

# The Collinwood Observer

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## Long awaited tower installed on Waterloo

John Boksansky

Almost a year after fifty local residents converged on the Arts Collinwood Gallery to discuss a plan to build a Tower to be a 'flexible framework for changing public art displays', a "stage for 'guerrilla art' such as concerts, poetry readings and plays" as well as a highly visible marker of the new Waterloo Arts and Entertainment District, Moritz Metal and Wood installed the Tower last week. It is a collaboration of artist, Christopher Diehl, and Moritz Wood & Metal fabricator and artist, Mike Moritz.

The placemaking and public art armature Tower was conceived as part of the Waterloo Streetscape Plan working with the Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative of NOACA. The initiative was spearheaded collectively through the efforts of the community with Northeast Shores Development. Continued streetscape improvements are planned for the district. Construction is expected to commence in 2012 for the total

plan which includes final programming of the area surrounding the Tower. This planning phase will be conducted together with Osborn Engineering, Knight & Stolar, Inc., Planning Consultants & Landscape Architects and The City of Cleveland Department of Construction and Engineering.

The Tower was done in partnership with The City of Cleveland with support from Councilman Michael D. Polensek, Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the community through the efforts of Arts Collinwood and Northeast Shores.

Chris Diehl, artist from dielio inc, provided some history regarding the philosophy behind the creation of the Tower concept. "The large area of asphalt intersection at E. 156th and Waterloo streets was created in order to turn street trolleys around. The trolleys served this vibrant working class neighborhood and they, in turn, served the Collinwood rail- | continued on page 13

### Waterloo Tower unmasked

Mike Moritz

Presenting... THE TOWER, a new addition to the Waterloo District. But what the heck is it? If you don't already know the intent behind this place-maker, the Waterloo Tower is just the beginning of an ongoing public art project. That's right, it's still not done and with your help it never will be. It will always change. It is meant to change. What you see on the corner of East 156th and Waterloo is a framework for site-specific art installations, an outdoor stage and a sort of urban gazebo designed to change throughout the years.

As the fabricator of the Tower, I know its potential. I look forward to seeing The Tower with artwork installed and the stage alive with performances. I look forward to turning heads | continued on page 13



Dr. Blaine Griffin addresses the assembly

## Tupac Shakur's actual advice to Cleveland Job Corps graduates

Betsy Voinovich

In the August *Collinwood Observer's* front page article about the Job Corps graduation ceremony, the guest speaker was misquoted. Dr. Blaine Griffin, who is the Director of the City of Cleveland's Community Relations Board was the special guest at this year's ceremony. Mr. Griffin spoke about the motivation it takes to pursue an education, and told the graduates that they had all "reached the next level of competition." He then quoted Tupac Shakur, but because our editor was waiting for confirmation on actual lines used, the actual quote got away from us, and the story went to print with Tupac's advice being, "Will

place quote tomorrow," which is confusing advice at best.

Mr. Shakur's actual advice for the 226 Job Corps graduates, as quoted by Mr. Griffin at July's ceremony is: "through whatever you see, through all the rain and the pain, you gotta keep your sense of humor. You gotta be able to smile through all this bull----" The graduates cheered their response.

We at the Collinwood Observer regret the error but welcome another opportunity to tell the 226 Job Corps Graduates how proud we are of them, and wish them every success and happiness in their future. ■

## Chris Seaman: The art of character

Elena Tomorrowitz

Elena Tomorrowitz, volunteer Collinwood Observer Arts reporter and columnist, took a moment to interview Chris Seaman, the featured artist at the Arts Collinwood Gallery this month. Take a moment to get to know him, and then head down the street to see his amazing show. For free!

**ET: When did you know that art was your passion, and what inspired you to get involved in it?**

I knew very early on I wanted to create. I always felt a need to express myself through pictures. Comic books really inspired me. I wasn't a good student so I read a lot of comics to learn how to read when I was 7 and 8. Visual story telling captured my soul very young.

**ET: Were you always interested in fantasy art?**

Yes. I remember drawing a lot of knights on horseback fighting off orcs and ogres. Rushing home from school as a kid to watch the next episode of He-man or Thundercats had a hand in my creative stimuli.

**ET: You come from a creative family, were they a big part of your enthusiasm for art?**

Absolutely! Trips to museums and art galleries were always a part of my childhood. I remember a lot of natural history and national parks were something my parents enjoyed and my brothers and I did too. Exposure to theater and staged plays were also very important at my young age. I think it gave the storyteller edge in my art.

**ET: Who is your favorite artist?**

Umm...gosh, good question. There are so many it's hard to decide. But, if I must...

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DIALOGUE



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Message from the Publisher

John Copic

Congratulations everybody. On Sep-  
tember 24th, the Collinwood Observer will  
celebrate its birthday. We are one year old!  
This paper is a creation of this neighborhood,  
and there is no other like it.

To remind everyone, The Collinwood  
Observer is a community written paper.

Every story written here was written by one  
of your neighbors, who had an idea, an event,  
an issue, to celebrate with everyone else in the  
neighborhood. We are here to celebrate Col-  
linwood, from South to North, its past, pres-  
ent and future. We seek stories from people  
who live here, who grew up here, who work

here, who play here, who remember stories  
from the past, who have dreams for the future  
and ideas for how to make it better, and who  
are lucky enough to celebrate the vibrant place  
that Collinwood is right this minute.

Thank you to everyone who has partici-  
pated so far. You have made the paper great  
and this is only the beginning. The birthday  
present everyone can give to the paper is  
telling one person right now about how they  
can write for the paper, and if you haven't  
already, by sitting down and jotting down  
a story idea, a column idea, or a cartoon.  
Happy birthday to you.. ■

Frank Brodnick Parkway

by Elva Brodnick

I'm thrilled to announce a wonderful  
honor for my late husband, Frank Brodnick.  
The street that runs under the Euclid Beach  
Entrance Arch (E 159th St) was “specially  
designated” Frank Brodnick Pkwy by the City  
of Cleveland on Friday, August 27. The sign  
was up for Frank's birthday on August 28th.

Frank's mom, Mrs. Marie Brodnick, sister,  
Carol Gundelach and her husband Richard,

and old family friend Helen Somasich were  
there for the dedication along with my sister,  
Mary Bronson, neighbors and friends.

Afterwards everyone “cruised” under  
the Arch, under the Turnpike Car bridge  
in front of the Euclid Beach Club apart-  
ments, on our way to Sandy's, to indulge  
in thing ice cream!

Thank you to PK Management & Jenee  
MCClain-Bankhead who donated the snacks,  
and everyone who made this possible.

Introducing one of the  
Lords of Waterloo

Liz Copic

Melvin Price moved to the United  
States from England 20 years ago and  
has lived in North Collinwood for the  
last 3 years, where he has made countless  
friends.

After being downsized from his com-  
puter programming job, he decided to  
open his own Head Shop on Waterloo,  
called the Head Shop on Waterloo. I was  
happy to see so many friends help Melvin  
paint and fix the shop up, and even hap-  
pier that the neighborhood is supporting  
him as much as he supports everybody  
else. As a result of all the love that went  
into it, Melvin's head shop has the social  
feel of a coffee house: a selection of local  
artists works reminiscent of an art gallery,  
a variety of excellent music playing out  
front, and the first “feel free to touch me”  
sign in the display cases I've ever seen in  
a shop of this sort.

In my experience I have known Melvin  
to be: a true and caring friend, an amazing  
father to his precious daughter Iris, a fierce supporter of the other business owners on  
Waterloo, a lover of Reggae, a man who spends part of his day off of work volunteering,  
and the only person I know to own both a VW bus and a Harley Motorcycle. Melvin's  
friends have described him as: “veggie” “from a different planet” “shoeless” “energy  
domeless” “a Collinwood character” and “anti-gravity Mohawk”.

Being one of the few who have dedicated themselves to the pursuit of the betterment of  
the Waterloo/156th St. neighborhood, Melvin has been knighted as one of “the Lords of  
Waterloo”, and is also one of the founders. The Lords live, work, and are passionate about  
making our neighborhood a better place for all. Feel free to stop in the Head Shop to say  
hi to Melvin, and hear what the Lords of Waterloo have planned for the future. ■



Local merchant  
appreciation

I would like to suggest a new column where  
residents can show their appreciation and  
ask questions of local merchants.

The Save-A-Lot store on East 185th and Neff  
Road is great! They have a variety of groceries  
and fresh produce, including bagged salads,  
and soy milk. The prices are reasonable and  
I like finding many name brands. The store  
is also conveniently located within walking  
distance.

My question is: Do customers ask for veggie  
burgers, or fat free crackers, and will Save-  
A-Lot carry these products in the future?  
— Jeanne Coppola

Wanted by the Law?

Wanted for a non-violent crime in Cuya-  
hoga County?

Have no history of violence?

Ready to accept responsibility for what  
you've done?

If you are an American citizen or legal  
resident and answer YES to all three of  
these questions, then Dr. Larry L. Macon,  
Sr. of Mt. Zion Church in Oakwood Vil-  
lage offers you: Your first step toward a  
second chance.

Surrender in safety at the church from  
Wednesday, September 22- Saturday,  
September 25, 2010. Consult with an  
attorney and speak with a judge—at the  
church. You will receive favorable con-  
sideration for your surrender and you are  
likely to go home the same day.

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of violence, you may also surrender in  
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gious requirements.

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and tell us!



# HEALTH

## After an aneurysm, Tara Kuchenbecker recovers and becomes an inspiration to others

Helen D. Curak

May 14, 2009, is a day that Tara Kuchenbecker can remember as vividly as if it were a television show she had recorded on her DVR, because she can remember it at any time. It was a Thursday evening. Tara and her husband, Ken, were relaxing at home after work. Ken headed to the backyard to chop wood for their fire pit. Tara picked up the phone to call her mother to talk.

Suddenly, Tara felt sick to her stomach. She abruptly ended the conversation telling her mother that she had to go because she did not feel well. Her mother sensed something was wrong and told her to tell Ken. Tara knew there wasn't time and ran to the bathroom.

Ken found Tara passed out and having a seizure. He called 9-1-1 and the paramedics arrived shortly after. "It was surreal," Tara says. "I could hear the paramedics, but I couldn't see them. I was picturing them and what they were doing, but I couldn't answer them. Then I blacked out," she recalls.

### Diagnosing Tara

Tara was taken to Hillcrest Hospital where a CT scan showed she had an aneurysm that had erupted in her brain—Tara had a stroke. She was 40 years old.

A decision was made to transfer Tara to Cleveland Clinic where she underwent a six-hour surgery to remove a portion of her skull, which was frozen and replaced at a later date, to relieve the pressure on her brain.

"When I woke up from surgery I was piecing things together. So many thoughts were racing through my head. 'What hospital am I in? Why

am I here? What is going on? But I wasn't able to speak to verbalize my feelings," recalls Tara. All of a sudden Tara felt like she had reverted to being "a baby." She says, "People would tell me things over and over but I couldn't understand what they were saying. I slept constantly. I lost the capacity to swallow correctly." Tara was experiencing the effects of her stroke. Once a feeding tube was inserted, she gained energy and was able to get out of bed. A nursing home social worker by trade, Tara was brought a walker to help her. She didn't like that. "I wasn't used to that. To me, a walker was for nursing home patients, not me," she recalls. Now that Tara was beginning to become more mobile, it was time for intensive inpatient physical therapy. Tara was transferred to Euclid Hospital—known in the region for its rehabilitation program.

### Therapy at Euclid Hospital

Kuchenbecker spent the next three weeks in the inpatient rehabilitation unit. "I loved being at Euclid Hospital for rehab. I could look out my window and see the lake and watch boats go by. It was very calming," remembers Tara. Between physical and speech therapy, Tara spent three hours a day for five to six days working to recover her lost speech and physical functions. "I would often talk to her while she was on the exercise bike. She didn't know it, but she was working on two therapies at once," said Dianne Vermilya, physical therapy coordinator. Other rehabilitation activities involved tossing and catching a ball to work on balance and walking on the treadmill for endurance. "We like to challenge patients,

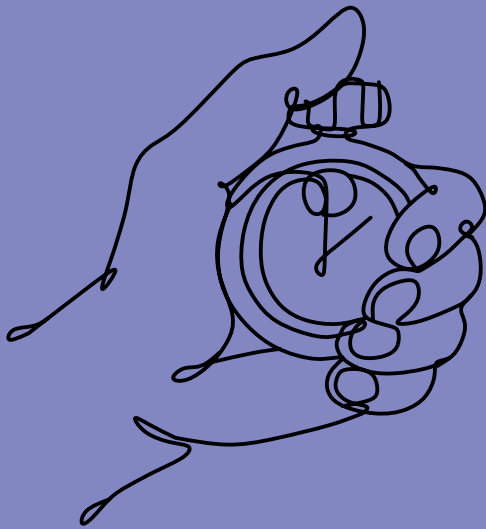


Tara Kuchenbecker makes a presentation to the stroke support group 13 months after surviving a stroke.

it helps their recovery," says Vermilya. After three weeks in inpatient rehabilitation Tara was discharged, and continued therapy on an outpatient basis for six months. "Tara cleared many hurdles to make a remarkable recovery," says Lynn Jedlicka, MD, Tara's physician who specializes in **Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**.

As an outpatient, Tara worked with speech therapist Susan Waizenhofer, MA, CCC-SLP. "When I first started working with Tara, she knew what she wanted to say, but couldn't get it out," says Waizenhofer. Tara and Waizenhofer continued to work on speech and language exercises such as filling in words in phrases and identifying ordinary objects. When Tara

was finished with outpatient therapy at Euclid Hospital she "was scared. I didn't think I was ready to go, but my speech therapist Susan told me I was, and encouraged me to join the stroke support group," says Tara. The group helped her to realize that she was not alone. "Tara did so well because she was optimistic and determined to get back to where she was in life. She is such an inspiration to everyone in the support group," says Waizenhofer. Thirteen months after having her stroke, Tara was the guest speaker at the stroke support group meeting, sharing her life changing experience with others. "I went from not being able to verbalize my thoughts, to sharing my story with others," says Tara. "If I came this far, so can they." ■



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AROUND COLLINWOOD

How to run a successful carousel: Euclid Beach’s Carrousel Committee’s Proposal

Elva Brodnick

You’ll remember in the July issue, that the Observer ran Councilman Polensek’s letter to the Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS), which outlined several points the Councilman felt were important to our Collinwood/Euclid Beach neighborhood regarding the Carrousel. This included asking that members from both our Euclid Beach’s Carrousel Committee and the Collinwood Nottingham Historical Society be made part of their “Cleveland’s Euclid Beach Carousel Society”, and that the Western Reserve Historical Society (and Euclid Beach Park Now) work with the community to place signage at Euclid Beach State Park for the Carrousel.

More than a month later, there has been no response from WRHS to the Councilman’s letter; no one from either Euclid Beach’s Carrousel Committee or the Collinwood Nottingham Historical Society has been contacted.

We very much do want to sit down with WRHS, but at this point the ball is in their court. We want to see the Carrousel properly and historically accurately restored (which will cost the same as not doing so, our research shows), and that our Collinwood neighborhood is recognized for our part in the Carrousel’s history. We have tried contacting them, and will continue to do so and hope that they see that it would be to their advantage to work with us. Until then we wait. Frustrating as it is!

They haven’t announced any specific plans in the more than two months since their announcing their University Circle site. In putting together our own proposal that included two surveys of carousels around the US, we found that there are three key elements to any successful carousel operation: the formula for generating needed income splits three ways: 1/3 carousel operations (including rides, event/party room and gift shop), 1/3 annual fundraising and 1/3 from endowments. This combination is repeated by carousel after carousel we surveyed, as a key to success.

You cannot run a carousel solely on ride income! Especially considering that the most you can charge for a ride is \$1.00 to at most \$2 – and most carousels are in the less-than-a-\$1 price range at that. Our projections in 2009 included income from rides being around \$60,000 – \$65,000 a year, against a total needed income (including all sources) of \$200,000 to \$220,000. You can see why rides alone can’t support a carousel!

The party/event room is as important as the carousel itself income wise. Everything from kids’ parties to weddings, can happen, a carousel makes such a facility unique – and busy. In fact, the one problem carousels reported with their event/party space was that they built too small. Combine this with a well-run gift shop/concession and things like renting the machine for “exclusive ride time” for a group or photo ops for weddings, graduations, etc, and that first

1/3 is taken care of nicely. Fundraising, of course, goes on all year round, to supplement the operations income. This ranges from grants etc to events to raise money for the carousel, from programs to sponsorships (everything on a carousel can be “sponsored” – from the horses themselves, to each light bulb on the sweeps!) to raffles etc. Endowments act as the financial security for the carousel, and need to be recruited to secure a carousel’s future needs, but the carousels we contacted used these as security, not operating funds.

How much of this is included in WRHS’ plan we don’t know. We also don’t know what research they’ve done, or what money they have actually raised. When Dr. Rackley spoke at EBPN’s April Open Meeting, he stated that he had seen our proposal (while we have not seen his), and that “It wouldn’t work”; he didn’t explain why not. At that time, his plan depended almost entirely on endowments; materials released at the June press conference, however, mentioned both a ride charge and rentals.

He also has said that WRHS expects the Carrousel to be a money-maker for WRHS. Our research shows that this is not a realistic goal, given the nature of the business. Successful operating carousels mostly break even, showing a small profit, and at that, must be constantly fundraising, to supplement income from operations. Carousels are very much a “hands-on” operation.

Meanwhile, our Euclid Beach’s Carrousel Committee has been busy. As we said last issue, we’re not throwing the towel in yet! We’re finding more and more people who prefer our “home” site to the University Circle site, for one thing, which is wonderful! The support we have is amazing – and it’s not just from our neighborhood.

Why don’t you join Euclid Beach’s Carrousel Committee? We need people who can help with everything from website running to grant-writing to research to simply pitching in at events – and ideas. Especially ideas.

If you’re interested, especially in ‘Bringing it home’ then we invite you to come to our regular meetings and “talk Carrousel” and “Euclid Beach!” There are some cool ideas already out there, which you’ll want to be part of. And we’ll have some fun while we’re at it.

Meetings are every 3rd Wednesday at Arts Collinwood at 6:30 pm. Our next meeting is Sept. 15th. Give me a call or email that you’re interested, even if you can’t make it to meetings. Your support is important to us, and we thank you. Come see what we’re doing, and help us do more!

Looking forward to hearing from you!

*Elva Brodnick, President – Euclid Beach’s Carrousel Committee, PO Box 91162, Cleveland OH 44101. Email: ebcarrousel@gmail.com or carrollsell@gmail.com, 440-942-1493 Facebook: Euclid Beach’s Carrousel Committee.*

How is the Real Estate market?

Vilija Nasvytis Klimas

How is the housing market in our neighborhoods?

Over the past several years we have watched housing prices decline. Pleasant? Of course not. However, it is only an issue if you are in the position of having to sell your home. Please consider: a home provides shelter. It is not an “investment”, because in any matter you need to have a roof over your head. In the past several years we seem to have lost sight of this. If you compared the holding costs of a home in North Collinwood, factoring in the tax and shelter benefits, you would see that the housing value is significant.

Are houses selling? Yes, if they are in good condition, with good updates, and priced well, they sell.

Are City employees leaving the city? Yes, some are moving. However, other city employees- understanding the housing values and income tax benefits – continue to move into our neighborhoods.

Has the price of homes fallen? Yes, the average sale price of a single family home in Zip Code 44119 North Collinwood was \$46,800 in 2010 from Jan 1- Aug 1. The average list price was \$84,600. In 44110 the average sale price was \$28,000, and average list price was \$64,000. This is a far cry from the selling price of homes during the height of the “bubble” in 2005-2006.

What is a “Short Sale”? Suppose an owner needs to sell their home due to a hardship condition, and the home has a market value of less than what is owed on the mortgage; if the bank agrees to accept the proceeds of a

sale at a lower price than what would pay off the mortgage, that is a “short sale”.

What is a “Strategic default”? When a homeowner, knowing that the current market value of their home is LESS than what they owe on the home, intentionally stops paying their mortgage, leading to a bank foreclosure. (The actual foreclosure process may take up to 2 years.)

What is a “Flipper”? Someone who buys a house, does not substantially improve it, but re-sells it for a much higher price, often to an unsuspecting third party.

What is a “Defensive purchase”? Neighbors buying a foreclosed home to prevent a “flipper” from being able to buy it. Oftentimes they renovate it and are able to sell it at a higher price.

What is the highest sale in the North Collinwood area this year? A house sold for \$250,000. (Lakefront house, nicely updated!)

What is the lowest sale? A house sold for \$8000.

Who are buying? Creative, artsy people. There is also significant out-of-town investor activity. And of course, anyone who loves the lake and had dreamed of living nearby the lake. Generally today’s buyers are either very well qualified by their lender, or purchasing “cash” with funds they have saved up.

*Interested in additional info? Send your general questions to the Observer, or if you have a specific question, please feel free to email me at Vilija@nasvytis.com.*

Come and eat buffet style

Vanessa Abston

Abston’s Place Family Restaurant is located at 317 E. 200 Street in Euclid, Ohio. A buffet restaurant that consists of a hot and cold buffet, desserts, breads, beverages, and carry-out if you do not have time to dine in. Abston’s pride themselves in providing their guests with home-style cooking that you grew up on. The food is good! The prices are good too. Where can you go and get a hot all-you-can eat meal home cooked with a salad, bread, and dessert for \$5.99 (breakfast), \$7.99 (lunch) and \$9.99 (dinner)? Children 12 and under eat for half price; Seniors get a discount too. It is worth a visit. Come and relax with

a meal while watching the game, Dancing with the Stars, or American Idol on one of two flat screen televisions. The environment is clean, and friendly. There is parking in the rear. The building is handicapped accessible, and there are two large bathroom facilities available to the guest. People planning parties, repasts, receptions, showers, and even meetings will find that they can reserve a place that provides the right atmosphere. Check it out for yourself. You will wish you had found out about this place sooner. See you at Abston’s Place Family Restaurant on weekends 8 am until 7:30 pm!! ■

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FORUM

The County Elections  
Why would anyone admit to being a member of these parties?

Miles Kennedy

Like most of you, I have been inundated with publicity by people seeking my vote to become County Executive or to represent me (district 10) on the new County board. Also, the Plain Dealer and the Collinwood Observer have done good jobs of presenting the cases of these many office seekers. This is excellent and it seems to me we have a very good pool to choose from.

But what surprises me is that many of these candidates list high among their attractions that they are long-term members of the Democratic or Republican party or, a few, that they are actually endorsed by one of these major parties.

At the federal level I have no difficulty distinguishing between Democrats and Republicans. Democrats, for instance, tend to favor maintaining a strong net to support the

unfortunate and rigorous inspections to curb the greed of Wall Street. Republicans favor cutting taxes and reducing the presence of Government and its regulators. I am sure you can list a dozen other important principles on which the two parties differ. So it is no wonder if you support one of these parties and find the other unattractive. At least they are heading in different and predictable directions.

But at the local level (both county and state) the only difference I can see between the parties is the distinctly different set of cronies they intend to put on the payroll for full-time pay and half-time work. Also the different set of law firms, coin dealers and contractors they intend the employ. Why on earth would anyone seeking local office admit to membership, let alone endorsement by such parties? ■

REPLY TO "LAID OFF OR LIBERATED?"

Jeanne Coppola

Last month, the CO published a letter on its Forum page titled "Laid off or Liberated," by Rhonda Hudson-Williams, in which she wrote about the employment rate, and how people are relying on themselves, after being laid-off. She said that unemployment can be a time of "...freedom. (Of) not having to concern one's self with setting the clock..." And I agree.

Not being bound to structured time or having to perform duties for others, all day long, is how life SHOULD be lived! The society of work in which we live was created by humans, and can be changed, if enough people decide to change it!

Ms. Hudson-Williams notes that her all friends were "relaxed...(and) fresh faced," after being laid-off, and have used unemployment as a time to reflect, or embark on spiritual journeys.

I think this is all wonderful, and is something other unemployed readers (like myself) would like to consider.

But my question is: How can an unemployed person relax, and tap into their "creative selves" when the worry of having no means of support looms over them?

What is her secret?  
Please share it with us. ■

With a child's heart

"With a child's heart, go face the worries of the day. With a child's heart, turn each problem into play." A song by the beloved Michael Jackson expresses the innocence and carefree attitude of a child, that we as adults sometimes forget.

Watching my young grandchildren as they grow, moving through their young lives so happy and carefree, showing no concerns about how the bills will be paid or where their next meal will come from, my grandchildren "know" they will get something to eat.

Watching them at play is magical. To see them light up and their faces smile at what seems to be the smallest feat, like catching the ball I throw to them, brings out the child in me. In that moment, I become like them, the happy and carefree child forgetting about my worries and concerns. It is in God's words that we find encouragement to become as little children, and not to worry, but believe and have faith as we work our way through any obstacles. The child inside of us is still there to be realized and utilized.

When life's challenges become hard to bear, turn lemons into lemonade positively and playfully, by feeling with the child's heart within you. —Rhonda Hudson-Williams

★

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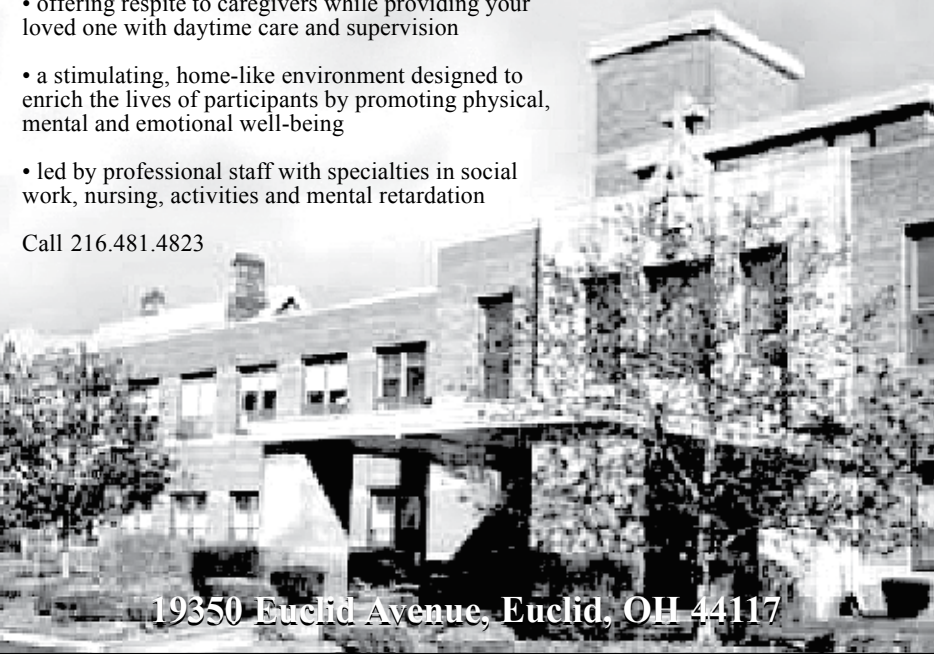
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The first 240 who qualify for WIA funding will be invited to attend two FREE half-day workshops: RESUME WRITING and INTERVIEWING SKILLS.

If you complete these workshops, you will be invited to attend an INVITATION ONLY Job Fair. The only people invited to the Job Fair are those who have completed the two workshops.

At the Job Fair, local employers will select 50 candidates for the Advanced Technology Academy program.

Selected candidates will be trained and placed in a PAID INTERNSHIP with the employer who selected them.

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WHEN: Tuesday, 9/7, Wednesday, 9/8, Friday, 9/10, 10am to 2pm. Thursday, 9/9, 2pm to 6pm.

WHAT TO BRING: Driver's License/State ID, Birth Certificate, Social Security Card, High School Diploma or GED Certificate, Proof of Income (3 Pay stubs if available) Proof of residency (Utility bill or letter in your name to current address.)

**If you have any questions, call me. Robert C. Stewart, RCC, Program Manager, Advanced Technology Academy, Cell - 216-470-6522, Office 216-987-3347, Fax: 216-987-3514.**

NORTHEAST SHORES

The House is a-Rockin': Accordion players welcome

Lee Chilcote

Although Frankie Yankovic, America's Polka King, rose to fame in this blue-collar community on the shores of Lake Erie, North Collinwood is better known these days for rock and roll. In fact, since the Beachland Ballroom opened on Waterloo Road ten years ago, the area has become a hotspot for musicians and artists of all kinds.

Now community leaders have a message for visitors: If you like it, why not call it home? North Collinwood, they say, is affordable, close to everything, and friendly to artists.

"We're marketing it as a living, breathing community and not just a nighttime destination," says Brian Friedman, head of Northeast Shores Development Corporation, a nonprofit community development organization in North Collinwood.

It's more than just a slogan, Friedman says – he's ready to sell you a house. Along with its marketing push, Northeast Shores has launched an effort to rehab vacant, foreclosed properties. After thoroughly rehabbing the

homes, the group offers them for sale. Friedman says that the target markets are musicians and artists who are seeking affordable places to live. The community supports artists by providing them with a sense of community and a place to create their work, he adds.

The target area, called the "Waterloo Arts District," is located on the residential streets off of Waterloo Road. To rehab the houses, Friedman's group has secured federal stimulus dollars from the city of Cleveland. They've also borrowed rehab funds at below-market interest rates with the help of Cleveland Action to Support Housing (CASH).

"We're excited to partner with Northeast Shores," says Marcia Nolan, Director of CASH, a nonprofit group that provides low interest loans to fix up properties in Cleveland. "In addition to a very low interest rate of about 3%, we provide technical assistance."

Here's how it works: Northeast Shores offers the rehabbed homes for sale for \$80,000

– \$100,000. Construction costs, including the cost of acquiring the property, are usually much higher, and yet grant funding from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), a federal program administered by Cleveland, helps to fill the gap between rehab costs and sales price. Once a buyer purchases the home, Northeast Shores completes the rehab to their specifications, and then sells the house to the new owner. Since the program started, Northeast Shores has sold more than 30 homes.

To qualify, buyers must meet income guidelines that are equal to 120% of Average Median Income, or about \$32,000 for a single individual. Friedman says that he does not have difficulty with interested buyers being over-qualified, because the income guidelines are generous enough to qualify a broad market.

What kind of homes do artists want? Ones with extra space, Friedman says. In fact, one of the program's challenges has been ensuring the homes have enough storage.

"If you're a real musician, then you have lots of guitars," he says.

Selling homes in today's market isn't easy, and Friedman cites a long list of challenges, including a shortage of actual buyers. Yet Northeast Shores has gotten some help from the artsy businesses that have sprung up along Waterloo Road, and from Arts Collinwood, a non-profit group that promotes arts in the community. The Beachland

Ballroom, Blue Arrow Records and Music Saves are among those businesses that have helped to market the Waterloo Arts District to their patrons.

"Our businesses are strong advocates for the community, and that has helped us to create a market," Friedman says.

John and Bonnie Polomsky, who work at the Beachland Ballroom, bought a rehabbed home on Muskoka Avenue in North Collinwood in November of last year. They first heard about the Waterloo Arts District from Beachland owner Cindy Barber.

"The house was in rough shape when we first saw it, but it had good bones," John Polomsky says. "Northeast Shores let us make some choices during the rehab, like opening up the dining room to create a more modern feel, and this made it feel like ours."

Polomsky, who has played drums in various bands around Cleveland, grew up in nearby Euclid. He's glad that he found an affordable opportunity to buy close to home.

"When we started looking, most of the homes that we could afford were not in good shape," he says. "This program allowed us to buy a home that was pretty much new."

*Lee Chilcote is a Cool Cleveland contributor, and works for Progressive Urban Real Estate and the Shaker Square Area Development Corporation. He is a non-fiction writer and poet. He lives in the in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood with his wife and daughter.*

Northeast Shores by the numbers

Brian Friedman

Each year, the staff and board of Northeast Shores persevere to make North Shores Collinwood a better place to work, and visit.

Recently, I was asked to share what we accomplished over the last 12 months. After finishing the tally, I was surprised how many lives we had the opportunity to improve over the last year.

Nine neighborhood homes were rehabbed and 108 apartment units were rehabbed at Lakeshore Beach Apartments. 24 families received free Sherwin Williams paint from the Cleveland Paint Program. 74 people were referred to credit counseling and/or loan programs. 25 homes were insulated through our weatherization activities. One storefront on East 185th Street was rehabbed through the Storefront Renovation Program. 82 businesses were assisted with a variety of needs including loan packaging, zoning issues, site selection assistance, and/or permitting issues. The LaSalle Theater was acquired and work has commenced on bringing the property back to its historic glory. Five neighborhood marketing events occurred including the second annual Alive on East 185th Parade and Sidewalk Sale. New East 185th Street signs and banners

were designed and installed. Eleven businesses added new signage to their buildings. 108 properties were monitored through the Cleveland Housing Court process. 4,701 residents attended 325 neighborhood meetings staffed by Northeast Shores. We were the fiscal agent to eight small volunteer initiatives that received \$24,000 for their efforts. Twenty rain barrels were delivered to reduce storm water runoff and we supported three community gardens.

These numbers alone do not share the whole story. Each person or business impacted by Northeast Shores had a need and we tried to fill that need. Every one of these numbers has its own story to tell but I wanted to at least share the raw statistics on how we did over the last year.

We still have a lot of work to do to have this neighborhood meet its full potential. If you have a neighborhood complaint or need, please do not hesitate to contact us at (216) 481-7660 so we can help!

*Brian A. Friedman is the Executive Director of Northeast Shores. He uses his TI-81 graphing calculator that we bought in high school for most of his math needs.*

Back-to-School at Lakeshore Beach Apartments

Denise Lorek

On Thursday, August 19, the management of Lakeshore Beach Apartments, Northeast Shores Development Corporation and "Shoes and Clothes for Kids" teamed up for the first "Back to School night". This event was held in the new Community Center located in the front of the apartment complex. Over 200 parents and children gathered for hot dogs and bookbags. "Shoes and Clothes for Kids" donated 90 bookbags to this event. Northeast Shores and Lakeshore Beach Apartments donated school supplies and food.

Myra Freeman-Pereria and her staff cooked over 200 hotdogs to feed the children and their parents before we started the bookbag give away. Just to make it more fun we put the children's names in a briefcase and pulled them out one by one. Myra said, "The joy on the faces of the children here when receiving

their bookbags was just priceless. I believe very passionately in "no child left behind", and with the help of Northeast Shores and "Shoes and Clothes for Kids" I think we helped make a great start to the new school year." There were lots of smiles and happy faces. We even gave some pencils and paper to the moms who are returning to school to learn critical job skills.

This is just the first part of making sure these children excel in school this year. The management of Lakeshore Beach is trying to start a mentoring/tutoring program to help the children with their homework.

*If you can spare some time and would like to help out, please call Myra at 216-383-4274 or Denise Lorek at 216-481-7660.*



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## COLLINWOOD NOTTINGHAM DEV CORP

## Help with fall chores for seniors

Jayne Lucas

### Cleveland Gutter Assistance Program for Seniors (CGAPS)

This short-term program assists limited-income Seniors with gutter cleaning. Interested parties may submit an application with supporting documents. To get an application, as well as assistance completing the application, call the Collinwood & Nottingham Villages Development Corporation at 216-383-9772.

### Leaf Raking Program

Over 3000 Greater Cleveland Boy Scouts and Leaders rake leaves annually for 1000+ Cleveland seniors through the Yard Charge Program. This collaborative effort is coordinated by the Departments of Aging, Public Service and City Planning. Completed applications are due to the City of Cleveland on September 8, 2010. For more information and/or to request an application, call Collinwood & Nottingham Villages Development Corporation at 216-383-9772.

## Tall grass: facts, potential fines and why you should just cut it!

Jayne Lucas

This is a friendly reminder from Mike Troha, the Code Enforcement specialist for Ward 11. Grass over 8 inches high is a violation of the City's Health Code. You can get ticketed and/or cited for having high grass.

### Why is tall grass a problem?

- Threatens public health by increasing the amount of allergy-triggering pollens in the air.
- Serves as a shelter for vermin, mosquitoes and other nuisances.
- Impedes the public's ability to use sidewalks.
- Reduces property values.
- Poses a fire hazard when it becomes dry.

### How can I make a vacant property next door look better?

Take five minutes to mow the front yard of a neighboring vacant property. We still encourage you to turn the property in for tall grass, as a longer term solution. Remember that addressing tall grass at vacant properties helps maintain property values of homes in the entire neighborhood.

Call 216-383-9772 or e-mail Mike Troha at [mct@cncvdc.org](mailto:mct@cncvdc.org) if you have any questions or would like to lodge a complaint about high grass at a neighboring property.

## Fall: A time for beautiful leaves, crisp morning air, & cleaning your gutters!

Jayne Lucas

### Unclogging and cleaning gutters

Gutters reroute the flow of water in and around one's home, but can easily become clogged by leaves and debris flowing along with the rushing rainwater. To combat this it is essential to regularly unclog one's gutters before and after a heavy rain so that water can flow freely without obstruction. Bring a rake and a green bin, because it can get messy.

### Cleaning gutters so that they don't freeze

Cleaning gutters is also essential to protecting the longevity of the gutters as well as preserving their use. In colder areas gutters might crack when backed-up water freezes in the recesses of the gutters, aggravating the problems with one's gutters. In addition, when gutters don't work properly, water can be inadvertently directed to your home's foundation, causing costly damage to your basement and foundation.

### Cleaning gutters usually means working on a ladder

To get high enough to clean your gutters, you will be working from a ladder, so ladder safety should be your most important consideration when cleaning gutters.

Always place your ladder on a stable, level area and if possible have someone hold the ladder to make sure it doesn't slip.

An extension ladder works best since it will reach up above the level of your roof line. Place the ladder against the gutter (make sure the gutter doesn't get damaged by putting a small piece of wood (like a short piece of 2" X 4") inside.

A couple of safety rules you should always follow when working from a ladder are:

Never reach out too far to the left or right (make sure the middle of your chest stays inside the sides of the ladder)

Never climb on or work from the top two rungs.

### Cleaning your gutters

Cleaning gutters is a messy job so prepare properly. Wear sturdy, leather work gloves to protect your hands and it's a good idea to protect your eyes by wearing safety glasses.

Start by positioning your ladder at a low spot of your gutter (usually at a downspout) then scrape out the built up accumulation up of leaves, twigs, seeds and bird droppings. The work gloves should protect your hands or you



could also use a garden trowel that fits inside the gutter.

Drop the debris onto the ground as you work (it's easy to rake it up when the job's done) or carry a plastic garbage bag up with you and put it in there.

Work your way along the gutter from the low end towards the higher end, always climbing down and moving the ladder, making sure not to reach out too far, as you work your way along.

The debris is easiest to remove when it's just damp (not soaking wet or dried out), so if it hasn't rained in a few days when you decide it's time to clean your gutters, spraying a little water on your roof before starting to clean your gutters will make your job easier.

After you've removed most of the debris, flush your gutters with water from your garden hose to rinse away any left behind.

If water won't drain through your downspout, it may have been blocked with built up debris. A plumber's snake run up from the bottom should be clear the blockage.

### A final word of caution

If you're not comfortable with heights or working from a ladder, hire a professional to clean your gutters. It may cost a few dollars, but your health and safety is worth it.

Read more: <http://www.doityourself.com/stry/why-maintain-clog-free-gutters#ixzz10TZ1MY3Z>

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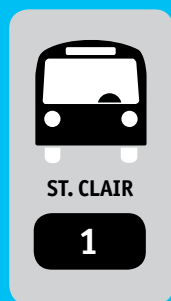


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Republican Candidate for  
City Council



First, it is important to draw the distinction between “duties” and “powers;” duties being what the new Council has to do, powers being what

the new Council can do.

The duties of the new Council more or less include setting up a structure for managing county properties and bureaucracies, approving the budget, creating a development plan, and developing a code of ethics. Pretty vanilla. However, it is the powers of the new Council that county residents should be concerned about.

The powers of the new Council (and even more so for the Executive) are extremely broad. Essentially, the express powers of the new Council allow it to contract with any third party as long as it can reasonably be construed as being under the umbrella of government “economic development.” However, the express powers for the new Council (and similarly for the Executive) are introduced by the following language:

“All powers of the Council shall... include, but not be limited to (my emphasis added), the following” (12 powers then listed). Because this language says the powers of the Council and Executive are not limited to the express powers, we must look to the rest of the charter for the limitations placed on this government.

Other than some vague language about respecting municipal rule, there are no limitations given to this new government's power. So other than state and federal law and their respective constitutions, this new county government has unlimited power.

I believe that is power that causes corruption: Absolute power corrupts absolutely and this new government has near absolute power.

I want to serve on the new County Council because I want to restrain the power of this new government. I am the only candidate sounding the alarm on this massive grant of power.

I want to allow Cuyahoga County to regain its rightful place as one of the leading economies in the country. If we are going to accomplish this, it will only be accomplished by lower taxes and by government getting out of the way.

I want to stop so called government “economic development” projects like the medical mart, which are nothing more than a wealth transfer from county taxpayers to politically connected special interests. The citizens of Cuyahoga County are being robbed and most do not even realize it.

I want to slash the sales tax. At 7.75% Cuyahoga County's sales tax is the highest in the state of Ohio by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of one percent. This is a huge depressant on the economy. Take the money saved by halting the corporate welfare that is government economic development and give it back to the people. Economic growth will occur organically if government just gets out of the way. It always has and always will.

I am President of Brakey Energy, a company that provides comprehensive energy management services to many of the largest companies here in northern Ohio. But this is not necessarily a reason

to vote for me.

Many businessmen say they want to run government like it's a business. I think government needs to be run like a government. We must recognize the nature of the animal we are dealing with.

I am very studied in Austrian free market economics; it is a great passion of mine. I am also well studied in political philosophy. I list among my influences Dave Hume, Friedrich Hayek, and Malcolm X. I will bring these influences to my governance.

This is a very good question. My answer is that I have no clue whatsoever. Any candidate who tells you that they do is being disingenuous.

The new government is going to have to work closely with the transition committee. We are going to have to feel our way around for quite some time because it is going to be very new without any precedent to rely on. It's going to be chaotic, messy, and the blind will be leading the blind.

I would encourage readers to have tempered expectations.

The quality of my performance will be directly correlated to how much I'm getting attacked in the press by the existing political establishment and politically connected special interests. If people are not complaining about me, that means I've sold out and I am no longer doing the people's work.

*Matt Brakey, 29, Republican. Cleveland Heights. Job: President, Brakey Energy. We provide comprehensive energy management services to some of northern Ohio's largest companies.*

Republican Candidate for  
City Council



I have reviewed the Cuyahoga County Charter and I fully understand the depth and breadth

of Article 3. Having spent about 30 years in government I am very familiar with all of those responsibilities. Appointing, establishing procedure, budget and management, etc, are all duties I am familiar with, having spent 18 years with Cuyahoga County.

Having worked as an assistant to George Voinovich when he was County Commissioner made me aware of most of these requirements. Senator Voinovich appointed me an Interim County Commissioner. See <http://www.aloberst.com> and you can understand my County background. Included are Economic Development, World Trade, Budget and Management, Management Information Systems, preparing Request for Audits, etc, all have prepared me. Included are my experiences with the City of Cleveland as an assistant director of the Human Resources and Economic Development and Port Control (Hopkins airport).

Having the above mentioned experience makes me uniquely qualified to perform. That is, I have the motivation, aptitude and training to start off the new county government as a successful operation.



COUNTY COUNCIL CANDIDATES OBSERVED

Julian Rogers  
Democratic Candidate for  
City Council



1) Describe the duties of the members of the County Council.

The County Council serves as the legislative arm of county government. The new charter outlines twelve specific duties of the County Council, but the primary role of the Council is to provide oversight over the overall operation of county government and to serve as a balance to the powers of the county executive. Additionally, as this will be the first Council under the new charter, new Council will have to play an instrumental role in transitioning to a new government structure. New departments will be created and some departments will be combined. It will be critical that the new Council have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of these departments so that the new government can operate efficiently and with no disruption in services to Cuyahoga County residents.

2) Why do you want to serve on the County Council?

With the right leadership and a focused vision, I believe that Cuyahoga County can be an example of how regions along the Great Lakes can reinvent themselves to be striving communities where families want to live and businesses wish to locate. My life, both professionally and privately has been devoted to making a difference in the lives of people in our community. I would like to continue that commitment to service as a member of the County Council.

I would like to help create a county government that is run efficiently, provides the highest quality of services and operates in a manner that is open to the public, fair and corruption-free. This will require an unwavering commitment to the highest ethical standards among all members of the Council, the County Executive and all employees of county government. The members of the new County Council need to be willing to work extremely hard to make sure we get this right the first time. The voters are expecting change and a better government and I am dedicated to meeting their expectations.

Finally, it is time for the next generation of leaders to take positions in government in order to bring new ideas and energy that Cuyahoga County so desperately needs.

3) What qualifications do you bring that make you the most qualified?

I have been a resident of District 10 for over 36 years and I understand the complex issues facing this community. I have served in high-level positions with large organizations, so I have a clear understanding of what it takes to problem solve, build consensus and provide oversight within a large institution such as the county government.

I served on the executive management team for seven years at the state's largest school district. While working at the Cleveland School District, I helped manage 77,000 students, 14,000 employees, 124 facilities, 600 school buses and a budget of nearly \$1 billion. Through my time with the District, I gained understanding of the type of leadership and organizational structures that are needed to be in place for a large organization to run smoothly.

Additionally, for the past four years, I have served on the Board of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA). In this capacity, I establish the policies and procedures of the organization, oversee and approve the budget, and evaluate the management of the state's largest public transit system. During my tenure on the Board, RTA completed the Euclid Corridor project and was recognized as the best public transit system in the country by the America Public Transit Association.

The County Council will be responsible for building a new form of government and my experience as Executive Director of Education Voters of Ohio (a state-wide public education advocacy organization) proves my capability in successfully creating new organizations. This year, Education Voters was presented with the Friend of Education Award by the Ohio Federation of Teachers for its excellent work on behalf of Ohio's 1.2 million public school children.

4) What will you do in your first weeks?

In the first weeks following the election, it will be important for members of the new Council and the County Executive to establish a strong working relationship, conduct a financial and performance audit of each County department and approve the leadership appointments referred by the County Executive. In addition, the Council must enact and adhere to a strong

ethics policy that will apply to all county employee and elected officials.

5) How will we know you are doing a good job?

The first indication will be a higher level of trust in county government among Cuyahoga County residents. We will see greater savings of taxpayer money while keeping services unchanged or increased as a result of a government operating more efficiently. More people will have a better understanding of the role and functions of county government and will know how to access the services it provides.

Julian Rogers, 36, Democrat. 3920 Orchard Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44121. Job: Executive Director, Education Voters of Ohio

Alan Rapoport  
Democratic Candidate for  
City Council



1. Describe for us the duties of a member of the County Council.

County Council will be a legislature. It will pass ordinances and resolutions. It will set policies and appropriate money. It will adopt budgets. It will confirm important appointments of the County Executive. Members will participate fully in all these activities, possibly through a committee system. Most importantly, Council can elect to have oversight responsibilities. The Charter creates a "right of inquiry." This allows members to bypass the County Executive and get information directly from County employees. In the end, the most important duty of the County Council may be to act as a check and a balance. It will only fulfill that duty meaningfully if members cooperate with each other and with the County Executive.

2. Why do you want to serve on the County Council?

We are about to experience the greatest change in a form of local government in our lifetime. I ask for an opportunity to participate in this change so I can help invent a delivery system for vital services that affect the health and welfare of our community. I

ask this because I believe I can make a positive difference, as I always have in the past. I also believe that if I help make Cuyahoga County a better place for everyone, it will be better place for me, too.

3. What qualifications do you bring that make you the most qualified?

I have government, legal and political experience. I served three terms as Mayor of Cleveland Heights. I have spent 35 years representing people of all kinds as their trusted legal adviser. I have spent 40 years creating and maintaining political contacts and relationships and learning political skills that will be very useful to a member of a brand new County Council. Each candidate in this race has skills, but I am the only one with this kind of extensive background in all three categories.

4. What will you do in your first weeks? Please describe in detail, to give our readers an idea of what this position will actually be like.

There will be two vital tasks in the first weeks. First, members of the new Council will need to form relationships and develop a team mentality. I plan to have networking meetings with other members to get to know them better and to discuss our common objectives. Second, members will need to review volumes of recommendations from County transition committees. They must start fast to plan change so that a new County government can conduct business from the beginning without interruption. This means review of the budget, work with the new County Executive to ratify his or her personnel appointments, and adoption of rules and procedures for the new government.

5. How, specifically, will we know that you are doing a good job?

I am result-oriented. As I have always done in the past, I will stand up publicly for government that is attentive to social needs, economical in how it uses public money, honest and transparent in its actions, and effective in addressing the problems of those I represent. You will see what I do and not just hear what I say I will do. That is how you will be able to evaluate my performance.

Alan Rapoport, 61, Democrat. Cleveland Heights, Attorney in Private Practice

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COUNTY COUNCIL CANDIDATES OBSERVED

Sharon Cole  
Democratic Candidate for  
City Council



1. Describe for us the duties of a member of the County Council.

Legislator and Advocate. This person will have the legislative duties of the new

County Government including introducing and voting on legislation, confirming candidates nominated by the County Executive, and approving County contracts. In addition, this person will be an advocate for the people of their district and the county as a whole. That means making sure the legislation introduced is effective, the approved candidates for leadership positions are qualified, and that the voice of the people is heard when it comes to decision-making in the new government structure.

2. Why do you want to serve on the County Council?

Because I want to give back to a community that has given me so much. This new government should be one of new ideas and a new direction for the County. However, the person elected to this position should also have government experience and a history of building partnerships to get things done. I would like to be a part of the creation of this new County government.

3. What qualifications do you bring that make you the most qualified?

I have worked on the ground in the legislative offices of Congresswomen Stephanie Tubbs Jones and Marcia L. Fudge at the federal level, State Representative Eugene R. Miller at the State Level, and Councilman Eugene R. Miller at the municipal level. I understand the appropriations process and the state operating and capital budgets, and know that even in tough economic times these dollars can be leveraged to improve the lives of the residents of Cuyahoga County.

Many of the residents in the core cities are Seniors, and my membership on the Ward 10 Department of Aging Advisory Council and taking care of my 93 year old grandmother has given me insight into caring for those in need. In addition, as Business Liaison in the Congressional Office I worked with Businesses, Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development Directors on ways to strengthen their bottom line to create jobs. Finally, I am also a Board member of the WECO Fund, Inc. an organization charged with increasing Financial Literacy among low-income people, a critical skill needed to navigate through today's challenging economy.

It is important that the person in this position understand the bureaucracy of government, but also have the problem solving and people skills needed to get things done. I believe that my education and experiences have prepared me to be successful in this position, and effectively serve the residents of Cuyahoga County.

4. What will you do in your first weeks? Please describe in detail, to give our readers an idea of what this position will actually be like.

First, I would begin relationship building. This would include meetings with other members of County Council, the County

Executive, and key leaders in County Government. One critical topic of discussion: plugging the hole in next year's budget. These meetings would be followed by conversations with leaders in the business, government, and non-profit communities to better gauge the challenges they face as they work to move the County in a positive direction.

Next, I would set up a series of meetings in the District 10 community to understand what is happening "on the ground" in the neighborhoods. This would allow residents to have a strong voice in the creation of their new government at the beginning and the ability to ask questions about what to expect.

I would push for quick adoption of an Ethics Code so that County residents have a policy they can use to hold their officials accountable. Finally, I would push for the swift creation of an Economic Development Commission so they can begin the task of creating a strong 5-year economic plan to support local businesses and create jobs.

5. How, specifically, will we know that you are doing a good job?

- 1) Effective legislation is introduced and passed at the County level.
- 2) Cuyahoga County continues to balance the budget as mandated by state law in a way that allows it to balance taking care of the people of Cuyahoga County with supporting economic growth.
- 3) The people of Cuyahoga County say so through community satisfaction surveys and feedback at community meetings.

Sharon Cole, 41, Democrat. 1949 Green Rd., #607 (Ward 10) Cleveland, OH 44110. Employment: On leave from job of Executive Assistant to Cleveland City Councilman Eugene Miller

Danny Williams  
Democratic Candidate for  
City Council



1. Describe for us the duties of a member of the County Council.

The powers and duties of the County Council are specifically prescribed in Sec.

3.09 of the Cuyahoga County Charter. In summary, they include the legislative authority for the County in the following areas: 1) appointment of any staff needed for the efficient operation of the Council; 2) establishment of procedures for contracting; 3) adoption of budgets; 4) setting of personal bonding requirements; 5) acquisition, construction, maintenance, etc. of property and public improvements; 6) creation of intergovernmental cooperation agreements; 7) levying of assessments for public improvements; 8) obtaining of information from County employees; 9) establishment of programs to provide financial aid for post-secondary education; and 10) the establishment of a code of ethics. To that, I would add, listening to and following the will of the people.

2. Why do you want to serve on the County Council?

Serving on County Council is a logical extension for me of two decades of public service. During my working career, I have been a local small business owner, high level public

administrator, and award-winning nonprofit executive. I left law practice 20 years ago because I felt a strong urge toward public service. I believe the perspectives I have gained from these varied experiences are precisely what is needed in this new government structure.

I have served as Executive Director of the Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland since 12/06. In this capacity, I see first-hand the impact of a County system that is broken. Our fragmented governmental structure has not spurred the economic growth needed to stem our loss of population and to build our tax base. Consequently, our citizens have lost the capacity to support their basic health, housing and other family needs. At the same time, those safety net institutions that have historically addressed these gaps have been chronically underfunded and their critical value underestimated. I believe I can bring a mature, creative and balanced approach to solving our County's problems.

3. What qualifications do you bring that make you the most qualified?

As a life-long resident who, with my wife of 30 years, raised two children in the District, I understand the challenges facing families that are struggling to lead productive lives. My educational background includes an undergraduate degree in Psychology from Princeton, law degree from the U. of Michigan, and Masters degree from the Weatherhead School of Management at CWRU. I served as Law Director in Mayor Michael White's administration and as Cuyahoga County Administrator. Over the last 15 years I have served in executive capacities at nonprofits focused on key health and human service issues.

4. What will you do in your first weeks? Please describe in detail, to give our readers an idea of what this position will actually be like.

The first order of business will be to establish the leadership ranks within the Council. The Charter requires that a President and V.P. be elected on the first business day of each year. In addition, we will need to determine our committee structure and the need for any administrative staffing. Also, if not resolved prior to our seating, issues like where we will meet and what office space we will require will all need to be determined. After these basic matters are addressed, I will turn my attention to the recommendations developed by the various transition teams that have been studying County functioning over the last 6 months to determine how we should prioritize our work. Finally, I will seek out an efficient process for meeting with as many of the mayors and council leaders in the county as possible to start to understand their respective needs and concerns.

5. How, specifically, will we know that you are doing a good job?

One measure will be the professionalism with which we conduct of the County's business. Are we efficient? Are we transparent? Are we creative? Are we civil toward one another? A second measure will be how

successful we are in freeing up resources to use for economic development and other community priorities through the development of appropriate cooperation agreements. Longer term, we will have done a good job if can you see gradual improvement across a range of community indicators, including unemployment, educational attainment, population growth, new business start-ups, and the "greening" of our environment, among other criteria.

Danny Williams, 56, Democrat. I have lived at 2219 Elandon Drive, Cleveland Hts., OH 44106 for the last 17 years. I earn my living as Executive Director of The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland, one of the oldest free clinics in the country and by far the largest in Ohio. The Free Clinic provides high quality medical, dental, mental health, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS services free of charge to over 10,000 people every year, with a paid staff of 53 and more than 300 medical and lay volunteers.

ALBERT OBERST

continued from page 8

3. What qualifications do you bring that make you the most qualified?

See 1) and 2) above.

4. What will you do in your first weeks? Please describe in detail, to give our readers an idea of what this position will actually be like.

The best way to assure a proper start next January is in the preparation. I have been attending many of the transition meetings that have been provided. In the coming months I will continue to attend these meetings and learn what is necessary to get a headstart. I anticipate many hours of "hard and smart" work with all of the other council members.

I, also, intend to meet with many of the departments and determine what their needs are. It will be imperative that the

new county executive will plan many meetings in preparation for January 2011. Since my particular expertise is in economic development and international competition, I will be one of the leaders among the council members to properly prepare this department.

5. How, specifically, will we know that you are doing a good job?

The transition team has set up a communications team. It will be our duty to come up with definite criteria so that we are measuring our progress. This progress will be publicized. My website will inform the people of District 10 of the County Council what I am accomplishing.

Albert Knute Oberst, JD, 76, Republican. Cleveland Heights. Job: Retired volunteer, living on pensions and stock income. Also, I will not take a paycheck....I am giving back.



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# COUNTY COUNCIL CANDIDATES OBSERVED

## John Crist Democratic Candidate for City Council



### 1. Describe for us the duties of a member of the County Council.

The County Councilmembers have three primary duties. First, to represent their district. That means un-

derstanding their district's unique needs and responding appropriately.

Second, to develop, along with the rest of the candidates and the executive, a plan to move the county forward, bring jobs, create accountability and make Northeast Ohio great. We need big goals. We should expect Northeast Ohio to be the best area in the country.

Third, and very importantly, to restore trust and accountability creating an openness that the County has lacked in recent years. That means no backroom deals. No secret hiring. And always public meetings.

### 2. Why do you want to serve on the County Council?

Many of the candidates here were "recruited" by powerful friends that want to retain power. Other candidates have run for different offices before and wanted to be politically involved. I'm running because I'm passionate about our county and believe that this area can be great again with the right candidates.

We must encourage smart growth that takes advantages of our advantages. We have the fourth largest body of water in the United States. We have world-class healthcare facilities and universities. What we do with these advantages could define our economy for years to come.

In short, I want to serve because I believe the job is important and should be performed by people who are passionate, smart enough and hopeful enough to truly help.

### 3. What qualifications do you bring that make you the most qualified?

I have two graduate degrees (J.D. and M.B.A.) from Case Western Reserve University and have years of experience working with nonprofit groups. My biggest qualification, though, is that I am extremely passionate about changing Northeast Ohio and sincerely want to help. As a result, I haven't taken any money from special interest groups, and have spent most of my campaign directly contacting and engaging the community.

### 4. What will you do in your first weeks? Please describe in detail, to give our readers an idea of what this position will actually be like.

The first thing is to develop a master plan with the executive and the other councilmembers to ensure that Health and Human Services are not disrupted. The County's budget

is \$1.4 billion and we need to ensure that the many programs supported by the County will continue uninterrupted.

### 5. How, specifically, will we know that you are doing a good job?

This is a great question! You will know that I'm doing a good job if 1) You have the ability to discuss with me your unique concerns regarding county issues; 2) You see the county begin to develop a lakefront development plan (which is one issue I am particularly passionate about); and 3) You see the County programs begin to respond to strong, new leadership by doing more work with less money (working efficiently); creating a master economic development plan and supporting health and human services (working smarter).

I am very passionate, for example, about improving the way the county handles its child services. It's not a question of money; it's a question of leadership. I would work to take a leadership role in improving how our child services are structured and operated.

*John Crist, 28, Democrat. Cleveland Heights, graduated from CWRU Law School in May*

## KC Petraitis Democratic Candidate for City Council



### 1. Describe for us the duties of a member of the County Council.

The new County Council has the responsibility of helping create a new government and provide a check on the new and very powerful County Executive position. It is a position that I believe should be used to encourage regionalism by crossing city and ward boundaries to create a network of leaders to better serve our residents.

### 2. Why do you want to serve on the County Council?

My educational background and current service in the community has allowed me to understand the issues that affect those in the County the most. I have campaigned on the issue of foreclosures, vacancies, and brownfields as the primary goal if elected. I understand the frustration of residents who have to deal with these magnets for crime and eyesores in their community. It affects their home equity and neighborhoods. I see the County Land Bank as an important tool to help correct these problems and I would allocate more funds to the Land Bank to ensure it meets its goals and helps our residents. Despite our looming budget problems this has to be our priority. If we do not stop the bleeding we will lose Cleveland and ultimately our region.

### 3. What qualifications do you bring that make you the most qualified?

My experience and work with creating organizations and understanding the foreclosure problems plaguing our area make me a viable candidate. I have a Masters in Public Administration where my concentration was in economic development from Cleveland State University. I am a public administrator by trade and not a politician. We need to have people capable of working outside the box and who are not politically constrained when it comes to creating this new government. My service at Northeast Shores has given me a fantastic understanding and network of leaders in the community who are so instrumental when change is being created and implemented.

### 4. What will you do in your first weeks? Please describe in detail, to give our readers an idea of what this position will actually be like.

The first few weeks will be spent working out the kinks in our new system of government. New legislation will be passed regarding how our County government will work, operate, and it will help create a sense of order to all the variety of work being done. We also have the problem of balancing a large budget deficit of \$20 Million. So, we will have our work cut out for us upon election.

### 5. How, specifically, will we know that you are doing a good job?

The charter lists the County Council position as part-time which I disagree with. I am campaigning as a full-time legislator that will also constantly try to meet with everyday citizens and organizations in order to always keep my feet on the ground and make laws to best serve my residents. Election Day is a powerful indicator of how I am doing. If I am voted out in 2 years I obviously did a poor job. If I am elected overwhelmingly than I would be extremely happy with my service and continue to conduct business in a manner I see fit.

*KC Petraitis, 24, Democrat. Collinwood, Ward 11, Cleveland. Job: Currently unemployed, former employee at the Cleveland Lakefront State Park.*

## Barbara Thomas Democratic Candidate for City Council



### 1. Describe for us the duties of a member of the County Council.

- Introduces and passes ordinances and resolutions.
- Appoints and provide for the compensation

and duties of the Clerk of Council and necessary staff.

- Establish departments, divisions and sections under the supervision of the County Executive, such as boards, agencies, commissions and authorities.
- Establishes procedures under which the

County Executive may employ experts and consultants.

- To establish procedures governing the making of County contracts and the purchasing of County supplies and equipment pursuant to competitive bidding.
- To adopt and amend the County's annual tax budget, operating budget, and capital improvements program and to make appropriations for the County.
- To provide for the acquisitions, construction, maintenance, administration, rental and leasing of property.

### 2. Why do you want to serve on the County Council?

I am seeking a seat on the County Council, because I believe that I can help the citizens in the County with my knowledge, skills, and experience in public service. I also believe that good government is attainable through honesty, integrity and accountability for one's actions.

### 3. What qualifications do you bring that make you the most qualified?

For the past 7 years I have been a Councilwoman for the City of East Cleveland and performed all duties required by the East Cleveland Charter in a prudent and efficient manner. As a legislator I have introduced and supported ordinances and resolutions that govern our city. Prior to this I worked for the County for 33 years as a Customer Service Representative and the last seventeen years as AFSCME local 3360 union president, representing 2000 union employees. I served on the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS), representing all 88 counties' 107,000 county employees across the state.

### 4. What will you do in your first weeks? Please describe in detail, to give our readers an idea of what this position will actually be like.

I will acquaint myself with my colleagues and exchange ideas regarding the future of the County. I will familiarize myself with information regarding all facets related to the job.

### 5. How, specifically, will we know that you are doing a good job?

I will communicate with the residents in the district by newsletter, attending ward club meetings, and sponsoring public forms. I will reply to any interested agency or media requesting an update on my progress. I will also encourage my colleagues to make a joint effort to report our progress to residents of the County.

I will sponsor legislation that will specifically meet the goals of both my constituents and the County.

*My name is Barbara J. Thomas, I am 70 years old, a Democrat and I have been a resident of East Cleveland, Ohio for 45 years; I am retired receiving a pension from Metro Health Medical Center, I am now receiving income as an East Cleveland City Council Member.*

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Oct. 23rd!**



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## FAITH IN COLLINWOOD

# Aspinwall Church of God Christmas in October 2010, Liberia

Mary McElrath and Reverend James Walden

Liberia, West Africa is the destination of the Aspinwall Church of God, Christmas in October 2010 barrel project. This is the 4th time that Liberia has received aid from the Mountain Assembly Church of God. Over the last 30 years Aspinwall Church of God, as a mission of mercy has sent barrels containing rice, beans, pasta, clothing, medical supplies, bicycles, wheelchairs, crutches, over the counter medications and household items to Liberia, Zimbabwe, Dominican Republic, Haiti, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, India and many others. The Church of God Mountain Assembly has

over fifty churches and a children's home there.

Liberia was established in 1847 by America on coastal Africa. This movement was perceived as a viable alternative to eliminating slavery on the continental United States. Freed slaves as well as others returned to Africa and named the country to reflect their liberty. The government was structured to resemble the American government. The Liberian red, white, and blue flag bears a strong resemblance to the American flag. Rubber was Liberia's major export as well as gold and diamonds. However, the demand for rubber has

declined considerably.

Liberia has experienced constant civil wars from 1989 to 2004. Poverty is rampant. The average Liberian lives on \$1.25 a day. In 2005 Liberia elected the only female president on the continent of Africa.

On October 26th of this year a 40 foot container which holds 260 fifty-five gallon barrels will leave this Collinwood neighborhood on its way to Liberia.

*If there are any questions or donations please call Pastor James Walden @ 268-0879.*

## SCHOOLS

## Lou Slapnick, more than a coach

Mike Gallagher

Long before the Miami Heat, the team Clevelanders now love to hate, will ever become a dynasty, the Lady Railroaders of Collinwood High have blazed a trail of greatness unrivaled in local track and field.

The key ingredient to their success is coach Lou Slapnick, who has retired after 32 years of teaching and coaching.

How about seventeen City of Cleveland championships in seventeen years of coaching at Collinwood, along with nine state championships, the result of his drive and dedication to his beloved Lady Railroaders?

Coach Slapnick, or 'Slap' as his students and players like to call him, was a standout athlete at St Joseph High school (for younger readers, St. Joe's and Villa Angela were separate schools at one time). His main sport was baseball, and it earned him a scholarship to Ashland College. Coach Lou was a fine pitcher, who in his words "could really bring it, but that's about all I could do with the ball" began his college studies by majoring in business, thinking that he may be involved in the family floral business. Eventually, though, his love of sports and working with young people led him to change his major to education, with coaching in mind.

He started his teaching career at Myron T. Herrick Jr High in 1975 teaching Physical Education. He transferred to Patrick Henry Jr high in 1978, continuing to teach physical education, and began his coaching career. He coached boys basketball and boys and girls track where he established a reputation by winning three city titles in basketball, and eight consecutive city championships in track.

Following the encouragement of Leonard Jackson, the commissioner of sports for the

Cleveland schools, Lou applied for and accepted the position of girls track coach, at Collinwood in 1994.

Some of his biggest memories are the 1st state championship in 1997, with the 2010 state championship also being right up there, the icing on the cake, going out as a state champion. He is proud of the fact that in addition to the nine state championships, his teams were able to score in the state meet all seventeen years.

'But, my most cherished memories are the friendships and love that I have developed with the girls over the years', says Coach Lou.

His greatest disappointments have been girls who did not follow up on college, or went off to college and made some mistakes, and did not fulfill their potential.

As impressive as these track feats are, they are not nearly the whole story. Slap's impact goes far beyond the track and court. As Ernie Harris, one of his colleagues and fellow coaches at Collinwood, puts it: "Coach Slap may ultimately be known not for track, but for producing healthy, intelligent young ladies."

His Lady Railroaders were adept in the classroom; Slap helped develop many valedictorians, salutatorians and high academic class rankings among his runners.

Several of his former students and players shared their thoughts with me about Coach Slapnick:

Brittany Jones, class of 2005: 'Schoolwork came before everything else with coach..he taught us so much about the meaning of hard work, dedication, and being like a family.. There were so many girls who did not have fathers, some who did not have parents, he

took them in, and made us feel like family.. I love him so much.. he knows so much about everything, not just running and jumping'..

Reverend Erik Howard, a student at Patrick Henry Junior High near the start of Lou's tenure there: 'He is a man who will be a friend for life. He treated me like an adopted son, and that's how he treated every student and player. I received my first and last paddling from him at Patrick Henry. I made sure I was never in trouble after that. His retirement is bittersweet--so well deserved, but now he is no longer there to affect the lives of so many..'

Paula Spencer, class of 2003: 'Coach taught us persistence, discipline and teamwork..Just like at school, we cannot pick our teammates at our jobs. Having learned how to function as a team has been so important to me on my job at Huntington bank'..

Ricardo Crumble, a student and basketball player at Patrick Henry 'Aside from sports he taught me how working hard at school and life is so important to achieving your goals, the teamwork skills that he taught us helps so much on my job at the Federal Reserve..He has touched so many peoples lives..

Shantell Lewis, class of 2005: 'Throughout a family structure that was ever-changing, Slap was always there for me, he was the stability in my life.. we stayed in touch through college, Not often that someone comes in and stays in your life.. He is a coach, mentor and father all in one.'

Rhondalynn Crawford, class of 1998: 'He was an instrumental person in all of our lives, went out of his way all the time to make sure we had what we needed to be presentable young ladies..the most valuable tools he has given us is to be dedicated to what we do, to finish what



we set out to do..try to make what ever we do leave a legacy..the work ethic that he gave me helps in my professional life - my job is not 9 to 5 and requires a lot of persistence..'

Rochelle Hall, class of 2005: 'Although I grew up in difficult circumstances I was able to mature under coach Slap's leadership, he told me regardless of my situation I was able to become what I wanted to become.. a lot of times young people from a poor urban area find themselves in difficult situations and then use that as an excuse to not succeed..Slap did not allow us to do that, he took us around the world and told us : you can do this, you can succeed....'

Having spent the time with Coach Slapnick and his student athletes I came away with the belief that our community has truly been blessed by his remarkable efforts and achievement..

Teachers and coaches have the potential to strongly affect lives, to provide lifelong, and life changing lessons.

We in Collinwood are fortunate to have a man who did that so admirably, so effectively guiding the lives of so many young people..

Thank you, Coach. ■

## Donation of Hair = Fabulous back-to-school look for area teen!

by Susan Brandt

Jillian Llewain, a very active sophomore from Euclid, Ohio received a fabulous new, back-to-school haircut at Beachland Hair Designs. In return the hair was donated to "Wigs for Kids", a local Cleveland hair bank, making wigs specifically for children with medical issues, that may have caused them to lose their hair.

Jillian donated nearly 18 inches of hair, afterwards it was carefully styled by Susan Brandt, owner and operator of Beachland Hair Design. What a fabulous way to start the new year in school. Jill said, that not only did she love the style, she felt lighter, and more comfortable, when she went swimming, in the later days of her summer vacation.



Jillian -Before



After - Jillian w/ stylist Susan Brandt



**On Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>  
Elect**

**Sharon Cole**

**Cuyahoga County Council,  
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**For more information: (216) 912-0172  
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## ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT &amp; HISTORY

## Speakeasy II: Upstage Players Fundraiser promises a lot for a little

Matthew Orgovan



Upstage players with "jazz hands" at last years event.

Speakeasy II, a fundraising night of fun, games of chance, food, and a few surprises, will benefit Collinwood's own UpStage Players and the Slovenian Workmen's Home. The October 2nd event will begin at 7:00 p.m. For only \$10, patrons will surely get their money's worth and more!

The night will feature: a New Orleans-style jazz band, selections of scrumptious appetizers, a free adult beverage, an affordable cash bar, appearances by the Up-Stage Players Children's Theater Group, a Chinese auction of locally donated and handmade items and services, and lots of surprises and good times.

Perhaps the highlight of the evening will be a wide selection of games of chance that patrons can partake in. Winnings will be

dispensed in the form of Chinese auction tickets that players can use to try to win their prize(s) of choice. Chinese auction items range from locally handmade goods to fine art to event tickets to weekend get-aways, and everything in between.

Attendees are encouraged to dress in 1920s vintage clothing, but all reasonable attire will be accepted. Rumor has it that one of the night's surprises will be opportunities for friends and "foes" to pay to have fellow attendees thrown in "mock jail." The event will take place at the Slovenian Workmen's Home, 15335 Waterloo Road. For more information, call (216) 261-7591.

To learn more about UpStage Players, visit [www.upstageplayers.com](http://www.upstageplayers.com).

## LONG AWAITED TOWER INSTALLED ON WATERLOO

continued from page 1

yards. Visitors also poured onto Waterloo in order to spend the day at the Euclid Beach Amusement Park just north off of Lake Shore Blvd. After the trolley service ended, the amusement park closed and I-90 cut the Waterloo neighborhood off from the railyards. This intersection became a large and ungainly place for cars and trucks to pass through and a hazard for the unwary pedestrian."

"The Waterloo placemaking Tower stakes a flag, of sorts, into reclaiming that area as a new civic heart for this reawakening district now reprogrammed for the visual and entertainment arts. The tower will act as the centerpiece of the new pedestrian-friendly plaza next to Arts Collinwood Gallery and the Café at Arts Collinwood. As such, the raw stainless steel structure will become a site for temporary public art installations and live music performances. Like the neighborhood around it, it becomes the container to house and display the incredible talent and gifts of the Waterloo community.

Sarah Gyorki, Executive Director at Arts Collinwood stated, "The Waterloo Public Art Selection Committee has been established to review artist submittals that will be solicited following the course of each season throughout the year. Congratulations to Mike Moritz and to Chris Diehl for the work that they have done. Now that the tower's in place, Robin Van Lear will collaborate with another artist after a site visit. As soon as we have the proposals in, we'll get started on the reviewing process, and soon the first display of public art will fill the frame. Stay tuned."

## WATERLOO TOWER UNMASKED

continued from page 1

and capturing the public's imagination giving passers-by one more reason to stop on Waterloo. This project gives us all another reason to keep looking up. Phase 2 is the stage decking on the lower level and first art installation along with electricity to power the stage and lighting. By the way, how do you like the LEAN? Send comments, praise and criticism to: [waterloarttower@gmail.com](mailto:waterloarttower@gmail.com)

Mike Moritz is an artist and the owner of Moritz Wood and Metal.



## "Memories of Our Lake" mural unveiled

Susan Brandt

"Memories of Our Lake" was the title given to the 14th mural produced by the City of Cleveland Bureau of Cultural Arts "Mural My Neighborhood" Program. On display at 18324 Lakeshore Blvd., the mural is the second one in North Collinwood. It depicts activities in and around the lake neighborhood, and includes picture of our beloved Euclid Beach.

## Chris Seaman: The art of character

continued from page 1

My favorite contemporary fantasy artist might have to be James Gurney (creator of the Dinotopia series of children's book) and my favorite classical artist might have to be Hieronymus Bosch. Add about another 100 artists on top of that...

**ET: Did you study from "how-to-draw" books when you were young, similar to the book you created?**

Oh yeah! I bought "How to Draw Comics the Marvel Way" and never looked back. I think I still have it somewhere.


**ET: Is drawing still fun for you, or has it gotten to become simply a job?**

Always fun. When things get stale it's important to step out of your comfort zone as an artist. We are all creatures of habit and get stuck in ruts from time to time. I try to mix it up when I can. Maybe take a new approach or get


to the museum or comic book store. Having other really talented artists as friends always helps to get a fresh pair of eyes on a project.

The exhibition runs through September 10th and is free and open to public. Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 11 am to 11 pm. Sunday 9am to 5 pm. The Arts Collinwood Gallery is at 15605 Waterloo Rd, in Collinwood. For more info, go to [artscollinwood.org](http://artscollinwood.org), 216-692-9500.

*If you are an artist living or working in Collinwood, please tell us your story, and let us expose the neighborhood to your work. If you know or like a local artist, or one who exhibits locally, become a Collinwood Observer Arts Reporter, and interview them or do a story. As always, submit stories and pictures to [www.collinwoodobserver.com](http://www.collinwoodobserver.com). Go to the CO site, click on Member Center, sign in, and submit your story! Help Collinwood celebrate itself.*



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YOUTH AND FAMILY

# The Grandmothers...*The Sophia Project*

Dear Grandmas,  
*There is a sweet little girl who lives next door who is FIVE, whose single mother turns her loose every morning allowing anyone else in the neighborhood to take care of her all day. If she could she would live in my backyard with my little girls. Her mom works nights and sleeps all the time. I can't keep feeding this little girl and keep breaking up fights she gets into with neighborhood kids, including mine because she's pretty desperate for attention and she's not good at crossing the street either. I work also. At home. Help! (It's after school too!)*  
—Colleen D. (not a mean mother or a bad neighbor REALLY!)

Dear Colleen,  
We believe you! You're not a mean mother or a bad neighbor. We believe in fact that you're a caring mother and the kind of neighbor everyone should have. You have enough on your plate already, with young children and a job, and yet clearly your main concern isn't that you're being inconvenienced by Sophia's – let's call her Sophia – constant presence at your dining room table and in your yard, but her safety.  
All we can tell you is what you already know: this cannot continue. A totally unsupervised young child who is "desperate for attention," is left in the care of whomever, and has shaky street-crossing skills, needs more protection than she's getting. You didn't say whether or not you know her mother and have had a chance to talk to her, maybe get to know

her, but that's where we would recommend you start.  
In our past lives as directors of day care centers, we Grandmothers had a lot of experience with children we suspected weren't getting adequate protection. And the first lesson we learned was, never jump to conclusions. Our practice was to develop a relationship with the children's parents, to learn about their situation at home and at work, before we assumed that we had a case for the Department of Children and Family Services. We would tell the parents what we had observed, offering advice and counsel and possible solutions, long before we made that call, if we made it at all. We tempered our advice with empathy, sincerely given, because we knew how hard it can be sometimes to raise small children on little sleep and less money.  
In ideal circumstances, you would get to know Sophia's mom, find out what her job is that she's so tired she sleeps all day, discover what's keeping her from finding appropriate child care arrangements for her daughter. Maybe she's lonely, and anxious, and would welcome visits, or opportunities to sit drinking coffee with you in your kitchen while the girls play together. You could do some research, and recommend babysitters, and after-school and day care programs that would be suitable for Sophia. (Starting Point, a day care resource and referral agency at 216-575-0061, could be helpful.) Tell her that you understand how exhausted she must be, how overwhelmed she

must feel, but also tell her about your fears for Sophia's safety. If you are willing, agree to regularly scheduled playdates for Sophia with your children, making sure that she understands their structure and your limitations. Then, if after your efforts you still see Sophia regularly running loose around the neighborhood, a call to 216-696-KIDS would be indicated. We would suggest that, immediately afterward, you call Sophia's mother and tell her that you've made the call and why.  
There are so many Sophias in this city that the Department of Children and Family Services employees have to struggle to keep up with them all, but with any cooperation at all from the children's parents they can truly be of help, offering classes and programs and advice that can make a huge difference in the life of a child. Their goal is not to snatch children away from their parents, but to strengthen families, keep them together.  
Of course, these may not be ideal circumstances. You may have already tried a couple

of times to contact Sophia's mother, but she failed to answer the door or the phone. And it is not your job, after all, as it was ours as day care directors, to advise the mothers of troubling children. You have your own children and responsibilities, and limited time. Yours is a difficult position to be in, and we will be thinking about you, as well as about Sophia and her mother. Please let us know how it turns out.  
*If you have a parenting question, please email it to us at [thegrandmothers@collinwoodobserver.com](mailto:thegrandmothers@collinwoodobserver.com). Or mail it to The Grandmothers, Collinwood Observer, 650 E. 185th St., Cleveland, OH 44119.*  
*The Grandmothers are Kathy Baker, Maria Kaiser, Gann Roberts and Ginny Steininger. They meet at Hanna Perkins Center, 19901 Malvern Road, which houses the Hanna Perkins School and the Reinberger Parent/Child Resource Center. For information call Barbara Streeter (216) 991-4472.*

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NAN'S NOTES

by Nan Kennedy

COLLINWOOD UNVEILED:  
A UNIQUE HOUSE TOUR, SEPTEMBER 19

For years, before I met a resident of the Villa Beach enclave, I walked past wondering what lay beyond that old stone arch; those of you who are also wondering might want to join the house tour, which will whisk us through the arch for part of a delightful evening; we'll also explore a beach street's park and assess the quality of its sunset viewing (of course there'll be a sunset).

A repeat of last year's highly agreeable tour of some of our neighborhood's more fascinating homes, Unveiled 2010 will kick off with a private viewing of new works by artist Matthew Dibble at the Arts Collinwood gallery, coupled with a wine and cheese reception. Guests will also be invited to tour Azure, the splendid art glass studio across from Arts Collinwood, before boarding a limobus to visit beautiful lakefront neighborhoods, tour wonderfully eclectic homes, meet artists, hear musicians and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. After a beautiful Lake Erie sunset, end the evening at the Arts Collinwood Café with dessert and coffee ... a lovely evening to end the summer.

Sunday, September 19, 4:30-9 pm. Tickets \$75 per person. Tickets from Arts Collinwood, 216-692-9500.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Collinwood/Nottingham Historical Society meeting, Thursday, September 16, 6:30 pm, Lithuanian Hall, 877 E 185.

SPEAKING OF EGGS

Cavotta's Nursery on Nottingham has added goats to the chickens already living there; it's

returning to its roots as an urban farm. Maybe history will go on circling back, and all those vacant lots we're accumulating will turn back into the vineyards many of them once were. Its' being done elsewhere in Cleveland; why not here?

Cavotta's Nursery [www.cavottas.com](http://www.cavottas.com)  
19603 Nottingham, 216-692-0300; Monday - Friday 9-7; Saturday 9-5; Sunday 10-4.

AT THE LIBRARY

**Preschool Story Time**, Monday 10:30 - 11:00 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](mailto:cpl-memnot@cpl.org). Welcome to a New School Year!

**Memorial-Nottingham Branch Teacher, Day Care Personnel and Parent Open House**

Thursday, September 16, 2010, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. We invite all North-Collinwood teachers, day care personnel and parents/guardians for our very first open house! Come and discover all the wonderful resources the Cleveland Public Library Memorial-Nottingham Branch has to offer as well as take a tour of our juvenile/teen area. For more information, please contact the Children's Librarian.

FARMERS' MARKET

Quick visit to the market on Wednesday (early, to make sure of getting eggs - aren't we all glad we don't buy from factory farms?) netted peaches, corn, a big salad onion, Yukon Gold potatoes (Francis thinks they're Yukon Gold, they certainly taste good) and of course the eggs. I could also have brought home can-

taloupe, watermelon, tomatoes, green beans, garlic, any number of cheeses, little new red potatoes (the Yukon Gold are new, too, of course - but they're large, which somehow doesn't count), cucumbers, zucchini, plums - and more. Not to mention spices, jewelry and genuine miscellaneous. You'll have to go look.

Ohio Direction Card EBT customers, with support from the Gund Foundation, get an additional \$5 in tokens per visit to the Coit Rd Farmers' Market if the card holder makes a minimum purchase of \$5. This offer is also available at the Downtown Farmers' Market, Kamm's Corners Farmers Market and Tremont Farmers' Market.

Coit Road Farmers' Market is located at the corner of Coit & Woodworth Road in East Cleveland. [www.coitmarket.org](http://www.coitmarket.org). Open year-round Saturday 8 am to 1 pm; Wednesday, 8 am to 1 pm, mid-April to mid-December; and Monday, 4-7 pm, June to October. 216-249-5455 during market hours.

DATES TO SAVE

**Taste the Farmers' Autumn: October 4**  
The Coit Road Farmers Market presents The Taste Of Autumn 2010 Benefit: Monday, October 4, 6 - 9 pm, at the Beachland Ballroom. Taste a true cross section of the slow food movement in Northeastern Ohio. The farmers are donating the ingredients, the chefs and musicians are donating their talent to support the Coit Road Farmers' Market. The benefit will include information about the market, community gardens and local farmers.

Tickets and directions are available at the Beachland Ballroom by calling 216-383-1124. You can also buy tickets for \$35 at the Coit Road Farmers' Market or online at [www.coitmarket.org](http://www.coitmarket.org).

**Drink Wine at Sunset: October 2**

The Friends of the Henn Mansion cordially invite you to a Sunset Wine Tasting Saturday, October 2, 4-7 pm. Enjoy wines from five renowned Ohio wineries, light hors d'oeuvres, music by Don Perry and (hopefully) a wonderful sunset. Make it a memorable evening, invite a group of friends.

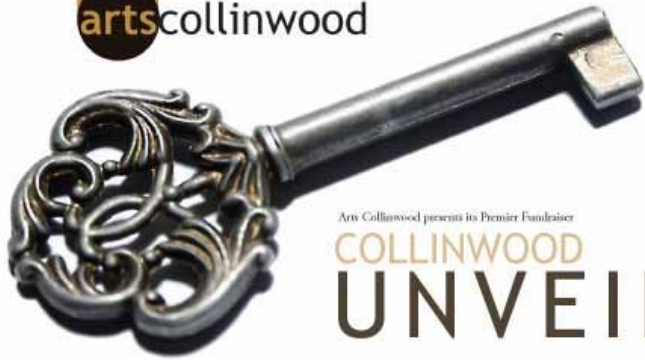
Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Go to [www.hennmansion.org](http://www.hennmansion.org) for details and a reservation form. Or call 216/731-5060; press 1 for special event information. Reservations are limited, so be sure to get yours in early.

AT THE PARK

**Coastweeks Cleanup/Creek cleanup:** September 11, Wildwood, 10 am-12 pm  
**Fall Family Campout:** September 18-19  
**Dike 14 Fall Open House:** September 25  
**Euclid Beach Remembered:** September 26

If you are attending any of these events, classes, meetings, or concerts, and would like to report on what is happening for the rest of the community, please take notes and take pictures! Then sign onto [www.collinwoodobserver.com](http://www.collinwoodobserver.com), click on Member Center (on the left side of the home page) sign in and submit your stories and pictures. We'll see you in the paper!

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RSVP at [www.artscollinwood.org](http://www.artscollinwood.org) or call 216.692.9500.


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HOROSCOPES

by the Observer Staff

**AQUARIUS \*\*\*\*\***  
(Jan 20 – Feb 18) It's time to get out of the rut, the door is wide open. If at first you don't succeed redefine success. This month if your nose runs and your feet smell you are upside down. Lucky Number: 14

**PISCES \*\*\*\*\***  
(Feb 19 – Mar 20) Take a break, and have some fun. Go to lunch at Chili Peppers. This month never do card tricks for the group you play poker with. Lucky Number: 77

**ARIES \*\*\*\*\***  
(Mar 21 – Apr 19) No one heads out on the road without a roadmap like an Aries. Practice patience and charity. This month remember first pillage then burn. Lucky Number: 62

**TAURUS \*\*\*\*\***  
(Apr 20 – May 20) Stay steadfast and stubborn. You may have a problem in your family, work, personal, or romantic relationships. This month confession is good for your soul, but bad for your career. Lucky Number: 2, 7, & 17

**GEMINI \*\*\*\*\***  
(May 21 – June 20) This will be a great month, you should be happier than a kitten with a Q-tip. Avoid fruit. This month the early bird gets the worm but the second mouse gets the cheese. Lucky Numbers: 55, 56, 57

**CANCER \*\*\*\*\***  
(June 21 – July 22) Your career, family, friends, or pet, may be upsetting your partner. Half the people in the world are below average. This month try to be very modest, but be very proud of it. Lucky Number: 11, 21, 41

**LEO \*\*\*\*\***  
(July 23 – Aug 22) You're a kid at heart, so quit fighting it. Buy

more play-doh and bubbles. This month meet an interesting person at happy hour at the Beachclub Bistro. Lucky Number: 66, 67

**VIRGO \*\*\*\*\***  
(Aug 23 – Sept 22) New beginnings, new hopes, wishes come true. Attend a wedding. The sooner you fall behind the more time you will have to catch up. This month you will be busier than a beaver in a lake full of coffee. Lucky Number: 9, 10, 13

**LIBRA \*\*\*\*\***  
(Sept 23 – Oct 22) You think there is good in everybody, you obviously have not met everybody. During the day you should sweat it out in the streets of a runaway american dream. This month stay till last call as often as possible. Lucky Number: 19 for Bernie Kosar.

**SCORPIO \*\*\*\*\***  
(Oct 23 – Nov 21) If everything's coming your way, you might be in the wrong lane going the wrong way. Participate in ballroom dancing. This month all power corrupts, but absolute power is pretty neat. Lucky Number: 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3

**SAGITTARIUS \*\*\*\*\***  
(Nov 22 – Dec 21) Fly by the seat of your pants, you will chatter more than a dolphin next to a fish bucket. Beware of fresh flowers. This month failure is not an option, it is bundled with your software. Lucky Number 32

**CAPRICORN \*\*\*\*\***  
(Dec 22 – Jan 18) The legal, cultural, travel, relocation, political, religious, academic, or media related issues you have been dealing with over the last couple of years are finally coming to an end. This month if you can't convince em, confuse em. Lucky Number: 105

\* Hide, \*\* Could be better, \*\*\* So close, \*\*\*\* Average, \*\*\*\*\* Yahoo !!,\*\*\*\*\* Not gonna happen

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