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The Collinwood Observer

Vol. 1, Issue 6 • December 10, 2009

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

Santa has breakfast in Collinwood

Denise Lorek

Santa Claus ate breakfast with the children of North Collinwood last Saturday, December 5th at the Lithuanian Hall, which was decorated in its Christmas finest, thanks to Ruta Degutis.

The East 185th St. Merchants Association, Arts Collinwood and Northeast Shores Development Corporation joined together and invited Santa to breakfast with the children of North Collinwood. Santa and his elves flew in from the North Pole to hear the Christmas wishes from the children of

North Collinwood.

French toast and sausage was provided by Gus' Diner. Milk and juice was provided by Lucky's Diner and coffee for the parents was provided by Arabica. O.H. Perry Elementary School provided carolers to entertain the families with holiday songs. After the children visited Santa and ate their breakfast, they visited the Arts Collinwood craft table where they made Christmas decorations to take home. Bob DiLeberto, a North Collinwood resident commented, "this breakfast is better

than going to the mall and paying \$35.00 for a picture with Santa. For \$5.00 we got breakfast, a picture with Santa and I didn't have to leave the neighborhood."

Many thanks to Santa, his elves, the student volunteers from VASJ, Gus's Diner, Lucky's Diner, Arabica, E.185th St. Merchants Association, Arts Collinwood, the Lithuanian Hall, the O.H. Perry Carolers and Northeast Shores for making Breakfast with Santa Claus possible. As you can see from the photos, a good time was had by all. ■



CHRISTMAS IN COLLINWOOD HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

It is time to reward the folks who spend so much time, effort, and money to decorate their homes for the holidays. The Observer's First Annual Holiday Decorating contest is eligible to all residents of Collinwood. You can enter the contest by:

1) Email a photo of your home to ChristmasinCollinwood@gmail.com

2) Mail a photo of your home to: **Christmas in Collinwood c/o Collinwood Observer, 650A East 185th street, Cleveland, Ohio 44119.**

3) Don't have a computer? Don't have a camera? You can still enter! Call the Collinwood Observer at **216.531.6790**. Say, "I have the most beautiful house!", or "I have seen the most beautiful house!" Then tell us the address.

We will take the picture and make sure you are in the contest.

Awards will be given to the following categories: Most Artistic, Best use of Color, The "Griswold" Award (most possible lights per square foot), "A" for Effort, Best Decorated Street, and Best Decorated Business. Plus a fabulous prize will be awarded for "Best in Show".

Judging will be done by a self-proclaimed panel of experts, made up of business owners, residents and actual artists. Contest ends on Christmas Eve. Winners will be announced in our January 7, 2010 issue.

Be sure to log on line at www.collinwood-observer.com to see all the entrants.

OH Perry spreads holiday cheer

Victoria Janke-Mousty

On Saturday, December 5, music teacher, Dwayne Dixon, directed Ms. Perry's fifth grade class and Mrs. Warbritton's 3-4 grade class as they played recorders and sang Christmas carols for the Breakfast with Santa sponsored by Northeast Shores and held at the Lithuanian Club on East 185th Street. The classes sang many different songs including Jingle Bells and Santa Claus is Coming to Town, which seemed to be their favorites as well as the favorites of the families at the breakfast. Thank you to Mr. Dixon who has been working hard with the students of OH Perry as we prepare for Christmas and our Holiday Program on December 17. ■



Mrs. Warbritton's class from O.H. Perry warms up for their performance at the Breakfast with Santa.

Health Care Reform *Public option—Fair or foul?*

Mike Gallagher

The Senate is in the process of duking it out over a health care plan, and one of the biggest pieces they're debating is the so-called "public option." The fate of some type of health care legislation agreement may ultimately rest on the public option.

What is the public option?

The public option is basically a government run health insurance company. It will not replace the existing private companies, it will work alongside of them, providing another option for health insurance consumers.

Ideally it will provide some benefit to us, the health care insurance consumer, by functioning as a competitor to the private companies. This competition should result in lower health care insurance costs, with the public option serving as a kind of regulator, providing a controlling effect on costs.

The natural aversion toward the government is in play here, and topics like the public option and further government involvement in health care can heat up a room pretty quick. This is the momentum that supporters of change to the current system need to overcome.

Some are quick to point out that a public option is not fair to the private companies, that a non-profit government run insurance company will have business advantages that the private companies don't possess: the economies of scale associated with the potentially huge government company, no shareholders demanding a profit, lower overhead and operating expenses.

But, depending on how it is designed to operate, a public option could pressure private insurance companies to bend without breaking them - forcing them to play more fairly.

Should we have a public option?

It seems we have been conditioned to accept the status quo, struggling through without insurance hoping that nothing serious happens to us or our families.

We think, that's just how it is, it's the price we pay for our freedoms, as we hope that the recovering, but changed, economy does not swallow our companies, and we lose our jobs and health insurance.

That type of thought is a by-product of our profit-based insur- | continued on page 5

Collinwood residents deserve access to affordable health care

Representative Marcia L. Fudge

Imagine living next to world-renowned health care facilities yet being unable to access medical care. Imagine being forced to choose between purchasing food and life-sustaining prescriptions. This is reality for thousands of uninsured or under-insured residents in my Congressional District. There may soon be a new reality.

Similarly, Americans dreaming of more cost effective health care instead of spiraling health care costs may soon have an answer as well. I am proud that the Affordable Health Care for America Act reforms the private insurance industry to ensure that working class citizens will never pay more than 12% of their income on premiums. Those with incomes of 400% of poverty or less, approximately \$43K for an individual or \$88K for a family of four, will receive a subsidy to assist with the cost of their premiums. More than 163,000 households in my Congressional District will benefit from this subsidy. No longer will income determine access to care or treatment.

Americans asked for a cure to private insurers' inconsistent and expensive insurance

plans. The United States House of Representatives has offered a remedy in the form of the Affordable Health Care for America Act. In the House's proposal:

You will not be denied coverage because of pre-existing conditions. If you develop a new illness or condition, you will not be dropped from your plan. Pre-existing conditions may include diabetes, hypertension or high blood pressure. Insurance companies have even deemed acne, asthma, domestic violence, C-sections and pregnancy to be pre-existing conditions.

There will be no co-pay for preventative care. Annual preventive care appointments, such as physicals, help sustain good health and prevent many illnesses. These doctors' visits will be completely covered under the House of Representatives' proposal.

Your annual medical expenses will be capped. There will be no lifetime limit on the amount of coverage provided. You will no longer worry about whether necessary medical procedures are covered by insurance. | continued on page 5

DIALOGUE



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 grass roots media and increased connectedness of the citizens, civic groups, non profits, businesses and institutions in and around Cleveland Wards 10 and 11.

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Merry Christmas from
the Collinwood Observer

Betsy Voinovich

Dear Readers,
This year, you have given yourselves a most amazing present: a brand new paper—a meeting place—where you can share your stories, problems, issues, dreams, watch your kids grow up, and remember the past so it can inform the future... We at the Collinwood Observer feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to help make it happen. It is an experience we will treasure.

A community-written paper, as Councilman Polensek pointed out in the very first issue, will

only be as good as the people who support it, who write for it, who read it, and who imagine what can be done with it, and give it a try... This paper is succeeding because you want it to, because of the strong support from the community it has received from the very first day. Collinwood stood up and created a paper, and this is only the beginning. This is only the sixth issue. Imagine what we can become as more and different people understand what we have here. We are made of everything we always have been here, and as we share it with new neigh-

bors who have discovered the secret of what an amazing place this is, we are creating an identity and a community that will stand, strong, smart, stubborn, creative, caring, daring and well-informed, long into this new millennium.

Merry Christmas and happy New Years to all of us. Start submitting those stories for 2010!



LETTERS...

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM
CONGRESSWOMAN FUDGE

Dear Neighbors,
Every holiday season brings us together with family and friends for joyful celebrations of faith and love. This year many families face tough economic times. I encourage those facing hardships not to be disheartened by this temporary condition. For those who have humble resources to share, I encourage you to give a gift of your time, concern, and aid to those in need. Every gift makes a difference.

As I fight in Congress for job creation measures, and resources to keep families in their homes, I recall Proverbs 31:8. "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed." It reminds me this holiday season, and year around, we must serve and assist one another at all times. Congress will meet that charge.

I wish you boundless joy as we celebrate our blessings of faith, family, and community.

Marcia L. Fudge, Member of Congress
Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio

SHOP LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY
SEASON

Dear Neighbors,
I'm writing this as a personal letter, from a neighbor, because one of the things I love about living here is that there are so many people who really care about the community and about keeping it a great place. I think a lot of you feel the same way I do when you see parts of the neighborhood going downhill, and want to help pull it back up again.

A few months ago I read a column in the Plain Dealer that I really liked, about shopping locally. The columnist suggested we try to spend \$50 a month at an independent store – not a national chain. It occurred to me that we could bring that idea closer to home: why

not try to spend \$50 a month right here on E. 185th Street?

So I started doing just that – and it's not just easy, it's fun! I can buy hand-cut meat and fresh-baked bread, imported cheeses, milk, shampoo, cold medicine, windshield wiper fluid or dog food. I can get my hair cut and visit the dentist, do all my banking and mail all my letters. I can meet friends for lunch, grab a cup of coffee, get a bottle of wine for dinner. And with the holidays coming, there are lots more possibilities – gifts of specialty chocolates, imported beer, Tshirts and music and video games, cards and stocking stuffers and fresh flowers and gift certificates.

And when I can I put the baby in the stroller and we walk, I say hi to neighbors and get to know the business owners and it's great. This is our neighborhood, and it's friendly and fun and something you'll never find in a big box or suburban mall. And every dollar we spend is like a dollar invested, in helping support the businesses that support our community.

Some of our local merchants helped put together a promotion, to encourage more of our neighbors to shop locally this holiday season, called "I Shop 185" -- if you haven't already got a contest card you can pick one up for yourself at any of more than 30 participating merchants: Beachland Hair Design, Chili Pepper's, Federated Auto Parts, Gus' Diner, LakeShore Automotive, Northeast Shores Development Corp, Patria Imports, Tuthill's Florist, Adriatic Pets, Arabica, Fresh Catch, Helping Hands Day Care, Joe Compoli, Attorney, National City Bank (now PNC), Shore Carpet, Azman Meats, Best Friend Self Serve Dog Wash, Blue Sky Bike, Cebars, Groom Room, Lakeshore Florist, Martin's Men's Wear, Music Emporium, Old World Plaza Barber Shop, Oz Collectibles, Scotti's Italian Eatery, Seven Star Muffler, Used Cars, Inc., Video Game and Record Exchange, Villa Rosa Pizzeria and Vince's Barber Shop. And there are also the Weekends on Waterloo Holiday events, including the Holiday Sale at Arts Collinwood Gallery, Dec. 11-13. You may have seen the ads in the Collinwood

Observer. If not, you can find out more about both at www.artscollinwood.org. I hope you'll stop into a local store and ask for a card, or a sticker. Win some prizes, get some good stuff, let them know you live here.

Between the independent stores on E. 185, the great galleries on Waterloo, and all the services on Lakeshore, you can give yourself a gift and enjoy your own neighborhood this holiday. I hope you'll give it a try. And I hope I'll see you out shopping.

Sarah Gyorki

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
This letter is in response to the article about St. Casimir parish on page 5 of the Nov. 5th issue of the Collinwood Observer.

In her zeal to tell you what is new in the parish, the author forgot to mention the constants – things that have not changed. Bishop Lennon specifically stated that he was merging the two Lithuanian parishes into one to "better serve the Lithuanian community." He designated our new St. Casimir parish as a personal parish, not one with territorial borders.

As it has always been, non-Lithuanians, who wish to join our parish, are, of course, welcome. We have always worked for the good of the community, as well as our parishioners. It has always been a vibrant parish, with numerous Lithuanian organizations and activities. With the coming of a new priest and the parishioners from St. George, some new projects are bound to be started, and everyone is welcome to join in them. As long as we continue to have the many volunteers and organization leaders that we had in the closed Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. George parishes, this new parish will continue to be a shining light in this neighborhood.

Algirdas and Amanda Muliolis
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AROUND COLLINWOOD

RTA cutting service

Jeanne Coppola

Everyone in the Collinwood area who rides the bus, should know that the RTA is making changes to most of their bus routes on December 13th. (The buses that serve Collinwood and surrounding areas are: #1 St. Clair, #37 East 185-Taylor, and #39 Lakeshore.) With the new changes, the buses will only run once an hour! How long will riders have to wait between connections? Will people have to get to work hours early and get home hours later? And pay fare increases too? (The current fares are \$2.25 a ride, \$5.00 for an all day pass, \$22.50 for a weekly pass, and \$85.00 for a monthly pass.) RTA is considering increasing fares next year. (The RTA recently increased fares on 9-1-09!)) See a list of these changes at: <http://www.riderta.com/maps-schedules.asp>

The most alarming news is that the RTA plans to discontinue service on twenty nine bus routes in April 2010, and discontinue evening and weekend service on ten bus routes, including the "1 St. Clair - late night service between E 129 & E 152."

But the worst change of all affects the Route, #39.

The RTA plans to: "Discontinue all #39 service except during rush hours."

Presently, all the #39 rush hour buses are standing room only! When routes are cut, will

they still only have one bus every 30 minutes? Or will they now only have one bus for the rush hour? The #39 serves the whole Lakeshore area from the Shoregate Shopping Center to Downtown Cleveland. It is a MAJOR bus line connecting half of the city!

There used to be THREE #39 buses. (The #39, #39BX and the #39E.) The #39BX went through Bratenahl.) But the RTA changed it so ALL buses would go through Bratenahl. My suggestion is to implement the previous #39 routes.

As a community member, a rider of RTA, and a non-driver who depends on the public transit system, I am appalled at how this will prevent me from getting Downtown, or to the connecting #37 and #34 bus routes that I need! What will happen when riders need to get to their jobs and appointments at Shoregate and Downtown, and to all the stores and businesses on Lakeshore Blvd., at a time other than rush hour? Not everyone works 9 to 5. Many people work the evening, weekend and night shift. What will happen when people lose their jobs because they cannot get to work, and stores close because customers cannot shop anymore?

The RTA is raising fares, cutting routes and providing in-

| continued on page 4

Councilman Polensek says "Thank you"

Michael D. Polensek



Dear Friends, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported my re-election efforts in Ward 11 this past November. I had the distinct honor of having the largest vote total of any council candidate in a contested race in the City and won every precinct in our Ward by a margin of over 3-1. Thank you to all who exercised their constitutional right to vote regardless of who you voted for. I look forward to working with each of you during the next term in office as well as my colleagues in City Council and Mayor Frank Jackson. As we all know, there are many challenges ahead for 2010 in our city. However, with challenges come opportunities. There are many projects which we have been working on which will start to materialize next year; one being, of course, the long awaited Collinwood Community Recreation Center on Lakeshore Boulevard. On November 25, the City went out for bid on this project. The bids are due mid-January and once we know who the contractors are and what the

anticipated cost will be, the Mayor and the City Administration will make an official announcement as to the projects' status and timeline.

In closing, the Collinwood Observer, in its short time of operation, has become a true voice of civic journalism. I wish to thank and commend all those involved in making this paper a success. I hope, as time goes on, that more neighborhood-based writers and contributors will rise to the occasion to participate in this great community paper. I am honored to have played a small role in getting this paper off the ground and to print. Continued success in the new year. On behalf of my family and staff I wish everyone a joyous Holiday Season and peace, prosperity and goodwill in the New Year.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE FIXED

Jeanne Coppola

Previous editions of The Collinwood Observer have asked readers to submit ideas and suggestions for topics that could be included in the paper. As a resident of the Collinwood area, I think a section about what items (street signs, lights, potholes, etc.), need repair in our neighborhood would be very helpful. A column titled, "What Needs to Be Fixed" would be convenient for everyone. Readers could submit their suggestions on the website, after signing onto the Observation Deck.

Introducing the first edition of "What needs to be fixed."

The Walk sign on the corner of East 185th St., and Neff Road (for pedestrians crossing north), has been out of order since mid summer. This is a busy 4-way intersection, so this is a situation that needs to be fixed as soon as possible.

The next item concerns snowplowing: Last winter the snowplows piled mounds of snow in front of the bus shelters on Lakeshore Blvd., and Neff Road, and made it difficult for residents to get on and off the bus. This should not be happening, because seniors and people with disabilities, cannot climb onto icy piles of snow, and could get injured while boarding or getting off the bus. ■

It works!

Betsy Voinovich

In the premiere issue of the Collinwood Observer, in her article entitled, "How much does Cleveland value its children?" Rebecca Barbarino wrote about the E. 185th street "dragway" and how it was imperative that a 20 mph school zone sign be erected to alert motorists to the presence of children walking to and from school. She said that over the years she has made numerous calls to the city to ask for a sign. This year, she stopped in to the 5th District Police Station, visited with Officer Howard and Captain Tom Tube and described the situation. The last thing she did was write the story for the Collinwood Observer.

We are pleased to note that there is a brand new 20mph school zone sign on East 185th street between Harland and Schenely. Thanks to Officer Howard, Captain Tube

and the City of Cleveland for paying attention and helping to make our neighborhood safer.

Sharing our questions, issues and concerns with each other and our community in this paper really works! This issue, Jeanne Coppola is introducing a new column called, "What Needs To Be Fixed." Please sign into the Collinwood Observer website, at www.collinwoodobserver.com, or write to the Collinwood Observer at 650A E. 185th Street, and tell us what you think needs to be fixed, or changed, or noticed.

If you have an idea for a column, or a story, or you have some news, write it down and send it in! This paper is completely written by you—your community—your friends and neighbors. Maybe next issue, we'll be reading your story. ■

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DEVELOPMENT

News from Northeast Shores

Northeast Shores seeks community input for LaSalle Theater future

Brian Friedman

On Monday, January 11, 2010, Northeast Shores will open up the LaSalle Theater to the community. After the Open House, Northeast Shores will host a community forum to hear potential reuse ideas for the theater.

Northeast Shores acquired the LaSalle Theater and Tavern on September 28, 2009 from Parkview Federal. Over the last two months, Northeast Shores has secured the property and did an analysis for the building's immediate and future capital needs.

The public forum will allow Northeast Shores to hear ideas for what future theater uses could be beneficial to the neighborhood. John Boksansky, Northeast Shores Business District Manager, stated, "This open house and forum will be a wonderful opportunity for the community to see the theater's current condition. I am looking forward to hearing the neighborhood's creative ideas for what the theater can become. Armed with those ideas, we can explore potential operators with

the support of the community behind us."

Northeast Shores' staff has conducted several tours of the property with potential tenants and owners. It's been very exciting to show the property to potential users of the space. We are eager to find a new use for this historic theater. Once a tenant is secured, we can commence renovations to return the building to its historic grandeur.

The open house will commence at 6:00 pm on January 11 at the entrance to the LaSalle Theater, 823 East 185th Street. The community forum to discuss potential reuse ideas for the theater will follow the open house at 7:00 pm and will occur next door in the training center at Federated Auto Parts located at 813 East 185th Street. Interested residents and stakeholders can attend both events, or just one if they prefer.

Brian Friedman is the Executive Director of Northeast Shores

An Interview with John and Bonnie, proud owners of a home in North Collinwood.

KC Petraitis

Why did you choose this area to move to?

We got a good deal on the house when we were looking to buy. [John] grew up in Euclid and is familiar with the area. It is also close to where he works.

How excited are you to be living in your house?

Really, really excited!

What do you think is the most vibrant or exciting asset to this community?

Northeast Shores is a great asset to the community here. Having an organization caring for the residents of the area and fighting to keep it a vibrant place to live is definitely a positive for the area. We also enjoy the Beachland Ballroom and Waterloo area for something to do that's close.

What else can you say about your experience thus far?

The house turned out much better than we had thought it would. When we were first looking we realized that a lot of the houses



we were looking at would need to be entirely gutted and it would take awhile for renovation. Northeast Shores made it really easy for us to buy the home and helped us plan for renovations so we could move in without having our house in pieces. It was great to move into a house already renovated.

KC Petraitis is an intern at Northeast Shores Development Corporation

News from Collinwood and Nottingham Villages Development Corporation

Take a class and green up your winter!

Yolanda Anderson

OSU Extension-Cuyahoga County is now enrolling residents interested in learning the skills to grow food, build communities, and engage in the local food movement with two training programs in winter 2010.

To begin growing for profit, the **Market Gardener Training Program** teaches a foundation of business planning, horticulture, and marketing in twelve intensive weeks and prepares agricultural entrepreneurs to sell to restaurants and small grocers.

The **Dig In! Community Gardener Training Program** prepares motivated community leaders to create healthy opportunities in their neighborhoods, schools, or organizations. A series of eight classes teach the skills to organize the people, select and prepare the land, and grow delicious fruits and vegetables in a community garden.

Information sessions are scheduled at two Cleveland Public Libraries:

Monday December 14, 6:30-7:30pm at Langston Hughes branch (10200 Superior Ave.) and Thursday December 17, 6:30-7:30 at Carnegie West branch (1900 Fulton Rd.)

To register for an information session or request an application, call 216-429-8224 or email key.46@osu.edu, or visit the website at www.neighborhoodgrants.org.

This article was used with permission by Neighborhood Connections E-news 12/3/09.

Collinwood Christmas Memories
Kathy Adams

I lived in Collinwood for many years as a child growing up on Royal Road and then raising a family here also. Working for the Collinwood & Nottingham Villages Development Corporation for the past few years, has kept me close and truly in touch with the area. Even though I have moved from the neighborhood, I still belong to Holy Redeemer Church and my family and and spiritual roots are so deeply embedded here, I will always feel connected to Collinwood.

I can never forget the beautiful Christmases of the past; the family gatherings, the tree, the presents, the school pageants and the warmth of loved ones on Christmas morning. I can still see the many lights strung across St. Clair and crisscrossing "Five Points" as my dad drove us to relatives' homes for Christmas eve dinners or parties with his old neighborhood friends. How our eyes sparkled when Santa entered the room and gave us the toys from his sack. Years later, my own sons were blessed with this memory and tradition that continued with the next generation. Our church guitar choir often sang for Christmas events. One year we stood in the middle of Euclid Square Mall and watched my youngest son dressed as the "Little Drummer Boy" posing uncomfortably as we happily sang that tune among others.

So many memories, so many heartwarming thoughts of this neighborhood come rushing back at this time of the year. I am grateful for the chance to still work and experience it all with CNVDC. Our best wishes and prayers for this holiday season go out to everyone. So from Yolanda, Mike, Jayme and myself, may your Christmas be warm and bright and your New Year filled with hope and love. ■

RTA cutting service

continued from page 2

ferior service to customers: The buses are late, do not make connections and are dirty. Drivers do not let disabled people get to their seats before starting the bus, and they close doors on people when they get off the bus. There is no place for packages and parcels, because the luggage rack has a Plain Dealer box on it. The buses are crowded, with standing room only. Elderly riders have to remove all their groceries from their shopping carts when boarding the bus! All carts and buggies have to be broken down!

According to a recent Plain Dealer article, the drivers are not treated any better. 40 percent of buses have no heat, and half are without working radios. There were also reports of no restrooms during layovers and people being assigned to jobs for which they had no training.

Everyone who wants their opinions heard about these proposed bus route changes should e-mail the RTA, or attend one of the public meetings that will be held in January. And.. call your elected officials. Ask them what they are doing about this situation. We CAN make a difference.


It is surprising that an RTA Press Release said: "...the RTA was named North America's Best Public Transportation System, by the American Public Transportation System. (in 2007)." http://www.riderta.com/nu_newsroom_releases.asp?listingid=1096

This is not true for the riders of RTA!

The RTA e-mail address is: public-comment@gcrt.org. The list of public meetings is located at: www.riderta.com/hearings/

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FORUM

COLLINWOOD TALKS ABOUT HEALTH CARE

Health care is a business:
know your rights

Jeanne Coppola

The article, "Health Care Reform" (Collinwood Observer, November 19), raised a lot of questions. While it is true that our current health care system is a "for-profit industry," an overhaul of the system will not change the fact that it is all about making money. The big questions about health care reform still are: How will you pay for your medical care? Will you be able to afford coverage? Will you be required to purchase health insurance, even if you cannot afford it? Will you be forced to pay fines, if you do not have health care? Will being required to purchase health insurance set in motion more foreclosures, job loss and recession? Will anyone have a choice in all these decisions, or will these decisions be made for us?

Since this is a community newspaper, read by our elected officials, would it be possible if some of these questions could be answered in future editions of the Collinwood Observer?

The fact that the government might become "the single payer to all of the health care providers," would put the insurers out of business, and for this reason, I believe insurers will strongly oppose this issue. Patients, on the other hand, are concerned that a "single payer" system would give the government too much control! But it is a fact that the government HAS tremendous control, because they presently oversee many different agencies in the health care field, including:

- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- The Institute of Medicine (IOM)
- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- The Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

The government knows more about what is happening in America's hospitals than the patients! In 1999, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued a groundbreaking report, titled "To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health Care System." The report revealed that up to 98,000 Americans die each year from preventable medical errors, including: misdiagnosis, prescription errors, incorrectly read lab reports, unnecessary surgery, anesthesia related injury, and hospital-acquired infections. Many times these errors are not reported to the patient, and are not written in their medical records, so patients have no way of knowing what really happened!

In response to the IOM report, former president Bill Clinton established the Quality Interagency Coordination Task Force (QuIC), to evaluate the report's recommendations to reduce errors by 50% in the subsequent five years, and to identify and create public awareness of these medical errors.

Because of these all-too-real statistics, getting good health care is more important than the issue of health insurance. Because once this issue is resolved, and you go to the hospital, a myriad of other issues arise, concerning your actual doctor visit, exams and treatments. Going to the doctor is not cut and dried: (Have tests done, receive a diagnosis, get cured.)

It does not work this way. How will you know if you are getting good get medical care? How will you know if your doctor makes a mistake? Will you be allowed to participate in your health care decisions? Will you be informed of your rights?

As a patient, you DO have rights. You have the right to know your diagnosis, and treatment options, and side effects of any prescriptions. You also have a right to refuse any treatments, and to examine your medical records and to get copies of them.

The Patients Bill of Rights and Responsibilities was enacted in March 1998. A copy of the report can be obtained at: <http://www.hcqualitycommission.gov/cbrr>

This report was sent to former President Bill Clinton in 1997, by the President's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Healthy Care Industry.

Some other rights that patients have include:

- The right to informed disclosure (the right to be told information in an understandable manner, so you can make informed decisions)
- The right to choose providers
- The right to participate in treatment options
- The right to complaints and appeals

As a medical consumer, you should understand all aspects of your medical treatment. A very good website that explains lab tests and medical conditions in easy to understand language is: www.labtestsonline.org

All patients should be aware that the medical industry is a business, just like any other business. Only this time the product that is being purchased is your health and possibly your life. ■

Health care reform

continued from page 1

ance companies. The companies are driven by their shareholders to make money, so in some way can we really blame them? Unfortunately, this money-making pushes our greater needs to the side. When people's lives are at stake, it seems there should be a better way.

We are the only advanced democracy in the world that operates this way. We are the exception, not the rule. Every other developed country has a non-profit-based health insurance program. Some, like Great Britain and Canada, have a government-run health insurance program. Other countries such as Germany, France and Japan have private, but non-profit health insurance companies.

A public option could help to balance some of the inherent unfairness associated with the current system, I'll put my money on some type of public option.

And, by the way, it should not be too much money: The congressional budget office (CBO), a non partisan department of our federal government, has estimated that the House-passed proposal, which includes a public option, may actually reduce our national debt. ■



Mike Gallagher talks with Jeffery King

Collinwood residents deserve access
to affordable health care

continued from page 1

Seniors will enjoy a stronger Medicare system. Under the House's proposal, seniors will experience a number of improvements in services. Over time, Medicare Part D's 'doughnut hole' will be eliminated and seniors will receive a 50% discount on some brand name drugs immediately after passage of the Affordable Health Care for America Act.

You will not lose your right to choose insurance. The public plan will serve as a back-up for private insurance. If you like your insurance plan, keep it. If you are uninsured or lose your private insurance, then you may use public insurance.

More information about the America's Affordable Health Choices Act can be found on my Internet Health Care Hub at www.fudge.house.gov/healthcarehub. The Hub will be continuously updated as Congress deliberates health care reform.

Former Vice President Hubert Humphrey said the true "test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, [and] the needy." In the wake of health care reform, I hope history awards America with a passing grade. ■

Health care Bill of Rights

Barron Glass

This is my first article on health care.

The first item on this subject is to set up a human health care Bill of Rights for everyone and not just the uninsured. This Bill of Rights would include everyone alive and being born. I would include those people who wish to have special consideration to themselves when they pass away. The framework will specifically state that every human being requires the right to be born, and that decision should be made by the parents, doctors, other family members, religious involvement, and possibly an attorney.

The next right, whether it is for a newborn or aged human or anyone else, is the right for pre-screening checkups on a regular basis.

The next right is for prescriptions to be available for the wellbeing of everyone as wellness measures for continuing a health existence.

The next item is for mentally ill people that require both treatment and medicine to help control the ailments or relieve the problem for a time.

The last item, for now, will be the right to rehabilitation: continued treatment and care for those in need. There are more things to discuss about this topic at a later time. I just wanted to express this opinion so everyone could start thinking about it. I will talk about more in my next article. Thank you for reading and thinking about my health care Bill of Rights. ■

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SCHOOL NEWS

Project Love

Can character building stop the epidemic of teen-on-teen violence?

Lynn Haney

On Tuesday November 17, 2009, over two thousand high school students from North-east Ohio were in attendance at Cleveland State University's Wolstein Center for a half day rally-style event sponsored by Project Love. Nearly one hundred Collinwood High School boys and girls were present. The question of the day was, "What are the rules of the game for creating a culture of kindness?"

Most impressive among the variety of speakers were the football coach and team members from St. Ignatius High School who have started an anti-violence program – standagainstviolece.org - following a gang-

related attack on the near West Side that left Justin Winemiller severely injured. This is the type of grassroots action that programs such as Project Love hope to inspire.

Can the Collinwood community which has suffered another senseless loss of life with Brandon Young's recent death find a way to intervene with gang mentality or even the small but cruel acts of disrespect and bullying so prevalent among young people? Some Project Love students poignantly wrote about their feelings from the CSU event in their English class. **See page 9 to find out what one remarkable ninth grade girl name Ceirra Kyle had to say.**



Collinwood High School group leaders for "Project Love": left to right: David Harris, Jozlyn Prescott, Ms. Lulie Wynn Martin, Erin Busby, Briana Smith, Amirah Harbour, Jamal Lumbus, Mr. Eugene Ward



VASJ Senior and Culinary Arts student Abria Houser preparing a tasty dish with her Iron Chef team.

VASJ's creative cooking class' Iron Chef competition

Breanna Baines

On December 1, students at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School put their creative cooking skills to work to compete in VASJ's very own Iron Chef Competition. Six student groups competed, cooking dishes that were presented to a panel of judges comprised of local culinary experts, including Ruth Levine from Bistro 185, Mark Moster from Pickwick & Frolic, Matt Taylor from Sysco, Bobby Bennett, a chef, and VASJ's own Samantha Meyer.

Student teams were given an hour and thirty minutes to prepare 2 dishes. Each dish had to contain a protein such as chicken, shrimp or catfish, a starch, and a vegetable.

There was a wide array of dishes, ranging from Louisiana Catfish, prepared by Jocelyn Abron and Cynthia Catcher, to Chicken Prosciutto Lasagna by Chantelle Jones,

Bre'Anna Powers and Jasmine Wallace.

Dishes were judged primarily by taste and presentation. Colors, textures, shapes, and ingredient repetition were also taken into consideration. Six dishes entered, and in the end, it was Diamond Ivey, Tiffany Butler, and Briana Journee, with their dishes of Lemon Garlic Shrimp Skewers, Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Green beans, and Lemon Pasta with Chicken and Broccoli, who came out victoriously.

Each group had different strategies and brought different talents to the table, and all admitted that excelling in the kitchen isn't as easy as it looks on television.

"We didn't think it would be as hard as it was," said participants Abria Houser and Vincent Smith. "We appreciate chefs in restaurants more because of this experience."

PROUD TO BE A SIMS RAIDER

Mary Jurkiw-Keys

Recently the Plain Dealer ran an article (October 17, 18) "Big Man On Campus" on two outstanding athletes from the Sims Raiders football team. These two young men have some outstanding goals and opportunities ahead of them along with other team members of the Raiders and the Raiderettes (cheerleaders) who, in this author's opinion, are the best in their

league. The author is partial to this article due to being a Sims fan and grandparent.

These kids work long and hard from mid-summer to fall and practice four to five days a week, three hours a night, to ensure that all our teams reach their goals. Whether on the fields, life, home or school they give it their best. As a grandparent of a Sims Raider Midget, I am proud to come to every Sunday game held either at Collinwood High School stadium

or away games to show my support. Reading about these kids brought me joy in seeing how serious they are but also having fun doing something they like, sports, and keeping it in our communities. Their coaches, who work hard all day and train hard during the evening, are the best bunch of people around; they care and love these kids, instilling confidence and pride in themselves as well as in their communities and homes.

Our communities of Collinwood/Nottingham should show them our support and cheer them on to victory, success and a bright future, no matter what they do, or dream of becoming, as adults.

This proud grandparent also wants our communities to know how PROUD we are by congratulating them for a wonderful season and to say what a fantastic job they did this season, not only the Sims Raiders but all the teams in the Muni league this year.

Congratulations go out to the sims raiders midget gold team for winning the 2009 championship. All our raiders did a great job this season. I know as a grandparent of a Sims

Raider I am proud of all of these fine boys and girls, as are their families. As a family we grow as a unit, that in turn, grows as a community, to stand tall, strong and proud.

We invite all community neighbors, businesses and community officials and past sims raiders to visit us at our games next season at Collinwood High Stadium or at a named location by going to <http://www.Clevelandmunyfootball.Org> for information, schedules and scores. The pride, excitement and fun these kids and families have are outstanding– this article was written to inform our communities of events happening in and around our area.

Businesses and residents are encouraged to participate in sponsorships or donations so that our children/grandchildren can continue enjoying what they do: having fun. Your help or support can make a better future for all.

You can find out about other activities and sports available in our communities by contacting your community organizations.

Our future begins at home in the Collinwood/Nottingham Communities. Help us help our children & their future!

★

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SCHOOL NEWS

EAST CLARK EIGHTH GRADERS TO READ ONE THOUSAND BOOKS

Christine Peterlin



Clockwise from Top center: Dijjanae Gaines, Maria Tolliver, Tatiana Axson, Ashli Brewer, Breyanna Laramore (center), and Crystal Mays.

East Clark has the most amazing students! The eighth graders have set out to read more than 1,000 books this year. Each student is going to try to meet the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's Standard of reading at least 25 chapter books before the end of this school year.

Our global economy requires today's youth to have more advanced literacy skills than what was required of any other generation. Literacy is essential to success in high school, college, and beyond. Books take our students out of their community and into the world. Books introduce our students to new people, new places, and new ideas.

To meet our goal of reading 1,000 books this year, students utilize both the East Clark school library and the Collinwood branch of the Cleveland Public Library. Students walk with their teacher(s) to the public library every three weeks to check out books. Students spend about an hour at the library selecting books and sometimes getting a computer lesson in the teen center. The librarians warmly welcome our students and their quiet chatter as they eagerly select books to check out and read. Some students seem to be in competition with each other, checking out huge stacks of thick books.

We are using the Accelerated Reader program to track our progress. Upon completion of a book, students take a short, computerized assessment. Students who pass the AR test get credit for reading the book. Students who do not pass the AR test do not get credit. With the Accelerated Reader program, students must read every page of every chapter to prepare for these challenging tests.

Some students are reading like crazy and completing more than one book per week, many are right on target, and a few others are lagging behind. We can use your help! Letters of praise and encouragement or a tax-deductible donation toward a year-end, overnight trip to reward the students who read the most this year would be greatly appreciated. No letter would be too short and no donation too small.

The teachers at East Clark are committed to educating Collinwood's leaders of tomorrow by having high expectations for all students today. If you would like to help us achieve our goal of reading more than 1,000 books this school year, please contact Ms. Peterlin at East Clark. Together we can make a difference--one child at a time!



VASJ Blood Drive-November 16, 2009

VASJ Junior Ellen Cvelbar donates blood while classmate and cousin Mary Cvelbar, dressed for the drive's "Be the Hero: Donate Blood!" theme, offers support.



Computer Repair students preparing to go to a Digital Cabling Program offered through Tri-C with the possibility of working for Time Warner after completion.

Cleveland Job Corps Academy features its School of Business Technology

Susan Clark

The Cleveland Job Corps Academy is a comprehensive career technical training center administered by the U. S. Department of Labor for students ages 16 through 24. The state-of-the-art campus is located at 13421 Coit Road in Collinwood. The campus consists of 9 buildings that sit on 25 acres and currently has over 400 students enrolled on a year-round basis.

Current career technical training offered at the Cleveland Job Corps Academy includes the School of Business Technology, School of Allied Health, School of Construction and a School of Advanced Career Training.

Established in 1964, the 112 national Job Corps centers have trained and educated more than 2 million young people, serving approximately 60,000 each year.

This issue features the School of Business Technology which offers Office Administration and Computer Repair courses. Students obtain skills relevant to the current job market and workforce including Microsoft Office 2007, Microsoft A+ Certification, Advanced Keyboarding, Windows Operating System, Business Math, Office Procedures, etc.

Praise and thanks at St. Jerome!

Jessica Deveney

The seventh graders were chosen to be in charge of the Thanksgiving prayer service. Mrs. McCloud, the seventh grade teacher, partnered up with the music teacher, Brother Bob, to make it an enthusiastic prayer service in which all of the seventh graders were involved. The class had practiced a religious play/skit to perform and Sister Barbra praise danced. Everyone was excited about the service and it turned out just as we had hoped.

St. Jerome is playing basketball

Dajayanna Davidson

The girl and boy basketball season kicked off for the 2009-2010 school year at St. Jerome. Students have been practicing very hard to represent the school and are very excited for this year's basketball season. Grades 5th-8th will be involved for this extra curricular event. St Jerome has several teams competing this year and games will be held soon.

Also at St. Jerome Elementary school, there will be a winter ball, given in December, by our school's community and charity provider, the Junior Holy Name Society. The Junior Holy Name society will use the money to buy presents for the homeless children this Christmas.

Memorial School's 2nd Annual Game Night for our Community

Steve Andras

Memorial School held its 2nd Annual Game Night for students and families. Many Family Games were played by our parents, students and teachers, all in the idea of bringing schools, teachers, and families together in a positive and community manner. We hope that this special Game Night helped bring the Memorial Community of Collinwood together in a way that builds trust, care, and compassion. In addition, families had the chance to win Family Games and meet together at the end of the evening for food and sharing. Memorial School is here to help build our Collinwood neighborhood, and this is just one of the ways we hope we bring our families and school together to build fellowship and compassion, as well as a solid education for our children.

Taking the initiative in school

Kashae Douglas

My class and I learned a new word in Language Arts. It is the word "initiative". To show initiative means to act or to take a step forward. If you want to do well in school, you must take the initiative.

Taking the initiative means getting to school on time, following the school rules like dresscode, and keeping your cellphones on vibrate or off so you do not disturb your teachers' lessons. Taking the initiative means paying attention in class, taking notes on important things you will need to remember, making sure you do all your work, and reading books that can bring your reading level up. Taking the initiative means asking your teacher for extra help when you need it and completing extra credit so you can bring your grades up if they are low.

If you take the initiative everyday at school, I guarantee this will help you to be very successful. Remember to focus on taking the initiative so you can have the best education possible, regardless of where you go to school. What you do today and everyday will prepare you for work, college, and life.

YOUTH AND FAMILY

The Grandmother's Holiday Shopping Guide by Kathy Baker

Dear Grandmothers,
Our holiday shopping issue of the Observer will be coming out soon, and we can hear our readers asking, “eek, what can I get my kid/grandkid who has everything?” or, given the economy, “what can I get my kid that will be valuable but doesn’t cost a lot?” What do the Grandmothers suggest?— Erin Randel

Dear Erin and all you Observer readers, Remember “Little House on the Prairie,” when the Ingalls girls were thrilled to receive an orange and a peppermint stick in their stockings, and nothing more? We Grandmothers aren’t quite THAT old, but when it comes to The Holidays, we are that old-fashioned. We would love to see modest gift exchanges become the norm again, as opposed to mounds and mounds of gifts under an over-decorated tree, or, worse yet, unhappy children who had hoped for mounds and mounds of gifts under the tree but were disappointed.

So, if you are quite satisfied with your holiday celebrations as they’ve always been, with excessive gifts followed by excessive credit card bills, you can stop reading right now. But if, on the other hand, you’d like some ideas for some less costly but meaningful gifts for your children, grandchildren, and nieces and nephews, read on.

For starters, as soon as you’ve put this Observer down, call the family together and tell them that you would like The Holidays 2009 to be different. Talk about these hard times we’re in, and how you don’t plan on the abundant giving of past years, but that there are ways to make The Holidays just as much

fun as before. This announcement may not meet with everyone’s enthusiastic approval. But at least you will have warned them. Here are some ideas you might start with as you make your goal more creative and less costly gift-giving:

For the younger ones: “pretend boxes.” These would be boxes containing props for some of their favorite imaginative play games. The School Box would contain a small chalk board, chalk, paper, pencils, notebooks; the Hairdresser Box would hold combs, brushes, empty plastic bottles, an old hairdryer with the cord removed; the Office Box would be full of office supplies; the Grocery Store box would hold empty food containers, a play cash register, fake money; even the very littlest ones would love pretending to be mommy with an old purse containing a set of unused keys, a discarded wallet, a nonfunctioning cellphone etc. You get the idea.

For older ones, art boxes: a box containing washable tempera paints, a paint smock, plenty of paint brushes of different sizes; or a box for the collage artist complete with construction paper, scissors, glue, stickers, pipe cleaners, wall paper samples, old catalogues; or a tool box containing real tools; or a cooking box holding real measuring cups and spoons, a cookbook, and maybe a cake mix or two; or a jewelry-making box full of interesting beads and plastic thread.

For kids who are too old (or consider themselves too old) for all of the above, memberships in museums that they might enjoy, gift cards for their local movie theater, subscriptions to magazines that appeal to their current hobbies

and interests. Better yet, a hand-lettered certificate promising a shopping spree, or a meal and a movie, or some other outing that you can enjoy together.

All of the above can be made more special by personalizing them. And almost all the needed items can be purchased at the dollar store, or found by scrounging around the house, or browsing the gift card rack at a local Collinwood shop. Just add your special touch – the child’s name written in sequins on a dress-up box, for example, or in cut-outs of cars on the auto mechanics box – and you’ve created a one-of-a-kind gift.

I’m sure we don’t need to add that books are always appropriate, for any age. Also games. Second hand shops and used book stores are great places to shop for these; just make sure all the pieces and pages are still there. Other inexpensive gifts, some of which you could make yourself, are beanbags, nesting blocks, jump ropes, bubbles, sewing cards, dolls, playing cards, and small cars.

Here’s what the Grandmothers would have you ask about any gift you are considering: 1) does it encourage creativity? 2) is it reasonably priced or better yet, free? 3) does it show that the giver has considered the age and interests of the child it’s being given to?

And for our big finale, we suggest that you consider asking your children/grandchildren if they would like to donate some – but not all – of the money you might have spent on a gift for them to a charity of their choice. Last Christmas, one of the Grandmothers gave to each of her teen-aged grandchildren some money and a blank notebook for recording the names of the



worthy causes they decided the money should go to, and the reasons for their choices. She has to admit that the grandchildren did not seem nearly as thrilled with this idea as Laura and Mary were with their oranges. But it certainly made her feel better than she would have had she merely added to the huge pile of gifts under that overburdened tree.

And maybe, now that they’re used to the idea, they’ll welcome it into their plans for The Holidays 2009.

May yours be affordable and maybe even joyful!

If you have a general parenting question or would like some advice about a specific problem your child is having, please write it down and email it to us at thegrandmothers@collinwoodobserver.com.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Meet **Mike Karban**, owner and trainer at Miller Athletic Club, Totally Toned and Breakout Fitness

Susan Brandt

I met Mike Karban on a journey, one I hope will never end. Mike is my personal trainer at Miller Athletic Club, located at 669 E. 185th Street. By now, most everyone in Cleveland has read, or heard about the physical condition of Clevelanders, from staggering statistics that Cleveland is one of the most obese cities in the nation, or to Toby Cosgrove's remarks on the subject. I am one of those statistics, and have been fighting this fight for decades. Up until recently I had not been fighting very well, but with Mike's training, there is hope.

Mike Karban is 27 years old and the owner of Miller Athletic Club, Totally Toned Personal Training, and Breakout Fitness, a gym for seniors and people with disabilities, located at 18901 Lakeshore.

He is certified through the International Fitness Association in Senior Fitness, Sports Nutrition, Aerobics, and Personal Training, as well as the National Federation of Personal Trainers, and is C.P.R Certified.

Starting at the age of 18, Mike worked at all the major health club in Northeast Ohio, before starting his own business, with Totally Toned in 2004.

Mike's entrepreneurial skills and goals will take him to local televised segments on senior fitness, and advance his career through skilled training in working with spinal cord injuries.

We wish him well in his endeavors.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
"Perfect happiness for me will come when I've created something that will live on when I am gone."

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement?
"The fact that for the past decade I've been able to make a living doing what I truly love!"

What quality do you most like in a person?
"Honesty! I have to be able to trust that honesty truly is the best policy."

What do you value most in your friends?
"Loyalty! It's a good feeling when you know those closest to you will stand by you, no matter what!"

What is your most treasured possession?
"My '96 Firebird, 5 speed stick shift. I feel amazing just sitting in that car!"

What is your greatest extravagance?
"I am not a very extravagant person, but I'd have to say my body. I spend the most time and money trying to achieve my personal fitness goals."



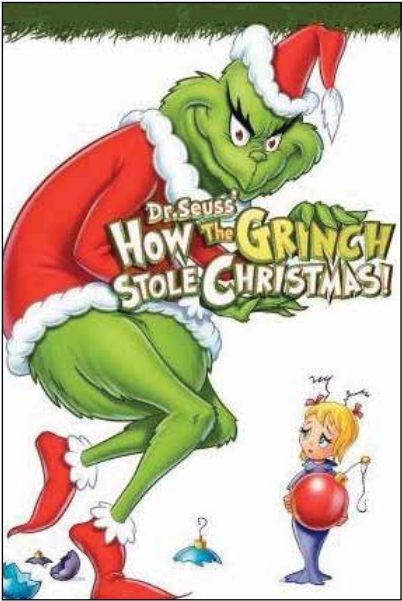
Who are your real life heroes?
"Only one comes to mind and that is my mom, whether she was working two jobs to take care of us or finding a way to add hours to the day to spend time with us. She's my hero!"

What makes you unique?
"My personality! I feel my greatest asset is being able to motivate people from all walks of life, to achieve their goals."

If you could change one thing in your life what would it be?
"My life has been good and bad, lots of joy and lots of sadness, but there isn't one thing I would change! It all happened for a reason."

What's your favorite word?
"Awesome! Don't know why, but its a word I use daily, a very exciting word!"

You can reach Mike at 216.548.5383 to inquire about specials and services. Have a happy and healthy holiday!



How the Grinch Stole Christmas party at the library!

Maria Estrella

Attention all young Grinch fans! The Cleveland Public Library Memorial-Nottingham Branch will host a "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" Party on Tuesday, December 22, 2009, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.! Stories will be read, the famous movie will be shown, and the young patrons will get a chance to participate in a Grinch game and craft!

For any questions, please contact the Children's Librarian, Maria F. Estrella, at (216) 623-7039.

FAITH IN COLLINWOOD

Paint me happy
An email worth reading

Joe Bruzas

Most of us receive emails from friends, strangers, and businesses asking for everything from donations to “let’s get together” or a myriad of other requests. I recently received an email from a friend of mine, Betty Wasiloff asking for my help in finding volunteers for her non-profit organization, PaintMeHappy.org. A year ago, Betty was diagnosed with cancer and as she was going through the treatment journey that included radiation and chemotherapy, she lost her hair. After the initial shock, her first reaction was one of sadness and feeling down in the dumps. That was short-lived however because then she thought she could continue to be down in the dumps or she could do something about it. So, she started PaintMeHappy.org. The group paints hats for patients with cancer or other life threatening diseases. She has collaborated with Ireland Cancer Center and Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital of University Hospital in Cleveland to distribute individually painted hats to their patients. The response from family, friends, neighborhood groups, schools and social groups was tremendous when it came to painting the hats. However, now she is faced with the situation where she does not have enough volunteers who will go with her to the hospital to deliver the hats.

In her email, she stated that the best part of the whole process is delivery of the hats. The patients are happy to receive something made especially for them in their current situation. The goal of the organization is to uplift the spirits of cancer patients –one hat at a time-- and from the looks on the faces of the patients, that goal is being met. She also mentioned that she is looking for corporate sponsors to help defray the cost of materials. Individual sponsorship is also an option. You can view her organization and what they have done at www.paintmehappy.org. The Patient Gallery section tells the story better than I can. If you can spend 2-4 hours, or more, per week, volunteering during the day, you can reach Betty through email at the website or by calling her at 216-403-0400 or 216-383-8057. Hats are distributed Monday through Friday. If you do not have time but want to make a donation, you can do that at the website as well. All monies after the cost of doing business is earmarked for University Hospital for underfunded cancer research projects. Many emails are bothersome but I am happy I took the time to read this one and I am happy to help spread the story of this dedicated woman and the cause that touches too many of our lives.

Project Love's
"Kick Off For Kindness"

Ceirra Kyle

I found the trip to Project Love’s “Kick Off For Kindness,” wonderful and educational. I found a lot of the points of view very interesting. I am always kind to people because I want people to be kind to me. I am always respectful to people because I want people to be respectful to me. My grandmother always told me to treat others how I want to be treated. I don’t want people making fun of me, so I don’t make fun of them. I don’t swear because my grandmother raised me better than that. We need to stop the violence. A lot of innocent people are dying because of senseless violence. It all can be prevented. We have to stop being violent and start being nice and kind. If someone hurts you,

let it go. Don’t even think about revenge. Leave revenge in God’s hands. If someone talks about you, just ignore them. They are probably just jealous because you have God in your life. I don’t believe in revenge or committing violent acts towards other people. I just don’t understand how another person can kill or torture another human being. We are all human beings! We die the same way! We bleed the same way! We are all different but in a good way. But no matter how big the differences, we are all God’s children! Even all the sinners and nonbelievers – God has not forgotten you. None of us deserve to be mistreated in any way. It’s not fair that innocent people are dying.

FREEING A SPARROW

Jeanne Coppola

I want to thank the man who helped me on Friday, December 4th, at the Lakeshore Shopping Center, by holding the door of a shop open, so I could free a sparrow that was trapped inside. Afterwards, I told the man that it was amazing how things sometimes happen in mysterious ways. If we had not started talking, I would not have been walking along side him for that brief period of time, and would not have seen the bird.

Things like this have happened to me before, and I believe happen to everyone... only many times we are not aware of them because they are very subtle. It is as if an undercurrent connects all life. An eloquent quote by Deepak Chopra, in his book *The Spontaneous Fulfillment of Desire* explains it best: "Coincidences are not accidents but signals from the universe which can guide us toward our true destiny."

CHRISTMAS TREES FROM COLLINWOOD

Mary Louise Jesek-Daley

Christmas trees abound from Collinwood. The elves in the community have been busy. Two trees from the community have become a part of the holiday season and a third decorated tree brings a little history to the Play House. A large pine tree which once stood between two houses on East 177 Street is now standing on Cleveland’s Public Square as the City’s Christmas Tree. The tree has been decorated with lights and ornaments delighting those that attended this year’s Winterfest celebrations on Public Square at the end of November, and will remain up until after the holidays into January. Mr. Richard Helton donated the tree to use as the City’s Christmas tree for the delight of the public, rather than just taking down the tree and using it for firewood. A second tree which once stood on Neff Road, donated by Mr. Chuck Mlinaric, now graces the City Greenhouse for use as their Christmas tree as a part of their spectacular Christmas display of pointsettia plants and other holiday foliage. The City Greenhouse is located on East 89th Street and East Boule-

vard, at the beginning of the Cultural Gardens. The City Greenhouse is responsible for all the landscaping of City of Cleveland public property. Their displays are visited by many people from all over. A third tree stands in the Promenade of the Cleveland Play House as decorated by the Board members of the Collinwood Nottingham Historical Society, George and Sue Neff, in particular. The tree is decorated to represent Christmas in the Collinwood and Nottingham Villages. Black train cutouts, green frogs (representing Frogsville), Euclid Beach ornaments, pointsettias and white roses (representing the Collinwood School Fire of 1908), decorate the tree which is bedecked with silver tinsel and topped with a raffia angel. The Women’s Committee of the Cleveland Play House offers trees each year for non-profit community-related organizations to come and be a part of their Holiday Festival of Trees. The trees may be seen at the PlayHouse until Sunday, January 3, 2010. Happy holidays to all in the Collinwood Nottingham Village Communities.

In Our Hearts, You Hold A Place
a poem by **Dominique Pegues**

As the holidays approach, I find myself remembering the ones I have loved and lost. Like me, I'm sure many of you have lost someone that you love. I'd like to dedicate this poem to all of our loved ones who won't be here to enjoy the holidays with us.

*When I must leave you for a little while,
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears.
A million times we've needed you,
A million times we've cried.
If love alone could have saved you,
You never would have died.
In death we love you still,
In our hearts, you hold a place,
That no one else can ever fill.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you didn't go alone.
For part of us went with you,
The day God took you home.*

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

A movie about Cleveland, by Cleveland

Liz Copic

Greetings Clevelanders. It is my pleasure to announce that I will be filming a major motion picture here in Cleveland in April and May of 2010. The movie is an ensemble of about 10 players in a Texas Hold em Tournament together. Each of them have their own flashback and ending to show that the money and the game represent different things to each of them.

My goal is to make this a movie about Cleveland, by Cleveland, and for everyone in Cleveland. With so many flashbacks and endings I get the opportunity to film at amazing locations all over town like Tower City, The Free Stamp, The Agora, Little Italy, Ohio City, and a couple locations right here in Collinwood. I need lots of help from everyone for cast, crew, extras, location scouts, and musicians for my all-Cleveland soundtrack. As my way of saying thanks, I will be donating 10% of the profit back to Cleveland charities to help as many Clevelanders as I can.

There are an infinite number of ways to make a movie, with variables like who finds the script or

director, where the money comes from, and how the movie actually gets shot. Who says a movie has to be made by a director or production company? Why can't a movie be made by an entire city? What do you say Cleveland, are you ready for this? If you are, your task for this week is to spread the word, and next issue we'll start location scouting where you can help decide where we film.

A Collinwood featured location is the Thermadore (17406 Grovewood). This is what I call my "local pub" or simply "the Therm." It reminds me of Cheers where everybody knows you, and there's always good conversation on the next bar stool whether they're 22 or 62. The Therm also has my favorite jukebox of all time. This is where the main Texas Hold em Tournament of the movie takes place. I'm looking forward to filming here, and can't wait to see how beautiful it'll look on film.

For more information feel free to email me at ClevelandRiver@gmail.com or visit www.myspace.com/ClevelandRiver.



ARTS COLLINWOOD CHALLENGE GRANT

Amy Callahan

Arts Collinwood is facing a very special challenge this year — and members of the community are stepping up to help meet it. As the community arts group that has sparked much of the Waterloo Road renaissance, Arts Collinwood has always been fortunate to have incredibly dedicated members and volunteers, from all over the neighborhood and throughout the city. Two of the founding members, both longstanding supporters who have asked to remain anonymous, saw the work of this community group as more important than ever in these tough economic times. And they've put their money where their belief is.

They've offered a \$5,000 challenge grant for Arts Collinwood's year-end fundraiser. Every dollar raised between now and the end of the year in new and renewed memberships and donations will be doubled, up to \$5,000.

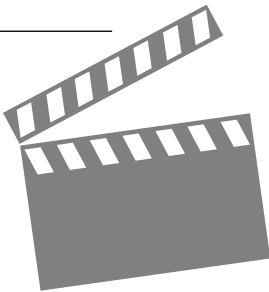
"This is an incredibly generous gesture," says acting board President Fran Hunter. "It's groups like Arts Collinwood that help pull communities through these difficult times. And it's members like these who make that possible."

Director Sarah Gyorki says the group has already seen a response in their year-end donations, with supporters realizing that by giving now, they not only get a year-end tax deduction but also double their money. "It's good to know that your contribution helps here at home, and that every dollar is going farther." She goes on to say that every dollar contributed will help to provide programs for local youth and families, including after school programs, community events, art classes, exhibits and more.

If you're interested in finding out more about Arts Collinwood, or you want to contribute, visit www.artscollinwood.org or call 216-692-9500.

Movie Review: 2012

Jeanne Coppola



Since there has been so much media attention on the date 2012, and the Mayan calendar that predicts the end of the world, I expected the movie 2012 to be better than it was. The movie poster (of one lone Himalayan monk standing on the snow covered mountain tops) gave the impression that this would be a spiritual movie...a transcendent movie. A movie about the mystical knowledge of the Mayans and their ability to see thousands of years into the future, and be able to create a calendar that supposedly ends on December 21, 2012.

Instead, the movie 2012 focused on special effects, which were were astounding! The film was a magnificent visual spectacle of destruction, with whole cities and continents vanishing into the ocean, and a gigantic world wide Tsunami that obliterated every coastal line. These scenes of destruction were very emotional, visually intense and many times relentless!

But 2012 lacked good dialogue between the main characters, Jackson Curtis (John Cusak), who after finding out that world will end, goes back to California to save his ex-wife, Kate Curtis (Amanda Peet), their kids and her new boyfriend. Practically everything they talked about was their relationship, and why it failed. They never asked: Why it is this happening? Will we survive? What will we eat? Where will we live? How long will this last?

And no one showed enough emotion, except Charlie Frost (Woody Harrelson), who was fantastic as the fanatical Yellowstone conspiracy theorist, who warned Curtis about the end of the world. Frost and the President, Thomas Wilson (Danny Glover) were the only ones who gave the audience any information about what was happening. And these explanations were too brief, and did not tell enough about why these specific powerful solar flares were causing the earth's core to heat up.

If the actors had shown some greater emotional depth, and had been given a better script, this could have been a profound film!

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NAN'S NOTES by Nan Kennedy

A HOLIDAY (KID-FRIENDLY!) ART SALE

The Arts Collinwood Holiday Art Sale is the kid-friendliest anywhere. Not only does it have a supervised craft corner in the Art Center, where the kids can make art while you shop; not only does the Café understand the importance of cookies and cocoa (with cocoa, it's the whipped cream); but on Sunday, December 13, the last day of the sale, you can take the family to the Beachland for brunch and a puppet show, and shop afterwards. Food, entertainment, art – Waterloo Road has it all.

Weekend on Waterloo, Arts Collinwood's annual holiday art extravaganza, runs December 11, 12 and 13. From vintage clutches to museum-quality glass to scented soaps, WoW has something for everyone. Buy gifts and please your palate in the Café, while your kids make their own (supervised) art in the Community Center.

More than 30 of the area's top artists will bring you jewelry, wearables, glass, paintings and photography on December 11 (5-11 pm), 12 (11 am–11 pm) and 13 (11 am–5 pm.)

And on any weekend during the holidays, save \$1 off your purchase at the Arts Collinwood Café with a receipt from any of these merchants: Arts Collinwood Gallery & Café, Azure Stained Glass, Beachland Ballroom & Tavern, Blue Arrow Records, The Boardwalk, Cakes By Sweetwater, Fotina's, Low Life, Mac's Lock Shop, Music Saves, Neighbor's Choice, R&D Sausage, Raddell's Sausage, Star Pop, Shoparooni & The Annex, Slovenian Workman's Home, This Way Out, Waterloo 7 Gallery and Wunderkind Gallery.

ENLIVEN YOUR LIFE AT LOWLIFE

New works by painter Sunia Boneham and photographer Bridget Caswell are showing at Low Life Gallery. The show runs through December 26.

LowLife Gallery, 16101 Waterloo.

SHOPAROONI'S HOLIDAY ART BOMB

Dealeroonies abound in Shoparooni's veritable fruit cake of artisan and handmade goods from Cleveland and beyond. In the Shoparooni Annex from December 5.

Shoparooni, 15813 Waterloo

MUSICSAVES

Mark the calendar now for MusicSaves' Sixth Annual Holiday Getdown with Casual Encounters, The Walkies, Talons and Shiny Penny at the Beachland on December 19.

MusicSaves, 15801 Waterloo

AT THE BEACHLAND

Mark the calendar for the 2nd Annual Matzoh Ball & Latke Party, December 25,



Polka dot branch brooch, by Michael Romanik, whose work will be featured in the Arts Collinwood Sale.

featuring Blue Lunch, at the Beachland Ballroom 8:30 pm (7:30 pm doors).

Beachland Ballroom, 15711 Waterloo

NOURISHING FRIDAY FISH FRY

Before or after taking in the opening, the book signing, the Art Bomb, the Flea Market and the music sale – restore your strength with the Slovenian Home's excellent fried fish and coleslaw (or pork chops with polenta, or macaroni cheese).

Slovenian Home, 15335 Waterloo

NOURISHING DINER FOOD AT FOTINA'S

If you're shopping early on a holiday weekend, and you like diner food (with a slight Greek twist), remember Fotina's, which has diner comfort food AND diner comfort waitresses.

Fotina's 400 E 156, 692-1375

JAZZ ON WEDNESDAYS

The Café at Arts Collinwood is bringing back Jazz on Wednesdays – live jazz, no cover charge, full bar and kitchen service. First set 8 pm, second set 9:30.

Café at Arts Collinwood 15603 Waterloo

WRAP UP YOUR SHOPPING AT WATERLOO 7

Join Jerry and Tyler and friends on December 12 for a night of live music and unique gift shopping. They've loaded the Gallery with one-of-a-kind jewelry, stocking-sized sculpture, hand-painted treasure boxes and fine-art prints – if you can't find something you like, you aren't really looking. From 7 pm to 11 pm you can enjoy a glass of wine with the artists, browse for treasures and rock with Oldboy, Ben Barr and Jenna Fournier.

Phone: (239) 293-9548.

BRUNCH AT THE BEACHLAND

The reason the Beachland brunch is always fabulous is that (besides entertaining you with a real, live DJ), they serve such delicacies as Crème Brulee French toast and, for vegans or vegetarians, scrambled tofu marinated in dark soy sauce and sesame oil and sautéed

with scallions or onions, served with a side of broccoli and potatoes. You could also order breakfast empanadas filled with eggs, steak, bacon or sausage, with potatoes, olives and sultana raisins served with lime sour cream on the side. Or fried risotto cakes with poached eggs and broccoli, gaucho steak and eggs, breakfast polenta and weekly chef's specials. Each week introduces a different sangria, as well as home-made Bloody Marys.

Beachland Ballroom, 15711 Waterloo

STAR POP'S GRAND OPENING

Star Pop (a star of popular culture) is a small and very crowded collection of things you haven't seen for a long time (except the designer baby shoes – I think.) Owner Troy Schwartz is a fourth-generation toyshop owner; can you think of a better inheritance? Moving carefully through his vintage and modern merchandise, you'll find toys, T-shirts, clothing and accessories, children's books, video games, movies, music, art, and more. (I found, for instance, a slot-together castle, and have been kicking myself for buying only one.)

Star Pop is celebrating its social grand opening on the night of December 12, and invites you to come enjoy some holiday treats while you explore. Bear in mind that not only is all this stuff affordable, it's sustainable (that's a new word for green, which was a new word for environmentally sensitive, which was obviously too cumbersome to last) – it's all been salvaged from local family and estate sales.

Star Pop, 15813 Waterloo

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS HISTORICALLY

You are invited to join the Collinwood Nottingham Historical Society at their holiday meeting on December 17 at the Lithuanian Hall, 877 E185th St. Hear about the Society's first year and its plans, and enjoy Ruta's delicious catering – only \$10. RSVP to Mary Louise Jesek Daley at mlajesek@aol.com or CollNottHistory@aol.com.

The Society has just distributed its first newsletter, summing up its first year plus some plans. To hear all about it, mark 3rd Thursdays on your calendar throughout the year.

THIS WEEK AT THE FARMERS' MARKET

Barb Foose is taking orders for fresh! organically raised! turkeys from Blooming Patches Farm. Email her at bloomingpatches@windstream.net or stop by the market and talk to Kevin. The turkeys can be picked up at the market, where you will also be able to get lots of other local products. Barb's poultry eat bugs and worms and green, growing things (she worries about the depth of color in the egg yolks), and lead a very pleasant poultry sort of life.

Coit Road Farmer's Market is located at the corner of Coit & Woodworth Road in East Cleveland. Open year-round Saturday 8 am to 1 pm.

YO YO CLUB ON THAT'S LIFE

December 21 10:00 AM: See Shoparooni's Yo-Yo club on "That's Life with Robin Swoboda at 10 am on December 21.

MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO RECYCLE.

Start with your Christmas Tree. The city will pick up your live tree from the curb from December 26 to January 29, 2010. In the spring, the mulch from the recycled trees will be made available to Cleveland residents at no cost, while supplies last. Continue to recycle throughout the year by dropping off your glass, plastic, aluminum, cardboard and paper at any of the City of Cleveland's convenient drop-off locations. Call for a location near you. 216-664-3717.

ELF HELP FROM THE NATURALIST

Do you need some time to finish last minute holiday shopping or preparations without the kids tagging along? Drop them off Dec 19, between 1pm and 5 pm at the park office conference room for an afternoon of nature fun. Play nature games, make a craft, have a snack, and even play outside if the weather permits. Children ages 4 and up (must be toilet-trained). Space is limited and you must pre-register by 12/16. Children not pre-registered will not be accepted that day.

216-881-8141 ext. 3001. Park office is located at 8701 Lakeshore Blvd., at the west end of Bratenahl.

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CULINARY COLLINWOOD

Welcome to the Sausage District

(Part 3 of 4)

Photo by Bridget Caswell • Story by Justin Vaughn

As we enter the second half of our four-part series, we find our attention shifting away from the Waterloo Road segment of the sausage district and over to the E. 185th Street epicenter. This week, we chronicle our time at Old World Meats, the most recent of the sausage operations to open in Collinwood.

The operation of Ed Jesse (and, he jokes, National City Bank), Old World Meats (651 E. 185th Street) has been a staple in the district for eight years. Lending unimpeachable credence to the Sausage District moniker, Jesse explains why, after working in meat since 1978 for enterprises ranging from mom and pop joints to mega-corporation Oscar Mayer, he decided to open a sausage shop in Collinwood, saying he likes making sausage for people and there isn't a neighborhood in the whole state that moves more sausage than Collinwood.

A third-generation sausage maker himself, Jesse notes that he's picked up a lot over the years. He says he's not old-country like some of the guys, which allows him to expand beyond the traditional Slovenian sausage product to a more diverse set of offerings than you are likely to find elsewhere in the neighborhood, with the long display counter containing everything from

chicken wings to stuffed pork chops, as well as ribs, stew meat, ground chuck, smoked turkey tails, the most beautiful pork loin I've ever seen, and much more. In an adjacent freezer, the store also sells various prepared frozen items, including locally made spaetzle and potato pancakes.

Even with this rich selection of options, Jesse notes that the Slovenian sausage is their biggest seller; he goes through 400-500 pounds of the neighborhood's official encased meat product in a regular week (and considerably more during the holiday season). Another of the shop's employees, Krissy Gavin, notes that their Andouille and Sicilan sausages are also customer favorites – the latter a traditional Italian sausage that incorporates provolone cheese, green peppers, and onions in a way that made my mouth water in-store. I've personally heard amazing things about the homemade meatloaf, and Jesse also notes that the Canadian bacon gets a lot of compliments, but stresses that the Slovenian is where it is at.

Although the Slovenian is available fresh, the true treat is the smoked link, which Jesse prepares in batches of 250-350 lbs, giving each batch 6-7 hours in his old-fashioned, all-natural wood smoker. This smoker may be what I'll



Ed Jesse, owner of Old World Meats, opened his shop on 185th street 8 years ago after working in a variety of meat shops.

remember longest about our visit to Old World Meats. In fact, when we arrived to chat with Jesse, he was in the far back room splitting wood to feed the next fire.

To get back there, we head behind the front service counter, passing by the two ladies at work and in front of a print of the famous "Lunch Atop Skyscraper" Charles Ebbets photograph, and walk through a cavernous production room filled with machinery, prep tables, and an overfilled spice table, with Ohio State hats and jackets tucked here and there. Passing through the production room and past a staging area where prepared sausages wait for their turn in the smoker, you enter the area that was once occupied by the Euclid Fish Company, long since removed to Mentor. Eventually you find yourself in the best smelling room you can image, thick with a scent that would be the perfect complement to a rustic Christmas card, mingling the delicious aroma of smoking sausage with chopped fruitwood.

The wood was in separate stacks, with the chopped and smoker-ready splits to the right and still-to-be-chopped logs on the left. Between them, like something out of a Paul Bunyan training video, was a small stand with a pair of axes, which Jesse uses quite frequently these days. The shop is in the process of stocking up on wood now, as sourcing becomes quite difficult in the winter months. Otherwise, he says the operation reloads every three months or so.

Jesse says he approaches each day differently, making fresh what he needs rather than counting on making a certain number of pounds of particular products each day. He notes that come holiday season, he's certain to be making kolbase every day, but he's also always happy to take on special orders. After telling of a customer who recently commissioned a batch of Lithuanian sausage for Thanksgiving, he notes that if he doesn't already have a sure-fire recipe for a request, he will work with the customer's own family recipe. In special orders, and with making his own items, from the ever-popular smoked Slovenian to his prized Canadian bacon and Sicilian sausage links, all he wants is to make people happy. After all, that's what makes them keep coming back.

Corn Flake Holly

by Betsy Voinovich

- 6 cups cornflakes
- 1 bag marshmallows
- 3 tablespoons butter
- green food coloring
- red cinnamon candies



Melt butter and marshmallows in pan on stove, add drops of green food coloring, the more drops, the darker green they will be. Stir in cornflakes.

Once cornflakes are coated, take mixture off of burner, and immediately form into little clumps, allowing the youngest children to add the red cinnamon candies while cookies are still sticky. If mixture gets cold there is nothing you can do with it. (Remember the butter for your fingers.)

"Are these party favors?" one of my sisters-in-law said the first time she saw my family's dessert contribution, Cornflake Holly, at the family Christmas party. "Refrigerator magnets?" a brother-in-law asked. "Looks like plastic, but fully edible," my helpful husband explained.

I think my mom got the recipe out of a Ladies Home Journal in the 1960's; it was my brothers and sister and my favorite Christmas treat to make and eat, growing up on Crestland, and it's even better now, because my own kids have discovered you can dye them black and purple for Halloween.

It's a variation on good old Rice Crispy treats. You use cornflakes instead, dye everything green, coat your fingers with butter so they don't burn while you shape the mixture into little holly shaped clumps, add those little red cinnamon candies for berries and you're done.

Do you have a recipe to share? Cold weather is here. It's time to share your favorite cozy food for cold days.

Write your recipe down, and send it to Collinwood Observer, 650A East 185th St, 44119, or sign onto our website at www.collinwoodobserver.com, click on Member Center, type up your recipe, and send it in. Pictures of food or chefs or both are appreciated!

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