

FREE!

The Collinwood Observer

Vol. 1, Issue 3 • October 22, 2009

A member of the Observer media family of community-written newspapers and websites

Mayoral candidates address Collinwood

We invited your candidates for mayor of Cleveland to submit a story in their own words addressing their mayoral platform and how it relates to the Collinwood area—Cleveland Wards 10 and 11. We asked that they submit through our website, which they both did, and provide a photo.

Their responses were allowed to be up to 500 words, and both gentlemen abided by that limit. We asked that the submissions be factual and not libelous or malicious in nature. Both submitted their stories by the Friday deadline established for this story. Their responses are printed below, and continue on page 2.



COURTESY FRANK G. JACKSON

Mayor Frank G. Jackson:

I am proud to be committed to City neighborhoods. In 2007, we developed a citywide plan for 36 neighborhoods. Collinwood is one of them. To provide City services and capital improvements to these neighborhoods in hard economic times requires strong financial planning, and in the City of Cleveland I have balanced our budgets without layoffs or service reductions. In addition, we are working on the following major capital improvement projects in Collinwood:

Collinwood Athletic Complex. This four-year-old, state-of-the-art high school football

complex has won praise from at least one visiting NFL player, and I am committed to improving the facility by adding shower facilities, identifying more parking, and creating easier pedestrian access to Collinwood High School.

St. Clair Avenue. This major street is undergoing a \$7 million rehabilitation from East 72nd Street to East 140th Street which should be complete in 2011.

Five Points. My 2009 Five-Year Capital Program shows \$1.25 million for streetscape improvements to the Five Points area in the year 2011. My staff is working with Councilman Eugene Miller to identify 2009 monies to commence design of streetscape improvements within a ¼-mile radius of the Five Points intersection. Our goal is to achieve a more walkable pedestrian

✓ Don't forget to VOTE November 3.

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COURTESY BILL PATMON

Challenger Bill Patmon:

Collinwood residents have always demonstrated a strong commitment to and involvement in their local schools. I want to draw attention to reports on the dismal performance of the Cleveland Municipal School District under the current administration from City Hall.

The Mayor is ultimately responsible for the education of all of the 47,000 or so children enrolled in the Cleveland Municipal School District, and that record under his leadership is a dismal failure, and the ongoing consequences are disastrous for the city and the region.

His track record on education is indefensible. When the Mayor gave his state of the city address in his first year in office he said that education would be the focus of his administration.

We now have the actual record of the performance of the Cleveland Municipal School District under his ultimate control for the last four years, to examine. For the record, the Cleveland Municipal School District continues to post declining enrollment numbers as students and their parents take advantage of every opportunity to opt out of the District.

The high school graduation rate has dropped by a horrific eight percentage points, down to 53.7%, placing us last among Ohio's 8 urban school districts. Here are the stats:

continued on page 2

Stone Soup for Collinwood

This is your paper. You write it.

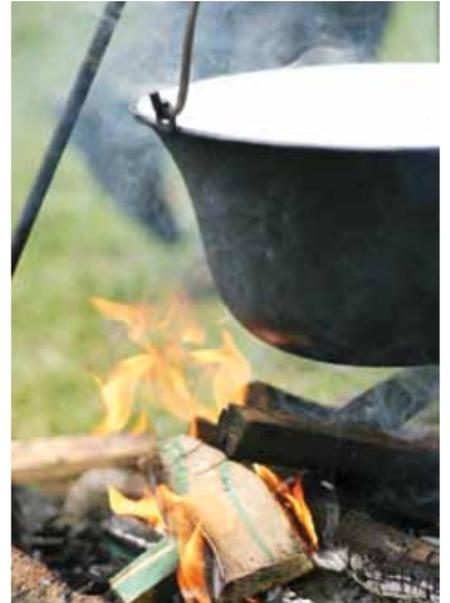
Erin Randel

But you're in Collinwood, and more likely than not possess a flinty disposition that demands hard evidence to be convinced of things. Not for nothing are our two neighborhood mascots the Vikings and the Railroaders, rather than some passive form of wildlife or what have you. We are proud, tough, loyal, determined, independent folk who accomplish much—and on our own terms. We want proof.

Again and again as we get this paper going, the fable of Stone Soup has come to mind. In the story, which has been told in various forms in many different cultures, two tinkers come to a town that doesn't know what it has to offer. In the story, there's usually a famine or some other hardship that's gone on, and people are hungry. The tinkers (that's the Irish word for them anyway) arrive on the town square, build a fire, set a kettle on it and fill it with water. They toss a few smooth stones into the pot and proclaim the wonders of stone soup to all who will listen.

The townspeople are curious but resistant. Little by little, they come forward with a potato here, a carrot there and some seasonings, and before long, all are enjoying a wonderful rich feast made from things they didn't realize they had; sharing them in a way they'd never thought to before.

So that's this project in a fairy tale. You are holding in your hand the proof: a bowl of the soup your neighbors made together over the last two weeks. Betsy and I are keeping the



fire hot and paying the rent on the cauldron, but the contents are up to you. You can help out with the very next pot, and add something very special to the mix. ■

The deadline for the next issue is Tuesday, Oct. 27

That said, if you're working on something timely, we can work with you. And, there's always another paper, so bring it, get it in, so we can get it out. Volunteers will review it for grammar and spelling, then we'll publish it.

Sign on to www.collinwoodobserver.com, click on Member Center, sign in, click on Writer, type out a title, type up your story, and click 'submit.' Don't have a computer? Head to one of our fine libraries and go online there. Please share your story so we can all enjoy it together.

Collinwood Observer Mission Statement [DRAFT]

This is a preliminary mission statement, based on those of other Observer papers. It will be revised as Collinwood residents get involved and discuss the purpose this paper should serve in our neighborhood.

The mission of the Collinwood Observer is to attract, articulate, and amplify community knowledge and goodwill in Wards 10 and 11—and beyond.

Our goal is to help Collinwood residents and neighbors learn as much as possible about our community. The Collinwood Observer will illuminate the many facets of culture, arts, business, education, and faith this diverse community has to offer. Together, we'll capture Collinwood life in the present, imagine its promising future, and celebrate its rich history.

The Collinwood Observer shall provide a sounding board for the community: families, children, schools, institutions, events, and local government. It will provide a forum for long-running dialogue with everyone who works, lives, or plays in the greater Collinwood community.

In this twenty-first century urban

experiment, the Collinwood Observer will provide a framework for the neighborhoods to engage in open and unbiased discussions for mapping community solutions, advancing responsible economic development and sustainability strategies, and tracking results.

Finally, the Collinwood Observer will invite the entire community to celebrate the vibrant mosaic of culture, nature, history, and personality we call Collinwood.

What is your vision for this community? Do you have thoughts on the ways this project can contribute to a spirit of community? If so, please consider volunteering to serve as a sounding board as part of our advisory board, which is now forming.

Send an email titled something like, "The Collinwood Observer should..." and send it to erin@collinwoodobserver.com and betsy@collinwoodobserver.com.

Around Collinwood

The Collinwood Observer

The Collinwood Observer is a citizen-based news source published every two weeks by Collinwood Observer, Inc., a local business dedicated to the development of grassroots media and increased connectedness of the citizens, civic groups, nonprofits, businesses and institutions in and around Cleveland Wards 10 and 11.

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The Collinwood Observer is powered by:



CORRECTION:
The last issue provided an incorrect outcome of the Sept. 25, 2009 varsity football game at Bump Taylor Field. Glenville defeated Collinwood 47-6 in this Senate League game.

Mayoral candidates address Collinwood

continued from Page 1

From Mayor Frank G. Jackson

environment linking Collinwood High School, the Collinwood Branch of Cleveland Public Library, the Collinwood Athletic Complex and other activity centers.

Recreation Enhancements at East 152nd Street and Ivanhoe Road. This year I allocated \$2.5 million in bond funds toward recreation enhancements that can add to and link the existing recreation assets at Collinwood High School and the Collinwood Athletic Complex. Our 2009 Five-Year Capital Program calls for an additional \$2 million investment in 2010. My staff is working with Councilman Miller and his residents to develop the best investments for this money, and we will coordinate this approach with the Five Points streetscape improvements.

Waterloo Road. In 2008 and 2009 I allocated \$410,000 toward streetscape improvements for the downtown Waterloo District encompassing Waterloo Road between East 152nd Street and East 162nd Street, and on East 156th Street from I-90 to Huntmere Avenue. The planning study prepared by consultant URS states the objective of creating a more walkable neighborhood commercial center, which in turn will cause businesses to invest in the area. The streetscape improvements will be coordinated with the resurfacing of Waterloo Road, which was allocated \$300,000 in 2009 bond funds for engineering work.

New Collinwood Recreation Center. Design is nearly complete on a new Collinwood Recreation Center on Lake Shore Boulevard. The center will be constructed in the former Big Lots/K-Mart building which adjoins the Humphrey Sports Complex. It is expected to achieve LEEDS certification for sustainable design and construction. I allocated \$4 million in 2009 bond funds toward the center, and am actively working with Councilman Michael Polensek to put together funding for the additional \$6 million needed to complete the project. ■

From challenger Bill Patmon

Toledo: 86.6%; Dayton: 83.1%; Cincinnati: 82.9%; Akron: 78.3%; Canton: 76.8%; Columbus: 73.9%; Youngstown: 72.8%; and finally, Cleveland at a dismal 53.7%.

The Cleveland Schools have more administrators than Columbus, the state's largest school district, and Cleveland's administrators are paid significantly more than the state's largest district. Yet, Cleveland has the worst graduation record, and more schools performing poorly by state standards than any other district in Ohio. The combined salaries of the top 50 Columbus administrators is \$5.7 million annually, while spending for Cleveland's top 50 administrators is \$6.2 million.

In 2008, Columbus had an enrollment of 52,894; while Cleveland's enrollment was 50,078. The Columbus District has 123 buildings, and Cleveland has 110 buildings. We are paying more for less by every comparison.

By measure of academic proficiency, the District's three year trend for the 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09 school years, shows that, grade for grade, subject by subject, students are failing to master the academics, and proficiency rates are going down between 2006 and 2009, every number, in every category for every grade measured. Our children's very lives are at stake.

The mayor and superintendent have had four years and billions of dollars to make changes. For the record, whatever they are doing, it is not working for our children, for the city and the region as a whole. Now, it is time for voters to make the ultimate adjustment. You must vote for change at the top. It is time for a change. Vote for me, Bill Patmon, Mayor of the City of Cleveland. I have a plan for the real education of all of the children of the Cleveland Municipal School District. ■



Fifth District Neighborhood Police Headquarters Annual Halloween Party

Friday, October 30 • 6-8 p.m.

Meet members of the City of Cleveland Police and Fire Department. View our new zone car. Take a walk through the Cleveland Fire Department's Smokehouse. Pick up some treats!

Location:

Fifth District Neighborhood Police Headquarters
881 East 152nd Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44110

Block clubs and community meetings

Collinwood Homeowners and Tenants Association meets the first Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., St. Mary's Church, 15519 Holmes Ave.

Collinwood Nottingham Historical Society meets the third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Lithuanian Village Hall, 877 E. 185th St.

East 185th St. Block Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m., Lithuanian Village Hall, 877 E. 185th St.

E. 156th St. Block Watch meets the fourth Wednesday of the month. 6:30 p.m. at the Arts Collinwood Community Center, 397 E. 156th Street.

Euclid Park Civic Club meets the second Tuesday of every month. 6:30 p.m., Cleveland Clinic Building, 17325 Euclid Ave., 2nd floor.

Euclid Park North Block Club meets the third Tuesday of every month. 7 p.m. Five Points Community Center, 813 E. 152nd St.

Nottingham Civic Club meets the third Tuesday of every month. 7 p.m., Nottingham United Methodist Church, 18316 St. Clair Ave.

Ward 10 Club meets Thursday, Oct. 22 from 5-8 p.m. at the Five Points Community Center, 813 E. 152nd Street.

Ward 10 in Action meets every 2nd Tuesday starting October 13. 6-8 p.m. at the Greater Friendship Baptist Church, 12305 Arlington Ave.

Ward 11/Bratenahl Village Democratic Club meets the second Wednesday of the month, Sept-May at 7 p.m., Slovenian Club, 15810 Holmes Ave.

Fifth District Police Community Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., Five Points Community Center, 813 E. 152nd St. • (216) 623-5500

Have we missed your meeting? Has the time changed? Let us know! (216) 235-5009.



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Around Collinwood

Perception vs. reality: Crime is down

Jayne Lucas

We all hear/watch/read the news and it's full of mostly bad stuff: i.e. this person got shot, that person was busted for drugs, etc. But we at the Collinwood & Nottingham Villages Development Corporation wanted to share some good news with you. The City of Cleveland and the Collinwood neighborhood in particular, remains a safe place to live, work, and play. Crimes are down in the Collinwood & Nottingham Villages service area; violent crimes decreased by a whopping 21.6% since 2007.

For Cleveland overall, there was a decrease in the number of Part I Crimes, from 34,275 in 2007 to 31,952 in 2008 (a decline of 6.8%). The Part I, or Index crimes include violent crimes (homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assaults), and property crimes (burglary, larceny-theft, auto theft, and arson). Similarly, there were 6% fewer Part II Crimes in Cleveland in 2008 -- 36,189 in 2007 compared to 34,006 in 2008. Part II crimes include everything that is not a violent or property crime. Examples

include non-aggravated assaults, vandalism, weapons violations, and drug violations. Collinwood is comparable to the suburbs for juvenile delinquency offenses!

Collinwood has comparable juvenile delinquency rates to South Euclid, University Heights, and Shaker Heights. We are doing better than Euclid, Cleveland Heights, Maple Heights, and Bedford. Good job kids!

Source: NEO CANDO, Case Western Reserve University

Credits available for hiring formerly incarcerated persons

Margaret Dua

Did you know that there is a Federal Bonding Program (EFB) that offers bonds of at least \$5,000 for employers to hire ex-offenders? There is no cost to the employer or the new employee. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction manages the program in Ohio. The program was started to encourage employers to hire ex-offenders. Contact the Bureau of Quality & Community Partnerships at 614-728-1534 for more information and how to start the bond process. Information was obtained from http://www.drc.state.oh.us/Quality/OJL_bonding.htm

Employers are also eligible for a Work Opportunities Tax Credit equal to 35 percent of the first \$6,000 of wages (\$2,100) if the employee has worked at least 180 days. This tax credit is for the following and more:

- Qualified veteran
- Qualified ex-felon
- Designated community resident
- Vocational rehabilitation referral
- Summer youth employee
- SNAP recipient
- SSI recipient
- Unemployed veteran
- Disconnected youth

See the Instructions for Form 8850 (Rev. April 2009) and section 51(d) for details and restrictions. See <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-prior/f5884--2008.pdf>

Evangelist Margaret Dua runs The Walls Inside Out, a re-entry referrals and services resource.

Neighborhood church life

Betsy Voinovich

What's your church up to, what's new? Do you have a project or mission you'd like to spread the word about? Pastors, priests, lay people, churchgoers, believers, we invite you to write about your church and your views in this paper. Visit www.collinwoodobserver.com or call (216) 235-5009 to schedule a visit with our editor to learn about the opportunities for proclaiming your work in these pages.



- | | |
|--|--|
| Aspinwall Church of God Mountain Assembly , 14627 Aspinwall Ave. 268-0879 | Mars Hill Baptist Church , 686 E. 140th St. (216) 681-7820. |
| Bright Star Missionary Baptist Church , 13028 Shaw Ave. (216) 249-5213. | New Birth Ministries , 14911 Westropp Ave. (216) 486-3799 |
| Christian Fellowship Center , 14713 Lakeshore Blvd. (216) 531-0017 | New Zion Church of God , 15007 Aspinwall Ave. (216) 451-2679 |
| East Glenville United Methodist Church , 12651 St. Clair Ave. (216) 451-1696. | Nottingham United Methodist Church , 18316 St. Clair Ave. (216) 481-4827. |
| Everlasting Baptist Church , 579 Eddy Road (216) 681-5189. | St. Casimir Church , 18022 Neff Road (216) 531-4263. |
| Greater Bethel AME Church , 14735 Thames Ave. (216) 541-2628. | Philemon Community Baptist Church , 12618 Shaw Ave. (216) 268-5127 |
| Greater New Calvary Baptist Church , 822 E. 105th St. (216) 761-0486. | St. Jerome Church , 15000 Lakeshore Blvd. (216) 481-8200. |
| Holy Cross Church , 1995 Lakeshore Blvd. (216) 486-0850. | St. John Lutheran Church , 17402 Nottingham Rd. (216) 531-1156 |
| Holy Redeemer , 15712 Kipling Ave. (216) 531-3313. | St. Mary Collinwood , 15519 Holmes Ave. (216) 761-7740. |



Nervous about writing for the Observer? Come to a workshop!

Deva Walker

The Collinwood Branch Library is presenting a Writers Workshop with the Collinwood Observer on Saturday, Oct. 24, 12:30-2 p.m. This workshop will help you get registered to submit stories for the Collinwood Observer. We also will show you how the website works so that you can submit events to the calendar. Everyone is welcome. Cleveland Public Library-Collinwood Branch, 856 E. 152nd Street, Cleveland, OH 44110, 216-623-6934.

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MONDAY-FRIDAY 7 A.M. - 11 A.M.

Developments

Land Bank can help property owners expand

Louise Foresman

Maybe you'd like a bigger side yard for your kids' swing set or could really use some space to build a garage to protect your car from the ferocious Cleveland winter. Or maybe you'd just like some more space to grow your prize tomatoes. If you own and live in a property next door to a vacant lot owned by the City of Cleveland, you may be in luck.

Where else could you get a non-buildable city lot for \$1 (plus recording fees) or a buildable lot for \$10/foot for yard expansion or \$100/lot for new housing construction? As long as you don't have outstanding housing code violations on your property, and if you don't mind waiting several months while the city verifies the lot's status and checks with local groups and your city council representative, you could expand your property for a bargain price.

Those interested can start by checking out the address of a vacant lot next to or near their property. The next step is to call the City of Cleveland Land Bank Program

and see if the City of Cleveland owns the parcel. You can also check the searchable database of city-owned parcels on the Land Bank's website at <http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us/portal/page/portal/CityofCleveland/Home/Government/CityAgencies/CommunityDevelopment/LandBank>

All available properties in a single ward can be viewed together. Ward 10 has about 400 properties in the online database, Ward 11 has 54.

If the city owns the lot in question and the interested property owner has no housing code violations and their property taxes are paid up, land bank staff will send out an application for the lot. Applications can also be picked up at the land bank office or downloaded from the city's website.

Buildable parcels are available for use in home, garage, or commercial building construction. Non-buildable parcels can be used to add driveways, enlarge current adjacent properties, add fencing, gardening, or landscaping, or to expand parking

facilities. The cost of the lot depends on its size and usage.

Once the staff receives the completed application, they start their research. The city council representative for the area has to approve the transfer of the property after verifying that no city departments need the lot. A committee comprised of local residents and representatives of area nonprofits also reviews the lot's proposed use to ensure suitability for the neighborhood. Finally, the Cleveland City Council has to approve the sale.

Evelyn Sternad, manager of the city land bank program, says the land bank isn't new. It has existed for 25 years, and typically the city has processed about 600 parcels each year. But the Ohio Legislature passed a law last December directing Cuyahoga County to move foreclosed properties into a land bank, demolish homes that cannot be salvaged and sell the lots that resulted.

According to Sternad, since January 1, 2009, the city has acquired 1800 new

parcels of land.

Land bank staff have received inquiries about the program from callers as far away as England, hoping to get in on the bargain prices. But unless the caller is next door to or near a city-owned lot, they won't be eligible. "What we're trying to do is get (neighborhood) people to improve their properties," Sternad said.

Depending on what the property owner wants to do with the lot, the fee could be as low as \$1, but there is also a recording fee that runs about \$76. The process could take as little as 2-3 months, but Evelyn Sternad says this year the process has taken much longer due to the influx of parcels from demolitions and foreclosures. She urges people to consider the land bank program if it fits their needs, despite the time it might take. "If people want their city to look nice, they have to be part of it," she says.

It all starts with a call to the land bank office at 216-664-4127, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. ■

Warm up with free weatherization services

Roger Carney

The American Reinvestment Recovery Act has granted the City of Cleveland (through the State of Ohio) \$21 million to invest in weatherizing homes over the next 18 months. The following conditions must be met. The home must:

- 1) House income-qualified residents.
- 2) Not be in foreclosure.
- 3) Not have been previously weatherized.
- 4) Not have moisture or mold issues.

Income qualifications are as follows:

Family Size	Annual Income	Family Size	Annual Income
1	\$21,660	5	\$51,580
2	\$29,140	6	\$59,060
3	\$36,620	7	\$66,540
4	\$44,100	8	\$74,020

The HWAP (Housing Weatherization Assistance Program) is not a rehabilitation or maintenance program. The following weatherization measures may be done to your home if you are eligible for services. A home inspection is completed to determine the most cost-effective weatherization services for each home. The services may include:

- Safety Inspection, tune-up/repair, and, if necessary installation of heating units
- Insulation of attics, sidewalls and floors
- Insulation of heating ducts
- Insulation of water tanks
- Reduction of air leakage from major sources
- Personalized Energy Management Plans



To receive an application or for further information, call the Weatherization Department of Community Housing Solutions at 216-651-0077.

PLEASE NOTE: the income guidelines provided in the previous issue in the Northeast Shores weatherization article were incorrect. The proper income guidelines are listed above. For more information about NSDC's program, contact Stephanie Thomas at (216) 481-7660.



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News from Northeast Shores

Thoughts from a Northeast Shores intern

Megan Lanning



As an intern at Northeast Shores and the newest member to their team, I am able to see first-hand what it takes to improve the North

Collinwood area. My name is Megan Lanning and I am the Commercial District Intern at Northeast Shores. I am a member of the Villa Angela-St. Joseph class of 2005 and a soon-to-be graduate of Cleveland State University's Maxine Goodman Levine College of Urban Affairs class of 2010, with my degree in Urban Planning.

Part of my graduation requirement was to fulfill an internship from a list of places that CSU provides. Instead of using their suggestions, I decided to contact Northeast Shores for an internship opportunity where I knew I would get hands-on experience in the field of Urban Planning. It wasn't long after the initial contact that I had an interview and then a position.

Since my first day on the job, I have been introduced to new programs and projects every day. I have learned about programs and projects such as the Paint Program and the Storefront Renovation Program, the LaSalle Theater project and Corsica Gardens. Through observing these programs, I have learned so much more about Northeast Shores than I knew before. I have such a great respect for the amount of community involvement each member of the staff has, no matter how great or small the task, the staff here at Northeast Shores makes it a point to inform and get the opinions of the community.

Like most college students I am nervous to graduate and enter the real world, but Northeast Shores has shown me how to apply the concepts I have learned in the classroom to the problems most urban areas are facing. I will be graduating in May and couldn't be more proud to say that I had the experience of working with Northeast Shores Development Corporation. ■



Waterloo Covered on Channel 5 News

Brian Friedman

Jerry Schmidt, owner of Waterloo 7 Gallery, located at 16006 Waterloo was interviewed by News Channel 5 recently. The interview was about his metal sculpting work and the redevelopment on Waterloo Road. You could go so far as to say that Jerry is the unofficial watchdog of the Waterloo Arts District. He not only works on Waterloo, he lives there. Not too much happens on Waterloo that Jerry does not know about. He usually has a comment or opinion as well that he is more than happy to share with you. Just ask him, he loves to talk about North Collinwood, specifically the Waterloo Arts District. There is a link on the Northeast Shores blog website if you would like to see his interview. Go to www.northeastshores.org/blog and click on the link at the end of the "Waterloo covered on Channel 5 News" story.

If you see Jerry, thank him for positively representing the neighborhood.

Community Organizer on Channel 19

Brian Friedman

Our own Community Organizer, Denise Lorek, was on Channel 19 News talking about the power of block clubs and cameras in reducing burglaries. If you know Denise, you know this is one of her passions. She firmly believes in the power of Block Watches. If you would like to see this video, go to the Northeast Shores Blog website at www.northeastshores.org/blog and click on the link to Community Organizer on Channel 19. As if that's not enough eyes watching the neighborhood, Denise has applied to Neighborhood Connections for a grant to supply video cameras in the homes of the residents in that area. If the grant is approved, residents will be able to request cameras from the E.185th St. Block Watch on a first come, first served basis. All you have to do is look at the success of the E.185th St. Block Watch to know that Block Watches work. This block watch meeting draws approximately 65 or more people to

each meeting. The E.185th St. Block Watch has an email blast list of over 130 people on it and their mailing list has over 150 on it. That makes the official count of members at over 280 people! That's a lot of people watching the neighborhood. Due to the success of the E. 185th St. Block Watch, Denise has been given the task of starting a block watch of the same caliber for the E. 156th St. area. The E. 156th St. Block Club has just finished their training with Officer Sam Anderson from the City of Cleveland Community Policing Department. Their graduation present for completing three months of training was Block Watch signs on their streets and Certificates of Completion for their homes. Since they have graduated from the Officer Sam School of Block Watching they, can now officially call themselves a Block Watch. Congratulations to those members who completed the program.

If you are interested in joining a Block

Watch, come to a meeting and sign in. That's all it takes. Check out the block watch schedules on Page 2. Special thanks to Ruta Degutis from the Lithuanian Hall and Sarah Gyorki from the Arts Collinwood Community Center for hosting these meetings at their facilities. If you would like information on starting a Block Watch in your neighborhood, call Denise at 216-481-7660

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Forum

Some thoughts on Issue 2

Nan Kennedy

Issue 2 would “require the state to create the Livestock Care Standards Board to prescribe standards for animal care and well-being that endeavor to maintain food safety, encourage locally grown and raised food, and protect Ohio farms and families.” I don’t comment much on politics, since the Neighborhood Notes are meant for all readers, whether they agree with me or not. But a friend asked me recently what I felt about Issue 2 (the proposal to establish a state board to set livestock-rearing standards) and I had to reply that I knew pretty much nothing about it; neither side has been very talkative. Then I read my favorite column in the Jefferson Gazette (by a retired farmer who gets very crotchety with people who worry about growth hormones in their milk) which restated his frequent assurance that Ohio farmers are dedicated to producing the best and purest food, and went on to declare that the Humane Society of the United States has a concealed agenda of ending animal agriculture and closing down zoos. Which struck me as a bit extreme – and when someone becomes extreme, he becomes less trustworthy. Then I got an email listing the organizations that oppose Issue 2: Ohio Farmers Union, the Ohio Environmental Stewardship Alliance, League of Women Voters of Ohio, the Ohio League of Humane Voters, and the Ohio Sierra Club, as well as the editorial boards of the Columbus Dispatch, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Akron Beacon Journal, and Dayton Daily

News. To be fair to the other side, the board is to comprise 13 Ohio residents, including representatives of Ohio family farms, farming organizations, food safety experts, veterinarians, consumers, the dean of the agriculture department at an Ohio college or university and a county humane society representative. (Bear in mind that family farms may be of several thousand acres; bear in mind also that not all big farmers keep their chickens in cages “the size of a piece of paper.”)

A retired food animal veterinarian, now farming beef and grain in Tuscarawas County, describes the board’s mission as “setting standards that will assure Ohio consumers that food grown in Ohio is safe, nutritious, abundant, affordable and raised with excellent livestock care standards.” And it’s supported, according to a presumably accurate website, by Governor Ted Strickland, Senate President Bill Harris (R-Ashland), House Speaker Armond Budish (D-Beachwood), and elected officials and organizations across Ohio.

On the other hand, it’s opposed by the groups I mentioned earlier, of whom the League of Women Voters would seem the least likely to be biased; Googling the Ohio Farmers’ Union, I learned that they oppose making livestock care a ballot issue on the grounds that it’s expensive and divisive; they’d prefer both sides to come to the table and negotiate. Sounds good to me. So I’m going to vote against Issue 2, because it requires

an amendment to the state constitution, which seems a bit of a hammer-to-kill-a-fly; I’m unhappy about the extra antibiotics needed by animals raised in the crowded barns that are needed to maintain the low cost of the American food supply; and I do spare a thought for poor little veal calves. And I don’t see either cattle farms or zoos being closed down any time soon.

You can find lots on both sides by Googling “Ohio Issue 2.” The Secretary of State’s Ballot Board site is particularly useful: www.sos.state.oh.us.



Vote No on Issue 3

George Voinovich

Janet and I love Northeast Ohio. We are proud to call Collinwood our home and have lived in the same neighborhood for over 45 years. We care about our neighborhood, our city and our county. That is why I have fought for decades to keep casino gambling out of Ohio, and Ohioans have seen through the casino gambling sham time-and-time again – voting it down four times statewide.

Today, we are once again being forced to defend against an attack against Ohio’s families and the people who live in our neighborhood. I am especially concerned this time around because I know our state is struggling and many leaders are desperate for what they view as a quick economic fix, which the promoters of Issue 3 are exploiting with their multi-million dollar advertising campaigns.

Even if you think casinos are a good idea for Ohio, as Brent Larkin – former Editorial Page Editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer – does, Ballot Issue 3 is simply a bad amendment that bilks Ohioans and lines the pockets of Casino owners.

Larkin recently wrote “Downtown Cleveland has so many problems that building a luxury casino somewhere near the center of town is a risk worth taking – but only if the price is right. But the price Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert wants to pay in fees and taxes to build a casino behind the Terminal Tower doesn’t meet that standard.”

Here are the facts: Issue 3 will alter Ohio’s Constitution and create a monopoly for two entities – Cleveland Cavaliers’ Owner Dan Gilbert and Penn National Gaming – for four casinos in the state that would have both table games and slot machines. When other states like Pennsylvania made the choice to bring casinos into their borders, they used a competitive bidding process, and got a far better deal from its casino operators than Gilbert is offering Ohio.

Additionally, the one-time licensing fee to be paid to Ohio for the right to operate casinos by this proposal is \$50 million per casino – significantly less than the licenses are worth on the open market. Jeffrey Hooke, a Maryland-based casino expert, said a fair price for each casino license should be in the \$300 million to \$500 million range. Ohio would miss out on at least \$800 million in additional revenue if Issue 3 passes.

Finally, the casinos proposed by Issue 3 would pay only a 33 percent tax on gross revenue, with the other 67 percent going to casino owners! That is far below the average paid by casinos in our neighboring state of Pennsylvania which has a gross revenue tax rate of more than 55 percent. Ohioans would be getting denied \$434 million in tax revenue under Issue 3 annually due to the low 33 percent tax rate.

But the most important reason to vote “No” is really quite simple: Casinos bring devastation to families. Statistics show that: violent crime, embezzlement, bankruptcy and fraud rates spike dramatically in casino counties; divorce rates are nearly three times higher among addicted gamblers than non-gamblers; and suicide rates are highest among addicted gamblers.

Casinos also do not draw the large numbers of out-of-state gamblers typically promised. 80 to 90 percent of a casino’s patrons come from surrounding counties – and a casino located within a 10-mile radius of a home yields a 90 percent increased risk of a citizen becoming a pathological gambler.

Can you imagine the number of people who would go downtown to just “experience the casino” and, once hooked, become addicted to gambling?

And there is no question that our neighborhood businesses and restaurants will be impacted. Don’t kid yourself – casinos won’t help out. They are specifically designed not to partner with other businesses in the immediate vicinity – they provide food, lodging and entertainment under one roof so patrons never have to leave the casino. When casinos move in, other businesses are often forced out.

By any statistical measure, Ballot Issue 3 is simply a bad amendment – but casino gambling in general is a lousy deal for the local communities and states that embrace it. The larger question, though, is this: What human price are we in Ohio willing to pay if we open our doors to casinos? Are we prepared to accept responsibility for the painful realities of ruined lives and broken families that casinos leave in their wake?

Please vote “No” on Issue 3 so Ohio will not be forced to answer that question. ■

See this story online for the rest of Sen. Voinovich’s statistics.

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Forum

Support for Issue 3

Patti Nugent

I am quite certain that by now you are as tired of the commercials for and against Issue 3 as I am. I support this issue because I believe a casino downtown would be an asset for our city. Dan Gilbert, the owner of the Cleveland Cavaliers, has said that he would not build a hotel as part of his casino, as the other downtown hotels are against that. Many people have commented to me that a casino without a hotel would mean that people from out of town who are staying overnight would have to leave the casino to get a hotel room. This of course would mean revenue for the hotels. Also, because

people would not be staying at a casino hotel they would have the opportunity to see the other downtown businesses. I realize that people against the casino have made claims that area businesses would be forced out of business, but that isn't necessarily true. The Q, Progressive Field, and Browns Stadium all have various locations for fans to purchase food and beverages. However, numerous fans patronize area businesses before or after the game. Many cities build a casino in a neighborhood isolated from other businesses, this would not be the case downtown.

I know that another argument against the

casino is that people who gamble will stop supporting the arts or pro sports, or maybe just stop paying their bills. I can assure you that I know numerous people and couples who travel, in some cases, several times a year to casinos as far away as Las Vegas. All of those people own their homes, have savings accounts, support charities, the arts, and sports. The majority of them attend church every weekend and send their children to parochial school. These people are also middle class, not wealthy. You're probably curious how much I gamble. I am middle-aged and have been to two casinos, once each, in my life. I have

never attended a Casino Night or Night at the Races. If I were to purchase an instant bingo ticket, I would need to ask another person if I had won anything. Also, I have only played bingo once thirty years ago.

The bottom line is these casinos will generate jobs for Ohioans and keep revenue in our state which is badly needed. If I haven't convinced you to vote for this issue, then I respect your choice to disagree with me. I do however appreciate the fact that you have read this article. ■

Issue 5 vs. Issue 6,
What's in it for me ?

Mike Gallagher

Cuyahoga County government is in crisis, and two competing issues have emerged from the fallout of this still unfolding saga. The stated goal of both these Cuyahoga County issues is to improve county government by reforming it. These are Issue 5 and Issue 6, and chances are this is not the first time you have heard of them.

In short, Issue 5 elects a group of people to propose a new county government structure, which will then be voted on by Cuyahoga County voters. Issue 5 will create a charter commission whose purpose is to create and then propose a plan that will change county government. When the commission completes their plan, it will be presented to Cuyahoga County voters for their consideration.

Issue 6 will implement a new structure for county government to replace the current system. Among other changes, the Issue 6 plan would replace several elected offices with appointed positions.

Whether you vote yes or no on this issue you can vote for the 15 commission members from a list of 29 candidates. These proposed candidates come from two different committees.

The "Real Reform Done Right" Committee does not support Issue 6 and the candidates were selected by the present county commissioners and people working with them. They are Harriet Applegate, Bill Cervenik, Mark Davis, Anne Marie Donegan, Mike Foley, Stuart Garson, Ronald V. Johnson Jr., A. Gus Kious, Marvin A. McMickle, Nick Nardi, Betty K. Pinkney, Patrick Shepherd, Jazmin Torres-Lugo, and Sandra Williams.

On the other hand, the "Citizens Reform Association of Cuyahoga County" has a bipartisan slate, many of whom support Issue 6. Their candidates include Tom Wilson, Pat Wright, Angela Thi Bennett, Jack Boyle, James Brady, Ruth Brady, Thomas Kelly, Roz McAllister, Joseph Miller, Mary O'Malley, Jamie Pilla, William I. Russo, Thomas P. Slavin, Linda Smigel, Elaine Trapp.

Issue 6 will change county government by doing the following:

1. Create the elected office of Cuyahoga County Executive.
2. Create 11 elected offices for a Cuyahoga County council. County positions that are currently elected offices, such as coroner,

treasurer, and engineer would be replaced by appointed offices. The appointments would be made by the county executive and would be subject to the approval of the 11 member county council.

The seven appointed offices would be: County Fiscal Officer (combining the current auditor and recorder functions); Medical Examiner; Director of Law; Clerk of Courts; Director of Public Works (combining the functions of the current County Engineer and Sanitary Engineer); Treasurer, and Sheriff.

The office of county prosecutor would remain an elected office. The prosecutor would handle criminal matters, while the appointed Director of Law would handle civil matters. The elections for these new offices would take place in 2010.

The objective of the appointed positions replacing the elected offices would be to reduce the chances of patronage, waste, and other abuses associated with elected office. The Issue 6 charter also includes provisions that have the goal of safeguarding against corruption and abuse of power such as: mandatory internal audits, centralized employment standards, whistleblower mandate, and possible recall elections.

It is interesting to note that both of these issues are independent of each other and therefore any combination of results is possible. Both could pass, both could fail, or one could pass while the other fails.

If both pass it is possible that the structural change of Issue 6 would occur, along with the creation of the charter commission of Issue 5, whose review and subsequent plan may propose another alternative. However, it is considered likely that the courts will ultimately decide what will happen in the event both issues pass.

The present structure of Cuyahoga County government is comprised of these elected offices: three commissioners—Jimmy Dimora, Tim Hagan, and Peter Lawson Jones; Auditor, Frank Russo; Treasurer, Jim Rokakis; Recorder, Lillian Greene; Clerk of Courts, Gerald L. Fuerst; Prosecutor, William D. Mason; Engineer Robert E. Klaiber; Coroner, Frank Miller M.D.; Sheriff, Bob Reid; and several county judges

Some of these officials find themselves in water a few degrees warmer than the lake in these days.

Casino in Cleveland

by: emily tan

Here comes the dollar invasion
Offering continuing education

Upgrade skills

Deviant thrills

Stake your shirt

As you flirt

Lose your house

Sadden spouse

Discount local lass

Con cunning mass.

Ante up, ducky!

Today you're lucky!

**

Dear Clevelander,

...remember the blankets with small pox.

Forecast:

Ohio "The Sin State"

Cleveland "Sin City of the Midwest"

Personal Misery Indexes shall skyrocket.

The economic bonanza

shall NOT be enough

to bail generations of souls out of hock.

Please re-think your approval of a casino in Cleveland,

Re-think your approval of

Places like the Executive Den and Diamond Men's Club.

But only do this if you love your mother, sister, wife, daughter,

Female cousin, niece, friend, and yourself.

Scars are lifelong and passed on from generation to generation.

They become "tradition" and "genetic inheritance"

Thank you for reconsidering these fundamental matters.

You can stop the negative-returns cycle.

Say YES to the Growing Bamboo Business!

Say NO to a Casino in Cleveland.

Cuyahoga Community College
seeks voter support for Issue 4

by Randi Hansen

Every five years, Cuyahoga Community College must go to County residents to get a vote of approval for continued funding. On November 3, the College will ask County residents to support a property tax that will enable the College to continue meeting its mission.

When a levy expires the College needs to secure continued approval from the County voters to renew and/or replace the monies in order to keep the College tuition affordable, provide quality programs, and remain financially stable. The November 2009 ballot request is Issue 4, a replacement of the current \$1.6 million and an increase of \$0.3 million for a ten year period.

This levy, if approved, will ensure that student tuition remains affordable, stu-

dent services are enhanced, high quality university transfer programs continue, education and training programs are updated, job skills training is upgraded, and the College continues to improve training for good jobs. As an economic engine to job creation, incumbent worker training and our region's economic development, Issue 4 is of the utmost importance to our community.

Cuyahoga County voters have a long history of supporting the college; the past few levies have resulted in convincing votes of confidence. "Friends of Cuyahoga Community College," the group leading this year's levy passage campaign, hopes residents will continue to recognize Tri-C as the place "Where Futures Begin." ■

Youth & Family

The Grandmothers: Pick our brains on picky eaters

Dear Grandmothers: When we were kids, we had to eat whatever was on our plates without complaint, or we didn't eat at all. My sister brings her children over for dinner and as soon as she sees what I'm serving tells me her kids won't eat it and starts making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for them. Why are kids today so picky?

Dear Mom: Kids today are probably not any pickier than those of previous generations. Don't you remember slipping your mystery meat under the table to the dog, or asking to be excused and then flushing the brussels sprouts you had hidden in your napkin down the toilet? But it does seem that children today are more outspoken about what they don't like, and their parents somehow more willing to become short-order cooks for them. Let's assume that your sister--and other mothers like her--are not happy with this situation, and would prefer it if their children displayed an enjoyment of almost all foods, a willingness to try new flavors and combinations of ingredients, and an appropriate social pleasantness at the table as the family sits down together to discuss the day's activities, rather than to have mealtime become an exchange of whines and threats over the meal that has been served.

What causes picky eating? Many children appear to be naturally suspicious of food that looks different and strange to them. One of the few areas in which they can exert their autonomy is in the area of eating. You can put it in front of them, but you can't make them eat it! And so they may be most

insistent on their right to refuse what is being offered. And with their smaller bodies, appetites, and stomachs, some children may just not be very hungry, especially when they've reached a plateau between growth spurts, and most especially when someone places before them a mountainous adult-sized portion of food and insists they eat it--all of it--because it's good for them.

How parents (and aunts) of picky eaters feel: frustrated, even panicky, because there are few instincts more basic than the one to feed our young. We want to see our child nourished and healthy, and instead he sits there (look how skinny he is!) listlessly pushing the food around his plate or out-and-out refusing to eat it. We alternate between wanting to force feed him and offering to get him something else, anything else, on the off chance that he might actually consume a few calories.

What to understand: The more we beg, cajole, or insist, the more determined the child becomes not to eat.

What to do: Make a new family rule: absolutely no arguing about food. Food is not to be mentioned at mealtime, except to ask that something be passed or to compliment the cook or to say how delicious the asparagus is this time of year. Mealtime is to be a pleasant time of sharing ideas and observations. Pretend not to notice what someone eats or doesn't eat, but certainly evidence enjoyment in your own eating. Absolutely do not offer any alternative menu choices. Let the child serve his own plate, if he is able, so that the portion will be one of his

choosing. Then, at the end of the meal, if he has eaten little to nothing, so be it. Because you have made another family rule that is a corollary to the first: there are healthy snacks available in the vegetable drawer in the refrigerator and in the bottom shelf of the cupboard that anyone is welcome to help him/herself to at any time, should s/he still be hungry.

What to say: What was your favorite part of today? Guess what I saw on my way to work this morning? Please pass the broccoli.

What not to say: "Good job, Seymour! You ate your cauliflower! You've made me so proud!" "Don't bother offering Seymour any cauliflower. He hates vegetables." The first sort of comment could give the child the impression that he should eat to please you, not himself, and the second could well become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Next time: Your sister might try to engage her children's interest and assistance in menu-planning, grocery shopping, and cooking. And we certainly hope that your house isn't the only place where there IS a family mealtime, a time that everyone sits down to eat at once to enjoy the conversation and togetherness. With everyone's busy



schedule this may be difficult to arrange every day, but parents can make that their goal rather than somehow getting some food down the "picky" eater.

Clip out this article to show to your sister, and plan to discuss the "no arguing about food" rule with her before the next time she and her children come to dinner. If she doesn't agree with that idea, then put yourself out of your misery. Order a pizza.

The Grandmothers—Kathy Baker, Maria Kaiser, Gann Roberts and Ginny Steininger—meet at Hanna Perkins Center, 19910 Malvern Road, which houses the Hanna Perkins School and the Reinberger Parent/Child Resource Center. For information call Barbara Streeter, (216) 991-4472 or email them, thegrandmothers@collinwoodobserver.com.



Collinwood varsity takes 3rd in volleyball playoffs

Tere'ah Johnson

Thanks to the pressure and training of Coach "J," (Ms. Latonya Johnson), The Collinwood High School Varsity volleyball girls completed one of their finest seasons with 11 wins and only 2 losses. The Most Valuable Player of the girls varsity volleyball team is Erin Busbee. The reason Erin was chosen MVP was because she showed good sportsmanship and because she was a successful player especially in the way she could serve and spike the ball. Also, Ms. Busbee was very supportive to teammates and was 100% close with her fellow players.

The starters of the volleyball team were Erin Busbee, Amirah Harbour, Jasmine Lett, Brittini Brown, Valencia Kelly, and Markeeta Ikard. The entire team helped Collinwood take third place in the playoffs including Timberlyn Hilliard, Monica Simmons, and Tatayona Buchanon.

The most challenging games were playing against Glenville and Martin Luther King Jr. The score remained close throughout both games, but in the end, Collinwood triumphed. The hardest games were going against John Marshall and Lincoln West. These were the only games Collinwood lost.

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(formerly OLPH school)
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School News

SCHOOL NEWS IN BRIEF

East Clark School News

Stephanie Henderson

The staff and students of East Clark School would like to send a special Thank You to the water pollution control department, City Year, parents and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District administrative/support staff for reading to and supporting our students during Hats Off to Cleveland's Kids on October 2. We are so excited to have a corporate sponsor like the Water Pollution Control Department tutoring our students.

At East Clark our focus is on academics and our goal is to improve our scores on the OAT and to increase student attendance. Our students practice being respectful, safe and responsible everyday all day. Good things are going on at East Clark. Our students have developed their own broadcast network—WERC (We Are East Clark) 88.5.FM.

October is fire safety prevention and red ribbon month and our students are learning about fire safety and how to be safe and responsible by saying NO to drugs.

On October 28, we will have a parent volunteer breakfast. East Clark will have our annual Drug-Free Parade on October 29.

OfficeMax makes a day better for Iowa Maple School teacher

Stacy Lambert-Johnson

Mrs. Musbach, 3rd grade teacher, at Iowa Maple School was selected by Principal Stacy Lambert-Johnson to receive Office Max's "A Day Made Better" award.

A Day Made Better is an award that OfficeMax uses to recognize teachers in Ohio who are going above and beyond the call of duty. The goal is to reward the teachers with supplies they normally purchase themselves. Ms. Musbach and her students were paid a surprise visit and she was given balloons, a dozen roses and a giant box filled with \$1200 worth of school supplies, along with a brand new office chair!! Congratulations Ms. Musbach!!!

OfficeMax honors OH Perry teacher Susan Brunecz

Victoria Janke-Mousty

On October 6, OfficeMax presented OH Perry Major Work (Gifted) Teacher, Susan Brunecz, with "A Day Made Better" Award. As principal, I nominated Susan for her dedication and hard work as a teacher at OH Perry for the past 15 years. Susan has served as the Gifted Liaison and Grade Level Chair, as well as written skits for the annual Molly Voinovich Day. She always puts her best effort into her classroom and all school activities. Susan is an excellent role model for her students. OfficeMax awarded her with \$1000 worth of classroom



supplies, including a new desk chair and a new printer. Her students were also given a gift bag of school supplies that included their own calculators. Thank you, Susan, for always making our days better at OH Perry. Thank you to OfficeMax for making Susan's day better!

Noble Academy congratulates Star students

Amy Britton

Noble Academy Cleveland, an EXCELLENT school, congratulates Sarah Bozeman, Dion Chavis, Martinique Abbott, Natalie Johnson, Malik Eanes, and Robert Jones as model students of the month! These students demonstrate hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm at Noble Academy Cleveland.

Mr. Kose, director at NAC introduces the 2009-2010 Noble Techno Team. Members

Steven Funnell, Daniel Veenstra, Ali Chisholm, Rodney Pittman, Tyler Seward, Jacob and Patricia Opperman, Anastasiya Thomas, David Chappel, Yuval Zamir, Kayla Cooper, and Gregory Lard

are dedicated to bringing awards and first place ribbons to NAC. Their passion and knowledge of robots, technology, and science advances them to compete in science fairs and robotic competitions. Mr. Kose and NAC is looking forward to the accomplishments and achievements of the 2009-2010 Noble Techno Team!

A special thank you to Officer Knack of the Euclid Police Department. Officer Knack has been presenting safety, stranger danger, and general awareness to our students by grade level. Every day our students are receiving an excellent education in a safe, distraction-free environment. Our sister school, Horizon Science Academy High School has received the prestigious Blue Ribbon Award from the U.S Department of Education. Congratulations to the students and staff at Horizon. After receiving our EXCELLENT rating, NAC is continuing the path of excellence and establishing a solid school for our community.

St. John Nottingham wraps up a great volleyball season

Gregory Kita

St. John Nottingham is concluding another exciting season of girls volleyball. Our Lutheran Elementary League provides competition for 5th and 6th graders as well as 7th and 8th graders.

Our 5th and 6th grade team is an instructional league. The girls, coached by 7th grade teacher Vicki Maynard, had a great season and learned a lot about the game of volleyball.

Our 7th and 8th grade team is in a much more competitive league. At this level, coach Lauren Kita is preparing the girls to go on to play volleyball in high school. As this article is being written, the girls are in the Lutheran West Tournament. When our team is playing the way God has blessed them to play, they are extremely tough to beat. Thank you to all of the parents for their support during the season. Stay tuned for my next article to see how the girls finish in the tournament.



VASJ Volleyball vs Lake Catholic - Kim Rossman #1, Shayla Lang #24, Kelly Trueman #19
Lake Catholic defeated VASJ in 4 games

Ginn vivarium growing strong

Elizabeth Watkins



The Ginn Academy, housed in the former Margaret Spellacy building which was built in 1979, is providing the Men of Ginn with a beautiful two-storey vivarium next to the cafeteria and the biology laboratory classroom. At this moment you are asking, "What is a vivarium?" A vivarium is a green space inhabited by reptiles, birds, fish and loads of plants and flowers. The Vivarium at Ginn is the center of attention and a hub of activity for the tenth grade biology classes. Clearly, the vivarium is a relevant, hands-on, inquiry-based learning environment where students are able to apply classroom knowledge and create situations that promote eco-friendly practices. It is a major goal of the project to transfer the knowledge gained through working in this sustainable environment to the community at large.

Major Sattiewhite, a friend of Ginn, has drained the murky pond and rescued several beautiful goldfish, Koi and Mr. Turtle. The pond is clean! He also has donated decorative stones to give the pond some character. One of our teachers, Mrs. Rickel, loaned us her turtle, Buddy, to keep Mr Turtle company. The biology students have cleaned the area, planted flowers and are experimenting with growing various plants and herbs.

Two Ginn Men have taken a special interest in the upkeep of the vivarium: Jason Simmons and Aaron Williams. Aaron has worked as a landscaper for his grandfather's business since he was five years old. Students are often seen gazing into the pond at the turtles and fish. The curious questions that follow are a sincere quest for knowledge.

George Massa and Jason Bosch, a student-intern working on his Masters in Urban Secondary Teaching (M.U.S.T.) from Cleveland State University, are leading this project-based

learning activity. The vivarium project is exciting and we are especially proud of our students and the progress they are making to revitalize this wonderful green space. According to Mr. Massa, birds will be the next addition to our vivarium family.

We are seeking donations and partnerships from the community. Home Depot has donated 800 pounds of topsoil. Many from the Ginn Family have donated plants and flowers for the vivarium. Staff from the Cleveland Botanical Gardens are scheduled to visit on Dec. 1 and will work with the students to help them design a quality vivarium. In addition, the students will visit the Botanical Gardens and the Rockefeller Greenhouses to learn more about plant life, gardening and landscaping. Grants are currently being written to fund this awesome project in the hope of securing necessary monies to create a wonderful focal point for the Men of Ginn, the staff and the Collinwood community. The vivarium project is something the school is very proud of. A grand opening dedication will be held in the spring to which the community will be invited.

How can the community get involved? We desperately need tall ladders and volunteers to clean and seal the two-storey windows. It is too dangerous for the students to do that job. We also need aprons to wear when working in the vivarium—red blazers and white shirts do not look handsome with soil all over them. We welcome all creative ideas and resources to help our students maximize the benefits of this fantastic and engaging project. We are also seeking funding for our field trips.

The community is certainly welcome to come and visit the vivarium any time. The young men would love to explain the vision that they have for the Garden of Victories.

Culinary Collinwood



Lunch Quest: In search of a tasty Polish Boy

John Copic

I really like finding a new place to eat lunch. I live and work in Collinwood and one of my favorite choices to eat for lunch is a Polish Boy sandwich. There are a lot of places in our neighborhood that you can order a Polish Boy. Who makes the best? What is a Polish Boy?

By definition a Polish Boy starts with a large fresh bun. Nestled in the bun is a Polish sausage that has been slow-cooked then crisped on the grill till the outside is almost black. Piled high on top of the sausage is a generous amount of crispy, hot french fries. The french fries are covered with the perfect amount of barbecue sauce, not too spicy, not too sweet. The crowning touch - a scoop of ice cold, fresh, creamy coleslaw. This is not

a sandwich you want to eat wearing Sunday go-to-meeting clothes or while driving your car. I recommend a picnic table down by the lake, a big fresh lemonade, and a bib.

You can only buy Polish Boys in Cleveland, Ohio. This sandwich is unique to our town and some of the best you can get are right here in our neighborhood. I was lucky enough to sample one recently from The Original Grill, 17406 St. Clair Avenue. I must say it was almost perfect. The sausage could have been a little bigger – but it was perfectly cooked. The French fries were crispy and hot – fresh from the fryer. Most importantly the coleslaw was ice cold, fresh and wonderful. At a price of only \$3.50 this sandwich gets an A-

I spoke to the owner of The Original Grill, Mr. Chris Perkins, and found out that he has been in business now for 3 years. He is proud of the fact that all of the employees are family. Their hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Monday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, and 8 a.m.-Midnight Friday and Saturday. If their breakfasts are as good as the Polish Boy, I will be a regular!

Look for my column in the next issue as we delve into the history of the Polish Boy and sample more of our neighborhood's fun places to eat. ■

Do you love to cook? Love to eat? Have a recipe to share? Want to interview a favorite chef about what makes their special sauce really pop? We'll print your story and photos right here and get your neighbor's mouth watering as well... It's Fall—what are you eating, or looking forward to?

Pizza Night done right!

Laura Partlow-Slea

Pizza. Invoking dreams of parties and cold breakfasts, American pizza is an icon. Thin crust, thick crust, Chicago-style, New York-style; I don't care what style it is as long as there are no mushrooms on it! But since you're reading this, I hope you'll have figured on it being home-style.

You're getting robbed if someone else makes it. That's why usually Dave and I make it ourselves. (Some days I'm just too lazy.) I costed out a pizza the likes of which I'll be discussing here once, and the total was less than \$7. Under \$7 for a pizza you'd easily be paying \$12 or \$15 for from a take-out joint. Wowzers!

With that all said and done, let's talk crust. I've tried to make pizza dough at least 10 times and every time I do, it comes out nasty. If you can nail it, by all means send me your technique so I can spread the word (and give you credit for it)! I like to get my dough at Alesci's. It's 2 for \$1.25. That's about \$0.65. Pillsbury makes it in a tube, and Boboli isn't bad. But those are both more expensive and in my opinion, a bit less appealing. But you are the kitchenista! You decide that!

One thing I HAVE got down pat is the sauce. The recipe I'll be giving you is enough for 2 pizzas. What you have left over (if any), freeze in your ice cube trays so you can thaw it quick for some other day.

Now, do you have a pizza stone? I love mine. Unfortunately we didn't figure out for quite a while how much better the crust came out if you put the pizza on a hot stone. So now you know. But if you don't, use a cookie sheet you're not too attached to. And if you love your cookie sheet, that's fine too; you'll just need something else to cut the pizza on; you'd trash it cutting pizza on it.

OK. So, if you have a pizza stone, put it in the oven and preheat it to 350. Cookie sheet people, just preheat your ovens and pat the dough out onto the cookie sheet. Spray some cooking spray on that pan first, or if you have cornmeal around, put 2-3 T of that on there instead. Don't go crazy with the cooking spray; if you do the dough won't stay on the pan. Pizza stone people, this is where it gets tricky-but worth it. You have to figure out a way to shimmy that dough onto the stone. Try rolling it out on a mat (or plastic wrap) LIBERALLY sprinkled with flour or cornmeal. Flip it upside-down onto the stone and just try to dust- NOT wipe- some of the flour/cornmeal off with a towel (a clean dishtowel is best, but paper will do). Once you get it on there, work quick! You'll assemble it on top of the pizza stone. Be careful- it's HOT!

Now: The sauce. How much you want is on you, but the heavier you go, the less likely it is that all your toppings are going to stay on the slice. After this goes the flat stuff, like salami, pepperoni, etc. Then toss on whatever else you have. Spread it out EVENLY! Throw some cheese on that baby and pop her in for about 15-20 minutes. Check it at 15. Once it's a bit brown and all your cheese is melted and a bit bubbly you are ready to eat! So here comes the recipe part. And as the Italians say, "Mangi!"

PS. Just go buy the cornmeal. It's cheap, and next time we'll talk about cornbread.



EASY PIZZA SAUCE

You will need: 2 (8 oz) cans plain tomato sauce, 1 (6 oz) can tomato paste, 2 t Basil, 2 cloves garlic (minced or crushed), 2t Oregano, 1 t Paprika, 1/2 t onion powder, 1/2 t sugar, Dash Parmesan Cheese (if desired).

Mix everything together and let it sit at least an hour. Make this in a glass or plastic bowl. All the acid from the tomatoes will pit a metal bowl. Freeze whatever you

don't use in ice cube trays for another day.

GARLIC PIZZA WITH CHICKEN

You will need: 1/4 C unsalted butter (softened), 1 T Garlic Powder, 1/4 C Parmesan Cheese, 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 C shredded Mozzarella or Provolone Cheese, 1/2 an onion (sliced), 1/2 a bell pepper, sliced, 1 C cooked chicken, shredded or chopped.

Preheat oven to 400°.

Mix garlic powder and butter. Set aside. Pre-bake raw crust (if using) for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and spread evenly with the butter mixture. Top this with chicken, peppers, and cheese. Return to oven & cook another 15 minutes.

HOMEMADE GARLIC DIPPING SAUCE

You will need: 1/4 C melted margarine, 1/2 t Garlic Powder, 1 1/2 T Parmesan Cheese.

Mix and serve.

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Nan's Notes & Sports

PREVIEWS AND REVIEWS

Nan Kennedy

TEN BANDS FOR TEN DOLLARS

October 25 Now that Arts Collinwood is running the formerly Waterloo Café (you didn't know? You have been informed.), every penny you spend there will go to Arts Collinwood programs. Eat in the café, keep the art center rockin'. Getting the takeover underway needs a little jump start, so we're holding a little fundraiser (repetition deliberate). Come to the café on Sunday, October 25, 1-11 p.m., hand over \$10 and you'll get a hotdog and a beer and all the music you can listen to. (Yes, of course you can also buy more. Lots more.) You can also enjoy the lively gallery show of Gary and Laura Dumm's cats and comics; then you can stroll Waterloo and visit all the other galleries and shops. The Café at Arts Collinwood 15605 Waterloo Road, 216-692-9500, www.artscollinwood.org. Gallery hours are Thur/Fri 6-9 p.m.; Sat/Sun 1-5 p.m., and whenever the Café is open.

ART ENDEAVOR - A PUBLIC ART/WORKSHOP SALON

October 17 & 24 On Saturday, October 17, artist Dan Rothenfeld will talk about creative ways to help Collinwood develop a vibrant identity as a "walking community." This will inspire you (Dan is very creative) to develop a proposal, and come back to present it on the following Saturday, October 24. Both gatherings will be at the Arts Collinwood gallery, 7-9 p.m., with wine and cheese to keep your strength up. Arts Collinwood, 15605 Waterloo Road, 216-692-9500.

A VISIT TO WATERLOO

We took Miles' visiting Anglo-French neuroscientist cousin to Waterloo on Wednesday, and noted the following. The hummus at the Café at Arts Collinwood is now golden with turmeric. It's hard to know whether to describe Laura Dumm's cats as beautifully decorative (such intricate patterns) or extremely funny. Loved them all, and they come painted on extremely useful boxes (old love letters, jewelry, a secret stash of your private indulgence) as well as canvas. Miles was greatly taken by the Some Cats Are... series of nine little prints of cats in various moods (only \$20 unframed, \$30 framed great gifts for cat lovers). I approached Gary Dumm's side of the gallery more cautiously (not a comics fan, especially of the grotesque genre, but love graphic novels) but found a lot to like. Golf in Japan, for instance - samurai with club; the US Middle-class Memorial in Beijing; and especially the Warhol and Hitchcock portraits. Gary wields a skilled brush as well as a pen (or whatever cartoonists draw with). Arts Collinwood 15605 Waterloo Road, 216-692-9500, www.artscollinwood.org. Gallery hours are Thur/Fri 6-9 p.m.; Sat/Sun 1-5 p.m., and whenever the Café is open. Down the street at Waterloo 7, we found little hand-made books (blank journals and such) by Colleen Fitzpatrick, who uses recycled paper and packaging -- \$30. And a truly delightful raven-with-skull by Lynne Dufenetz, whose diversity can be surprising. Waterloo 7, 16006 Waterloo; Waterloo Seven and Wunderkind are closed on Mondays; open 2-8-Tue, 2-8-Wed, 2-8-Thu, 2-10-Fri/Sat, 1-6-Sun. Phone 239-293-95458. The coolest piece of Spook art at LowLife is the dollhouse massacre scene (I'm a sucker for dollhouses). LowLife Gallery, 16101 Waterloo. Thursdays: 6 p.m.-10 p.m., Fridays: 6 p.m.-11 p.m., Saturdays: 5 p.m.-11 p.m..

ARTS COLLINWOOD THANKS JOSEPH-BETH BOOKSELLERS

Arts Collinwood (and undoubtedly the oth-

ers of the Neighborhood Arts Alliance) are grateful to Joseph-Beth Booksellers in Legacy Village for their help-neighborhood-arts shopping weekend. Besides graciously accepting a flood of donated instruments and art supplies, the store donated 20% of designated sales to Neighborhood Arts. J-B is one of the few remaining indie bookstores, it's community-conscious, and on the rare occasions when I buy a book other than at a thrift shop, that's where I'll go. Partnerships between local businesses and local arts groups are good for neighborhoods.

CALL TO ARTISTS

Appreciation Night For The Mother Ship November 20 The artists and merchants of Waterloo invite artists to donate work for a Beachland Ballroom Appreciation Night on November 20. Donated pieces will be displayed in Waterloo stores and galleries, with bags for depositing purchased tickets. To contribute in any way, contact Debbie

Gulyas (Blue Arrow Records and This Way Out) at pete.debbie1960@sbcglobal.net, or Jerry Schmidt (Waterloo 7 and Wunderkind) at sculptor1121@yahoo.com.

ARTS COLLINWOOD VOLUNTEER DAY

Arts Collinwood is looking for a few good hands to help clear the community space for fall programming. Some of those great Waterloo Fest installation pieces need to make room for upcoming classes and concerts! Help haul art, and get a FREE ticket to the Arts Collinwood Cafe fundraiser the very next day! It will feature 10 fabulous bands -- plus a dog and some suds -- and you can bring a guest. Cleanup day is this Saturday, 10/24, starting at noon. The benefit takes place in the Arts Collinwood Gallery and Cafe Sunday, 10/25, 1-11 pm. Please spread the word to anyone you think might like to lend a hand. And give Arts Collinwood a call to let them know if you can join them, 216-692-9500.



Cherita Lester

Fancy Nancy fans strut their stuff

Cherita Lester

On Tuesday, Oct. 13, Memorial-Nottingham Library held its first Fancy Nancy Fashion Show. Fancy Nancy, the star of a series of books by Jane O'Connor, is a little girl with a great big imagination. She loves to dress up to be what ever is on her mind that day.

Five girls attended the fashion show—Mikayla Alston attends Memorial Elementary, Brielle Howard attends Indian Hills Elementary and Alonna Stabler, Yasmine Woods, Camiya Pennington all attend Henry W. Longfellow Elementary. The girls wore their best impressions of Fancy Nancy and walked the runway. The winner of the fashion show was Yasmine Woods. She received a Fancy Nancy doll for the best outfit, and the runner-up was Alonna Stabler; she won Fancy Nancy books and a wand. All the girls thanked the branch manager Darlene Ronney and the children's librarian Maria Estrella.

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Can you find all these words?

- UTOPIA
- PLATO
- NATHANIEL
- EVANGELINE
- STEVENSON
- RUPLE
- RONDEL
- SCHOOL
- RUDYARD
- KIPLING
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