditions which include wildlife during this season of giving.

THEATER NOTES



Beck Center
Mackey Main Stage
17801 Detroit Ave.

216-521-2540 www.beckcenter.org
"Mary Poppins"

Now - Sun., Jan. 4th. Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm;
Sun., 2:30 pm; matinee, 2:30 pm, Jan. 3rd;
Tickets: \$10 - \$29.

Cleveland Public Theatre (CPT)
James Levin Theatre

6415 Detroit Ave. 216-631-2727 ext. 205
Big Box

(Seven-week program provides local artists opportunity to create & produce new works.)
Week 1, Jan. 8th - Jan. 10th, "Cut it Out";
Week 2, Jan. 15th - Jan. 17th, "Unintended Consequences";
Week 3, Jan. 22nd - Jan. 24th, "Me, Love Me, Aphrodite and Black Virgins Are Not for Hipsters";
Week 4, Jan. 29th - Feb. 31st, "Orphan Kiss (Left) and Turning Toward the Other".
All performances at 7 p.m., Thurs., Fri., Sat.
Tickets: \$12-\$15.

Playhouse Square Center
1501 Euclid Ave. 216-241-6000
www.playhousesquare.org
Kennedy's Theatre
"Flanagan's Wake"

Fri., Jan. 9th - Sat., May 2nd. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm. Tickets: \$25.

Star Performance Series at the Connor Palace
"Stomp"

Fri., Jan. 16th - Sun., Feb. 18th. Fri., 7:30 pm;
Sat., 4 & 8 pm; Sun., 1 & 6:30 pm. Tickets:
\$10 - \$60.

Cleveland Play House at the Allen Theatre
"Five Guys Named Moe"

Fri., Jan. 23rd - Sun., Feb. 15th. Tues., 7 pm;
Wed., & Thurs., Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat. & Sun.,
2:30 & 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$49 - 89.

Outcalt Theatre
"Last Call Cleveland"

Fri., Jan 23rd - Sat., Jan. 31st. Fri. & Sat.,
8:30 pm. Tickets: \$15 - \$20.

Outcalt Theatre
"Defending the Caveman"

Wed., Feb. 4th - Sun., Feb. 15th. Wed.,
Thurs., Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 5 & 8 pm; Sun., 4 pm.

KeyBank Broadway Series at the State Theatre
"Pippin"

Tues., Feb. 3rd - Sun., Feb., 15th. Tues. - Fri.,
7:30 pm; Sat., 1:30 & 7:30 pm; Sun., 1 &
6:30 pm. Tickets: \$30 - \$100.

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Old Brooklyn diners serve friendly, soul-warming fare

by Rosemary Mudry
 rosemarym@oldbrooklyn.com &
 Jason A. Powers
 jasonp@oldbrooklyn.com

Every town claims its diners' food is the best in the world, but somewhere, in some town, the best diner fare really exists; why can't that place be Old Brooklyn?

This month the *Old Brooklyn News* looked at six of our locals' favorite spots to grab a bite, meet the owners, and hear the local gossip. We sat down, had a cup of coffee and learned a little bit about each one. Here are the highlights.

Charlie's Dog House Diner
 2102 Brookpark Rd.
 216-661-4873



This counter only diner was highlighted in a January 2014 article on tiny bars and restaurants in *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*. Sit down at one of just 19 stools and be greeted by a warm and friendly mother and daughter duo. Choose from a variety of made from scratch breakfast and lunch specials including never been frozen hamburgers and homemade soups. Owner Bobbi Malek is quite accommodating serving not just coffee, but also a variety of tea. Charlie's regulars are both outgoing and loyal; they are happy to chat and some even show up each morning before Malek opens the doors at 6am.

When did you open: 2005, but the spot has operated as a diner since the 1950's
What kind of coffee do you serve: Wallingford
Famous guest: Jimmy Malone and Carl Monday
Most popular item: Ashley Burrito

Gabe's Family Restaurant
 2044 Broadview Rd.
 216-741-4466



Long time locals will remember when this place was Red Barn or Barb's. Enter from the side and the familiar layout with booths and tables fills the open space with windows facing the street. The friendly staff will let you pick your seat and immediately bring over the hot coffee. During the holiday season, light Christmas music filled the room and when combined with the faint buzz of the kitchen (set off in the distance from the dining area), the scene was complete.

When did you open: April 2004
What kind of coffee do you serve: Superior Coffee
Famous guest: Presidential Secret Servicemen
Most popular item: Eggs benedict

Gus's Family Restaurant
 4377 State Rd.
 216-661-5967

On State Rd. lies a little piece of Americana, a diner that can transport you to a different time and place immediately upon entrance. A few small tables line the entrance



next to a large bar with bubbling coffee machines and waitresses waiting; immediately behind the bar is the open kitchen and griddle. Greeted with a smile and a mug, guests are set to enjoy a corned beef sandwich or omelet, but save room for dessert where this place shines as both all-American and all-Cleveland with choices of Apple Pie and Baklava.

When did you open: Open for over 25 years
What kind of coffee do you serve: Superior Coffee
Famous guest: Our locals are the best
Most popular item: Breakfast

Steve's Family Restaurant
 4457 Broadview Rd.
 216-749-7588



Just around the bend on Broadview Rd. sits another gem in the Old Brooklyn diner scene. Once Pete's Corner Grill, Steve's family restaurant has been serving up breakfast and lunch for the last decade. Take one step into this shop and the buzz of a busy kitchen and local eatery is felt. In addition to the tables, a half dozen stools await diners at the counter and provide the perfect spot for a single guest. A glimpse of the kitchen reveals controlled chaos where cooks put together everything from chicken fried steak to the gyro sandwich.

When did you open: November 2005
What kind of coffee do you serve: S&D Coffee
Famous guest: The Ramones
Most popular item: Anything with Gyro meat

Suzie's Family Restaurant
 6212 Memphis Rd.
 216-398-8890



Along the main drag of Memphis Rd. is Suzie's, a family owned and operated restaurant with quick service and a friendly staff. Take a seat at the counter and you'll hear the staff's upbeat banter and see the cook in action. Wreaths and a Christmas tree accent the clean, simple décor creating a festive seasonal atmosphere. Suzie is one of just a few breakfast joints that also serves dinner and is open until 9pm.

When did you open: August 2013
What kind of coffee do you serve: Columbia
Famous guest: Local regulars
Most popular item: daily breakfast special

Villa Mia Restaurant
 4890 Pearl Rd.
 216-351-0400



Take one step into this diner and guests immediately feel at home. The table cloths rotate with the seasons (December had Santa Claus and snowflakes) as do the decorations. The walls are adorned with knick knacks from locals and guests. Unlike chain store imitations, every single one of this is authentic and has a story. Home to a monthly local business meeting where guests leave their own mugs at the counter, breakfast here feels more like a big family gathering than a trip to the restaurant.

When did you open: October 1986
What kind of coffee do you serve: Forest City Coffee
Famous guest: Variety of Browns players have come through
Most popular item: Thick cut bacon

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**“Your home;
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By Jayme Lucas-Bukszar
jaymel@oldbrooklyn.com

**Things You Can Do Now
to Get Your Home Ready to Sell
this Spring**

We spoke with local realtors David Sharkey, President of Progressive Real Estate, and Tamara Sims, an agent with Russell Realty, about what homeowners can do now to have their homes marketable this spring.

According to David Sharkey, the easiest way to get your home ready is to reduce clutter. He added, “Sometimes we don’t see the clutter in our own homes. Have a friend/relative or Realtor walk through your home to make suggestions on what to get rid of. Don’t be offended by what they say. The same goes for repairs. We all get used to the nuances of our homes, but a buyer looking to purchase your home most likely will look at those little things we deal with every day as negatives.”

“Make sure your home is clean and neat for every showing and it is best not to be present for showings. You want buyers to see your home in the best light without feeling like they are intruding on your space. If you are a smoker or have pets, try to not smoke in the house and keep your pet areas clean so that your house looks and smells clean.”

Tamara Sims agreed that reducing clutter and cleaning are critical for making your home marketable. She added, “A property that has not been well maintained and updated sells for less.”

She also warned, “We live in an age when buyers have information at their fingertips. They can easily compare similar properties in the area. A house that is overpriced for its market will be ignored by buyers.” Having the right Realtor can help ensure your home will have an online presence and be priced to sell.

**Tips for Selecting the
Right Realtor**

We also asked David and Tamara for tips on finding the right Realtor either as a seller or buyer. According to David, “I think just having a conversation with a Realtor is important. You want to get along with your

agent and feel comfortable with them. If the agent you are talking to does not seem familiar with your neighborhood or sounds disinterested you should look for someone else. A good agent can give you basic idea of value after looking up comparable sales in your area.

To get a more solid idea of what your home could sell for they will need to come out and take a look at it. From there they should be able to narrow down the comparable sales and come up with a better idea of what your home is worth. You don’t want to price your home too high, because if it looks out of place it will not get shown by other Realtors. It is best to price your home with a price that is right for your home and neighborhood”.

Tamara added the following insights, “We live in the age of technology. If you can’t find the realtor online, be suspicious. Most brokers have websites which list their agents with their pictures. You can also check their license status with the Ohio Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing at <https://elicense3-secure.com.ohio.gov/Lookup/LicenseLookup.aspx>.”

Tamara emphasized that whether you’re a buyer or a seller you want to research the broker. Real estate agents are licensed by the State to help you sell (or buy) property under the supervision of a sponsoring broker who is legally responsible for the actions of the agent. Reputable brokers have managers in their local offices to help agents with unfamiliar or unusual issues. So provided that you are working with a broker and agent you like and trust, you should be able to get any help you need.

“Also, make sure you know who the agent represents in the transaction. An agent can represent the buyer, the seller or, in some cases, if permitted by the seller and the broker, an agent can represent both buyer and seller.” “You should receive a copy of the broker’s Consumer Guide to Agency Relationships, which will explain the different types of agency to you. Be sure you understand your agency relationship with that agent before discussing any financial issues with them.

Tamara added, “Be very concerned if an agent can’t show you the data used to determine the probable value of your property in the current market. If you’re selling a house, the agent should be able to provide you a list of homes that have sold recently in your area with the amount they sold for and

how long they were on the market before selling.

They can do a comparable market analysis of your property based on its location and condition, so you can understand what to reasonably expect to get in the current market and how long it may take to find a qualified buyer.”

“Similarly, an agent should be able to provide a buyer with access to information regarding the fair market value of the homes they are viewing.”

Finally, another important issue to determine is whether the agent is able and/or willing to make time to help you. Since agents are paid only commission and only after a deal is closed, they are necessarily selective about scheduling their time. Busy, well-established agents often reserve their

time for high-end buyers and sellers. First-time buyers and those shopping for or selling low or moderately priced properties may find it more difficult to get their calls returned. For this reason, they are usually referred to newer agents.

A newer agent has fewer clients and therefore more time to devote to them. And, if the agent is sponsored by a reputable broker, they will have a manager to help with any unfamiliar or unusual issues; you would still be able to get the help you need.

If you do encounter a problem with your agent, call the office and ask for the manager. If the manager fails to help, contact the Ohio Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing at 614-466-4100 or WebReal@com.state.oh.us.

How to apply for emergency utility help

Source:

http://development.ohio.gov/is/is_heapwinter.htm

The Winter Crisis Program helps income-eligible residents that are threatened with disconnection, have been disconnected or have less than a 25 percent supply of bulk fuel in their tank maintain their utility service. The program runs from November 1, 2014 until March 31, 2015.

Winter Crisis is part of the Home Energy Assistance Program and households must sign up for the Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP Plus) or another payment plan in order to receive emergency benefits.

Homeowners and renters with incomes at or below 175% of the federal poverty guidelines are income eligible. A household of one person can earn \$20,422.50 or below, two persons can earn \$27,527.50 or below, three persons can earn \$34,642.50 or below

and four persons can earn \$41,737.50 or below.

To apply for the program a person must complete the Energy Assistance Program application and schedule an appointment with a Home Energy Assistance Program provider. The provider for Cuyahoga County is Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland and can be reached at 216-696-9077.

Income documentation must be presented at the time of application for all household members, except wage or salary income earned by dependent minors under 18 years old.

Applications are available online at http://development.ohio.gov/is/is_heapwinter.htm or at Old Brooklyn CDC’s office. We are located at 2339 Broadview Rd. and Jayme Lucas-Bukszar can be reached at 216-459-1000.



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Writing down family memories about Christmas is a fun holiday gift for siblings, part II

by Lynette Filips
lynettef@oldbrooklyn.com

I've never reused in a 'sequel' the opening paragraphs I wrote for a previous article, but I think that I'll make an exception this year. The reason is that this month's history article is a continuation of the one I wrote for last January's *Old Brooklyn News*, and part of the introduction is still applicable –

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.

That entire article from January, 2014 is viewable on our website, www.oldbrooklyn.com, but here's a quick summary –

I was inspired to start writing down my childhood Christmas memories after hearing a presentation by a speaker from the Mormon Church's Family History Center and after viewing the Cleveland Play House's production of *A Christmas Story*.

A year ago I talked about toy catalogues, baking fruitcakes and Christmas cookies, sending Christmas cards, and Santa's Brownies decorating our tree on Christmas Eve. That barely scratched the surface, but it was all we had space for. So this month the saga continues...

More thoughts about Christmas cards have come into my mind –



As is the case today, a few of our relatives and friends had 'photo greeting' Christmas cards made each year. They were in black and white and had a decidedly 50's-60's character.



Grandparents, aunts and uncles sent special children's cards to each child in the family more routinely than they do today. I can't say what other families did, but my mother kept a scrapbook of cards for each of us when we were young, starting with the cards we received when we were born, then 'Baby's First Christmas' cards, and moving on to first birthday, and then subsequent Christmases and birthdays.

School kids used to sell 'average' - looking religious and non-religious cards (as well as gift wrap and tags) as fundraisers for their schools. Twenty-one cards cost \$1. If a person hadn't braved the crowds the day after the previous Christmas for 1/2 price cards, they were stuck with either paying \$1 a box (not cheap, fifty years ago) for those cards, or paying the department store/dime store prices. In those

days there weren't close-out or discount stores where a person could buy Christmas cards. (At least, I don't recall having seen any at the old Giant Tiger!)

Thinking back about shopping, it's almost unbelievable how limited the options for people who lived outside the city were in the 1950s. I grew up on W. Pleasant Valley Rd. in Parma, across from what's now Cuyahoga Community College. Other than driving to what we considered to be 'downtown' Parma (Ridge Rd. between Snow Rd. and Pearl Rd.), there were really only two retail locations – a small strip shopping center at Southland and another one at Parmatown.

Before Halle's (now Burlington in front and Cleveland Furniture Bank in back) came to Southland, and May Company (later Macy's, but now torn down) came to Parmatown, downtown Cleveland was the only place to seriously Christmas shop, gaze at Christmas displays in the stores' windows, and visit Santa.

Although The Higbee Company on Public Square was the department store featured in the film version of *A Christmas Story*,



for our annual holiday trek into the city, my family headed for the other end of downtown, Playhouse Square. At the Halle Bros. Co., 1228 Euclid Ave., we saw both Santa and Mr. Jingeling, Santa's elf who was the 'Keeper of the Keys' at the famous seventh floor display. A big card-stock-weight paper key (white with red trim and green letters which read *Mr. Jingeling's Good Luck Key*) was placed around each of our necks during our visit. And, of course, we had our picture taken. We also received a unique double balloon – a lightly 'snow-coated', transparent balloon outside with a white balloon inside, fastened to a wooden stick.

At Christmastime Halle's advertised its store as the *Treasure House of Gifts* and I wonder if the reason we headed to Halle's, rather than Higbee's or May's, was that starting in 1956, between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Mr. Jingeling appeared on Captain Penny's TV show (WEWS Channel 5) every day.

(After Halle's closed in 1982, Mr. Jingeling moved to Higbee's to join Bruce the Talking Spruce and the pint-size customers at Higbee's Twigbee Shop. Years later, Lake Metroparks' Penitentiary Glen Reservation put together a Christmas display which included both Mr. Jingeling and Halle's memorabilia. It took a while to drive to Kirtland, and I



don't think that it's still open, but it was refreshing to remember the carefree times of the Fifties and even into the early Sixties.)

The Halle Bros.' neighbor at 1215 Euclid Ave. was Sterling-Lindner/Sterling-Lindner-Davis. In that store's atrium we viewed the



nation's largest indoor Christmas tree. It was impressive just by virtue of its size, and I was happy to get a free postcard souvenir for my postcard collection, but it definitely appealed to adults more than to kids. When Sterling-Lindner closed in September, 1968, the tree tradition which its predecessor, Sterling & Welch, began in 1927 ended.

While downtown, we also looked at the animated Christmas figures in the major stores' (The May Company, in addition to Higbee's and Halle's) display windows, too. If the temperature was particularly cold, we didn't notice because we were so excited to be downtown.

I wonder if the figures then were bigger in those days than the ones there now. Again this year the Horseshoe Casino has filled the windows in the Higbee building with festively decorated moving figures which tell the story of *The Nutcracker*. Though very lovely, to me they didn't look 'larger than life' the way that the mechanized carolers and other Christmas folks in the old displays did.

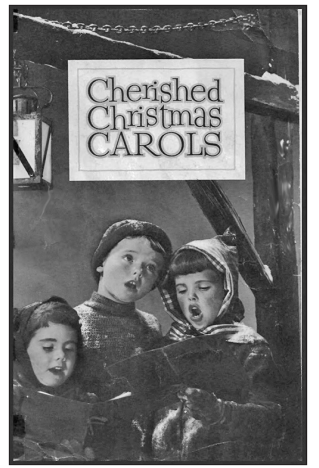
It's too late to check out the Nutcracker windows this year, because they were only in place through January 1st. But the Western Reserve Historical Society is displaying Higbee's 1950s/1960s mechanical window characters originals in a "winter wonderland walk-through" until January 4th.

Eating out was also part of the excitement of our family's downtown Christmas expedition. We took the middle road – non-descript restaurants whose names I do not remember. That was certainly better than ordering a hot dog at Woolworth's lunch counter, but not as stellar as eating at Higbee's Silver Grille, Halle's Geranium Room or May Company's Mayfair Room.

We didn't do any Christmas shopping at the department stores on our downtown trips, but we did stop at some of the wholesale warehouses for toys and household appliances. because in those days they were only located downtown. U.S. Merchandise was definitely one of them, and I think that Esco and State Wholesale were two others. (Best Products was a later addition.) Not surprisingly, at least some of them were in today's Downtown 'Warehouse District'. In time, they moved out to the suburbs, but after more time they were replaced by today's giant buying clubs like BJ's, Costco and Sam's.

On occasion, we also drove out to General Electric's (GE's) Nela Park on Noble Rd. As the headquarters for GE's lighting division, it had hundreds of thousands of Christmas lights decorating that property. (NELA stood for the National Electric Lamp Association.)

On a Friday night in December, every classroom of kids – and sometimes there were 60+ kids in Holy Family (Parma) School classrooms in those days – performed a song or skit for the Christmas show for the parents. The basement auditorium was packed full and the air was charged with excitement.



My parents extended the excitement even more by taking us to "The York Inn" for a sweet treat on the way home. Other than a nearby saloon, it was pretty much the only place for socializing in the vicinity of York and Pleasant Valley roads in those days. But after it was torn down in the name of progress, that tradition ceased.

We Catholic School kids actually got a headstart on the holidays by following the nuns' advice and 'putting out' our shoes on the night of December 5th, the eve of the feast of St. Nicholas. Our hope was to find chocolate and nuts in them in the morning, though reportedly, some kids found onions in theirs instead. In the primary grades, we wrote Christmas letters to our parents, thanking them for all they did for us, asking God to bless them and promising to be good children in the upcoming year.

The letters were embellished with our artwork, or maybe even fastened with yarn inside an ornament made of construction paper. They were the kind of thing some mothers tended to keep forever.



We put up a nativity set on top of the TV each year. The inexpensive plaster figures were purchased at Kresge's (S.S. Kresge was a 'dime store') and my father fashioned a 'stable' for them out of a small wooden crate. Lots of people had the same nativity figures; from time-to-time I chance upon them in two different sizes at local thrift stores.

I'll continue the trip down memory lane at this time next year. In the meantime, if you yearn for more nostalgia, pick up a copy of *Cleveland Christmas Memories* by Gail Ghetia Bellamy (Gray & Company Publishers, 2012). And then share their stories and your stories with family and friends.

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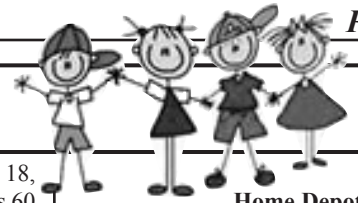
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Children's Museum of Cleveland
 10730 Euclid Ave. 216-791-7114
 www.clevelandchildrensmuseum.org
 Hours: Mon. - Sun., 10 am - 5 pm. Exhibit areas close 15 min. prior to Museum closing. Cost - \$7, children age 1 - 12; \$6, adults & children 13 & over; free, under 11 months. **"Terrific Tuesdays"** - second Tues. eve. of month, 5 - 7:30 pm, through 2014. Admission free during this time.

Cleveland Metroparks Winter Recreation Fun
 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.

Swap Your Clubs for Skis - Cross-country skiers permitted on the fairways & rough areas at Little Met, Mastick Woods, Shawnee Hills & Sleepy Hollow golf courses when there is 4" base of snow. Big Met & Seneca golf courses have groomed trails & Big Met has ski rental. Cross-country skiers can also use hiking, bridle & unplowed all-purpose trails. Skiers should use caution & must yield to hikers & horses. Call 216-635-3270 for conditions. Adult ski rental: \$10/first hr.; \$5/extra hr. Junior ski rental: \$7/first hr.; 12 & under, \$3/extra hr.

Cleveland Metroparks - Brecksville Nature Center Rt. 82 entrance 440-526-1012
Drop-In Discovery: Snowflakes - 10 am - noon. Observe snowflakes with Naturalist John Miller. Snow or snowless, learn how to capture flakes, make fossil impressions & observe snowflakes with microscopes & hand lenses.

Cleveland Metroparks - CanalWay Center E. 49th St. bet. Grant Ave & Canal Rd. 216-206-1000 or clevelandmetroparks.com
Hunt of the Month: Through Jan. 31st. Trees in winter have no leaves but you can still enjoy them. Stop by CanalWay to find 20 hidden trees with no leaves. Then go outside to see the leafless trees. 9 am - 5 pm, Mon. - Sat; noon - 5 pm, Sun.

Family Movie Night - Night at the Museum - Fri., Jan. 9th; noon - 7 - 8:30 pm. Snacks available for purchase or bring your own. Call to register.
CanalWay Matinee - Frozen - Sun., Jan. 18th; 1 - 3 pm. Seating provided or

bring pillow or blanket to relax during movie. Snacks available for purchase or bring your own. Registration required.

Winter Camp In - Sat. Jan. 24th, 7 pm - Sun., 11 am. Both indoor & outdoor fun; meet nature center animals, go for hikes, play games & enjoy park thru night & into morning. Ages: 6 years & over with adult. Fee: \$25/family of 2 - 4 people.

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

Tobogganing - Open thru Mar. 8th - **Jan. holiday hours:** Thurs., Jan. 1st., noon - 10:30 pm; Fri., Jan. 2nd, noon - 10:30 pm; Mon., Jan. 19th, noon - 5 pm. Regular hours: 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), \$110. All Thursdays, student I.D. night; all students with a valid I.D. - \$9.

Cleveland Metroparks - Lakefront Reservation - Edgewater
 216-635-3200

Largest Lakefront Snowman & Winter Maze - thru Jan. 31st, 6 am - 11 pm. Largest lakefront snowman & only winter maze in Northeast Ohio. Test your knowledge of Lake Erie to navigate through maze.



Snow Date - Sat., Jan. 10th, 2 - 4 pm, Upper Edgewater pavilion. Bring family & friends to play in snow. Building tools to help make snow sculptures available. Hot chocolate to warm up. 216-206-1000

Cleveland Metroparks Watershed Stewardship Center West Creek Reservation
 2277 W. Ridgewood 440-887-1968

Mammals of West Creek Drop-by - Sat., Jan. 3rd; 1 - 3:30 pm. Learn about local wildlife through touch & sight as naturalist displays & explains variety of mammal specimens & bio-facts in this kid-friendly drop-by. Make take home craft.

Meet the Flockers Drop-by - Sat., Jan. 24th; 10 am. - 1 pm. Warm up by fire & watch winter birds flock to feeders & wetlands. Naturalist will help with identification & Project FeederWatch tips. Crafting pinecone bird feeder to create for backyard.

Do You Want To Build A Snowman? - Sat., Jan. 17th; 1 - 3 pm. Create whatever snow creation you'd like (snow fox, snow bear, snow snake, snow fish!) Cancelled if no snow.

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

Snowshoeing - Snowshoe rental Big Met Golf Course, Rocky River Reservation 440-331-1070. \$8/first hr., \$3/extra hr. (junior 12 & under \$5/first hr., \$2/extra hr.)

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

Family Discoveries: Animal Enrichment - Sun., Jan., 4th; 9 - 10:30 am.
Family Discoveries: The Wonderful World of Wolves - Wed., Jan., 7th; 9 - 10:30 am.
 Special Zoo experience featuring hands-on activities & guided tours. Fee: \$15/\$10 Zoo members. Call 216-635-3391 to register.

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, \$14; \$7 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. **Planetarium tickets:** \$7 per ticket or \$5 with general. Members free.

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.

Fun with Zentangle® Inspirations Club.
 Sat., Jan. 15th, 7 pm. Grades 4 & up.

Teen Programs - Sat., Jan. 24th, **TAG Team,** 1:30 pm. Grades 6 - 12 & **Board Game Day,** 2:30 pm, ages 10 - 18.

Swiftly the Clown Balloon Show - Sat., Jan. 31st, 2 pm. Ohio's premiere balloon artist. Ranked among top balloon professionals in country; you might even go home with a balloon! *Sponsored by the Friends of the Parma Branch Libraries.*

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Happy Days Lodge
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Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad Peninsula Explorer Ride - Rockside Station
 800-468-4070 visit www.CVSR.com
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Celebrations: Holiday Traditions in Cleveland - Create new holiday tradition. Fri., Jan. 2nd, 10 am; Sat., Jan. 3rd, 5 pm; & Sun., Jan. 4th, 12 pm - 5 pm. Ride Euclid Beach Park Grand Carousel during its first-ever holiday season. Stroll through memory lane & re-live joy of Higbee's department store holiday window displays & mechanical characters. Weekends will feature make & take crafts, as well as other holiday activities.

Sue Alexander from page 2

Eventually Sue found her way to a job in the telephone service at Cuyahoga Community College (CCC). She learned that employees could get free tuition and enrolled in their two-year liberal arts program. Starting off with all nine core classes she finished and began considering occupations. She took a class vocation test which revealed her strengths as someone who worked well with others. It suggested she might start a business or, the second choice, become an occupational therapist (OT). Choosing the latter, Sue finished her studies and was immediately hired as an occupational-therapy assistant (OTA) at MetroHealth. She worked with a variety of patients doing rehab. Some had spinal or other physical injuries, while others were suffering from neurological disorders.

One day Sue found a patient who had a hand injury and wasn't doing his exercises. Sue approached him and through conversation learned that he was a farmer. All of sudden her years in Vermont had new meaning. She connected with him and was able to help him with his rehab.

During the twenty years she worked at MetroHealth, Sue connected with people from all backgrounds who faced unique challenges. Her time working with at risk minorities, her time spent living on welfare, and all the little pieces of her life came together as she connected with her patients.

Sue bubbles with energy and vigor, and her joy and care can be clearly seen by all who know her. This is evident in how her coworkers at MetroHealth helped her when her husband was battling Alzheimer's and was hospitalized. Sue was six weeks away from retirement but wanted to spend as much time as she could with him. Her colleagues gathered together their personal and vacation time and transferred it to Sue so that she could retire early and be with her love. "I am so blessed," she said.

(Sue also has four children and twelve grandchildren and is very proud of them all.)

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How to Build a Mini Sled - Sat., Jan. 3rd; 9 am - 12 pm. Workshops offered 1st Sat. of every month. Free hands-on workshops designed for kids ages 5 - 12 at all Home Depot stores. Children must be present at store to participate

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center
 28728 Wolf Rd.
 440-871-2900 www.lensc.org

Open daily: 10 am - 5 pm; free admission
Owl Prowl - Sat., Jan. 24th, 7 - 8:30 pm. Learn about owls & see them up-close. For all ages. Fee: \$7 ages 2 & up.

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Disney On Ice presents "Frozen" - Fri., Jan. 9th - Sun., Jan. 18th. Fri., 9th, 7 pm; Sat., 10th, 11 am, 3 & 7 pm; Sun., 11th, 1 & 5 pm; Tues., Wed, Thurs, 13th - 15th, 7 pm; Fri., 16th, 3:30 & 7 pm; Sat. & Sun., 17th & 18th, 11 am, 3 & 7 pm. Tickets: \$12 - \$75. Purchase tickets at Quicken Loans Arena Box Office or Discount Drug Mart.

Schools as Neighborhood Resources (SNR)
 James Ford Rhodes High School, 5100 Biddulph Rd., Mon., Wed. & Thurs., 6 - 8 pm. Sign up anytime through April. All activities free & open to public; participants typically range in age from elementary school children to senior citizens. If Cleveland Municipal School District is closed on Mon., Wed. or Thurs., either for scheduled holiday or due to inclement weather, evening classes will not be in session. Call 216-812-8700 or website: www.neighborhoodleadership.org/programs/snr for more info.

University Circle
 216-791-3900 www.universitycircle.org
The Rink at Wade Oval - Open now - Sun., Mar. 8th; Fri., noon - 9 pm; Sat., noon - 7 pm; Sun., noon - 5 pm. \$2 to skate, \$3 skate rentals. Hot chocolate & coffee available. Call 216-707-5033 for daily info.

As a community we are blessed to have Sue Alexander among us. Over the years she has served on the Boards of Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp. and Senior Citizen Resources, Inc.; led the work at Crossroads Development Corp.; was president of her Alumni Association at CCC; and served on Advisory Boards for both the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging and Cuyahoga County Division of Senior & Adult Services.

Sue spent much of her life in Old Brooklyn and has three children who live here now. "This is a great community; people move out but they never leave. I live in Parma Heights now which is lovely, but this neighborhood... is cool. When the chips are down, people back you. You have neighbors in this neighborhood."

Three years ago Sue adopted an eight-year-old golden retriever from Golden Retrievers in Need Rescue Service (GRIN) and by buying a home with a nice yard where they can play together, bucked the trend of seniors who downsize. Her dog, now eleven years old, was recently diagnosed with liver cancer.

"When you get an old dog you know they aren't going to last a long time. That's something I learned when I lost my husband. Loss is hard, but the stuff you get before the loss is so great, why would you miss the opportunity?" Sue mused.

And it is that kind of love and energy which drive Sue. When you meet her you can't help but smile and feel relief from the stress around you.

Sue noted that in other cultures elders are revered as wise individuals, and only here in America do we lose sight of that. "I like being old; old is good," she commented as she explained that with age comes a grace and appreciation for the little things. "Today when I see a sunset, I see it like I've never seen it before."

If you meet Sue in person one day, take the time to chat. You'll see things a little differently after that.



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Cleveland Transformation Alliance works to make sure that every child in every neighborhood can attend a quality public school.

Learn More - ClevelandTA.org

Sign up to become a member of Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation

Old BROOKLYN
 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Become a Member & Invest in Your Community

ANNUAL RESIDENTIAL MEMBERSHIP

___ Senior (62+) \$10	___ Senior Couple \$20
___ Students \$10	
___ Individuals \$15	
___ Couples \$25	
___ Community Organizer \$50	
___ Community Leader \$100 or more	

List talents you would like to volunteer to improve your community.

Your membership is tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to: Old Brooklyn CDC & mail membership form to:
 Old Brooklyn CDC 2339 Broadview Rd. Cleveland, OH 44109 www.oldbrooklyn.com 216-459-1000

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FOR RENT
ONE, TWO & THREE BDRM. APT. FOR RENT - from \$300 - \$600 mn. No pets. Call John 216-905-6328.



HELP WANTED
LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO DO - light cleaning & errands. Near Parmatown Mall. \$10 per hr. Call 440-499-4151 & leave message.

WANTED
ELECTRICAL TOY TRAINS & ACCESSORIES WANTED - Any make or age. Cash paid for trains, accessories or parts. Lionel, American Flyer, Ives, Marx, LGB, "Also buying Boy Scout Items"; call 216-375-4426.

WANTED - HOUSES
CASH FOR HOUSES, Any condition, any location. Call 216-533-3181.

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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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.

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- Radios • Old toys - Tin windup cast iron • Fishing items - lures, reels
- Sport cards: baseball, basketball, football, hockey, any sports • Comic books
- Oil bottles • Posters • Signs • Telephones
- Old bottles • Early board games
- Advertising items • Motorcycles • Motor Scooters - Vespa, Labretta, Cushman
- Old movie posters • Boy Scout items
- Bicycles • Cap guns • Oil paintings

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COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Brooklyn Centre Naturalists -- no meeting this month.

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

Cleveland Republican Organization meeting, Tues., Jan. 13th (& every second Tues.); 7 pm, Brooklyn Hts., UCC, 2005 W. Schaaf Rd. Call 216-832-9195 for more info.

Historical Society of Old Brooklyn meeting, 7 pm, Fri., Jan. 9th, Pearl Road United Methodist Church, 4200 Pearl Rd. (Use rear entrance off parking lot.) Speaker: Daniel Smith owner of Familyography. Call president Constance Ewazen, 216-398-8969, for more info.

Old Brooklyn Crime Watch meeting, Fri., Jan. 9th, 7 pm, Grace Church, 2503 Broadview Rd. Call Barb Spaan, 216-459-1000, for more info.

Second District Police Community Relations meeting, Tues., Jan. 13th (& 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 Democratic Club meeting, Tues., Jan. 20th (& every third Tues.), 7 pm, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 5801 Memphis Ave.

OBCDC Holiday Lighting Contest winners



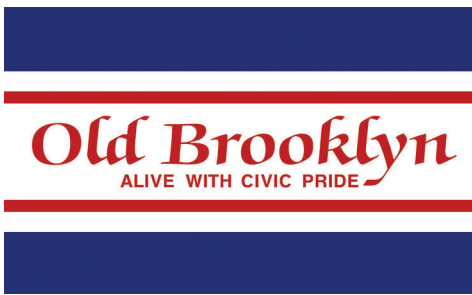
Photo by Stephanie Canfield

First place, commercial
Cake Royale, 4276 Pearl Rd.,



Photo by Tamara Sims

First place, residential
John Mitchell, 1711 Merl Ave.



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The Old Brooklyn Families Group is a group for families who live in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood of Cleveland who want to improve the neighborhood and connect with other families.

We meet monthly at various locations in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood to discuss and plan events and activities.

We would love for your family to join us!



Meetings
Estabrook Recreation Center
4125 Fulton Rd.
Wednesday, January 7th
6:30 pm.

Thursday, February 12th
Time & location TBA

For more information
email families@oldbrooklyn.com

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