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# The Collinwood Observer

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

## Public comes out in force for LaSalle Theater open house

Brian Friedman

Over 130 interested residents braved the cold winter weather to sneak a peek at the LaSalle Theater this past Monday evening. While the LaSalle Theater, which originally opened in the late 1920s, currently has no heat, the lights were on inside and the marquee was lit as people walked through the vacant theater and envisioned what the space could become. You could feel the energy and interest in the air as strangers greeted each other and shared his own recollections of the theater from its heyday and others compared notes on what it might take to return the LaSalle Theater, which originally sat about 800 theater-goers, to its proper grandeur.

In the crowd was Jeff Ramsey, executive director of Detroit Shoreway Development Corporation, the CDC responsible in helping with the restoration of the Capitol Theater at E. 65th and Detroit. Ramsey, a fan of old theaters, shared, "The LaSalle is in much better shape than the Capitol was [before the restoration]."

After the public tour, attendees packed the training room at Federated Auto Parts to hear a brief presentation from Northeast Shores. While warming up with Arabica Coffee and pastries from Dave's Markets,

residents listened attentively to a brief presentation from Wendy Sattin of CNDC. Ms. Sattin's presentation covered the assets of East 185th Street and shared some national examples of theaters that were successfully converted into productive community assets. Throughout this visioning session, there were positive comments from those that attended about what a great landmark the LaSalle Theater can be for East 185th Street.

After the presentation, each attendee was offered the opportunity to share one idea for the reuse of the LaSalle Theater. After all the ideas were offered, attendees voted for their favorite concepts. The top ten ideas were: 1) Multifunction Entertainment Center, 2) Microbrewery, 3) Farmers' Market, 4) Satellite location for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, 5) Center for Local Filmmakers, 6) Brewpub with Movies, 7) Euclid Beach Carrousel site, 8) Bookstore, 9) Comedy Club, 10) Community Theater.

Attendees repeated a couple of general wishes: 1) That the LaSalle historic structure be restored if possible, and used as one big space, rather than be cut up. 2) The general wish is that the LaSalle becomes an anchor for the | continued on page 6



Residents braved the cold winter weather to sneak a peek at the LaSalle Theater this past Monday evening. Photos by Bridget Caswell.

## How Collinwood Schools will fair in the CMSD transformation

Councilman Mike Polensek

On Tuesday, January 5th, 2010, Cleveland Metropolitan School District CEO Dr. Eugene Sanders unveiled his Academic Transformation Plan and Strategic Development Initiative recommendations. Some news was good and some was extremely troubling.

The good news first: Collinwood High School and O.H.Perry, which had been rumored to be on the chopping block, have been spared from closing for the immediate future. Memorial K-8 school will be monitored for this year for a year two decision and Hannah Gibbons, the Nottingham K-8 school, has been placed in the "repurpose" category, which means that there will be academic changes and hopefully improvement over the next two years. Collinwood High School is also supposed to be repurposed and the question here is – what does this really mean in the long run? O. H. Perry is defined as a "growth school" which is great news; however, it looks like no additional funds are being recommended to improve the physical building, which as many of you know,

I landmarked some years back and is in need of some capital repair.

Now, the bad news: The historic Henry W. Longfellow School on East 140 Street and Darley Ave is slated to be closed and Kenneth W. Clement Boys Leadership Academy (on Woodworth) will be moved to Euclid Park, both Longfellow and Clement are in Ward 10. The closing of Longfellow may impact a small section of Ward 11 in the extreme southwest portion of the ward. However, the greatest loss will be the historic building itself, along with the fact that the children who now attend this school will have to walk much further to either Iowa-Maple or the new East Clark school (East 146th Street).

The real troubling announcement pertains to Ginn Academy, presently housed in the former Margaret Spellacy middle school at East 162 Street off of Holmes Avenue, which will now be closed. This new and unique approach to education in the City was highly sought after by many communities. We were successful in

bringing Ginn to Spellacy. New windows and doors were installed as well as upgrading of all the mechanical systems. The gymnasium was completely redone along with new lockers, new carpeting and the upgrading of classrooms and science labs. At this point, I cannot even begin to tell you how much money went into the upgrades of Spellacy, but I am certainly going to make a public records request, to get the exact dollar amount, if I can. Furthermore, a new parking lot was to be installed this Spring/Summer. The purpose of creating an all-boys academy was to separate the young men and women and to emphasize academic excellence and achieve a much higher graduation rate, especially among young men at risk. For us to hear that CMSD's plan now is to place Ginn inside of Glenville High School – is absolutely ridiculous and flies in the face of everything that Ginn was supposed to be. We are also told that they will be creating a girls' academy – also inside Glenville – which doesn't make any sense either.

Obviously, since I worked extremely hard to bring Ginn to our community – I am going to do everything I can to reverse this recommendation, especially since Ginn Academy is one of the true success stories of the CMSD system and has become a true asset to our community. More so, as you have heard, they are planning

on closing sixteen K-8 schools and two high schools, for a total of eighteen schools. This comes on the heels of the ten schools they closed several years ago.

What is even more absurd, they want \$70 million to implement this plan PLUS a school levy (which would need to be voted on). Where have you ever heard of closing 18 schools and then needing millions of dollars to implement a reorganization plan | continued on page 6

### HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS!

Thank you to all the homeowners of Collinwood who spent countless hours and dollars decorating their homes for the holidays. You brightened our lives and spirits while we drove down your streets.

The winner of best decorated street was **Canterbury Road** (off Lakeshore Blvd.) Nearly 100% of the homeowners participated in all kinds of glorious light displays.

The winner of best decorated business is **Kristy's tavern** at 434 East 200th street. Their classy, festive display was simply the best.

To see the winning photos check out the "Christmas in Collinwood" photoblog at [www.CollinwoodObserver.com](http://www.CollinwoodObserver.com).

## DIALOGUE

## The Collinwood Observer

The Collinwood Observer is a citizen-based news source published 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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# Collinwood Observer under new management

Betsy Voinovich

Dear *Collinwood Observer* Readers/Writers/Editors/Photographers:

Happy New Year. I'm writing to let you know that the *Collinwood Observer* is under new, "all Collinwood" management. As you might have read in the very first paper, I grew up here and came over (from far away, that other "wood" across the river, Lakewood) to help start the *Collinwood Observer* because I'm involved in working on the *Lakewood Observer* and I knew that a community-written paper and Collinwood would be a perfect fit.

The response of the community has been spectacular and the *Collinwood Observer* started filling up with articles, advice, ideas and recipes from the very first paper. We are entering 2010 with more than 200 members signed up on the *Collinwood Observer* website, and plans to make sure the paper expands in every way. The Observation Deck—a message board that runs 24 hours, where anybody can start a topic and get into a discussion or debate—will be fully functioning this month, as will the Business Listings section of the website. This section will allow advertisers and business owners to post information, pictures, menus, specials, etc. that will help them get their word out, and help readers figure out where they want to go

for services, shopping and dinner.

The new publisher is John Copic. He has been with the paper from the beginning, running the ever-expanding ad sales division, and organizing distribution for the paper. He has also been a writer from the first issue. One of the stories that has gotten the most reader response is his—the one about the tomato plant that took over his neighbor's front yard. You probably know John, but if you don't, he grew up in Collinwood, attending St. Mary's Elementary school and then St. Joes, when it was still separate from Villa Angela down the street. His family's business was John's Funhouse, which has moved online (for now). John took over the casino portion of the business with Jackpot Gaming on 185th Street, which is also the headquarters of the *Collinwood Observer*. He has been the number one cheerleader, adviser, evangelist from day one—making sure the paper never faltered. As the publisher stepping aside, I am happy to tell you that he is assuming his rightful place as new publisher. You can reach John at johncopic@collinwoodobserver.com.

The new editor is Cindy Barber. You probably know her as one of the owners and

founders of the Beachland Ballroom on Waterloo, but before Cindy became a rock and roll impresario, she helped start the *Cleveland Free Times*, and served as its editor for six years. She was editor of *Northern Ohio Live* for a year, a columnist for the *Cleveland Edition*, and co-owner of the *Cleveland Express*, back in the late 1970s. She is bringing all of this knowledge, along with her hands-on neighborhood-building experience to the *Collinwood Observer*. Cindy can be reached at cindy@collinwoodobserver.com.

It has been a privilege working with all of you to help start this paper. I will be around in an advisory capacity as the project moves forward, and gets bigger and better, and more fun, representing and building more and more of Collinwood because of you.

Once again...

To write for the *Collinwood Observer*, go to the website, collinwoodobserver.com, click on Member Center, which is in the menu box on your left, sign in and click on "Submit new article." That's it. If you haven't written, or submitted photographs for the paper yet, now's the time...

See you in the paper.

## RTA UPDATE

RTA is proposing many changes in service for the new year. Here are the changes that will affect Collinwood. If you would like to voice your suggestions or protest any of these changes, RTA asks that public comments be emailed to public-comment@gcrta.org or mail them to RTA Marketing and Communications, 1240 West Sixth St. Cleveland, OH 44113. RTA will be accepting comments until Jan 21. After hearings, some of the proposed changes might be modified further, so let your voices be heard.

### Proposed Service Changes

#### Discontinue routes, segments of routes:

No. 239 Euclid-- on Babbitt between Interstate 90 and Lakeshore Blvd.

#### Discontinue evening and weekend service

No. 1 St. Clair -- late night service between East 129th and East 152nd

No. 34 East 200th-Green,

No. 37 East 185th-Taylor-- south of Severance

#### Other service changes

No. 34 East 200th-Green--

Realigned weekdays to serve Northfield-Emery instead of Fargo Ave.

No. 39 Lakeshore-- Discontinue service except during rush hours. Extend No. 30 East 140th-Hayden to serve

No. 39 stops east of East 185th.

To check on the current daily bus schedule, go online at <http://www.riderta.com>, or call 216-621-9500.

## The Councilman's email list

The Councilman is making a list and checking it twice. In an age of instant messaging and alerts, Councilman Polensek is creating his own list: an email list, that is.

This list will only be used to get neighborhood news and alerts disseminated out to the community faster. We now have the ability to set up this type of computer program and enhance the immediacy of communication between the Councilman's office and the community, and vice versa.

However, we need your help. If you would like to be placed on the Councilman's Email List, send your email address, along with your name, street address, and phone number to the Councilman's office at [Ward11@clevelandcitycouncil.org](mailto:Ward11@clevelandcitycouncil.org).

In addition, if you send the Councilman an email pertaining to the community, whether it is a request or a concern, please remember to include your name and your phone number. The Councilman tries to answer all emails in writing but sometimes still likes to touch base the old-fashioned way—by reaching out and talking to someone in person. Also feel free to call the office; you can reach us at (216) 664-4236.

— Mary Louise Jesek-Daley

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## AROUND COLLINWOOD

# Young philanthropists of Collinwood

Louise Foresman

While most of Collinwood was shopping and preparing to celebrate the holidays, two groups of youth did events raising money for local non-profit organizations they felt strongly needed help. Their efforts were successful in more than just fundraising.

Collinwood residents Jessica, Forrest, and Meghan put together their third Christmas tea at the home of Lorraine Bertosa to raise funds for Under the Wing, a non-profit that, along with medical care and adoption, provides emergency foster care for animals whose owners have had to go into shelter.

Collinwood resident Devlin attended the tea for Under the Wing at the invitation of Jessica last year and was inspired to organize a fundraiser of his own. He wanted to raise funds for children spending the holidays in Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. With the help of his mother, Louise Foresman, Devlin and friends Aaron, Arlando, Dakota, Jessica, and this year Savion, made Christmas cookies and sold them door-to-door in the Beulah Park and Shore Acres neighborhoods. The Christmas tea raised \$400 for Under the Wing. The cookie project, in its second year, raised \$75 for Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital.

The Christmas tea grew from a visit to an Olmsted Falls bakery where Lorraine Bertosa took Forrest and friends after a sledding trip. Lorraine noticed how delighted the girls were at the bakery's tea service. When the girls were trying to decide on a fundraiser, she suggested a holiday tea in her living room, inviting neighbors that might contribute to Under the Wing, a group she knew about. The first event was a success and a tradition was born.

Planning for the Christmas tea starts six weeks before the December event. The girls do a new invitation and menu each year and make all the dishes themselves with help from Lorraine. This year's fare included macaroni and cheese, crepes Suzette, egg salad sandwiches, squash soup, cookies, and, of course, tea. The day before, they set up tables in Lorraine's living room, complete with decorations, tablecloths, napkins and place settings where their customers can enjoy the warmth of the season. This year, they also did a raffle with donated items from area businesses, including Christine's Restaurant on Vine Street and artists Joan of Art and Laura and Gary Dumm.

"It was a good experience", says Jessica. "I liked helping people and animals, and the shelter really appreciates it." Lorraine says the event also gives people a chance to sit and converse at a busy holiday time. "The first year the girls had



Meghan, Forrest, and Jessica get ready for their Christmas tea for Under the Wing

to practice pouring the tea for family members beforehand so they could get used to serving people who were sitting down."

After being inspired by Jessica and her friends, Devlin's first step in fundraising was to identify the cookies to make and the friends to help with his project. He bought a holiday cookie magazine and decided to make cut-out cookies, both sand tarts and gingerbread as well as brownies. Except for the brownies, all baked goods are made from scratch. The gingerbread recipe was a favorite of Devlin's great grandmother, a pastry cook. This year, the boys also made "cherry winks," a favorite of Devlin's grandmother. Dave's Supermarket on Lakeshore Boulevard generously donated funds for cookie ingredients.

Devlin's mom called Rainbow Babies and found the "Circle of Friends" program, where people can do fundraising projects together for Rainbow. Charlene Matthews from the hospital's development department provided brochures about the program so that people buying the cookies would know where the money was going.

After an afternoon of cookie-making and decorating, the boys headed out to sell their wares. Just one person fell in a soggy puddle last year, and the two-year total raised for the cookie project is at about \$200. Devlin hopes to make it a little easier next year by taking pre-orders. "People who want Christmas cookies can even call us," he says.

Following the project, the boys visited Ms. Matthews at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital to present a check for the money they raised this year. She gave them a tour and told them how the funds would be used for medical needs for Rainbow patients. "It's good doing something for people who need help," commented Devlin. With ambitious youth like these, Collinwood has a lot to be proud of!

*Under the Wing has a website [www.vgsjob.org/utw.htm](http://www.vgsjob.org/utw.htm) You can reach Circle of Friends at [www.rainbowcircleoffriends.org](http://www.rainbowcircleoffriends.org) or (216) 844-8728.*



Dakota, Savion, Devlin, and Aaron decorate cookies for their Rainbow Babies fundraiser.

## Neighborhood Connections to offer grant workshops

Tom O'Brien

Neighborhood Connections, the small grants program affiliated with The Cleveland Foundation, will offer workshops to those interested in applying for a grant. Funding is intended to support neighborhood projects done by neighborhood people in the City of Cleveland. Grants range from \$500 to \$5,000. Neighborhood Connections money is available throughout the City of Cleveland and groups that apply do not need to be incorporated non-profits (501(c)(3)s).

In total, in the most recent round of funding, Neighborhood Connections provided \$325,000 to 89 Cleveland projects in 24 city neighborhoods. All grant decisions for the program are made by a committee of 24 Cleveland residents.

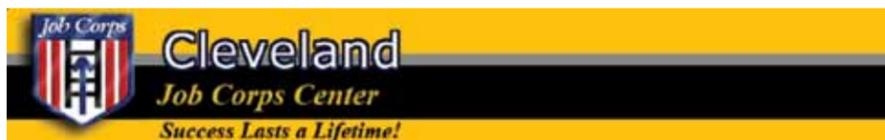
The next deadline for proposals is Friday, February 12th at 5pm. Applications can be downloaded on our website ([www.neighborhoodgrants.org](http://www.neighborhoodgrants.org)), or obtained by calling 216.393.4642 or by emailing us at [neighborhoodgrants@clevefdn.org](mailto:neighborhoodgrants@clevefdn.org).

Grantseeker Orientations provide a general overview of the NC application. Four of these sessions will offer the same information. All those interested in seeking a grant are encouraged to attend one, particularly those who have not received a grant before. This is the schedule: Monday, January 11th, 6pm to 8pm Rockport Branch, Cleveland Public Library, 4421 West 140th Street. Tuesday, January 19, 6-8pm, Lorain Branch, Cleveland Public Library, 8216 Lorain Avenue. Wednesday, January 27, 4-6pm, Glenville Branch, Cleveland Public Library, 11900 St. Clair Avenue. Thursday, February 4, 6-8pm, Lakeview Terrace Community Center, 1290 West 25th Street.

Budget Orientations provide more detailed information on how to complete the Neighborhood Connections budget. This is the schedule: Wednesday, January 13, 4-6pm, Mt. Pleasant Branch, Cleveland Public Library, 14000 Kinsman Road. Thursday, January 21, 6-8pm, Hough Branch, Cleveland Public Library, 1566 Crawford Road. Thursday, January 28, 6-8pm, South Brooklyn Branch, Cleveland Public Library, 4303 Pearl Road. Monday, February 1, 6-8pm, Memorial Nottingham Branch, Cleveland Public Library, 17109 Lake Shore Blvd.

*For more information, please visit [www.neighborhoodgrants.org](http://www.neighborhoodgrants.org).*

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## AROUND COLLINWOOD

# Feral cats need our help

Debbie Gulyas

When my husband and I opened our new business, Blue Arrow Records, on Waterloo Road in North Collinwood last March, we were oblivious to the large number of feral homeless cats struggling desperately to survive within a few blocks. It didn't take long until I noticed kittens and adults roaming the neighborhood looking for food. There was a poorly managed colony near our building, where someone was feeding the cats, but not tending to their other physical needs, which was very upsetting to me since there were several sick kittens. (Feeding cats only keeps them healthy enough to breed rapidly... a pair of cats can produce 2 or more litters per year and the math gets crazy after that.)

I have been fortunate to make contact with a group of concerned residents in the Euclid Beach area, who are volunteering their time and money to manage several feral cat colonies and I have learned a lot about not only managing a colony, but how to REALLY help these cats as well as our community.

In neighborhoods throughout Cleveland, trap-neuter/spay-return programs (TNR) have proven to be effective in humanely managing feral and stray cats, while at the same time reducing their numbers. With TNR, the cats are trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated for rabies, ear-tipped and, if they're feral, returned to their original territories. A trained caretaker then provides food and shelter, and watches for problems or newcomers. (The friendly cats and kittens are put up for adoption.)

After being sterilized and returned to their territory, feral cats no longer reproduce, so the number of cats will not increase. There will be a reduction in noise – no more crying cats in heat and no more fighting. The cats will roam far less, making them less visible. There is also less of a chance for the spread of feline leukemia. Most importantly, there will be no more sick and suffering cats and kittens. All of this will benefit our neighborhood.

It is time to implement TNR in Collinwood. Whether or not you are an animal lover, we have a responsibility to each other and our community. As of November 23, 2009, the APL began a program to spay/neuter cats and kittens for \$10 after receiving grants from Petsmart Charities and the City of Cleveland. If you are feeding a cat outside, please be a part of the solution and call the APL for more information 216-377-1624 on the trap-neuter/spay-release program. If you aren't able to do the hands-on work, maybe you would like to make a tax deductible donation to our new organization called "The North Collinwood Feral/Stray Cat Project" through Northeast Shores Development Corp. 317 East 156th Street, Cleveland, OH 44110 to help us with the work we already started.



"Lucky Sunshine" was rescued on Waterloo; very sick and very hungry, but doing great now in his new home!

## Cleveland Lakefront State Park WINTER PROGRAMS

Carol Ward

**Snowshoe Sampler At Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (Dike 14), Sunday January 17, 1-3pm.** Back in Ohio's history, snowshoeing was a good way to get around in the winter. Today we have modern inventions that are better forms of transportation. But, snowshoeing is still a great way to explore nature's winterscape and wildlife. We'll meet at the park office for instruction from the Cleveland Metroparks IGO. Program and then snowshoe our way down to and out on Dike 14. Snowshoe rental and instruction provided free of charge to you courtesy of Cleveland Lakefront State Park. Pre-registration is required. Space is limited to 20 participants. Open to ages 8 and up. In the event of no snow there will be a winter hike offered.

**Friday Family Fun Night: Full Moon Hike, Friday Jan. 29, 7-8:30pm.**

Get over your case of the winter blues and join me for a night hike under the almost full wolf moon. While wolves haven't been wild in Ohio in over 200 years, we'll keep our eyes open for other animals of the night. We'll meet at the Wildwood entrance parking lot. Dress for the weather.

**Children's Ice Drowning Prevention Workshop, Sunday Feb. 7, 1-3pm.**

Come learn how to recreate safely in the winter around frozen water. There will be a slide show presentation, practice of hands on self-rescue techniques, and a

"show-and-try it" of rescue equipment. This program takes place entirely indoors at the park office conference room and is geared to children age 6 and up. Pre-registration is appreciated.

### NATURE CENTER UPDATE:

I am pleased to announce that we are in the final stages of completing the exhibits and activity stations for the nature center. I am looking forward to announcing soon the opening of the Cleveland Lakefront Exploration Station in late winter or spring. Please keep an eye out for this announcement! Currently, I'm also seeking donations of the following items: books on assorted nature topics (can be used), bird feeders & hanging stakes, bird seed, recording of bubble/underwater sounds, boom box or stereo to play sound recordings, anything else you may have that could be used for an exhibit/display/activity station. Thanks for your continued support of this facility and programming.

*For more events, questions, information, or pre-registrations please call 216-881-8141 ext. 3001. Park office is located at 8701 Lakeshore blvd., Cleveland, oh 44108. Check out photos from 2009 programs and events at [www.clevelandlakefront.org](http://www.clevelandlakefront.org). Programming is available for youth and scout groups, schools and pre-schools, etc. Free of charge. Please call for topics and schedule availability.*

### COLLINWOOD OBSERVER UPDATE

The next issue of the *Observer* will be distributed on February 11, with a submissions deadline of February 5. Submit your stories, photos, and community news and events now. Log onto [www.collinwoodobserver.com](http://www.collinwoodobserver.com) and become a member.

The *Collinwood Observer*...

- ✓ Publishes a free, printed edition to distribute throughout the community.
- ✓ Is supported by advertising revenue and provides an affordable place for local businesses to advertise.
- ✓ Offers a rich online experience, including a web edition of the paper, discussion forums, and a community of websites by neighborhood businesses and interest groups.
- ✓ Builds community by exponentially increasing the number and ability of connections among residents and the institutions and businesses that serve them.
- ✓ Contributes to economic development by providing entrepreneurs a venue to explore new business ideas with their neighbors.

→ Our **NEXT WRITER'S MEETING** will be Saturday January 23 at 2:00p.m. at the Cafe at Arts Collinwood.

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## GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

### Meet Kathy Galgoczy of Bakers Candies

Susan Brandt

Kathy Galgoczy, of Bakers Candies, is the epitome of what is good in Collinwood. Bakers Candies originally started in 1921 on Lexington and 55th, moved to Collinwood in 1946, at 1613 Holmes Ave., and has been a Collinwood business ever since. In 1995, they opened up a satellite store in Willoughby Hills on Chardon Rd. The business spans three generations in the Collinwood area, and their main plant still remains on Holmes Ave.

Recently, the family business decided to create a fundraiser for the Cleveland Food Bank, selling solid chocolate hippopotamus, inspired by the Christmas song, "I want a hippopotamus for Christmas."

I went to the Holmes Ave. store to meet Kathy and buy a few of the little chocolate animals for my darling nieces. They were a big hit! Apparently the public took a fancy to them as well, for they sold over 1800 during the holiday season. Another big hit is the Whipped Eggs, which many other companies buy from them and repackage.

For the sake of this column, I must say I got a little history lesson on my visit to Bakers Candies. Kathy told me about some of the other nearby businesses in the South Collinwood area and about all of the work that St. Mary's and Holy Redeemer

churches are doing in the neighborhood. After talking for awhile, we both realized we knew some of the same people from another decade in the Collinwood area. She is a member of the Collinwood Alumni and talked about some of the gatherings that still go on at Frankie's in the Eastlake/Willoughby area.

With Easter just around the corner, I hope that many of the readers will be glad to know that Bakers Candies is just around the corner.

#### What is your greatest achievement?

Raising my family. There were certainly some bumps in the road and sometimes it takes you awhile to realize you are on the right road, but they are both educated, married and gave me four beautiful grandchildren.

#### What do you value most in your friends?

I trust them. I never give up my friends, as they will always be there for you in good as well as bad times.

#### What is your most treasured possession?

My grandchildren, they are my life.

#### What is your greatest extravagance?

Travel is my greatest extravagance. I love planning trips. My aim is to see all 7 continents: 3

down (Africa, Europe, North America), 4 to go. I would eventually like to see all of them, well at least South America, Asia and Australia. I would also like to visit all 50 states; I like different places. There is so much to see in this world.

#### Who are your heroes?

My parents and grandparents. My grandparents were immigrants with elementary school educations, but hard work, strong morals and work ethics allowed them to start a new life in a new country, which they passed onto my parents and me.

#### What makes you unique?

I'm not, I think I am like most people my age. I've worked hard, raised my family and provided for them. It wasn't easy, but life isn't easy. Things worth having aren't easy to acquire. You have to work and earn what you want. I hope and think I passed this on to my children.

#### If you could, what is the one thing that you would change about yourself?

Nothing, I think that life takes you in different directions, it's up to you to make the right decisions and the best of situations. It's a learning process and you need to learn throughout life.

#### What's your favorite word?

"Panache," I like the sound of it plus it means you have it all or that thing.... you know, "IT."

## FORUM

## COLLINWOOD TALKS ABOUT HEALTH CARE

## Kaiser Permanente: the HMO solution to the health care problem

Miles Kennedy

Two aspects of our health care system need serious improvement, and candidate Obama promised to address them both. First, some forty-plus million Americans lack any form of health insurance. Second, health care is far more expensive in the USA than in most of Western Europe and people in those other countries get care enough to live healthier lives than us and to live longer.

In this article I will tell you of my experience in forty some years of using Kaiser Permanente as the Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) for our family and why I believe the low costs of Kaiser and the quality of their service indicate how both of these problems can and are being effectively addressed.

But first, a few general comments about the current situation. Proposed legislation partially addresses the first problem (the numerous uninsured) but not the second (cost effectiveness). And, to my disappointment, it fails to remove health insurance from employers, which is doubly bad: First, it inflates the wage costs of American companies, thus weakening their ability to compete internationally, and secondly, it exacerbates the hardships of those who are unlucky enough to be laid off. There is political infighting about important details of the proposed improved insurance, mainly concerned with the extent of the government's future role. Shall the government itself offer insurance products? Those who dislike "big government" tremble at the thought. But supporters argue that Medicare (which is a very large government health insurance program with a long track record) operates with few complaints, much general approval and a far lower overhead percentage than any for-profit insurance company can manage. They also point to the effectiveness and efficiency of the government-managed health insurance provided to members of Congress.

And whatever the details of the final form of the legislation, it seems safe to predict that it will reduce the costly and inefficient use of the ER as a first-line general practitioner. Unfortunately, however, it does not look as if most other costs will be significantly reduced nor will there be much improvement in the emphasis on prevention rather than cure. The

problem, as you will see when you consider Kaiser Permanente, is that the incentives in the current health care system are all wrong and the proposed legislation fails to address this issue. Physicians and hospitals get paid for each procedure they perform and not by results. The more they do to you the better off they are, whereas, in a well-designed system, rewards are earned by doing things for you.

So why am I a fan of Kaiser? Our family first enrolled in Kaiser in 1964, when we first came to the States and I was a visiting professor at UC Berkeley. We enjoyed excellent treatment and were impressed by the programs they offered to help improve health. We next spent five years in India and Boston MA, places that are not served by Kaiser. But when I moved from MIT to Case Western Reserve University about forty years ago, we were delighted to find that Kaiser was one of three health care options offered by Case. As an extra blessing, it was also the cheapest of the offerings.

What's so special about Kaiser? We have been impressed by the skill and concern of most of the Kaiser doctors and nurses we have encountered. And when we were not completely satisfied, we had no difficulty switching to another of the 180 Kaiser Cleveland doctors whom we preferred. Kaiser pays their doctors very decent salaries and therefore have no difficulty in attracting talent – especially as their staff are spared the hours of paperwork that other practitioners have to endure in dealing with scores of different insurers. I feel comfortable having the professionals at Kaiser select doctors rather than picking through the yellow pages myself and I am more comfortable having my Kaiser General Practitioner (GP) recommend needed specialists. On one occasion Kaiser sent me to a Cleveland Clinic specialist who was one of the three thousand affiliates available in special cases via their network.

Kaiser, at a cost of some six plus billion dollars (yes that began with the big B, not just M) has what is probably the best information system in the business. The big pharmaceutical companies often turn to Kaiser to find out how well their various drugs are actually doing. For me this has meant that each of my five doctors can turn up my record to see what the other doctors are

doing and prescribing so that they dovetail their treatment into a coordinated whole. I also can see online when I have appointments coming up, what notes my doctors are writing at the end of each visit and what are the results of each of my numerous periodic blood tests.

When everything that is done is recorded and when outcomes are also recorded, you can imagine how Kaiser can help all its people (doctors, nurses and technicians) adjust and improve their procedures. System-wide Kaiser has extensive information on a little over fourteen thousand doctors and nearly nine million patients and they spend multi-millions each year on R & D to ensure that this huge database is put to good use.

Are there long waits in getting the treatment I have just discussed? Yes and no. Kaiser doctors are like airlines, they tend to run behind schedule as the day wears on. So, if you've a three o'clock appointment you may well not see your doc much before four. But the answer is simple: make early morning appointments! Also, if you want to see one of your specialists it may be a matter of a few weeks before you get an appointment. But if it's urgent I have found that they manage to fit me in same day or tomorrow. Also, since I see my specialists on a regular basis, I simply schedule my next appointment while I'm there. Also they have

a team of doctors and nurses who will see you that very day if you have an emergency. And I have found these teams highly effective on the rare occasions I have had to use their services.

What's so good about Kaiser is the professional management and information system. But above all, it is that all their people are paid to keep you as well as can be and are not paid by the number of procedures and tests they prescribe. In my opinion, that's what you need if you want a cost-effective health care system. But I'm not alone in this thinking. In the July 29, 2009 issue of Time magazine, President Obama is quoted as saying: "Unlike my mother, who had a difficult time with her cancer, in part because her insurance was a little bit unreliable and she had just taken a new job, my grandmother had been signed up under Kaiser Permanente for years. And it's actually one of the models of high-quality, cost-efficient care that's out there right now, partly because they maintain such a stable base of patients and they construct a whole team approach that has proven to be very effective. So my grandmother was generally very happy with her care, and if we could actually get our health care system across the board to hit the efficiency levels of a Kaiser Permanente or a Cleveland Clinic or a Mayo or a Geisinger, we actually would have solved our problems." ■

## HEALTH CARE WISHLIST

Mike Gallagher

The holidays are over, our phony tree is stored away in the basement, and the kids are back to school. But like that spoiled kid who can't stop saying more, more, more.. I want more too, so here's my belated health care wish list:

**1. How about a Republican or two hopping aboard?** There are still a few moderates remaining whose views reflect many citizens, and they could be supporting these bills. The proposed change in the system is not the radical change many critics would have you believe, but rather some incremental steps that essentially work within the current system--not replacing the private health care insurance industry, but adding some helpful splints and band-aids. Criticism like "This bill is 2000 pages long...it's a crime to saddle the American people with this" is very lame.. Complex problems need some depth and detail to be solved. What's their suggestion, maybe a single page stating things like: "Let's do absolutely nothing about health care for all the years we are in power, while millions of hard-working Americans struggle with little or no insurance."

**2. Howard Dean, how about backing off?** The former presidential candidate has become the leading critic from the left, urging lawmakers to reject this bill and start over. His opinion is that the proposed plan does not go far enough, that the House and Senate have made too many concessions in their bills, such as the Senate not including a public option provision. I wish it were

there too, but unfortunately sometimes politics is the art of compromise, and maybe if you knew that, the word former would not be included when we hear your name. The political reality is that even this somewhat scaled down law will pass (hopefully) only by the slimmest of margins, so it seems unlikely that a more "radical" plan would have a chance.

**3. The biggest wish of all is that the House and Senate end up signing into law the proposed plan.** They have passed similar bills in their respective chambers, so there is no good reason for this not to happen. All of the hot air and political wrangling aside, this is a bill that will address some fundamental health care problems. Perhaps the biggest being the abolition of pre-existing conditions, making it illegal for insurance companies to turn away people with existing health problems. The Institute of Medicine, part of the National Academy of Sciences, has estimated that 22,000 people are left to die each year because they cannot afford medical care. Even though we have so many truly talented doctors and tremendous hospitals, some in our own backyard, we still rank at or near the bottom of all advanced countries in such important statistics as infant mortality rate and healthy life expectancy after 60. Doesn't that tell you something? It's literally a matter of life and death, on a grand scale. Instead of dividing over this issue, this can be a time for our country to pull together and lift us all. ■

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## DEVELOPMENT

## Northeast Shores Board of Directors elections

Brian Friedman

Each January, Northeast Shores elects one third of its Board of Directors from its membership. This January 19th, Northeast Shores members will elect eight directors from the 12 nominees that entered their name for consideration. Elected nominees will each serve a three-year term on the board.

At the meeting, each nominee will share pertinent details about why they should be considered for the board and then the members present will vote. The results of the vote will be tallied and the winners will be announced that night. While votes are being tallied, the membership will hear an update from Ward 11 Councilman Michael Polensek and Fifth District Police Commander Drummond.

This year's January 19th annual meeting will start at 6:30 pm in the community room at the Memorial Nottingham Library located on Lakeshore Boulevard. Not yet a member? Come that evening with check or cash and you can join that night!

Eight of the following are to be elected at the January 19th meeting.

## RESIDENTS

**Ms. Suzi Darlin:** Ms. Darlin has been living in the North Collinwood area since 1993 and currently serves as Secretary for her home owner's association the Villa Beach Club. She has been a practicing commercial interior designer for the last 20 years at various firms in the Cleveland area. She has a passion for historical research and is seeking to get involved in the Collinwood/Nottingham historical society. Ms. Darlin served on the NSDC board in 2007 to 2009 but resigned the position in early 2009, due to a teaching schedule conflict with the board meetings.

**Mike Gallagher:** Mr. Gallagher moved to the neighborhood six years ago and is a Senior Design Engineer with Swagelok and is an adjunct faculty member at Lakeland Community College. Mr. Gallagher is a consistent volunteer for various political campaigns and a regular editorial contributor to the *Collinwood Observer*.

**Ms. Hollis Geary:** Ms. Geary is running for the board for the first time after serving several years on both the Northeast Shores Commercial Development Committee and Residential

Development Committee. Ms. Geary lives in Lyndhurst and is the owner of NEO Investment Properties LLC, which owns a residential property on East 156th Street. Ms. Geary is also an avid cyclist.

**Mr. Payton Hall:** Mr. Hall is running for the board for the first time. He has lived in the neighborhood for the last sixteen years with his wife and daughter (who is attending her first-year at VASJ High School). Mr. Hall is the Assistant Commissioner of Distribution and Maintenance for the Cleveland Division of Water. His department runs the Cleveland Summer Youth Program, which completed the Bioswale project at Wildwood Lakefront State Park this past summer. The program also builds and distributes rain barrels to interested residents.

**Mr. John Meyerhoffer:** Mr. Meyerhoffer is seeking his first term on the board after living in the neighborhood for over sixteen years. Mr. Meyerhoffer is the Manager of Information Technology Operations for the Cleveland Clinic Health System and his office is located at Fairview Hospital. Mr. Meyerhoffer's family has a long history in the community and he is excited about what the neighborhood has to offer.

**Mr. KC Petraitis:** Mr. Petraitis has lived in the neighborhood his entire life. He is currently seeking his master's degree in Public Administration (with a concentration in economic development) from Cleveland State University. Besides his studies, Mr. Petraitis maintains part-time employment at Cleveland State and Mohr Partners. He has also interned with Northeast Shores for the last four months.

**Mr. Frank Revy:** Mr. Revy is seeking his second term on the Northeast Shores Board of Directors. He has lived on Overlook Park Drive since 2003. As a board member, his intention is to help Northeast Shores become a prominent and positive force in the rebirth of North Collinwood. Currently he is 'Mr. Mom' to his two children (Franky - 3 and Tula - 1) and a Fee-Only Financial Planner for his independently operated company - Nottingham Tax and Financial.

**Mr. Victor Rucker,** resident: Mr. Rucker is

currently Vice President of Northeast Shores and chair of the Safety Committee. He is seeking his second term on the Board. Mr. Rucker has lived on Landseer Road since 1998. Mr. Rucker works for the City of Cleveland as a Marketing Manager in the Division of Waste Collection and Recycling. Mr. Rucker is a graduate of VASJ High School, Cleveland State University and is seeking an MSM from Indiana Wesleyan University. He is currently a deacon of Good Shepherd Baptist Church.

## BUSINESSES/INSTITUTIONS

**Mr. William Eppich,** *Advance Glass Sales Service Inc.:* Mr. Eppich is seeking his first term on the Northeast Shores Board of Directors after becoming involved with the Residential Development Committee and the Commercial Development Committee. Mr. Eppich is the sales manager at Advance Glass Sales Service Inc. and intends to become the second-generation owner of the business when his father retires.

**Mr. Brian R. Menard,** *VASJ High School:* Mr. Menard is a current member of the Northeast Shores Board of Directors. He became the second President of VASJ High School in 2009 after serving as a school administrator, educa-

tion consultant, and teacher at the elementary through college levels. He also serves as a member of the Euclid Hospital Community Leadership Board. VASJ High School has maintained an appointee on the Northeast Shores Board of Directors since its inception.

**Mr. Filippo (Fil) Scafidi,** *Euclid Hospital:* Mr. Scafidi is the Chair of the Northeast Shores Personnel Committee. He is seeking a second term on the Northeast Shores Board of Directors. Mr. Scafidi is the Director of Support Services/Facilities at Euclid Hospital. Mr. Scafidi was once employed at the Euclid Beach Amusement Park. Euclid Hospital has maintained an appointee on the Northeast Shores Board of Directors since its inception.

**Pastor Michael Trombley,** *Saint John Nottingham Church:* Pastor Trombley has been the pastor at this local church for the past two years. Pastor Trombley maintains his residence in the neighborhood. Pastor Trombley is seeking his second term on the Northeast Shores Board of Directors, but this neighborhood church has had representation on the board for the last fifteen years.

## LASALLE THEATER

continued from page 1

street and destination location that ties in to and supports other activities and businesses on E. 185th and the Waterloo Arts District.

With these results, Northeast Shores' staff will attempt to contact individuals that have had success in the top suggested areas to see if we can find an entrepreneur interested in taking on this new exciting venture. Those interested in following our journey to find an entrepreneur should

check our blog regularly at [www.northeastshores.org](http://www.northeastshores.org). Those wishing to become more involved, might consider joining the Northeast Shores Commercial Development Committee. The next committee meeting will be held at Northeast Shores (317 East 156th Street) at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, January 27. ■

## COLLINWOOD SCHOOLS

continued from page 1

— especially one that doesn't educate or graduate one more student than is already enrolled in the system? Only in Cleveland, I guess!

Finally, we have a lot of questions to ask and some answers to demand — not only as residents but also as taxpayers. We fought to keep churches open and we were successful because of our tenacity. Whether we can save Ginn -- only time will tell. The thought of having Margaret Spellacy/Ginn Academy abandoned and possibly bulldozed is absolutely adding insult to injury. Stay alert for future announcements and updates. I would

urge all concerned citizens and residents to begin writing emails and letters expressing your viewpoint. This plan, if implemented, in its entirety, will have a profound impact on our City's future. Dr. Eugene Sanders and the Board of Education need to be held accountable in terms of how this might impact our City and its students in the years to come.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. You may reach me at my office at (216) 664-4236 or via email at [council11@clevelandcitycouncil.org](mailto:council11@clevelandcitycouncil.org). ■

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**HISTORY/FAITH**

# Aspinwall Church launches 30<sup>th</sup> Mission of Mercy

Mary McElrath and Reverend James Walden



Pastor Walden loads a container.

Aspinwall Church of God Mountain Assembly, with the support of other Mountain Assembly churches, again provided Christmas in October. This year it was for families in Haiti. Mountain Assembly has 30 churches and 2 children's homes in Haiti. Since 1975, Aspinwall Church has sent help to Liberia, India, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Honduras, and Zimbabwe. On October 29, 2009 the 3,000 cubic feet container began the 2000-mile journey from Collinwood to the people of Haiti.

Haiti shares 1/3 of an island with the Dominican Republic. In the 1700s, it was one of the wealthiest colonies in the world. They exported gold, sugar, indigo, coffee, and tobacco until their resources were exhausted. Haiti now faces soil erosion, an overwhelmed education system, a struggling economy, and extreme poverty.

This year 223 barrels carrying four tons of rice and beans, a Gospel tent with chairs, a new refrigerator for the children's home in Duval Roche, over-the-counter medicine, toys, seeds, walkers and other things were in the 40' by 9-1/2' high container. Traditionally, the congregation begins to prepare for the shipment in the spring of the year. In the fall, caring members of the church selflessly load the container. The church then prays for the safety and security of the container as it travels on land and sea. Sometimes there is videotape or snapshots available to show the people in the selected country just what they are receiving. All articles are donated by the members and friends of the Mountain Assembly church, which receives no governmental funding. The shipment arrived safely in Haiti in November. For further information or questions contact Pastor James Walden at (216) 268-0879. ■

## Party like it's 1910 with the Collinwood Nottingham Historical Society

Mary Louise Jesek-Daley

The first decade of the 20th Century was filled with discovery and invention. Our country was enjoying a decade of relative peace and prosperity. During this period, Collinwood and Nottingham villages were also very prosperous. The railroad, as well as business and industry, were growing and the population of the villages was expanding. The hearty immigrants brought their religion, their work ethics and their family values and built their homes, churches and their gathering places. The Collinwood School Fire of March 4, 1908 nearly devastated the community but the strong-willed immigrants continued on, despite their loss and worked even harder to build a cohesive community able to withstand anything life threw at them. Collinwood petitioned the City of Cleveland to become a part of their growing metropolis and in February 1910, Collinwood officially and legislatively is added to the City of Cleveland, able to receive services from the City while retaining their

unique character. (The same happens with Nottingham Village in 1912 – but, that's another story!)

So, in 2010 we will begin our celebration of the decade of 1900 to 1909 and look forward to commemorating the next decade of 1910 to 1919. So much was happening in the community, the City of Cleveland and in the world that we at the Collinwood Nottingham Historical Society feel that we won't soon run out of things to talk about.

Join us on Friday, February 19, 2010 for our first ANNUAL MEETING and the kick off party for "PARTY LIKE ITS 1910."

Our first Annual Meeting will be held at the Lithuanian Hall at 877 East 185th Street, where we have met for the past year while organizing our Society. The meeting starts at 6:30 PM. Refreshments will be served. If you have any questions feel free to email the Society at CollNottHistory@aol.com or call (216) 486-1298. ■



## Memorial Spiritual Christian Church

Elva Brodnick

Today with so many large churches closing their doors, it is amazing that this small independent church remains open. It is not just another Christian church, it has a rich history dedicated to the principals of Spiritualism and Christianity. The Sunflower New Thought Spiritualist Association was founded in 1917 at 19001 Pawnee. The church itself was built in 1927 at 19204 Pawnee and called The Sunflower New Thought Spiritualist Association Church as a memorial to the students lost in the Collinwood Fire of 1908. The parents of Emma Baldwin were Spiritualists, who with their extended family lived on Pawnee and dedicated the land to build a Spiritualist church to honor those lost in the fire. The main directive of the church was to provide a place to promote new thought principles, religious observance, and charity.

The name was changed in 1960 to Memorial Spiritual Christian Church (MSCC) to capture the lasting dedication to the lives lost in the Collinwood fire. The church is operating today with the same fundamental beliefs as the founders intended. We promote new thought by providing a place to promote spiritual awareness shared by speakers during Sunday service. The most fundamental part of a spiritual service, a 'sermon' or talk, is intended to share the personal ideals of an individual speaker, ranging from traditional Christian beliefs and the life of Jesus to karma and Native American concepts, or just the path one took to find their way to

MSCC. Each Sunday service the congregation sings songs, reads scripture from the Bible, and provides messages of Spirit. We also work with charitable groups to provide for those in need and continue to honor the original principles of the church.

In the past year, we have had Christmas parties with Santa and his Elf, game nights, a presentation by author Robert Schwartz on "Your Soul's Plan" with Medium Rev Andrea Zwegas, Christmas in July with the Euclid Beach Rocket Ship, the ordination of John Hill and a class to introduce more people to the fundamentals of mediumship taught by Pastor Reverend Karen Hill.

In the coming year, we plan to have two more ordinations to provide more ministers to help with our growing membership. There will be A Course in Miracles, Reverend Karen's class on Spiritualism, and meditation circles to bring people closer to spirit. Other projects may include a channeling of the Ascended Masters by Rev Andrea and a coffeehouse with music and messages.

MSCC Sunday Service is at 5:00 PM, with a potluck the first Sunday of each month. The first, third, and fifth Wednesday of every month, we have a Message Service from 7:30 PM till 9:00 to share messages from Spirit. A \$5 donation for the church is requested. Check our website at [www.memorialspiritualchurch.org](http://www.memorialspiritualchurch.org) for current events and additional information, or call 440-897-1021

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## SCHOOL NEWS

### LOCAL STUDENTS LEARN A LITTLE REALLY DOES GO A LONG WAY.

Andrew Kerr

Early in December, the gym at St. Mary's Collinwood School was filled with sixth, seventh and eighth graders but only one voice could be heard. That voice belonged to Father Donald Dunson, of the Saint Kizito Foundation and professor of Moral of Theology at Saint Mary's Seminary Graduate School of Theology. The typically chatty group of students was transfixed as Father Dunson spoke of kids their own age living a very different existence. He spoke of children being taken from their homes and being forced to do unthinkable acts. Boys as young as nine, being armed with automatic weapons and forced to use them against friends and neighbors. Girls no older than fourteen, exchanged and swapped like property, not knowing if they will ever see a friendly face again. Father Dunson was sharing a portion of the horror he has seen in the central African country of Uganda.

Uganda is a country of perpetual conflict. Existing in its current form since 1914, the landlocked nation has known war from within and without throughout its entire history. Since the 1980s, however, there has been an increase in the use of child soldiers. The main perpetrator of this despicable practice in Uganda is the Lord's Resistance Army. Started in 1987 by Joseph Kony, this militant group uses kidnapping, executions, forced drug use and other dehumanizing practices to keep their ranks filled with young soldiers. It is the horror of these actions and the plight of these children, Father Dunson hopes to make people aware of. But more than that, he hopes to inspire action. Through his work with the Saint Kizito Foundation, he has already turned his own awareness into something tangible.

The Saint Kizito Foundation is an organization based in Northeast Ohio that seeks to bring hope, love and the promise of a future to the young victims of Uganda's pervasive violence. Therapy, education, provision of basic needs, safety, security and sense of community are all provided by the foundation, its volunteers and contributors.

The students of Saint Mary's Collinwood are now a part of that effort. Every Friday, the students can take a break from their usual uniforms by contributing fifty cents to the school's Missions Fund, so they are able to dress down. But they also get something more, they get a sense that even the smallest contribution can make a difference. That idea really took shape after Father Dunson's presentation when the Student Council presented him with a check for \$1000 to benefit the Saint Kizito Foundation. As Dunson expressed his immense gratitude, the junior high students of Saint Mary's Collinwood saw that a little truly does go a long way.

To learn more about the Saint Kizito Foundation, visit [www.stkizito.org](http://www.stkizito.org). Andrew Kerr is the eighth-grade teacher at Saint Mary-Collinwood School



### Cycling scientist: Dr. Watson rides from Lakewood to Collinwood

Dr. James Watson teaches ninth grade Physical Science and Biology at Collinwood High School. An avid cyclist, Dr. Watson often rides his bike thirteen miles from his home in Lakewood to the school. Photo by J'Wan Bell.



Noble Academy Cleveland's Techno Team : Best Programming and Second Overall Score!

### NAC and Techno Team: On the path to state competition

Amy Britton

Noble Academy Cleveland's Techno Team proudly displayed their aptitude of talent and skills during the First LEGO League Robotic Competition. On December 12, 2009 NAC's Techno Team, under the guidance of our math teacher Mr. Emre and peer mentor Kerem Kose, advanced their level of competition and reputation by receiving 1st place in program design and 2nd place for overall score. The FLL Robotic Competition was held at Hathaway Brown School, and over 30 schools (private and public) participated. NAC applauds Steven Funnel (8th), David Chappel (8th), Jacob (6th) and Patricia (4th) Opperman, Kiyla Cooper (6th), and Anastasiya Thomas (4th) for their strong execution of skills in the competition. Along with the distinct awards earned, the team received an invitation to compete at the State level in February. As a community school, NAC continues to pave the way to excellence, and leads a student force that proves the effectiveness of community schools. Noble Academy Cleveland anticipates the State Competition with the prospect of attaining high marks.

### NAC's 5<sup>th</sup> International Dinner

Amy Britton

Noble Academy Cleveland hosted our 5th International Dinner on November 20th. The International dinner celebrates our diversity and value of education. This year, our celebration included the distinction of receiving an EXCELLENT rating on our Ohio Department of Education report card. Family, supporters, students, and staff spent the evening being entertained by student performances, hearing motivational speeches from our sponsors, and enjoying a diverse range of foods from different cultures. The International Dinner honors education and the dedication in providing a concrete foundation for tomorrow's leaders. NAC would like to thank our special guests for participating in our celebration. Patricia Hughes and Joe Callinger from The Buckeye Hope Foundation, Ron Adler from Ohio Coalition for Quality Education, Terry Butler from Tri-C Metro Campus, and Lou Dresslar, our biggest fan and supporter, honored NAC by contributing to our night of celebration. Being in the company of our supporters reinforces our strength as a school. Our families, staff,

and students are respectfully admired by our supporters and friends for their solid support and commitment to education. Noble Academy Cleveland's students are competing in various events, and their accomplishments are anticipated. Good luck to our students, and thank you families for the support offered.

### A Jubilee Academy sponsors food program

A Jubilee Academy announces sponsorship of the USDA funded Child and Adult Care Food Program. Meals are available to all enrolled participants without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and will be served at no separate charge §226.23(d). In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. A Jubilee Academy is located at 15751 and 15875 Lakeshore Blvd. Guidelines for free and reduced price meals are effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

### Imagine Bella Academy now offers community-wide paper recycling!

Cera Duncan

Imagine Bella Academy of Excellence, located on Bella Drive just off Neff Road, has recently acquired a Abitibi Paper Retriever as part of their initiative to raise student and community awareness of the importance of recycling. Through this program, Bella Academy will receive funds for each ton of paper recycled. Not only is this a great way to support the world-wide Green Initiative and preserve our planet, but it helps raise money for a new community school. Charter schools do not receive the same amount of funding that public schools do, so these types of programs are extremely important to Bella Academy. Items that can be brought to the paper bin include: newspapers, magazines, shopping catalogs, junk mail, office and school papers and phone books. Just look for the big green and yellow bin located in the parking lot. As we move into a new year, make it your resolution to support your local schools and the planet by recycling your paper!

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YOUTH AND FAMILY

# The Grandmothers on... TANTRUMS

Kathy Baker

Dear Grandmothers,  
Do you have any advice on what to do with kids who throw temper tantrums?

Dear Collinwood Observer reader: Of course we do. We have advice on everything. Tantrums are something we are often asked about, because they are a stage of development parents would like to be able to move their child through as quickly as possible. Tantrums often occur in public places such as supermarket check-out lines and shopping malls. They are characterized by out-of-control screaming and thrashing, and if the parent starts screaming and thrashing herself, matters only get worse.

**THE CAUSE**

Most tantrums are caused by helpless rage. The child wants what he or she wants with great intensity, and in their smallness feels powerless to get it in the face of the adult's - or circumstance's - "no." They cannot project into the future, can only see the now, and feel as if they are drowning in a tidal wave of grief at having been denied. At the same time they are murderously furious at the cause of the frustration, often the adult who said "no." A child's own rage can terrify him or her because they are often attacking the person they most love and depend on, and it can escalate into full blown hysteria. In addition, a child who has been rewarded in the past by his parent giving in to the tantrum - quickly supplying the candy or balloon or whatever the child was so loudly demanding, anything to shut him or her up - may begin to use tantrums manipulatively. Tantrums can be uniquely effective, especially those conducted in a public setting.

**WHAT NOT TO DO**

What you would probably like to do, embarrassed and frustrated as you are, is pick your child up and shake them, or walk away and leave him or her there kicking and frothing, or shove a dozen of the lollipops they want so desperately down their throat - anything to stop the screaming! But since you obviously would rather not do any of those things, you are tempted to resort to scary and empty threats, withdrawal of attention (which can feel like withdrawal of love), furtive arm-squeezing, and lengthy lecturing through clenched teeth. Pull yourself together and don't do any of those, either.

**WHAT TO DO INSTEAD**

The child has lost all reason, all control, and cannot possibly respond to reminders or reprimands. They are in a howling wilderness of emotions and can scarcely hear your voice. So contain the child to the degree this is possible. Hold them, murmuring soothing sounds, assuring them that this will end and you are there to help. Carry them out of the shopping mall and sit awhile outside on the curb or in the car, until the sobs begin to subside. Picture yourself as a warm blanket there to protect him or her from the storm until it passes. Only then do you begin to talk, to go over what happened, to try to remember together the incident that led to the tantrum. This sounds very time-consuming, but in the long run it will save you hours of repeat performances.

**WHAT TO SAY**

What to say afterward depends on the cause of the tantrum.

*If rage:* "You were feeling very angry with me for not buying you that candy, weren't you? You were so angry that you started crying and you couldn't stop. That must have been very scary. I bet you hope that doesn't happen again."

*If manipulative:* "I think when you screamed and cried in the store because I wouldn't buy candy for you, you thought that your crying would make me change my mind. It didn't work, did it? It isn't going to work next time, either. Let's talk about more big person ways for you to tell me what you want."

**NEXT TIME**

If possible, avoid the tantrum producing circumstance in the first place. But if you have to return to the scene of the tantrum, then prepare your child in advance. Tell them that they can help you select some plums or apples for a snack, and that the candy in the check-out line is still going to be there, but that you aren't going to buy any this time. Then keep your word! With an older child, you might appeal to his or her desire to be more grown up and avoid the embarrassment of public tantrums.

*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.*

## Northeast Cleveland Little League

Robert McGraw



The only chartered Little League in the City of Cleveland is located in the North Collinwood neighborhood. Northeast Cleveland Little League (NECLL) has been in operation since 1951. NECLL teams play their games at Grovewood Park in the North Collinwood neighborhood. NECLL is the only league in the city of Cleveland that is part of the National Little League competition out of Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

There are five fields, a pavilion, and NECLL runs its own concession stand. The league has been able to continue to operate for such a long period of time due to the support of our local businesses, sponsors, and parent volunteers.

NECLL is encouraging parents of children ages 5-16 to sign up beginning in February of 2010. Sign-up will take place at the Slovenian Workmen's Home located on 15335 Waterloo Road in North Collinwood. NECLL has their office and sign-up on the second floor of the building. Sign-up dates are as follows: February 13, 14, 20, and 21; both Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 pm. There will also be an evening sign-up on Thursday, February 25. More sign-up information will be included in the next addition of the *Observer*.

NECLL teams in the past have won numerous district tournaments. In addition,

the 2004 Junior team won the Ohio State Tournament and represented the state in the regional tournament held in Illinois.

NECLL President, Morris Jones, is a North Collinwood resident and a longtime volunteer with the league. He has done everything that a volunteer organization like NECLL could ask - umpire, grounds-keeping, coaching, score-keeping, working at the concession stand, and scheduling games and volunteers to keep the league running.

NECLL needs more parental support like President Jones for our league to remain successful. Your help in all aspects of our league (as a coach, volunteering at the concession stand, umpiring, for example) is critical to our continued positive involvement in our neighborhood. Call (216) 692-2255 and leave your name to let us know your interest in helping our young boys and girls enjoy their summer with an established and successful baseball league!

You may request an application to sign up this coming year by calling (216) 692-2255. There will be further announcements, flyers, and also direct contact with past participants in the upcoming weeks.

## Walk Away

a poem by Deandre Mooror

*If I don't walk away  
There will be drama  
Someone can get their mamas  
Uncles, Cousins, Brothers too  
All them against you  
Now you on the ground bleeding from  
the head  
Laying up in the hospital bed thinking  
about today  
I think it's better if I Walk Away.*

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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## South Collinwood resident at North Collinwood gallery

Cindy Barber

Visual artist Terry Durst, who taught at the Cleveland Institute of Art and Cuyahoga Community College, moved to South Collinwood from Tremont four years ago. The move got him closer to the Waterloo Arts District and to the Beachland Ballroom and Tavern, where he loves to see music, mostly country music or anyone that sounds like Neil Young. When he lived in Tremont, his friends knew to look up his home phone number by searching for Neil Young in the phone book, that's how much Durst believes and associates with the power of music.

So it is no surprise really that his first solo art show in nearly a decade is called The Carter Excavations. And that if you go see the exhibit of enhanced primitive-looking wooden boxes and assemblages at the Arts Collinwood Gallery, a boombox is playing primitive Appalachian-style music by the legendary Carter Family band.

"I made sure all the music is from the original trio of the Carter Family. ...I wanted the pieces to look like what I feel when I listen to their music, that raw, one microphone sound of their recordings," says Durst, who graduated from Kent State University with a BFA in sculpture and film in 1987.

Durst says he always listens to music when he works on his art. The surprising revelation about the distressed-looking pieces of art is that he didn't find most of the weathered wood with the interesting faded colors in an old barn or buried in a junkyard somewhere. No, much of what looks like it must be 50 years old, as old as a Carter Family recording, actually started life as a new piece of wood and Durst worked it into its weathered look, by banging it and



Terry Durst, a Collinwood resident, has a art exhibit up at Arts Collinwood on Waterloo Road through the month of January and it's free and open to the public. Photo by Bridget Caswell.

painting it over and over until he got the right look. The detail is amazing, with cement pushing through lattice work you swear must have come from an old demolished house.

"I started out merging found objects but they ended up just looking stuck on something, so I just went and created the look I wanted from scratch," says Durst.

One of the pieces has big scripted letters that say Blue Sky, in remembrance of the drive-in movie theater of that name from his youth growing up in Wadsworth.

"So many people at the opening (January 8) asked where I found the sign, but I made that. Blue sky is also a reoccurring lyric in many Carter Family songs," Durst explains. "I wanted this show to sort of define my style -- there are so many artists that if you see a piece you just know who did it. I think I've settled on this whole "found object/weathered" look sort of thing."

Terry Durst's The Carter Excavations is up at the Arts Collinwood Gallery until Sat. February 6. And you can find Durst himself working as a doorman at the Beachland when he's not in his art studio making history.

## ARTS COLLINWOOD: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Sarah Gyorki

Arts Collinwood ended 2009 on a high note. For the first time ever, we faced an incredibly generous \$5,000 challenge grant—and thanks to tremendous response from members, neighbors and supporters, successfully raised the funds to make the match. The Weekends on Waterloo Holiday Sale at Arts Collinwood Gallery was up 20% from 2008—thanks for shopping locally! We received significant funding from the Cleveland Foundation. And, in spite of a really tough economy, we made it through the year, and didn't cut any of our core programs, including operating our new arts center. The year ahead looks promising: we've reopened the Cafe at Arts Collinwood, with a new look, new art, new menu, new music and more. Check out the jazz nights, movie nights, and much more—another great way to showcase local artistic talent, while supporting the arts. We're proud to open our exhibit calendar with a show of new works by Terry Durst in the Arts Collinwood Gallery, and are looking forward to an exciting month-long residency with Mystery of Two in February. And there's a slate of great programming ahead of us. We're looking forward to our annual members' meeting on January 26, when we get to share all the latest news and happenings with everyone in the community. If you've never attended before, come down and say hi. If you're a loyal member, come see what's changed since your last visit. And if you haven't been getting the news, the annual meeting is a great chance to update your membership. With membership starting at just \$10, we think it's a pretty good way to help support the local arts community and get to know some neighbors. We'll open the doors early at 6:00 pm, to give everyone plenty of time to check out the gallery show, enjoy refreshments and get acquainted. The meeting starts at 7:00, and we'll wrap up no later than 8:30 -- but feel free to stick around for free entertainment in the Cafe afterwards. In tough times, communities like this one pull through by working together; we know we accomplished what we did in the past year because of tremendous community support. On January 26, we'd like to thank you in person. I hope you'll join us!

## Avatar gets an "A"

Jeanne Coppola

Breathtaking...stunning...unbelievable! No words can describe the beauty of *Avatar* because this movie is in a league of its own, with its wondrous special effects and sensitive script.

The movie takes place on a planet called Pandora, which is inhabited by the Na'vi (a race of blue-skinned people who live "interconnectedly" with the land and animals). The Na'vi have a mineral in their soil that is wanted by the military on Earth, who send Jake Scully (Sam Worthington) on a special mission to infiltrate Pandora. Scully is a former marine who is now in a wheelchair, but when his mind is linked with an "avatar" (a creature that looks like a Na'vi, made from fusing human DNA and Na'vi DNA), he can walk again. On Pandora he meets Neytiri (Zoe Saldana), who teaches him her mystical culture and her people's way of respecting all life.

The visual beauty of Pandora's lush green glistening jungle is prehistoric and eternal, in sharp contrast to life on Earth, where no one walks barefoot to receive strength from the living soil. Pandora awakens in the viewer a long lost memory of eons past, of the way humans once lived and should still be living, in an Eden.

So when the Earth's military invade Pandora with their huge metal war planes and rockets, the destruction is horrendous and wrenching. The Na'vi's bows and arrows are no match for massive grey war machines that blow up the land with



massive pillars of fire. The Na'vi need help to fight back, and in a very moving scene, Neytiri's mother says to Scully, "if you are one of us...HELP US!"

When Scully 'becomes' one of the Na'vi, so does the viewer, because somewhere in our souls we remember this is the way we were meant to live. And later, when Neytiri sees Scully in his human form, she says "I see you," and loves him still. A man and woman from two different races, accepting each other.

That is why this film is exceptional. It has many layers that can be perceived by the viewers if they are aware of them. Although it is a beautiful love story, and a fantastic science fiction adventure, it is also reminiscent of fables, creation myths, mystical teachings, all about living in peace and protecting the planet. *Avatar* is not just a movie, it is the truth.

*Avatar* surpasses all other movies before it...and it is the masterful vision of one man: James Cameron. His other movies include, *Terminator*, *Aliens* and *Titanic*.

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# NAN'S NOTES

## Arts Collinwood Gallery and Cafe

The opening party for the revamped version of the Café at Arts Collinwood coincided with the opening of the year's first gallery show on Friday, January 8. The Café has a new menu, more striking décor and a warm vibe. The show's title, *The Carter Excavations*, refers mostly to artist Terry Durst's exploration of sculpture as an excavation of emotional states, and the name Carter is intended to evoke a common American name, archeologist Howard Carter's King Tut excavations and The Carter Family Band, whose early recordings inspired a wall sculpture in the show, which runs until Saturday, February 6.

## Mystery Of Two Winter Residency

Mystery of Two, facing a Cleveland winter after a long, long road trip, settled on a series of free shows with friends as the best way to fight the tedium (which one could say is loudly). You can catch them at Arts Collinwood on February 6 with Filmstrip (for closing night of Terry Durst's gallery show); February 13 with Buried Wires; February 20 with Freedom; and February 27 with Founding Fathers. All concerts are free; doors at 9 pm; DJ sets early and late from the bands. There will be visual art by Ryan Weitzel, Jeff Deasy and Nick Riley of Mystery of Two in the Café and the debut of the new Mystery of Two video filmed by Jon Mancinetti at Arts Collinwood. For information, call ExitStencil's Ryan Weitzel at 440-476-0510.

## Live Jazz in the Café at Arts Collinwood

Join us every Wednesday night in the cafe. Full bar, food and drink specials with lots of vegetarian/vegan options. The first set starts at 8:00, second at 9:30. No cover charge!

*Arts Collinwood 15605 Waterloo Road, 216-692-9500, www.artscollinwood.org. Gallery hours are Thur/Fri 6-9 pm; Sat/Sun 1-5 pm, and whenever the Café is open - which is 11 am-11 pm Tuesday through Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm Sunday.*

## Music Saves and Cleveland Bachelor

MusicSaves and the ClevelandBachelorBlog are sponsoring the Rural Alberta Advantage show at the Beachland on January 17. The RAA are from Toronto, which is in Ontario and really rather urban, but they grew up in rural Alberta, and that's what they sing about.

Meanwhile, MusicSaves' December promo

goes on: for every 2009 Top 20 Sellers you buy before January 24, you get a dollar-off coupon to use in February. Their website has a helpful list of top sellers to help you plan your shopping.

*MusicSaves, 15801 Waterloo, 216.481.1875 www.musicsaves.com, www.clevelandbachelor.blogspot.com*

## Winter At The Market

The Coit Road market isn't overflowing with fresh produce this month, but on Saturday I found (besides a warm welcome) the eggs and apples I'd gone in search of, plus a plate of irresistible peanut butter cookies and some groats - they're Quaker Oats before being flattened, but after being dehusked. They need long cooking (I start them with a few minutes in the microwave the night before, let them soak overnight and give them a few more turns in the morning) but they taste very oaty, they're pleasantly chewy and they go very well with my trove of frozen blackberries.

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

## January At The Library

- Preschool Story Time - Every Monday during January 10:30 am - 11 am, Stories, rhymes, songs and more for children ages 3-5 and their parents/caregivers. For more information, please call 623-7039 or email cpl-memnot@cpl.org.
- Adult Prosperity Book Discussion - Thursday, January 21, 6:30 pm, Participants will engage in a lively discussion about the book titled *The 48 Laws of Power* by Robert Greene. For more information, please call 623-7039 or email cpl-memnot@cpl.org.

*Memorial Nottingham Branch Library, 17109 Lakeshore Blvd, 623-7039 or email cpl-memnot@cpl.org.*

## Over At The Grovewood

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## SPICE BLENDS- CHEAPER BY THE OUNCE, AND EASY TO PRONOUNCE!

Laura Partlow-Slea

Best and belated New Year's wishes to all the *Observer* readers from the Partlow/Slea household! Dave, Marvin and I are rooting for our neighborhood and neighbors! I'm sure there's plenty of us who've resolved to eat better or get healthier in 2010. That's commendable. I'm resolving to pull off some more good grades and write more often! But hey, that's me-- we're talking about YOU. If you were expecting to find some low-fat stuff here in this column, sorry! But read on, I am going in the 'healthy' direction.

One of my "pet peeves" in modern American cooking is the overuse of "convenience foods." On the Cleveland Clinic website, we're told: "...Most convenience foods on the market today are laden with saturated fats, sodium and sugar and provide little to no nutritional value. Even foods touted as fat free or low fat are usually poor alternative[s]..." (www.clevelandclinic.org).

Ew! So what's one to do? Well, start simple. An easy place to start is to make your own seasonings. Ever look at the ingredient list on a packet of taco seasoning? Go on, go look, I'll wait... How much of that stuff can you pronounce in one try? And the salt-- yikes!

Well, I got grossed out. Scouring the web, I found some basic recipes for stuff we like and use a lot. The only 'special' piece of equipment you need for anything is a countertop food chopper or a spice mill, and that's just for the poultry seasoning.

The only thing that might put you off some of these recipes is the low use of salt. But among many culinarians, the opinion is to salt it when you eat it, not when you cook it. However, that's one of the things that makes these recipes better for you. We don't dig salt as much as we used to. When we quit smoking cigarettes (another GREAT resolution), our taste buds changed dramatically. One of those changes made us less in love with salt.

So, are you ready to pronounce your seasonings? Me too! Let's boogie!

**Homemade Poultry Seasoning:** *ingredients and simmer with cooked meat for 10 minutes. 3/4 C Low-Salt Chicken Stock, 1 T Cornstarch, 1- 1 1/2 t Chili Powder (according to taste), 1 t EACH Paprika, Sugar, 1/2 t onion powder, 1/4 t EACH Garlic Powder, Cumin. Dash Salt.*

**Taco Seasoning:** *Good for one pound of meat. Add with a little less than 1/2 C water to drained, cooked meat. Simmer over medium heat until water is absorbed. 2 T Cumin, 1-1 1/2 T Chili Powder (according to taste), 1/2 t EACH Garlic Powder, Onion Powder, Oregano, Red Pepper Flakes, Oregano, 1 t Paprika. 2 t Pepper, 1 t Salt.*



**Chicken Fajita Seasoning:** *Combine all*



The Coit Road Market

## LOCAL FOOD THAT IS NOT OPEN TO INTERPRETATION - IT'S LOCAL

Tony Matlak

You've likely heard the term "local food" a lot recently. It's one of those food ideas, like "organic" or "all natural" or "healthy," that comes popping up every few years. Like those other terms, "local food" is open for interpretation. I've seen Giant Eagle tout their bakery as "local" because it's made in the store and I've seen Starbucks say that they're your "local" coffee shop because there's one on every corner. Since these guys have the money to blanket the city with advertising and outlets, trying to figure out what "local food" means can be pretty confusing.

As a trustee on the board of the Coit Road Farmers Market, I've had the opportunity to learn a lot about what has become known as the "local food movement." In recent years there's been a rise in the demand for locally produced foods, and for good reason. With all of the e-coli outbreaks and other food-borne disease scares, it makes sense to want to know where your food is coming from. And it's obviously a good idea to give your dollar to the guy down the street for something to eat rather than seeing that dollar go out of state, or even out of the country.

Something I've also learned is that the reason for "local food" goes beyond those general concerns. It has to do with quality and lifestyle. For our farmers, selling their produce is more than just putting out product on the stand. Anybody can go down to the food terminal on East 40th Street and buy wholesale food in bulk that's been shipped in from around the country and around the world, and put it out to sell. For our farmers, the food on their stands represents hours, even years, of labor and care. They know this stuff inside and out. It's more than a livelihood, it's their lives.

This is reflected in the quality of their product. When I think of quality I like to call this "the egg test". Go to the Market and buy a dozen large, local eggs. They usually go for around \$2.50. Now that's a bit more than you're going to pay at the supermarket where a dozen large eggs can go for as low as \$1.50, even less depending on sales. Buy a dozen of those and at home, try them side by side. Crack open a local egg in a frying pan next to a supermarket egg. The difference is eye popping. The local egg's yolk is bright orange, the white is creamy and rich. The supermarket egg's yolk is a pale yellow and the white is clear and runny. The flavor difference between the two is also obvious. A local egg makes a more a satisfying breakfast than the supermarket variety.

The reason for this is that the local egg

was laid by a chicken that the local farmer has raised from a chick, literally by hand! That farmer has had to care for that chicken, worry about it getting the right feed, the right amount of yard to run around in, the right place to sleep at night. I don't even want to tell you where the chicken that laid the supermarket egg lives out its life. The conditions can be described as being anywhere from startling to appalling. And I can assure you the people who raise those chickens don't care for them beyond that they're fed and housed well enough to produce as many eggs as possible and so that they don't die on the production line with too much frequency.

When you shop at a farmers market, quality and lifestyle are part of your life too. Yes, you're often going to pay a little more than you would at the supermarket, or at places like Wal-mart. But the prices are not as much as you think and it's often cheaper than you would imagine. Like the eggs, what you get in return is definitely worth it. Superior quality food, the chance to talk with the farmer who actually produced it, the chance for you to slow down for once in our crazy world and take the time to relax and enjoy the scene at the market. Just doing this shows that you care; you care where your food is coming from, you care where your dollar is being spent, you care about your community and most of all, you're caring for yourself.

So, if you haven't had the chance recently, do yourself good and go to the Coit Road Farmers Market and check out this different perspective on "local food." You may be surprised at what you find and I'm sure you'll be pleased with it too.



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