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The Collinwood Observer

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The neighborhood tasted very good

by Denise Lorek

If you were not at the Taste the Neighborhood on Tuesday, February 22nd, you missed out on some wonderful food and festivities. For the third year in a row, 20 local restaurants donated food or beverages to this fundraising event for Northeast Shores. Northeast Shores would like to thank the following restaurants for their generosity: Beachland Tavern, Bistro 185, Blitz Barbecue, Boardwalk Tavern, B & M Bar B Que, Café @ Arts Collinwood, Café Corso, Chili Peppers, Congin's Pizza, Convenient on 200th St., Dave's Supermarket, Fresh Catch, Giorgio's Oven Fresh Pizza, Gostilna at Knezak, Grovewood Tavern, Gus's Diner, Lithuanian Hall, Lucky's Restaurant, Muldoon's Saloon & Eatery and Scotti's Restaurant. These restaurants all donated their food and time to this event to make this our best ever Taste the Neighborhood Award Ceremony.

borhood Award Ceremony.

For the first time in the three years that we have been hosting this event, we had a record, sold out crowd. Board Member Cindy Barber and Councilman Polensek were overheard saying what a wonderful event the Taste the Neighborhood is because it brings the community together. We had merchants, restaurant owners and residents all coming together to celebrate our accomplishments.

This year for the first time, we had a female North Collinwood Hall of Fame winner: Jan Dean. Jan has given many hours of herself volunteering for various organizations from the Auxiliary Police to the Senior Advisory Council. Jan was also a founding member of the 5th District Police Community Relations Board. Jan was appointed to the Community Relations Board by then Mayor George Voinovich. Jan has been a Member of City Club since



Collinwood Hall of Fame winner Jan Dean, is surrounded by neighborhood award winners for Investment of the Year: Hospice of the Western Reserve, Laura Lee Martin, David Simpson, Kathy Gatto; Business of the Year: Blue Arrow Records' Debbie & Pete Gulyas; and Block Watch of the Year: Windward Block Club, Lyn and James Tomaszewski.

1995. Jan commented, "It's a great honor and an awesome responsibility to be the first woman inducted into the Collinwood

Hall of Fame." She said she hopes she can live up to the honor.

We also honored the Hospice of the Western Reserve with the Investment of the Year Award for their purchase of the Christian Life Center. By purchasing the Christian Life Center, Hospice showed their support and commitment to this area.

Blue Arrow Records owners Pete and Debbie Gulyas were given the Business of the Year Award. Pete and Debbie own and operate three different businesses on Waterloo including Blue Arrow Records and Blue Arrow Boutique. In addition, Debbie formed the Waterloo Alley Cats Project to help the feral cat population in the Waterloo area. If you would like to help Debbie provide food and medical care for the feral cats in the Waterloo Business District, you can make donations to the Waterloo Alley Cats via Northeast Shores.

Block Club of the Year went

to the Windward Block Club. Pete and Karen, along with the Windward Block Club, adopted planter boxes on East 185th St. They are a close group who really look out for each other. Pete and Karen show their commitment to their neighborhood by being long time members of Northeast Shores. Pete is also on the Safety Committee of Northeast Shores.

For our listening pleasure, we had music provided by One fun Dj and entertainment by Deep 3.

A Chinese Auction finished off the night. We had over 30 baskets donated to Northeast Shores for us to raffle off. Our guests went home with some really nice baskets that were donated by residents, businesses and board members. A fun night was had by all who attended.

Denise Lorek is the Community Organizer for Northeast Shores serving the North Collinwood area.

Constellation Schools: Collinwood Village Academy is coming to St. Mary's

by Lisa Vinarcik

A new high quality school is coming to the Collinwood Village neighborhood! Constellation Schools: Collinwood Village Academy, located at St. Mary's on Holmes Avenue, will be educating students in Grades K-3 starting in August.

Constellation Schools: Collinwood Village Academy sets high standards for all students. Our educational program starts in kindergarten, where we begin to develop our students' academic foundation by providing them with the tools to be successful in their future endeavors. Our school offers full day Kindergarten, new textbooks, current technology and small class sizes. Each class is instructed by a dedicated, state-certified teacher who utilizes creative teaching methods and establishes high expectations for achievement by each student.

We offer parents a real opportunity to be involved in the education of their child by creating a learning community where parents, teachers and students work together to ensure academic success for all students. Constellation Schools: Collinwood Village Academy is a privately operated,



Principal Peter Wilson invites you to enroll your child in Constellation Schools: Collinwood Village Academy, located at St. Mary's on Holmes Avenue.

public school of choice, which means no tuition or vouchers are needed. A yearly \$50 materials fee covers the child's school supplies for that year.

The cornerstone of Constellation Schools: Collinwood Village Academy's academic program is our strong emphasis on Character Education and Development of each student. Character Education is integrated throughout our curriculum and enhances our educational plan while securing a safe and nurturing learning environment for all of our students. Once the core values are instilled in our students, they will be able to reach their poten-

tial in becoming successful, well-rounded, life-long learners and good citizens.

Constellation Schools offers families a real choice for their children to receive a high quality education. The success of our schools in bringing students to high levels of achievement is shown by our ratings on the 2009-2010 Ohio Department of Education State Report Cards, where twelve of our schools were rated either Excellent or Effective.

Principal Peter Wilson states, "I am thrilled to be starting a new school for Constellation, especially here in Collinwood. I have talked with many parents who are looking for the best pos-

sible school for their children. When I show them what Constellation has accomplished in our schools throughout Cleveland, they are as glad as I am that Collinwood Village Academy is ready to open. Saint Mary's is a great location, and Constellation is definitely the right organization to bring a school here. Our curriculum, assessments, interventions, and professional development are all top-notch. Saint Mary's is a beautiful campus, the school building is ready to go, and enrollment has started

for the coming year."

Constellation Schools: Collinwood Village Academy is currently enrolling students grades K-3 for the 2011-2012 school year. In each school year thereafter a grade will be added. If you are interested in sending your child to the Constellation Schools: Collinwood Village Academy, please call the school at 216.451.1717 with any questions. Constellation Schools: Collinwood Village Academy is a genuine asset to the Collinwood Village community.

Dialogue

The Collinwood Observer

The Collinwood Observer is a citizen-based news source published by Collinwood Publishing Inc., a local business dedicated to the development of grass roots media and increased connectedness of the citizens, civic groups, non profits, businesses and institutions in and around Cleveland Wards 10 and 11.

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PUBLISHER
John Copic, collinwoodobserver@gmail.com

EDITORIAL COORDINATOR
Betsy Voinovich, betsy@collinwoodobserver.com

ADVERTISING
John Copic, 216-531-6790, Mike Gallagher,
216-409-7359

EDITORS
Ron Barbarino, Susan Brokaw-Guard, Denise
Lorek, Miles Kennedy

WRITERS
Vanessa Abston, Kathy Baker, John Boksanksy,
Alisa Boles, Katherine Bulava, Cheryl Carter,
John Copic, Liz Copic, Jeanne Coppola, James
Desiree, Monica Doyle, Brittainy Heisler, Rhonda
Hudson-Williams, Maria Kaiser, Nan Kennedy,
Denise Lorek, Jayme Lucas, Camille Maxwell,
William McCulloch, Tip Nichols, Karen Pozna,
Gann Roberts, John Sheridan, Ginny Steininger,
Lisa VinarcikPHOTOGRAPHY
Bridget Caswell, Jeffery Lawson, Cherita Lester,
Cheryl Laboda, Romas Zyle

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To submit a story to the Collinwood Observer, go to www.collinwoodobserver.com, click on Member Center, sign in, click on Submit Story, and start writing. The deadline for the April issue is March 28.

Message from the Publisher by John Copic

It's an honor to welcome you back to the Collinwood Observer 2011. For those of you that are seeing the paper for the first time, you are holding in your hands a newspaper entirely written by your community--- THIS MEANS YOU! If you have a story you want to tell, issues that you think need to be pointed out, a person you would love to interview, recipes you want to share, or you'd like to cover sports or entertainment at our schools and in our neighborhood, YOU ARE THE REPORTER. All you do is sign onto www.collinwoodobserver.com, hit Member Center in the menu on the left, sign up, and a window opens up where you can type your story, and add your pictures. If you are not hooked up to the Internet, deliver your stories to The Collinwood Observer office,

at 650 East 185th Street, Cleveland, 44119. Don't worry about whether your articles are perfectly written, the Observer has a volunteer staff making sure that there are no grammar or spelling errors. The mission of the Observer is to amplify the good news of our neighborhood. If it's not good news, or you have issues that you feel need to be addressed, our policy is that you do your homework when explaining what they are so everyone fully understands, and that you propose the way you would do it better, in order to give all of our readers something to think about, and something to respond to. If you like what you're reading, or you hate it, write in and have your say, we have a Forum page waiting for you. Communication builds community. The more we talk to each other, the healthier our neighbor-

hood will be. Give it a try today! It's pretty cool to see your name in print, and have everyone else talking about your ideas. You can make a difference, and you can make it now. Write for the Collinwood Observer today! And send pictures!

We would like to thank all of our advertisers, contributors, and readers from 2010, and are looking forward to the paper being bigger and stronger than ever. The paper will come out the first week of every month for the rest of the year.

If you have any trouble submitting them, feel free to contact us at (216) 531-6790 or email us at collinwoodpublishing@gmail.com. Thanks for reading! Thanks for writing! Thanks for advertising! Congratulations on living in/being in/ reading about Collinwood. It's a great place to be.

Get a ride in a zone car without the handcuffs

by Nan Kennedy

Was it your childhood ambition to grow up and be a policeman? And you didn't? Time for a little fantasy fulfillment – the annual Cleveland Police Academy is taking applications for two seven-week classes, beginning March 8 at the Cudell Improvement Center (9821 Lorain Avenue) and March 9, 2011 at the Five Point Community Center (813 E. 152nd St.)



The classes meet weekly, 6 - 9 pm, and are designed to give you a feeling for what the police really do. They're free, limited to 30 per class, and you can get an application form from your district office: mail

to Cleveland Division of Police, Bureau of Community Policing, 2001 Payne Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44114. Or call the Bureau of Community Policing at 216.623.5080.

Get a GED plus Construction Skills

by Nan Kennedy

If you are 18 to 24 years old and are looking to obtain a GED and construction skills, this might be the opportunity for you. The Freedom Empowerment Youth-Build program is a twelve month, comprehensive job training, education and leadership development program for at-risk and unemployed young adults ages 18 to 24, who are unable to obtain a high school diploma or GED. The program addresses some of the most critical issues

facing our community: job training, life skills, affordable housing and unemployment among young adults. In addition, all YouthBuild participants receive GED tutoring. Applications for Spring Enrollment are due by Friday March 18. For additional information and to download an application, please visit www.feyb.org. Freedom Empowerment YouthBuild • 765 East 154th Street • Cleveland, Ohio 44110 • P: 216 451 6414 • F: 216 451 6917 • info@feyb.org • www.feyb.org

Cafe Corso comes to E.185th

by Liz Copic

Driving down E.185th st you may have noticed the new Café Corso sign, and I'm happy to report that that's not all that's changed.

As the Foursquare Mayor of the old Arabica, it was my honor to welcome the new owner Todd Corso and hear about the changes firsthand. Some of the things I'm most looking forward to are the longer hours, the new breakfast and lunch menu, and the live music utilizing the stage area.

Other new additions include a section dedicated to local artists, with rotating pieces for show and for sale. Sundays at the Café are going to all about family, with decorate you own pizzas, arts projects for the kids, and their own kids wall to show their art on.

The seasons change, and so does E.185th but as the weather gets warmer Café Corso will have new outdoor seating to enjoy that's not only people friendly, but dog friendly too.



The new Cafe Corso replaces the Arabica on the corner.

Nottingham Youth Center needs volunteer tutors

by Tip Nichols

The Nottingham Youth Center now has a very successful tutoring program with a number of volunteer tutors and mostly youth from Hannah Gibbons school.

Unfortunately, we now have more students than we have a comfortable number of tutors. This is a plea to find any interested adults in the Collinwood area who might be interested in helping us. Most of the students are currently in third grade and we meet on Mondays and Thursdays, from 4 to 6PM. Anyone interested, please contact Tip Nichols at 481-1577.

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Health

Hospice of the Western Reserve announces William E. Finn new CEO

by John Copic

Hospice of the Western Reserve has announced a transition in executive leadership, culminating a two-year executive succession process. Chief Executive Officer David Simpson is relinquishing his day-to-day management responsibilities and will focus on certain strategic growth initiatives as CEO Emeritus. Succeeding Simpson as CEO is William E. Finn, who most recently served as the President & CEO of The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care in Buffalo, New York. Finn and Simpson have been colleagues in many areas at the national level for 20 years working on various hospice policy and program initiatives. Simpson, who has served as CEO since 1985, helped lead the expansion of Hospice of the Western Reserve's six county service area in Northeast Ohio where it operates from twelve community sites. It currently provides care for as many as 1,600 patients daily through hospice, palliative and continuity of care programs. "Throughout his tenure at Hospice of the Western Reserve, David's strong leadership and strategic vision have driven the organization's mission of providing the highest level of compassionate care to patients, families and caregivers throughout Northeast Ohio," stated Richard Whitney, Chairman of the Board

of Directors. "His thoughtful, eloquent approach to end-of-life care has established the agency as a national leader in end-of-life care. Through the strong foundation he has built, we can continue to grow and flourish in helping those in need. Bill Finn himself has more than two decades of experience in executive leadership, and was instrumental in growing Hospice Buffalo into a national leader in hospice care, and the Board is extremely confident that he has the vision to lead Hospice of the Western Reserve in the very exciting period ahead." In his new role as CEO Emeritus, Simpson will be focusing on several major initiatives, including the transition of the organization's Headquarters to the Brush Engineered Materials building, involving the relocation of approximately 200 employees, and financing and construction of its new 32-bed Westlake Hospice House. "As I prepare for this change, I feel very fortunate to have played a part in helping Hospice of the Western Reserve's growth over the past 25 years," said Simpson. "Through the years, I have been continually amazed by the unequivocal dedication of the staff and volunteers who approach their work each day with the utmost compassion, and I look forward to continuing

to support their efforts in my new role." Simpson's successor, William E. Finn, brings a wealth of experience to his new role. He has worked in the field of hospice care for more than 25 years where he was instrumental in opening the nation's first minority-partnership Hospice Residence in New York. He also oversaw the creation of a perinatal program and developed a hospice university and palliative care institute. While CEO of The Center for Hospice and Pal-

liative Care, he directed more than 550 staff and 1,400 volunteers servicing 750 patients per day. "I am excited about the opportunity to continue the legacy set forth by my predecessor and about working with him to uncover new opportunities that will allow Hospice of the Western Reserve to continue to deliver services that exceed the expectations of patients and families in the region," said Finn.

Senior Transportation Services Ward 11

by Nan Kennedy

Cleveland's Department of Aging has launched a new transportation service for people aged 60 or older, living in Ward 11 and lacking transport. Call the Department at 216-664-2833 to sign up. A \$1 fare will be charged, service is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. A personal care assistant can ride along for free. Trips must be scheduled in advance with Senior Transportation Connection at 1-800-983-4782.

FREE GRASS CUTTING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The City of Cleveland, Department of Aging, is now taking applications for the 2011 Senior Lawn Cutting Program. Service will begin on April 18th and continue through October 28th. To learn about eligibility criteria and to make a phone application, call 216-664-3998 or 216-664-4694.

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Out And About

Flashback in time at the Boardwalk

by Brittainy Heisler

On February 19th, we hosted a theme party at the SS+W Boardwalk. With a goal to create a roaring 20s atmosphere, I'd say we were pretty successful! We had a packed house of gangsters and flappers, enjoying some "bathtub gin", martinis, and our new shot special, the chocolate covered cherry shooter (mmm!) Sounds of Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Sydney Bechet replaced the regular tunes on the jukebox and Chris Dixon, our favorite local photographer, took photos in a "mug shot" photo booth that was set up in our back party room. Our patrons were happy to be able to take home a little souvenir to remember the evening!

To top it all off, the main event: Burlesque dancing by Viva Valezz! And the Velvet Hearts from Columbus, the "HilAratease" ladies from Cleveland Exotic, and local dancer, Bella Sin. Viva Valezz was voted 2010 Columbus' Favorite Burlesque Performer.

"Burlesque performance is all about appreciating your own femininity, your own unique beauty, learning to love your body no matter what size, representing beauty and grace in every color and lifestyle, and being able to perform because you love sharing your artistic

expressions, and all of yourself, with an audience." – Viva Valezz!

Bella Sin is the founder of Le Femme Mystique, a review of "real" Cleveland women. She recently graced the cover of Scene magazine and was named one of Northeast Ohio's most interesting people. The performers did an exceptional job at entertaining the suit-and-dress clad customers, and it was a night of fun that none of us will forget.

Upcoming at the Boardwalk:
3/8- Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras Celebration, also the start of our fish-n-shrimp Lenten specials. 3/26 original entertainment by Cleveland Fats, Vernon Jones, and Gene Schwartz.

www.facebook.com/sswBoardwalk
Interested in Burlesque dancing? March 5 Bella Sin will be instructing a tutorial. Contact OhioBurlesque@yahoo.com



Flappers and gangsters!

85th Anniversary of Slovenian Workmen's Home

by Pat Nevar

The Slovenian Workmen's Home event to celebrate the "2011 Cleveland Polka Tour" will be held Saturday, April 9th. The 85th anniversary of the hall located at 15335 Waterloo Road, Cleveland, will be celebrated with a Dinner Dance. Doors will open and cocktails will be available at 4:30 PM. At 5:30 PM, caterer, Julie Zalar and her staff will serve a delicious Slovenian home-style dinner. On the menu will be soup, salad, roasted chicken, Swiss steak, home fries, rissoto, vegetable, flancate and strudel.

After a dinner like that everyone will need a little dancing exercise. In the upper hall from 7PM until 11PM the Don Wojtila Band will play for your dancing and listening pleasure. Reservations for upper hall seating can be made with eight or ten per table upon ticket purchase. Tickets for this event are by advance purchase only at \$25 per person. Call 216-789-9746 or 216-481-5378 for tickets, reservations or additional information.

The decision to build the Slovenian Workmen's Home was made in 1916 by a group of Slovenian immigrants. It was opened for business in 1926. Many people have fond memories of the weekly

dances they attended in the 1940's, 1950's, etc. dancing to the music of the Johnny Vadnal Band and many other bands. Some met their spouses at the dances and held their weddings there. Others remember their parents bringing them to the dances and falling asleep on the benches that still surround the lower hall. The April 9th event will surely be a good time to attend and reminisce about the good old days.

The Sunday Polka Dances are again being held in the "Waterloo Ballroom" a.k.a. the upper hall of the Slovenian Workmen's Home from 3PM until 7PM. Included with the admission price of \$10 per person is one sandwich and soft drink. A cash bar is also available. Dances are held most Sundays, October

through May. Call 216-481-5378 for a schedule.

Really, a full weekend could be spent at the Slovenian Workmen's Home, as a delicious Fish Fry is held every Friday throughout the year. On most Fridays, a strolling musician will entertain you while you dine. Dinners are served from 3 PM until 8 PM (Lent hours are 12 noon until 8 PM). On the menu are fish, shrimp, pork chops, goulash or macaroni & cheese dinners with side dish choices of cole slaw, applesauce, Slovenian home fries, polenta, cabbage & noodles, macaroni and cheese and french fries. Dine in or take-outs available. Call 216-481-5378 for reservations, take-outs or additional information.



Viva Valezz performing, while Bella Sin looks on from the background.

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Naturally Collinwood

Why Euclid Beach's Carrousel is special, remember?

by Elva Brodnick

Aside from the fact that our Carrousel comes from our own Euclid Beach Park, what is it that makes it so special?

The memories, of course. With horses on board said to be Sitting Bull's (or Lady Godiva's!), two lovely chariots, horses standing majestically on the outermost row and their inner row companions galloping around, lights, mirrors and the band organ thumping out its wonderful music – who even tried to resist riding? Which was your favorite? Did you pretend to be that cowboy or princess (or Annie Oakley or Sir Lancelot?)

But what spins the magic? That magic that enchants all carousel lovers, who I think are every one of them ageless, because they ride “merry-go-rounds”.

Our Euclid Beach Carrousel is much like any other vintage/antique (we should say “antique” since we celebrated the Carrousel's 100th last year) in that its horses are all hand-carved & painted. What's unique about our Carrousel though is its size, and the variety of horses on board. There are very few carousels surviving that are these big four row machines (whatever their manufacturer), most that you find are three rows, or even smaller. A rare and lovely thing indeed!

“PTC 19” carries 58 horses & two chariots on a roughly 60 – 65 foot platform. The 14 outside row horses are the biggest ones on the Carrousel (and some of the biggest made by Philadelphia Toboggan Company – “PTC”) and are “stationary”, not going up & down. (Stationary of course in order to work with the Ring Machine, as it's pretty near impossible to “catch the brass ring” on a moving horse. Although I think I've heard it's been tried...!) The rest sort out into three more inner rows, getting somewhat smaller as they get closer to the Carrousel's center (“smaller” being relative of course – they're all still fairly big figures carousel-wise!)

Style-wise? We have flying manes & quiet ones, heads up (or not); some horses will watch you come on board while others seem to be shy, there are all different personalities - and someone for everyone coming on board. Lots of colors to suit anyone too – Caroussel Magic's restoration went back to a 1910 PTC color scheme, so now you can choose a bay, a palomino, a paint, a white – all kinds of colors, with all kinds of colorful decorations.

Add the band organ playing “the Happiest Music on Earth,” the mirrors in the center you flash past, and a gazillion lights everywhere – a carousel is that magical ride into your own imagination, and to a place away from the mundane world. Who can be unhappy – at least for the time you're on board – on a Carrousel? (Remember the bell that started or ended your trip “away”?)

Not me.

Not you neither, I bet!

And the memories of course, of this Carrousel, are some of our most special of



Horses with all kinds of personalities, for all kinds of riders.

our EBP days. Think back – remember?

Meanwhile, the Carrousel Sign Committee is making progress. Over a couple of meetings, we've been talking about several different ways to do this, and are now working on getting details together on the different styles, etc. Hopefully we'll have everything together in time to install it at the Carrousel's original site at Euclid Beach State

Park, in time for the Remembering the Sights & Sounds of Euclid Beach Park event in late September (September 25th this year.) Will keep you up to date as we progress!

Watch for info on a community meeting about this Collinwood Museum idea – until then, contact our Euclid Beach Carrousel Committee with any ideas etc you may have. Look forward to hearing from you!

See you around the neighborhood!

Elva Brodnick is the president of Euclid Beach's Carrousel Committee
Euclid Beach Carrousel Committee
PO Box 91162 – Cleveland OH 44101
Email: ebcarrousel@gmail.com
Phone: 440-942-1493
Facebook: Euclid Beach Carrousel Committee

Free tax assistance for local residents

by Karen Pozna

The Cleveland Foodbank is offering four free federal and state tax filing clinics to the residents of the Collinwood area in conjunction with the Ohio Benefit Bank, the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, and the EITC Coalition. The first tax clinic was held on January 29th helped 22 people file their federal and state tax returns and receive a total of \$28,731 in refunds.

“My tax counselor today was just as helpful and professional as the paid tax preparers I've used in the past. There was a lot of privacy and courteousness, which I really appreciated,” remarked a client who came to the January 29th clinic.

The program used to file the taxes, The Ohio Benefit Bank (OBB), is an Internet-based program that connects low- and moderate-income Ohioans with access to tax filing assistance and work supports, such as food assistance and the Home Energy Assistance Program. The OBB is implemented through a public-private partnership between the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, the State of

Ohio, and over 1,100 faith-based and community organizations across Ohio.

At the tax clinics, trained OBB tax counselors, use the software program to screen for different tax credits, like Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credits, and Education Credits. In 2010, these free tax clinics returned \$420,000 to 240 Collinwood community members.

The 2011 tax clinics will be held at the Collinwood Public Library on Saturday March 5th and 19th, and April 9th from 10:30-5:00. Clinics will also be held at

the Cleveland Foodbank on Wednesday March 9th from 2:30-7:30. Appointments can be made by calling 211 on a landline or 216-436-2000 on a cell phone.

This service is available for free to most Ohioans with an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of \$60,000 or less. Eligible individuals may also use the self-serve option from any computer and file their taxes without the help of an OBB counselor by going to www.ohiobenefits.org. Again, all Ohio Benefit Bank services are offered free of charge.

Rent the restaurant

by Vanessa Abston

How would you like to rent a restaurant? You can!

You and your party would have complete access to the restaurant for a total of 3 hours and it would include an all-you-can-eat menu that would consist of a hot buffet, a salad buffet, soup, breads, and a drink. You can't beat it. The atmosphere is here, all you have to do is show up and have a good time. There are two large restrooms (men & women) that are handicapped accessible. Parking is in the rear of the building. There are two flat screen televisions (for football games and other viewing), and music can be played.

Consider a holiday party, birthday party, shower, reunion, church function, reception, or even repasts! You tell us!

Come on out to Abston's Place Family Restaurant at 317 E. 200 Street in Euclid, Ohio and enjoy! Call us at now at 216-481.3100!

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Naturally Collinwood

From the Naturalist...

provided by Carol Ward and
Nan Kennedy

MESSAGES FROM THE NATURALIST

I want to point out that there is a call for photos for display in the Exploration Station for the summer months. If you have some photos of people, places, or wildlife that were taken within the areas of Clevelandlakefront or Headlands Beach State Parks that you'd like to share please consider submitting them for display. Submission guidelines can be found on our website (click on 'Exploration Station' to reach the link).

Don't forget about the new 'Ask A Naturalist' program on the Ohio State Parks Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/ohiostateparks#!/ohiostateparks?v=wall>). Check the wall for videos to watch (a new one was posted

on Friday). Post comments and ask your own questions - which may be answered in a future segment.

For questions, more information, or pre-registrations, lease call 216-881-8141 ext. 3001. Check out photos from 2010 programs and events at www.clevelandlakefront.org & click on Naturalist Photo Album. Programming is available for youth and Scout groups, schools and pre-schools, etc. FREE of charge. Please call for topics and schedule availability.

Looking for volunteer opportunities? Need to fulfill a community service requirement? Contact us regarding possible projects available at the park.

Exploration Station: The Nature Center At Cleveland Lakefront State Park, 2011 Spring Hours

March Saturdays: 5, 12 and 19, 1-4 pm

April Saturdays: 2, 9, 16 and 23, 1-4 pm

May Saturdays: 14, 21 and 28, 1-4 pm

March Photo Exhibit: Dike 14 Winter Scenes from 2/20 Photo Safari Event (Public Submissions)

April & May Exhibit: Art from students at St. Rocco School (Christine Siarka's classes)

Do you have some great shots of people, places, or wildlife taken within the park areas of Cleveland Lakefront or Headlands Beach State Parks? Consider submitting them for our summer display. Inquire about the details at the phone number and/or website below.

The Exploration Station is available for private visits and programs for youth,

school and scout groups. Inquire regarding availability and program topics.

8701 Lakeshore Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44108, 216-881-8141 ext. 30

COMING AT THE PARK

Family Friday Night, March 18, 7 – 9 pm

Free Event!! More hands-on science fun at Cleveland Lakefront State Park Headquarters, 8701 Lakeshore Blvd. NE (tucked in between the end of Bratenahl and Gordon Park). Hands -on science activities for all ages related to water, shipwrecks, and exploration. This event is a collaboration of the Center for Science and Mathematics Education, Cleveland Lakefront State Park (ODNR) and Cuyahoga County Public Library. Reservations are encouraged. Please call: 216-881-8141 x3001. The Nature Center will be open!

SPRING 2011 NATURE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Saturday Fun & Games: Family Challenge—March 12, 1—3 PM

Compete against other families in this Survival Ohio Style event—a spin-off of the popular television show, Survivor! Families will compete against each other in challenges of knowledge, memory, and skill to win the game. This event will take place at the park office building and surrounding grounds.

Pre-registration is required and limited to 8 families.

Friday Family Fun Night: Shipwrecks—March 18, 7PM—9PM

Test your knowledge and participate in hands on exploration activities related to shipwrecks, water science, and aquatic wildlife. The theme is similar to the February program BUT there will be many different activities. Stop by the park office building to participate and learn more about the upcoming summer day camps at Case Western Reserve University—Center for Science and Mathematics & Cuyahoga County Public Library.

The Exploration Station will be open during this program.

Pre-registration is greatly appreciated for activity planning purposes.

Lake Erie Speaker Series For Kids -- March 19, 1 pm

"Lake Erie Shipwrecks" - A photo introduction and basic history of several shipwrecks in Lake Erie. This program is geared towards children and will take place at the park office building. Presented by Kevin Magee of CLUE (Cleveland Underwater Explorers). **The Exploration Station will also be open after this program.** www.clevelandlakefront.org

Clean the beach, test the water, weigh the trash, March 19

by Nan Kennedy

Join the Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach Team for the first Spring Beach Cleanup at Euclid Beach Park, Saturday March 19, 10am-12pm -- and take part in World Water Day 2011. Volunteers will meet in the park pavilion at 10 am and then head down to the beach with the indefatigable Stephen Love, to collect trash and recyclables (an eye-opening experience, Stephen

pictures, a trash-weighing contest, World Water Day activities and a look at upcoming events for spring-summer 2011. Wear closed-toe shoes and dress appropriately for the weather. Disposable gloves, trash bags, trash pickers, rakes and refreshments will be provided. The entrance to Euclid Beach Park is at 16250 Lakeshore Blvd.

If you miss this one, there will be more: April 16, 10am-12pm; May 21, 10am-12pm;

or call 216-571-0685. The Team is also on Facebook -- <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Euclid-Beach-Adopt-a-Beach-Team/110703672309610?ref=ts>. More info can be found at <http://www.greatlakes.org/Page.aspx?pid=525>. And information on World Water Day can be found at <http://www.worldwaterday.org/>

Blue Sky (or Not!) - CycloCross

by Alisa Boles

Bill Gibson of Blue Sky Bike Shop (565 E 185TH ST) sponsored Race #8 in the 2010 Northeast Ohio Cyclocross (NEOCX) series, "Blue Sky (or Not!) CycloCross" at Coulter Avenue Park in Euclid (also known as the sledding hill behind McDonald's.) The event took place on Sunday, November 14, 2010. 102 racers participated, coming from as far away as Michigan, Pittsburgh and Erie, Pa. There were three races: a Novice Category race 30 minutes in length, a Sport Category race 45 minutes in length, and an Expert Category race 60 minutes in length. Matt Weeks was the top man, Sally Price was the top woman and Ryan Madis was the top Junior. Euclid and Collinwood area racers who participated were: Andrius Stalliulionis 8th, Steve Drazdik 22nd, Chris O'Donnell 23rd, William Maxwell 24th - all in the Novice race. Cheers to them for rising up to the challenge. Ten per cent of all proceeds went to the Euclid Police Athletic League.

OK, so, what the heck is CycloCross? According to Gibson, CycloCross is not what people typically think when they think of bike racing. It's like steeplechase on wheels. Well, with cowbell-bearing bystanders. It's fast, fun and family friendly. Even dogs came out to watch. It's a grass-roots kind of sport. It's not just for pros - people who would never think of racing bikes do this, too - just less smoothly and more slowly. The hill at Coulter Park, already popular for sledding, will now be appreciated by - or infamous to, depending who you ask - those who meandered up, down and around it as a CycloCross course.



Gibson really wants to make sure all who volunteered for setting up the course and running the event know they were greatly appreciated with a special thanks to Jim Sonnhalter, a bicycling enthusiast and the City of Euclid's Community Projects Manager for the Department of Community Services and Economic Development.

Gibson is a self-proclaimed middle of the pack racer. He says it's a great sport for the average person who wants to do something athletic, the kind of person who would do something like a 10K or tri-athlon. He feels it's relatively safe because the worst thing that happens is someone falls on the grass or in the mud and hops back up. Said Gibson, "Everyone has their own reasons. Maybe we're sick, but we love it."

Don't let Gibson's humility fool you, though - he's a great bike mechanic and keeps many people in the neighborhood rolling around on well-maintained bikes. He offered an Einstein quote for inspiration as well: "Life is like riding a bicycle; In order to balance, you have to keep moving."

"I'd strongly encourage the public to come and watch an event. It's a spectacle. The beginners are comical and when you watch the pros, it's beautiful," said Gibson with enthusiasm. Locations are posted on their web-site. Gibson said he is planning on hosting another event this year and says he's "cooking up some cool additions."

For more details on the race visit the NEOCX web-site at neocx.wordpress.com.

For more information about Blue Sky Bike Shop and to shop products on-line, check out blueskybicycles.net. Or just stop in the store and check it out.



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Development - North East Shores

Are you looking for maintenance free living?

by Camille Maxwell

Enjoy living in a newly rebuilt single family home where you will be within walking and bicycling distance from the Waterloo Arts & Entertainment District!

These homes have been designed with upscale features and conveniences. We have incorporated trendy features to appeal to those that like a home with its original character, but a cutting edge contemporary feel. These homes were re-designed by a team with years of experience in writing rehabilitation specifications, designing floorplans, they've had construction management and a structural engineer to ensure that the properties would be structurally sound and safe.

Both homes listed below include a 1year limited warranty, new plumbing, electrical, roof, 12 year tax abatement, \$1,500 appliance allowance, a micro-wave that ventilates to the exterior, dishwasher, garbage disposal, energy efficient furnace, bathrooms, garage opener, basement glass block windows, new driveway, vinyl siding and for the safety and security of your home, we have installed a wireless/motion detector ADT security system.



One of the properties on East 163rd Street.

relaxing environment and the coziness that makes you want to curl up on a chaise with a great book and a glass of wine. The dining room presents a feeling of a gallery with a vintage light fixture

that will become quickly a conversation piece which blends into the cocoa accent wall and hardwood floors. You can prepare and enjoy your meal in the eat-in kitchen with espresso cabinets with

black handles, butter rum granite counter tops, paver style ceramic tile and a glass pane door to lead you onto a large deck. Walk through the kitchen to the second floor to two bedrooms and a full bath. The master bedroom has the original brick chimney that leads from the first floor to the master bedroom with built in book case, a large walk-in closet with adjustable shelves, accessible drawers, shoe shelves and a tie rack. The full bath has a European soaking tub with a separate stand up shower, 3 drawer vanity with cabinet.

To tour these properties please contact:

Camille Maxwell, Real Estate Development Director, Northeast Shores Development Corporation, 317 East 156th, Cleveland 44110. Phone: (216) 481-7660 ext. 30, Cell:(216) 543-7911 Fax:216 481-7129 email: cmaxwell@northeastshores.org

Waterloo rocked for Valentine's Daze all weekend long!

by John Boksansky

The Waterloo Merchants are a crafty bunch always cooking up events during the year. Valentine's Day 2011 was no exception with the February edition of "Walk All Over Waterloo." Great concerts, dining, shopping, and art were provided all weekend long!

Troy Schwartz of Star Pop stated that, "the Saturday trivia contest and heart-breaker music as supplied by John Copic on Friday was a success. The Event was also tagged by CASE, was an AOL event, and TV coverage occurred. The Pop Up Gallery at Key building was also held and had many travelers. Cleveland State University also interviewed Megan at Native."

From the famous Slovenian Workmen's Home a Fish Fry was featured along with the Upstage Players Alley Craft Show. The show featured a fresh indie pop-up boutique and craft show to benefit Upstage Players – a local, non-profit, children's theater company. Upstage Players is gearing up for their spring production of Seussical the Musical, to benefit causes like the Waterloo Alley Cat Project (WAC). This fundraiser helps the WAC Project feed, shelter, spay/neuter, and vaccinate local feral cats. The Beachland Ballroom and Tavern hosted the "Remember the Davenport" Winter Ball and Benefit. This was a special, catered, prom-style event to benefit a local mother struggling to save her home and to support her five children. Local bands played as Black Sabbath,

Wilco, The Replacements, and No Doubt. Arts Collinwood sponsored an event called "Eat Your He'ART Out!" with anti-Valentine's specials in the café on food and drinks. All weekend long! One popular event featured live interactive trivia with great prizes from Waterloo businesses from 7-9 PM with music by This Moment in Black History.

Retail was also prepared where special deals for that someone special were featured at Blue Arrow Records Boutique and a special Valentine's Day Package was crafted exclusively at Native Cleveland C.L.E. Clothing Co.

Star Pop Vintage and Modern provided treats and discounts. The Head Shop took 20% off all your partying needs. This Way Out Vintage Shoppe provided 10% off storewide on great vintage apparel, accessories, and records, all weekend long!

Pop Up Galleries and things to do were provided at the Love Stinks: An Anti-Valentine's Day Show Pop up gallery featuring a diverse range of 50+ local artists. This cash and carry show with live music and refreshments occurred at the Mary Zaller Building located at 16006 Waterloo Rd.

Ivana Medukic assembled a pop-up gallery entitled "Transformation" featuring a variety of Cleveland artists, bringing art to empty places in Collinwood. A wine and cheese opening reception was held Saturday evening in the former Key Bank Building on Waterloo Road.

After-parties were provided at the The SS&W Boardwalk for Love Stinks: An Anti-Valentine's Day Show and the Beachland Fundraiser featuring live music from The Nervous Gentlemen.

The Community Development Corporation Northeast Shores presented: Home is where the heart is! Free horse-drawn carriage rides were provided to two newly renovated homes in the Waterloo Arts District! Free champagne and desserts and information about affordable

housing options in the neighborhood were shared by Real Estate Development Director Camille Maxwell.

Music Saves distributed Valentines with a surprise inside and customers who ate at the Beachland Brunch received 10% off their purchase at Music Saves.

The Weekend festivities continued on Saturday and Sunday at the Beachland Ballroom and Tavern Rockin' Brunch where great vegetarian, vegan, and meat options were prepared. The Taverns Free 45rpm jukebox was awesome! Team Music Saves DJ'ed the Beachland Brunch! An anti-Valentine's themed set of songs about break-ups, lost love, and broken hearts!

Other Waterloo businesses were also visited over the weekend including:

Azure Stained Glass Studio, experts in the design, restoration and repair of ecclesiastic, commercial and residential stained glass windows.

Fotina's Restaurant, family-owned and operated since 1984. Fotina's is open for breakfast and lunch Mon-Sun 7am-2pm

Rebel City Tattoo Studio, quality original tattoos by artists Chris McNeill, Tim Wood, and Dustin Nowlin.

Waterloo 7 Studio, custom sculptures by artists Jerry SchJohn Boksansky is the Commercial District Manager of Northeast Shores Development Corporation. midt and third generation metal sculptor Tyler Schmidt are displayed in the outdoor sculpture garden area.

John Boksansky is the Commercial District Manager of Northeast Shores Development Corporation.

★

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Over 20 Local Vendors
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Collinwood/Nottingham Villages

2011 Paint Program

by Jayme Lucas

2011 Paint Voucher Program kicking off in April

Collinwood & Nottingham Villages Development Corporation (CNVDC) anticipates taking applications for the 2011 Cleveland Paint Voucher Program by April 1, 2011. Eligible applicants may receive vouchers for up to \$400 in free paint and supplies.

To Qualify:

- * Must be a low or moderate-income family (call for income guidelines).
- * The applicant may be the owner or tenant, however, he/she must reside in the South Collinwood house being painted. If the applicant is a tenant, he/she must get signed permission from the owner to participate in the program.
- * Must receive Lead Safe Work Practice instructions at the time of application.

To Apply:

1. Get an application by calling CNVDC at 216-383-9772.
2. Complete the application and submit ALL required documentation by August 1, 2011. Painting must be done within 30 days of application approval.
3. Required documentation: proof of ownership, proof of income, etc. Call 216-383-9772 for details.
4. \$60 refundable deposit due upon admission to the program. The \$60 will be refunded to you upon passing the final inspection of the paint job and clean-up by a City of Cleveland Lead Assessor.

Please note that assistance covers paint and supplies only. You will be responsible for the labor involved to paint your home, once approved.

Your house must be in good repair to qualify for the paint program. If you have other housing repair needs, call CNVDC or go online at www.cnvdc.org for information on other housing assistance programs available to Cleveland homeowners.

Jayme Lucas is the Development Manager at Collinwood & Nottingham Villages Development Corporation.

Fannie Mae foreclosure help: Stay in your home, Sell your home, Beware of Foreclosure scams

by Jayme Lucas

Fannie Mae foreclosure help:
www.KnowYourOptions.com

Fannie Mae recently launched a website with comprehensive information about options available to homeowners who are at risk of (or in) foreclosure.

Options for those who want to stay in their homes: Some options for those who want to stay in their homes include forbearance agreements, repayment plans, loan modifications, and Fannie Mae's "deed for lease" program.

Options for those ready to leave their homes: Options for those who want to leave their homes include short sale, a deed in lieu of foreclosure, etc.

Personalized Assistance: If you are behind on your mortgage and need assistance, you can call the Homeowner's Hope Hotline at 1-888-995-HOPE or United Way's 2-1-1 to contact a certified housing counselor. They can help you figure out which options are available and best suit your needs.

www.knowyouroptions.com also has a wealth of information.

Beware Of Foreclosure Scams — Help Is Free! Scam artists are stealing millions of dollars from distressed homeowners by promising immediate relief from foreclosure, or demanding cash for counseling services when HUD-approved counseling agencies provide the same services for FREE.

If you receive an offer, information or advice that sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Don't let them take advantage of you, your situation, your house or your money.

You can report the possible scam by calling 1-888-995-HOPE.

Waterloo Alley Cat Project corrections to Euclid Beach Feral Cat Project update

by Monica Doyle

Dear Editor,

I just read the story Euclid Beach Feral Cat Project Update by Ginger Hannah in Volume 2, Issue 12 of the Collinwood Observer and feel that a serious clarification needs to be made due to false statements and implications made by Ms. Hannah.

A totally separate group known as The Waterloo Alley Cat Project is, and has been since 2009, dedicated to the humane trap-neuter/spay-release (TNR) method that is helping to reduce the stray cat overpopulation in North Collinwood.

Ms. Hannah used statistics in her story directly derived from the work performed by The Waterloo Alley Cat Project which she does not contribute to in any way; voluntarily or monetarily. Ms. Hannah states in her article that, "In North Collinwood, we TNR 68 cats..." When in fact, this work was done solely by WACP using their own money. WACP deserves to receive the recognition, particularly considering their seriously underfunded struggle that is improving the quality of life in North Collinwood's Waterloo Road art and business district.

Thank you for your kind consideration of the facts. Ms. Hannah's efforts in the Euclid Beach area are greatly appreciated.

Donations can be made to Northeast Shores Development Corporation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which acts as fiscal agent for Waterloo Alley Cat Project. Please write WACP on the memo line of your check and mail to: 317 East 156th St., Cleveland 44110.

Visit [facebook.com/Waterloo Alley Cat Project](https://facebook.com/WaterlooAlleyCatProject) for more information about the project and the upcoming fundraiser: basket raffle and concert at the Beachland Tavern on February 11th.

Regards,
Waterloo Alley Cat Project
Monica Doyle is a Waterloo Alley Cat Project volunteer.

Forum

Another year

by Desiree James

At the end of the year how many times did you hear, “Wow, this year went by fast?” Hopefully we can reflect on the previous year and feel positive. Some of us will reflect on the previous year and feel not so satisfied. If the previous year was great, let’s celebrate and multiply the good. However, if it was not so great, you can do something about it and now is the perfect time to do it.

Now is the time plan and orchestrate the next months of our lives. "I don’t have the money," "I don’t have time," or "I’ll do it when this or that happens," are excuses.

We can do something even if that something is very small. Want to learn tennis? Buy a used racquet, go the library and get some books or DVDs on tennis. Throw on a pair of shorts and go to the court and hit some balls, someone is bound to give you pointers, free of charge. If we take one step the universe will help us take the next step. But if we will not even take a step at all, what can we expect?

Before you know it we will be at the end of another year.

Even a long life is short. Do you want to be at the end of the year or the end of your life, still talking about what you are

going to do?

Appreciate life. The motivator Les Brown says you may as well have a good time in life, because you can’t get out alive. Start taking steps now, to make it happen now. Write it down where you will see it every day, get a buddy. If you want to get really motivated, write your obituary. It is not intended to be morbid, but to get you to

realize that you are not going to live forever.

You are the author of your life. How will the next chapters read?

Desiree James is a licensed therapist located in Euclid, who is interested in promoting the emotional well-being of all individuals.

Questions and answers about RTA

by Jeanne Coppola

As a rider of the RTA, I am asking if an RTA representative could answer my questions about your policy regarding picking up riders at the bus stop when there is lots of snow. At some shelters, the snow is so high I cannot even walk to the shelter, or get off the bus at the shelter. Sometimes the bus driver lets me off a little way past the shelter at the corner. And one bus driver told me to wait at the corner. But, another bus driver told me that the RTA policy is to only pick up people at the bus shelter.

Please tell me what the RTA policy is, about picking up, and letting riders off when there is lots of snow? I have a disability, and trouble walking in the snow, especially when it is piled high and icy at the bus shelter.

And let all bus drivers know the answer, too. Because some drivers let passengers off at places where the street is cleared. And some drivers do not.

I am sure other riders would like to know, also.

Thank you.

3/1: Pasted below is the official response from RTA emailed by

2-25-11 – From RTA

Letter to Collinwood Observer in response to letter from Jeanne Coppola:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Ms. Coppola’s questions.

Because RTA has more than 9,800 bus

stops and bus shelters within the Greater Cleveland area, we ask bus operators to use their own judgment on where it is safest to pick up and drop off passengers. One day a snowplow may push snow into one bus stop, while push it away from another, and drivers have to do their best to judge the situation, again to find the best way to safely carry customers.

RTA has many crews that are dedicated to snow removal in the winter and travel all around Cuyahoga County, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to areas we serve to maintain bus shelters, rail stations, parking lots at rail stations and the Park N’ Ride facilities. We request the help of property owners, in both business and residential areas, to clear bus stops in their area, just like they clear sidewalks and entrances for their customers and employees.

We also know that when snowplows clear streets, a lot of that snow may end up in front of bus stops or shelters, just like street plows that inadvertently push snow into driveways. Clearing snow and ice is an ongoing battle.

RTA tries to find the safest ways to bring bus, rail and paratransit passengers to their destinations, even when Mother Nature takes over. We appreciate our customers and are working hard with partners throughout the county to provide a safe riding experience.

RTA

Jeanne Coppola is an artist, and a lifelong resident of the Collinwood neighborhood.

Everybody is a star

by Rhonda Hudson-Williams

"Everybody is a star, I can feel it when you shine on me." A song by Sly and The Family Stone speaks of the power that radiates from each one of us. Each individual is as important as the other. Our presence can contribute to someone's life, or cause a void in any situation.

Ever been told you were "missed"? I believe what is being missed is the radiant force that shapes our form that shines out upon those we know and love. Our presence can make a huge difference in someone's day and how they experience it.

Allowing our light to shine will help us to see brightness in the midst of darkness, to do right when some one else is doing wrong. It will cause others to have a curious wonder as to what it is that seems to radiate you. See the differences in others as not actually being different, but in the difference of how they shine their light.

No matter what the circumstances of our being born are, we are all here on purpose. Every time a woman gives birth, a star is born. Allow others to be who they are, a "star" here to illuminate our universe and bring their own creative quality to such a level that even the thought of them will leave an everlasting brightness.

The Sly and the Family Stone song continues: "Ever catch a falling star? There's no stopping it until it's in the ground."

Or maybe not.

Rhonda Hudson-Williams is an Ohio resident who enjoys writing inspirational and thought-provoking articles.

Happenings at Arts Collinwood

by Cheryl Carter

February was jam-packed at Arts Collinwood with a gallery opening featuring photography, sculpture and neon light artwork by Stephanie Kluk, Elizabeth Emery and Jeff Chiplis respectively. “Homes- capes” will be on display in the Art Gallery through March 14.

The “She Speaks” women’s poetry program held their first poetry workshop and slam on Saturday, February 26 in the Café at Arts Collinwood. The event was well-attended by people who came out to hear women poets compete to win a cash prize. This dynamic nonprofit poetry group led by Shelly Gracon-Nagy, Blaire Miller Bommer and Kisha Nicole Foster encourages women to express themselves through poetry and will make Arts Collinwood their home every fourth Saturday.

In celebration of Black History Month, Arts Collinwood’s Dramatic Reading Series was met with a standing room only crowd of nearly one hundred attendees for the dramatic performance, “For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Not Enuf” under the leadership of poet/educator, Michelle Smith.

Other events at Arts Collinwood in February included Wednesday Jazz nights, Friday night Art de Rockus band concerts, and the Café Music Series featuring a classical music evening with clarinetist, Bill Meyer and the duo MiZ on strings and woodwinds.

Standing educational programs such as the Thursday afterschool TAB (Teaching Artistic Behavior) program for kids and the kick-off of Portfolio Project also took place in February rounding out a solid month of a variety of accessible arts and entertainment for people of all ages.

The month of March will hopefully bring warmer weather and more community involvement in the arts. Arts Collinwood will continue the Wednesday Night Jazz performances in the Café. Also, join us in the Café for Fat Tuesday on March 8th and enjoy live New Orleans Jazz, Mardi Gras festivities and gumbo. The Art de Rockus concerts will continue to be held on Fridays at 9 pm and a variety of acoustical performances will take place in the Café including David Ullman, Anniversary Club and Stephe DK. On Thursday, March 24th the Café will take on a 1960’s French café theme with special food and drinks. Guests are encouraged to wear their favorite berét or better yet, visit Blue Arrow Boutique or This Way Out (downstairs at the Beachland) on Waterloo Road to create an entire French ensemble.

Arts Collinwood is excited to announce that the Waterloo Arts Fest will take place on Saturday, June 25 from noon-7 pm. Bring the family out to enjoy a total arts experience including music, performance artists, art vendors, food vendors and more. It’s free and open to the public. Volunteers can contact Amy Callahan at 216-692-9500 for information on helping with the fest.

And finally, our Summer Camp for kids ages 6-12 will begin on July 11th and run for four weeks culminating in a fun, dramatic performance. Call RA Washington at 216-692-9500 for registration information. For these and all other announcements regarding programs and events at Arts Collinwood, visit our website at www.artscollinwood.org.

Cheryl Carter is the Executive Director of Arts Collinwood.

Collinwood High School Alumni Association asks us to "Pray for our country"

by Jeanne Coppola

The Collinwood High School Alumni Association's (CHSAA), current newsletter (January 2011), has a front page article asking readers to "Pray for our Country," for one minute each day. This idea started because of the thousands of emails that have been circulating through the country, explaining how "the people of the United Kingdom, during World War II, prayed for their country for one minute (1) at 8:00pm on a daily basis."

The CHSAA suggests that we "might want to adopt this habit," because of the "many and varied crises happening today..."

Locally, this wonderful idea began in the Litchfield Assembly of God Church, as an Adult Sunday School Project, and it has since "spread to (the) entire congregation..and surrounding communities." Many people are setting their clocks and cell phone alarms to 8pm, as a reminder to pray.

Readers are asked to spread the word to other churches, "friends, neighbors and organizations," to "join with all of us in praying for God's protection for our country."

"The power of prayer is known throughout this planet!"Or maybe not.

Sports

"Dirty Dozen"TM: Viking matmen gain respect

by John Sheridan

It has been an uphill battle, but the Villa Angela-St. Joseph High wrestling program is beginning to make people sit up and take notice. Though small in number—with just 12 matmen on the squad this year—the Vikings now boast a higher level of wrestling talent than they've had in recent years.

The unofficial team nickname this year is "The Dirty Dozen," which was the title of a movie some years back about a group of roughneck soldiers who displayed courage and determination in carrying out a dangerous mission.

Head coach Bob Mullin might not go as far as to compare his grapplers with the characters in that movie, one of whom was played by Jim Brown, although he does sense an enhanced degree of determination being shown by his key wrestlers—especially the core group that accounted for the bulk of the Vikings' team points in the recent Division III sectional tournament at Beachwood High.

Four VASJ grapplers advanced from that event to the district tournament at Garfield Heights. (You might say that the Dirty Dozen was trimmed to the "Fantastic Four.")

Leading the way for the Vikings was Phil Wellington, the senior 189-pounder who emerged as a sectional champion with a 4-3 victory in his title bout against Chanel's Johnathan Schafer. In two previous encounters, Schafer had gotten the best of the St. Joe ace, including a 7-4 decision in the North Coast League tournament in early February.

"Phil has been working on a couple of things, including the way he finishes his takedowns," explains Coach Mullin. "Against Schafer, he was able to complete his takedowns. He's really a better wrestler than he thought he was. He now has more confidence."

As a junior, Wellington qualified for the Division III state tournament and took a 27-3 season record into the district meet this time around.

At Beachwood, VASJ chalked up 112 team points to finish sixth out of 15 teams, despite lacking entrants in five of the 14 weight classes. Chanel, the No. 1-ranked team in Ohio in Division III, captured the sectional crown with 299.5 points, followed by Pymatuning Valley with 181.5.

In addition to Wellington, the Vikings' district qualifiers were: Mato Vunak at 119 pounds, Ryan Gallagher (145), and D'Ante Jackson (215).

Vunak, who placed fourth, lost a close 6-4 battle with Chanel's Graham Coghlan in the consolation final. Gallagher, who was a defensive standout on the Vikings' football team, earned second-place honors, also losing to a tough Chanel wrestler in the finals. Jackson picked up a third-place medal at 215 pounds after pinning Kirtland's Jim Durst



VASJ grappler Russell Harrison (on top in red uniform) found himself in a pretzel-like hold during an early round match at the Division III sectional at Beachwood. A freshman 140-pounder, Harrison enjoyed a fine season, but failed to advance to the district tournament.

in 2:56 in the consolation final.

Gallagher sported a 25-8 record heading into the district meet—which was postponed by one day due to the recent snowstorm. Jackson was 22-10 and Vunak owned a 19-10 mark.

The Beachwood sectional wasn't the first time that the Vikings have gone up against the Chanel juggernaut this season. They also squared off in the Catholic Invitational Tournament in Toledo and again in the NCL meet. But that's fine with Coach Mullin.

"We like to measure ourselves on the mat against good wrestlers," he says. "And a tournament like the CIT has a lot of good wrestlers."

For one thing, such encounters provide a good yardstick for assessing the team's progress. "Although we have only 12 wrestlers on our team this year," Mullin said after the CIT, "I've been very pleased with the progress we've been making." For the season, the Vikings compiled a 7-4 dual meet mark, despite losing to neighborhood rival Euclid. Against the Panthers, VASJ had to forfeit in five weight classes, but actually won six of the nine matches that were contested.

Clearly, the coach was hoping to see signs of further progress at the district—and perhaps even the state tournament—where Chanel will certainly be the favorite once again.

Mullin's assistant coaches this season include John Storey, who guided the St. Joseph High matmen to a Division I state title about

20 years ago, and Mike Mihalic, who was a state runner-up for the Vikings at 119 pounds.

At a mid-season practice session, Mihalic gave the team a heart-felt pep talk, urging the wrestlers to give their maximum effort in every match and to "leave it all on the mat." There is no shame in losing to a superior wrestler, he advised, "as long as you've truly done your best and you've given your opponent the best that's in you."

Anything less, Mihalic suggested,

would be tantamount to showing disrespect to an opponent.

John Sheridan is a retired journalist. From 1963 to 1972, he wrote for and edited the Euclid News-Journal, predecessor to the Sun-Journal. From 1972 to 2000, he was a writer and editor for Industry Week magazine and also worked for the Plain Dealer as a part-time sportswriter, covering high school sports.

Vikings get top seed in sectional, Lady Vikings advance

by John Sheridan

The VASJ basketball team, seeded No. 1 in the Division III sectional at Painesville Harvey, will open tournament play with a sectional final contest Friday, March 4, against the winner of the Independence-Fairview semifinal. The Vikings, ranked No. 20 in the latest Plain Dealer poll, have been playing well lately and took a 12-7 record into their final regular season game against Elyria Catholic.

A key reason for the Vikings' success this season has been the play of three talented sophomores, including 6-7 Demonte Flannigan, who scored 17 points and blocked seven shots in a recent 63-56 victory over Archbishop Hoban. Duane Gibson, a 6-1 sophomore forward, also scored 17 in that game. Karlton Garner, another tenth grader, made two key free throws in the late stages of the contest.

After falling behind, 36-29, in the third period, Coach Babe Kwasniak's squad came charging back as the Vikes showed a lot of defensive hustle. A slam dunk by Flannigan on a fast break cut the deficit to two points, 40-38, and the super sophomore displayed a variety of other

moves—including a spinning lay-in—as the Vikings gradually pulled away.

Gibson scored six straight points during one stretch of the fourth quarter and Garner also hit several key baskets in the late stages of the game. In a recent PD listing, Garner led all Cleveland area cagers in three-point shooting with 46 makes from beyond the arc.

With three tenth graders among the team's top scoring threats, Viking fans certainly can be forgiven if they're looking forward to a potential Division III state title run in the next year or two.

LADY VIKINGS ADVANCE: The VASJ girls basketball team surprised a few folks last week when they upset Pymatuning Valley, 54-42, to capture a sectional crown at Ashtabula Lakeside. The Lakers entered the contest with a 19-2 record, while VASJ sported a not-so-impressive 9-13 mark.

Marquia Ivey's 19 points sparked the Lady Vikings, who moved on to a district contest against Berkshire (20-2) on March 3. Abbie Fabo added 13 points and Taylor Kline 10.

Two VASJ Matmen advance to state

by John Sheridan

Two VASJ wrestlers survived last weekend's tough district meets to qualify for the state wrestling tournament in Columbus.

The Vikings' qualifiers were Phil Wellington at 189 pounds and DiAnte Jackson at 215 pounds. This is the first time in more than 10 years that VASJ has produced at least two state qualifiers. Jackson finished in second place at the Division III district at Garfield Heights, while Wellington earned third-place honors.

Schools

Pre-K Children and parents to engage in team learning during the second round of SPARK group lessons in March

by Katherine Bulava

The Literacy Cooperative sought funding to replicate SPARK in Cuyahoga County and is currently collaborating with Invest in Children -Cuyahoga County's public-private partnership serving young children and families - and with Family Connections in order to offer SPARK at select schools in Maple Heights, Cleveland Heights, and Cleveland.



Essential elements of SPARK include:

- 1) parent partners who work closely with children and families through monthly in-home interactions;
- 2) developmental screenings for all children (including a review of results by a child psychologist and a Responsive Services Team consisting of early childhood professionals);
- 3) follow-up assessments as indicated;
- 4) individual therapies as needed (i.e., for speech or behavioral issues);
- 5) learning plans individualized to each child's specific learning needs;
- 6) home and group visits with prescribed lesson plans based on Ohio's early learning content standards;
- 7) developmentally appropriate books with art supplies and activity cards;

- 8) transitional program to introduce children and families to their new school and take the mystery (and fear) out of kindergarten;
- 9) backpacks with all necessary school supplies; and
- 10) screenings and assessments for evaluation purposes.

While SPARK has not completed a full year in Cuyahoga County, The Literacy Cooperative hopes to replicate positive results from SPARK programs in Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Hamilton, Medina, and Mahoning Counties. That's great news for SPARK Cuyahoga's children because the results of SPARK in other Ohio counties include:

- 1) SPARK children scored statistically higher on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment in Literacy (KRA-L) than non-SPARK peers in the same classrooms;
- 2) SPARK children were linked to community services prior to the start of kindergarten to address developmental and social-emotional barriers that would prevent school readiness;
- 3) SPARK increased enrollment of children in early childhood or pre-school programs



Kids receive games and kindergarten registration packets as they exit the session.



Kids receive games and kindergarten registration packets as they exit the session.

- 4) SPARK children improved in their socio-emotional ability, as evidenced by improved scores on the Ages & Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE);
 - 5) SPARK children had a higher average rate of school attendance than their non-SPARK peers in kindergarten, first grade, second grade and third grade; and
 - 6) Third grade Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA) results in reading and math are statistically higher for SPARK children than non-SPARK children, especially at the highest performance levels (advanced and accelerated) and among males.
- These positive outcomes can have

life-long implications for education attainment, health, employment, social skills, and personal well-being. Studies show that strong early childhood initiatives lead, down the road, to lower percentages of special education placement and incarceration. The economic return on investment in early childhood programs is statistically significant to society. Enrollment is now open in SPARK Cuyahoga for children entering kindergarten in August 2012 at Boulevard, Noble, and Oxford Elementary Schools in Cleveland Heights; Raymond Elementary School in Maple Heights; and Michael R. White, Clark, and Clara Westropp Elementary Schools in Cleveland. More information is available through Family Connections at (216) 321-0079.

Cleveland Job Corps Academy attends Hope Leadership Conference

by Michael Taylor

Cleveland Job Corps Academy (CJCA) recently attended the Joliet Job Corps Centers' "There is HOPE" weekend conference in Joliet, Illinois. The mission of the "There is HOPE" conference is to "restore communities by helping people walk into their future with character, love, and HOPE."

The two day event, held in early November, was attended by CJCA along with 10 other Job Corps Academies from throughout the Chicago Region. The youth summit focused on building leadership skills through the participation of attendees in workshops and group presentations. The individual workshop subjects included Team Building, Entrepreneur Projects, Conflict Resolution, Peer Support, and Career Success Standards. Each participating academy was also

encouraged to produce and perform a 15 minute leadership presentation in the form of spoken word, song, dance, or mime. The CJCA team's performance was an interpretive dance that highlighted their accomplishments and Career Service Standards. The conference capped off a very successful 2010 for CJCA. Throughout the year the young men and women visited with City of Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and attended a Cleveland City Council meeting, as well as meeting with local Congressional Representatives Marcia L. Fudge, Dennis J. Kucinich, Betty Sutton, Steven LaTourette, US Senator Sherrod Brown, and Cleveland city councilman Eugene Miller. Young people interested in joining Job Corps are invited to visit their recruiting website at: <http://recruiting.jobcorps.gov/en/home.aspx> or call (800) 733-JOBS today.

A new beGiNning

by Nan Kennedy

The LIT and the Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland are co-sponsoring "Cover to Cover", a project to help the students and faculty at Ginn Academy, the boys' high school our neighborhood managed to hang onto. Hundreds of books have been donated to fill the bare shelves at the school and inspire its students with the power of words. Help is needed to get all those books on the shelves; volunteers will be hard at it from 9 am to 3 pm on Tuesday, March 8, and 11 am to 5 pm on Thursday, March 10. Choose any two-hour time slot and call Joyce Lisiewski at 216.593.2845



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Cinema

Collinwood movie opens in theaters March 11th

by William McCulloch

Last week I thought I'd shoot off an email to Rick Porrello to see if he would be willing to be interviewed regarding the soon to be released film, "Kill the Irishman". He graciously agreed and we met up Saturday morning at Fotina's on East 156th near Waterloo. The movie is based on Rick's 1998 book "To Kill the Irishman," which chronicles the life of Collinwood racketeer, Danny Greene.

Rick, who grew up in Cleveland Heights, started out following in the footsteps of his father and older brother Ray, in becoming a drummer. At the age of eighteen he got the opportunity to take over for his brother as the drummer for Sammy Davis's band and traveled on the road with him for the next 2 years, which would include venues such as Las Vegas and The Tonight Show.

After returning home he decided to pursue another area of interest, law enforcement. He has since served 25 years with the city of Lyndhurst and is now their chief of Police. It was during this period he started researching his own family history and how his grandfather and 3 of his great uncles were murdered by the Mayfield Road

Mob over control of the liquor trade during Prohibition. This then became the basis of his first book, "The Corn Sugar Wars." published in 1995.

"To Kill the Irishman" then became his second, which he said was almost like a sequel. Greene was raised by his paternal grandfather in the upper unit of a duplex at 438 East 147th Street south of Lake Shore Boulevard. He attended St. Jerome's and later Collinwood High School. The most notable neighborhood site in regards to the story would be that of his former second floor apartment above a store front at 15805 Waterloo Road. It was completely leveled in a bombing at 3:30 am on May 12th, 1975 while he slept, but failed to kill him. Now the empty lot has been commemorated by some local artists with a mural on the neighboring structure stating simply, "KABOOM!"

The movie's cast includes Ray Stevenson, Val Kilmer, Christopher Walken, Vincent D'Onofrio, Paul Sorvino, and Steve Schrippa. It is scheduled to open locally on Friday, March 11th at the Cedar Lee Theater in Cleveland Heights, the Cinemark 24 in Valley View, and the Regal at Crocker Park in



Author Rick Porrello

Westlake initially. The film will also open the same day in New York and Los Angeles, and then the following week in Boston, Chicago, and Detroit. When asked if the film takes poetic license, Rick notes that are going to be people that will say that such and such didn't happen a certain way, or that an actor looks nothing like a particular person portrayed, but that the screenplay was inspired by the actual story and does capture its essence.

A documentary, planned to come out in conjunction with the movie, is titled "Danny Greene: The Rise and Fall of the Irishman" and is scheduled to premier at this year's Cleveland Film Festival on March 25th, 26th, & 27th. This production will feature actual film footage and photos from the period as well as interviews with some of those involved who are still living.

Tommy Reid, who directed the documentary as well also produced the movie, is credited by Porrello as the one

who brought it to the big screen. A New Jersey native and brother of the actress Tara Reid, Tommy went to college at Ohio State University and would enjoy visiting the Flats with his classmates. It was here that he first heard stories regarding Danny Greene. Reid, being Irish and Italian, was drawn to tale of the ethic turf war. He will be speaking and answering questions after each of the showings of the documentary at the Film Festival.

In wrapping up the interview, I said to Rick that I assumed that at this point that he had seen the finished movie and wanted to know if he was happy with it. He smiled, laughing that I had assumed incorrectly and said he had not. Rick said he was waiting to see it after it was released in the theaters with family and friends on the big screen.

William McCulloch is an amateur local historian.



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Neighborhood Family

The Grandmothers on how and when to say, "Good Job!!!"

"100 Ways to Say 'Good Job!'" the heading on the sheet of stickers says, and then all 100, from "Awesome" to "Zero Mistakes," appear with accompanying smiley faces and abundant exclamation points. These are sold to teachers as self-esteem promoters. Everyone, teachers and children alike, know them to be artificial at best, but at least they are evidence of the general awareness that self-esteem is an important commodity.

But self-esteem is not so easily created, and certainly not when imposed from without. Self-esteem by definition has to grow from within. Students who receive praise for work they know full well to be less than their best feel worse about themselves, in fact, not better, when they hear a perfunctory "Good job!" Older students feel dismissed, unworthy of a more time-consuming and honest critique of their efforts. Younger ones just feel vaguely guilty.

THE PHONY PRAISE TRAP

It's all too easy to fall into the phony "Good job!" trap. If the admiration is sincere, the child senses that. If he distrusts the praise, however, he will feel not encouraged but manipulated. And if he grows to depend on the adult for confirmation that he's done a "good job," then he has not gained in self-esteem.

Sometimes, in fact, words are unnecessary. If a child is absorbed in a project, he might well feel interrupted, even patronized, if an adult bursts in with effusive burbles and coos. It's perfectly OK to just smile and nod, and then go about one's business as the child continues with his, permitting his satisfaction to come from within.

If words are called for, however, better than "Good job!" might be the words, "You must feel good about being able to climb up to the top of that climber. You have been working hard at that. Last week you had to stop halfway up and now you're at the very top." The child will benefit from hearing what exactly is being admired, and also from reflecting on how he feels about his accomplishment, not how the adult feels. You certainly don't want him to start doing a "good job" only to win your praise; you want him to do a good job for the job's sake, for his own inner satisfaction.

SELF-ESTEEM OBSTACLES

But what if he sincerely tries, and sincerely fails? What if the climber is just too high or the math problem is simply too difficult, and he comes to you wailing his discouragement? Then the admiring adult is called upon to notice the effort and intent, the tiny steps that might in time

lead to an accomplishment of the difficult task, and admire those. In fact, the parent has every reason to admire persistence and patience more than the completion of a difficult task. In psychological tests, children have been observed increasing their efforts when it was their persistence that was praised, rather than their successes.

And then there's the matter of what you say when the first words that pop into your head aren't "Good job!" but "Terrible job!" The toys he promised to pick up are still scattered where he left them, or he gave himself a disastrous haircut with the scissors he wasn't supposed to touch. If you tell him of your displeasure, will he have a permanently damaged self-esteem? Of course not. In fact, the spirit of "terrible job" – although perhaps not those exact words – is the message you want to convey, as opposed to "terrible kid." If you can keep your wits about you, you might follow the format recommended for admiring his successes: tell him exactly what he did that distressed you, and then suggest that probably he feels bad about what he did and will feel better if he can make amends somehow. And then help him find a way to do that. He could get to work picking up those toys, or sweep up the hair that's strewn all over the bathroom floor.

PARENTS' SELF-ESTEEM

Our own self-esteem is involved, in fact, in whether or not our child can climb to the top of the climber, get an A on that homework assignment, or go all day without pooping in his pants. We would do well to remind ourselves that while our approval or disapproval is enormously important to our children, we should resist letting our own self-esteem be dependent on our children's accomplishments. Instead we can be proud of helping our kids own their own successes and failures, without looking to us for the ultimate judgment.

If you have a parenting question, please email it to us at 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

AT ARTS COLLINWOOD

HOMESCAPE IN THE GALLERY
Gauzily focused pictures of photographer Stephanie Kluk’s small son share the gallery with assemblages of shapes created from textiles and pottery by sculptor Elizabeth Emery. The photos are dark and firelit; Ms Kluk is aiming for a feeling of family closeness. The sculptures (I suppose anything made by a sculptor is a sculpture?) are less clear; they include domestic materials (hand-knits, colorful prints, wallpaper – Ms Emery has a steady hand with the decoupage scissors), but some of the ceramic pieces have an uncomfortably organic look – a misshapen heart, a partly skinned rabbit. This may be entirely in the eye of the beholder (in which case maybe she needs a nice cup of tea) – but you have to admit it adds an edge to the show.

March 10, Beachland Presents at Arts Collinwood: Natalia Zukerman and Garrison Starr, a pair of singer-songwriter/guitar players. Enjoy the music, the coffee, the wine, the beer and the music.

CULTURE IN THE CAFE

INTRA March 11 Veteran prog psych rockers (prog psych rock?? rock has more sub-genres than Sherwin Williams has paint colors) INTRA return to Arts Collinwood for a night of revelry and high-energy rock. Be there at 9 pm.

SOLO SO LOW: Stephe Dk and Anniversary Club, March 12 Local visual artist and art rock maven Stephe DK leads an evening of solo sets in the third night of this series. Anniversary Club is a solo project hailing from Indianapolis. Show starts at 7.

Book Signing – Say It Loud, Poems about James Brown, March 13 Editors Mary E. Weems & Michael Oatman will lead a small reading and reception in the Cafe to celebrate the life and legacy of James Brown. Copies of the book will be available for purchase. 6 pm.

OUI OUI, a French Cafe Night, March 24 Happy Hour starts at 5 pm, music at 7 pm for a French-themed bistro night in collaboration with This Way Out, Blue Arrow Records, and BATTLE-CAT Design. Drink specials, French films and music will be the scene. Put your beret on and join the crowd.

Fourth Fridays with David Ullman, March 25 Singer/Songwriter David Ullman returns for his monthly series of heart-rending folk music. 8pm.

Sunday Evening Roast Poetry Series, March 27 Featured – Lee Chilcote, Catherine Donnelly, Toni Thayer. 7pm

The Weekly Specials: Tuesday Game Night: Fat Tuesday will feature drink specials and New Orleans-style jazz (Tuesday, March 8, starting at Happy Hour till close). Jazz Wednesdays: March 9 - Nate Scheible + Alex Henry; March 16 - Velvet Voyage; March 23 - Alex Schrok. She Speaks March 26, Monthly workshop, Open Mic and Poetry Slam, starts at 7pm. Arts Collinwood 15605 Waterloo Road, 216-692-9500, www.artscollinwood.org. Gallery and Café hours: Tuesday –Saturday 11-11; Sunday 11-5. Community Center, 397 E156.

UPSTAGE INVITES YOU TO AN ADULT NIGHT OUT, March 19 Adult as in “involving alcohol.” Also balina (bocce to most of us), food, music and getting to know some neighbors (especially neighbors whose children act). BYOB, UpStage will provide food and a few raffle baskets. 7 – 11? Pm. Guests 21 and over, please. Slovenian Hall, 15335 Waterloo Rd.

MARCH AT THE LIBRARY, Memorial Nottingham Branch Library, 17133 Lakeshore Blvd, 623-7039 or email cpl-memnot@cpl.org. Preschool Story Time: Every Monday during March 10:30 – 11 a.m. Stories, rhymes, songs and more for children ages 3-5 and their parents/caregivers. Play and Learn (NEW DAY AND TIME!) Every Thursday during March 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. Parents, caregivers and their young children are invited to play and learn with educational toys and books.

ROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

FARMERS’ MARKET Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 19, when Chef Eric Wells will be serving a French toast breakfast between 8:30 am and 12 pm. With the sap running, there’ll be Northeast Ohio maple syrup, free range eggs, sausage, apple cider and coffee...all for \$5. Proceeds will benefit the market’s on-site greenhouse project.

When I was at the market last week (spinach, mushrooms, eggs, sweet onions, wonderfully crisp cabbage) the

SpiceHound was whipping up scrambled eggs with spinach for the marketers – smelled wonderful. Coit Road Farmers’ Market is located at the corner of Coit & Woodworth Road in East Cleveland. www.coitmarket.org. Open year-round Saturday 8 am to 1 pm. 216-249-5455 during market hours.

COLLINWOOD NOTTINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY, March 10 You are most cordially invited to join the Collinwood historians on Thursday, 10 March at 6:30 pm, at St Mary’s Church, 15519 Holmes Avenue. Society meetings incorporate business, work sessions and learning opportunities. Any questions, please do not hesitate to call Mary Louise at (216) 664-4236 or email her at mlajesek@aol.com or CollNottHistory@aol.com

E185 BLOCK CLUB, March 8 Next meeting March 8, 6 pm, Lithuanian Hall, 877 E.185th St.; rear entrance off

Kewanee. Shannon Harney, NSDC’s new Housing Programs and Property Manager, will have information about the weatherization and paint programs; Commander Drummond and Councilman Polensek will also report. At the last meeting, the Salvation Army’s Lt Mauk offered help with food, utilities and computer skills – among many other things. You can reach the Salvation Army at 216-692-1388, and attendees at the March meeting are encouraged to bring non-perishable food or paper products to be donated to them.

Nan Kennedy is a founding member of Arts Collinwood; chair of AC Advisory Board; president of Lakeshore/Collinwood Garden Club; writer of neighborhood events e-letter; grandmother of Emma, Jane and Attila.

Polka! The Movie at the Cleveland International Film Festival

from CIFF program guide

Film features locations from right here in Collinwood

This movie about music, sausages, and Slovenians in Cleveland was made for Slovenian TV. It's a valentine to polka, "the happiest sound around." Slovenians started coming to the U.S. as farmers in the 1860's, then helped build the new American industry here. About 80,000 people of Slovenian descent now live in the Cleveland area. Cleveland-style polka, which contains elements of jazz and ragtime, was featured on Slovenian radio programs starting in the 1920's. Tony Petkovsek's radio broadcasts continued the tradition, bringing the music to later generations. Community treasures in the film include the Slovenian Workmen's Home, the Slovenian Museum and Archives, Mitzi Jerman's pub, and the Polka Hall of Fame. There's footage of many polka greats including Eddie Simms, the Vadnal brothers, Johnny Pecon, and Frankie Yankovic, who at the height of his fame competed against Duke

Ellington in a popularity contest-- and won. Sausage festivals and Father Frank Perkovich's Polka Mass round out the festivities. Don't miss a beat; POLKA! is a treat. (In English and Slovenian with subtitles)--B.B.

Producer--Jake Hemler Cinematography--Jurij Nemec Editing--Matjaz Jankovic. Featuring--Joe Valencic, Frank Yankovic, Eddie Rodick, Cecilia Dolgan, Robert Dolgan, Jan Jones. Print Source--Valencic and Associates/java-lencic@yahoo.com.

Other Screenings--Ljubljana Int'l Film Festival, Slovenian Film Festival

About the Director:Born in 1964 and raised in Irija, Slovenia, Dusan Moravec is a former member of the prominent Solvenian punk band Kuzle. He has worked as a journalist and has directed 16 documentaries. Filmography--"Accordianists" (2005), "Ladies of the Skyscraper" (2006), "Meana is in the Air" (2007), "Talking Heads" (2009), POLKA! THE MOVIE(2010).

Showtimes: Tuesday, March 29 at 2:10 PM, Wednesday, March 30, at 4:50 PM, Saturday, April 2, at 9:20 AM. 90 minutes. At Tower City Cinemas.

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