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# The Collinwood Observer

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Carousel Historical Marker Close Up

## Euclid Beach History Lives On

by Carol Ward

Euclid Beach became part of the Cleveland Lakefront State Park, under the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, in 1982. I started working here as the naturalist conducting programs and events in 2001. About 8 years ago, I had an idea to highlight the history of this park area. I went to members of the Euclid Beach Park Now (EBPN) group to see if they were interested in bringing some of their memorabilia to the park. I envisioned a small scale event with historical information and stories shared around the picnic tables of the pavilion. If you have attended any of our 7 annual events, you have seen that it has developed into much more (see related article by Rich Wickens for details from the 2011 event).

A one day event is great – but what if visitors any day of the year could learn about the history of this park? What if there were permanent markers scattered throughout the area to share photos and information about some of the larger attractions and points of interest? Through community partnerships this idea is becoming a reality.

At the annual event this year we celebrated the work of members of

this community that came together to honor the original operating location of the carousel. This is the first of hopefully several more markers. At the event this year a survey was taken to poll attendee's interest as to which attraction(s) should be the focus of the next permanent marker. Almost half of those that responded selected a marker to highlight the Flying Turns, Thriller, and Racing Coaster. A raffle was also conducted by EBPN at the event to begin raising funds for this next marker. It is our hope that through additional efforts in the coming year, this next marker can be in place by our annual event in 2012 (September 30 – mark your calendar!).

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following partners that provided time, talents, and expertise to this project: Councilman Polensek, Mary Louise Jesek Daley and Elva Brodnick of the Collinwood Nottingham Historical Society, Brian Friedman of Northeast Shores Development Corporation, Barb Clint and Sarah Gyorki, who are neighborhood advocates, and members of Euclid Beach Park Now - especially for their financial support to make this marker possible.

## Grand opening of the Collinwood Recreational Center!

by Mary Louise Jesek Daley

The day that we have all long awaited finally dawned on Saturday, November 12, 2011 at 12:00 noon. It was an historic day in our community's history.

Neighborhood residents and their families took the opportunity to join with Mayor Frank G. Jackson and Ward 11 Councilman, Michael D. Polensek, as they cut the ribbon on the \$11 million state-of-the-art Collinwood Recreation Center, located at 16500 Lakeshore Boulevard.

Everyone came out to see first-hand this Gold LEED certified facility which will be the crown jewel of not only the City of Cleveland's Recreational program but also the centerpiece of our redevelopment efforts in the Lakeshore Boulevard Commercial District.

We want our residents to take pride and ownership in this magnificent facility. It was great seeing everyone at the Grand Opening on Saturday, and we hope that everyone will take advantage of the activities and programs at the Center and enjoy it for years to come.



Images from opening day of Collinwood's gorgeous new state-of-the-art Rec Center. A proud day for Mayor Jackson, Councilman Polensek, and the entire Collinwood neighborhood.





## Dialogue

## The Collinwood Observer

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## O.H. Perry students celebrate Molly Day

by Carolyn Kovach

Every October since the death of his daughter, struck and killed by a van on her way to school 32 years ago, Senator and Mrs. George Voinovich have returned to O.H. Perry School to remember 9-year-old Molly and to show their support for the Major Work Program – the gifted and talented program Molly loved.

On Oct. 21, O.H. Perry students remembered Molly at the annual “Molly



Sen. Voinovich and his wife, Janet, presented their annual gift to The Molly Agnes Voinovich Memorial Fund.



O.H. Perry students dance and sing their way through nine decades, starting with the Roaring '20s.

Day” with a musical tribute spanning nine decades, beginning with the Roaring '20s. Afterward, Sen. and Mrs. Voinovich presented their annual gift to

the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's programs for gifted and talented students, and thanked those in attendance for the 32nd tribute to Molly.

## Greetings from the Councilman

by Councilman Michael D. Polensek

The Holiday Season is upon us and I wish to thank all of our neighborhood organizations, churches and community leaders for the help they have provided throughout the year.

When I looked out from the stage on November 12th, upon the 2,000+plus “friends” who were gathered at the Collinwood Recreation Center's Grand Opening, it only reinforced to me how important community participation really is. That day was a culmination of years of hard work, and above all, a belief that by working together we can succeed.

I learned a very long time ago, that a councilperson cannot do it alone. It is the citizens of the community who set the tone. If we have succeeded, it is because of the good, decent and caring folks of Ward 11 who have worked so hard to make our community the best it can be.

In 2012, we have a whole host of neighborhood projects and initiatives, which we are hoping to see in design stage and/or actually get under way. Projects such as the Waterloo Road Streetscape, the rebuilding of Lakeshore

Boulevard, the Euclid Creek Lacustrine Project, the expansion of the Cleveland Industrial Innovation Center (CiIC) on St. Clair Avenue, the implementation of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Curriculum at the Hannah Gibbons-Nottingham Elementary School, and the renovation of the historic LaSalle Theatre on East 185th Street, are just a few of the initiatives under way.

However, none is more important than addressing the tremendous problem with vacant and abandoned properties. We must aggressively pursue each of these addresses and demand accountability from the City's Department of Building & Housing, whose response has been disappointing, to say the least. On another front, public safety is critical and we must continue to be the eyes and ears with the police. Pay attention to your own street. We must remain aggressive if we are to protect our community from those who wish to do us harm.

On behalf of the Ward 11 family, I wish all of you a blessed Holiday season and a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.

## Collinwood Connects

## Petitions Sent to Postal Authorities Opposing Collinwood Branch Closing

by Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge, 11th District

I want to thank the residents and businesses of Collinwood who took the time to voice their strong opposition to the proposed closing of the Collinwood Post Office Branch. In the past week, I received nearly one thousand letters and signatures asking me to stand with the community and urge the United States Postal Service (USPS) to reconsider. Rest assured, I agree. Those letters make a powerful statement about the devastating impact closing this branch would have. I forwarded all of your petitions, along with my own letter of objection, to the USPS Regional Director and I will follow up with the Director to ensure it is received and reviewed.

The Collinwood branch is one of nearly 3,700 postal facilities nationwide proposed for closing or consolidation (including 9 others in my district, which I am also fighting to save). The Postal Service says it needs to take this step to deal with a staggering budget deficit of nearly \$10 billion. USPS is responsible for prefunding its future health care benefit payments to retirees for the next 75 years- and they did so in a ten-year time span, a measure that is not required by any other business or government agency. This requirement is the single greatest contributor to the Postal Service's current deficit, which is why, this year, Congress pushed back the mandatory \$5.5 billion prepayment for retiree health care benefits.

The truth is even if the USPS closed each and every one of those facilities it would save at most \$200 million dollars or 2% of the shortfall. In the case of the Collinwood Branch, the USPS owns the building outright further eroding any potential savings. So why would the Postal Service want to cause so much economic disruption and hardship for Collinwood and other communities for so little gain?

It's not worth it and there are actually far more efficient and just means to address the deficit. In her letter to me,



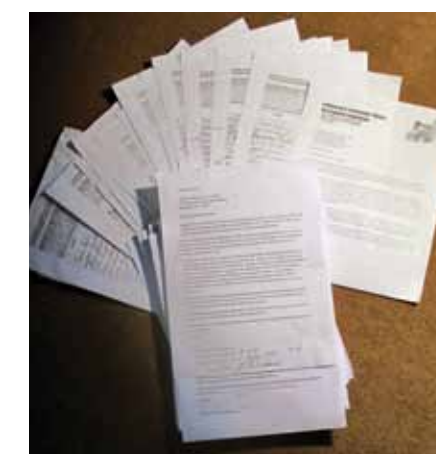
Congresswoman Fudge greets postal workers who rallied outside her office opposing efforts to break their labor agreements

Yolanda Anderson, Executive Director of Collinwood & Nottingham Villages Development Corporation wrote, “Some services can't be measured on a calculator”. Yolanda, you are so right. A post office is a vital neighborhood anchor. Many residents, especially seniors and the disabled rely on having a branch within walking distance. They make use of postal money orders and many other services. Neighborhood businesses also benefit from convenient access to those services.

I have introduced or co-sponsored 4 bills in the House this year to protect our access to mail service, save our neighborhood post offices, address the Postal Services' financial straits and ensure collective bargaining rights of postal employees. One of my bills would require the Postal Service to consider the impact of closing facilities on vulnerable populations. Another measure I support would ensure 6-day mail delivery. I vigorously oppose efforts to break labor agreements that



Collinwood Post Office on East 152nd St.



Letters and Petitions sent to Congresswoman Fudge

would open the door to laying off thousands of postal workers. Finally, I stand behind a bill that would allow USPS to use its own surplus funds to pay for future retiree health benefits, alleviating the burden of prepaying decades of benefits for retirees.

The Postal Service has declared a temporary moratorium and will not take any further action to review facilities for closing until after the holidays, on January 2nd, 2012. But then the clock starts

ticking again so it's important that you remain engaged on this issue. Thank you again Collinwood for your show of support. Let's continue to stand strong and keep our post offices in the neighborhoods, where they belong.

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## Around Collinwood

### Remembering Euclid Beach

by Richard Wickens

Sunday, September 25, 2011, at the 7th annual "Remembering the Sights and Sound of Euclid Beach Park" held at Euclid Beach State Park. It is estimated that 2,100 individuals attended the event which ran from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event was co-sponsored by Euclid Beach Park Now (EBPN), Ohio Department of Natural Resource (ODNR) Cleveland Lakefront State Parks, and the Euclid Beach Boys.

This year's event was special for a number of reasons. First, for one day Euclid Beach Park was again "Open For The Season". Second, the Artizan Style "A" 46 keyless band organ that stood and played under the loading platform of The Rocket Ships was present, returning to the park after 42 years. Owned by the Euclid Beach Boys, it was recently restored. A proverbial "basket case" when found, it took two members of the Carousel Organ Association of America (COAA) three years to restore the band organ. Martin Anderson of Pennsylvania with the support of his wife Mary Jane with the assistance of Howard Kast, EBPN board member and resident of Euclid, OH, with the support of his wife Jan. Martin and Howard received advice from members of COAA. Third, a permanent informational marker commemorating the site where Euclid Beach Park's Grand Carousel stood was unveiled (see the related article by Carol G. Ward).

The State Park's picnic pavilion was the hub of the day's activities. Event patrons could pick up information on EBPN membership, purchase current Euclid Beach Park mementos and buy famous Humphrey popcorn balls and candy kisses. Chuck Russell was present, selling DVDs produced by Keller, Russell and Young that allow viewer to relive the operating days of the old amusement park. James Toman co-founder of "Cleveland Landmarks Press," was present to sell and autograph his book. "A Euclid Beach Album," which chronicles the park during its last season, 1969. Dick Hershey, one of the authors of the original books on the park, "Euclid Beach Park is closed for the season" and "Euclid Beach Park - a Second Look," was available to autograph event patron's copies of the books. This year an employee sign-in area was established where former park employees were given a special ID badge in the hopes that event attendees would engage them about their memories of working at the park. Information was available on EBPN's book project with Arcadia Publishing and their "Images of America" series. EBPN is seeking Euclid Beach Park photos from individuals, so as not to

use images that have appeared in other publications about the park. A survey was taken to help determine the next commemorative marker to be placed in the State Park, hopefully at the 8th annual event in 2012. Raffle tickets were sold for a gift basket containing Humphrey treats plus gift certificate donated by eateries along East 185th Street: Bistro 185, Cebars Euclid Tavern, Chili Pepper Fresh Mexican Grill, Muldoon's Saloon & Eatery, and Scotti's Italian Eatery. Proceeds from the raffle will go toward the purchase of the next commemorative marker. Also in the pavilion was the grand lady of Euclid Beach Park, "Laughing Sal".

Near the picnic pavilion information could be obtained on membership into Cleveland's Euclid Beach Park Carousel Society and the current effort to see the Euclid Beach Park carousel return to operation within the campus of the Western Reserve Historical Society. Architectural renderings of the proposed pavilion that will house the carousel in University Circle were on display. A large mural of the carousel, painted by students from the Cleveland Art Institute hung on the back wall of the picnic pavilion.

North Coast Classic Park had a display of Geauga Lake memorabilia. Geauga Dog and Dandy Lion, two costumed characters that served as mascots during a period in Geauga Lake's long history, made an appearance. Other organizations making their first appearance at the event were the Collinwood Nottingham Historical Society, Neighborhood Connections, and Manor Care Health Services. Returning with a display or information was Adopt-a-Beach, which has been involved with the cleanup of the beach at Euclid Beach State Park, and Northeast Shores Development Corporation.

The traffic circle at the State Park once again hosted the car show, "Cars We Drove to Euclid Beach." Again this year, with thanks to the City of Mayfield Heights, the Kiddie Hook and Ladder stood among the antique cars and trucks. Thanks also to Excalibur Auto Body, Inc. for donating the hook and ladder's transportation and to Chubby Rascal Cruisers for their assistance with the car show. The Rocket Ship Car and Thriller Car were in close proximity to give attendees a chance to take a spin along Lakeshore Boulevard.

Food concessions expanded this year. Besides Weber's Premium Custard and the availability of Humphrey popcorn balls and candy kisses one could purchase lemonade from Celestial Treats, kettle corn or roasted nuts from Buckeye Concessions, or a hot dog, chips, and/or soda from ZogDogs.

Thanks to all who attended and a big THANK YOU to the event sponsors.

#### CORPORATE SPONSORS:

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## Around Collinwood

### Getting to Know American Pride Car Washes

by Meghan DiCocco

American Pride Car Washes is proud to be opening our sixth eastside car wash at the corner of East 156th and Lakeshore Blvd. Our new carwash will feature an Automatic Express Soft Cloth tunnel wash, 4 self-service car wash bays, 7 vacuums, 2 fragrance machines, 2 shampooer machines and a variety of vending products. The self-service, vacuums, scent, fragrance and vending will be open 24 hours per

day, 7 days a week. The soft Cloth tunnel will be open daily from 7am-7pm, weather permitting.

American Pride Carwashes is a family business that was started in 1984. We understood that people take great pride in one of their largest assets, their vehicles, and we wanted to provide a clean, safe, state-of-the-art environment for people to clean their automobiles.

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carwashes, we have very low employee turnover. In fact, the average employee has been with us for 10+ years. We have never laid-off an employee due to lack of work as we understand how important it is to keep good people and give them a means to support their families.

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American Pride Car Washes at E. 156th and Lakeshore

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Naturally Collinwood

Collage at Nottingham Memorial library highlights students' achievements

by *Jeanne Coppola*

A collage, made by students who attended the “Collage It” event at the Memorial-Nottingham Library, on October 22, 2011, highlights the achievements of local area youths. Articles about students which were published in local newspapers were used in the project that reflects this year’s library “Teen Read Week” theme: “Picture It!”

Artist, Lawrence Baker, who has a M.F.A from Kent State University, assisted the students in the fundamentals of creating a collage. “A collage is an assemblage of images that are connected through color and line,” he said. Students chose the articles and photographs for the project, as Baker showed how using color in the background unified the images. “Color connects the images...,” he said. “Learn how to listen and it will help you succeed... work together and learn from each other.”

Collinwood High School anchors the community in terms of education, and the images in the collage represent the local students’ achievements in art,

music, sports, and the ROTC. Other images included of the mayor and police express the whole of the community.

The “Collage It” event was a very informative, educational and fun activity for everyone involved, especially because it was a creative way to learn. Light refreshments were also served.

The collage is on display at the Memorial-Nottingham Library, located at 17109 Lakeshore Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44110. For further information contact Librarian, Alfonso Daniels at (216) 623-7039.

Head down to the Memorial-Nottingham Library and see it today!

“Teen Read Week,” is a national program that was started in 1998, and which ran from October 16th-22nd. Libraries, worldwide, celebrate this event with lots of special programs!

*Jeanne Coppola is a life long resident of the Collinwood neighborhood, a graduate of Collinwood High School, and Cleveland State where she wrote for CSU’s paper, “The Vindicator” She is pleased to be able to offer her comments and opinions in this exciting community-written newspaper.*



Look for articles from the Collinwood Observer in the “Collage It” Collage at Memorial-Nottingham library.

Cavotta’s is a one-stop shop for the holiday

by *Betsy Voinovich*

Cavotta’s Garden Center has been around since 1930, when Felix and Angela opened their first store. They pride themselves on being a family business, that over the past 80 years has always treated their neighborhood and longtime customers as family too. They offer everything for your garden, fresh produce, and right now, have anything you might need for the holidays: Trees, vintage collectibles, ornaments, wreaths and holiday treats. Remember they



Cavotta's is decked out for the holidays.

were voted number one in the city of Cleveland for Gourmet Carmel Apples!

Holiday hours are Monday through Friday, 11 am-8 pm; Saturday, 10 am-8 pm; Sundays, 10 am-7 pm. 19603 Nottingham in Collinwood (216) 692-0300

Hope Playground at Lakeshore Park

by *Carol Ward, Naturalist*

It is true, the HOPE playground has been removed. While it was a great asset to the park in its ‘prime’ years, it has since deteriorated to the point that it had become a safety concern. In an effort to provide the best experiences possible to our visitors it was determined that this structure was no longer safe and sound and needed to be replaced. Removal of the

existing structure is the first step. From what I understand, a new playground structure will likely be modular in that it will start with one piece and additional pieces/structures can be added as funds are available. We are certainly hoping to work with the community on this so if you know of any resources available for a project like this please let us know.

The Coit Rd Farmers’ Market is Growing in the Neighborhood

by *Liz Copic*

Winter hours at the Coit Road Farmers’ Market are Saturdays 8am to 1pm. While most gardens are closed for the season, the harvest continues at the market. You’ll find fresh spinach, collards, lettuces and micro greens from local greenhouses. Other vegetables include beets, cabbage, potatoes, turnips, winter

squash as well as a large selection of apples, bakery, spices, cheese and free range eggs.

The market is planning a cooperative to grow and sell on the Coit Rd Market site. If you are interested in participating contact the market, e-mail: commlaser@gmail.com or call (440) 376-9448.

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Family

Nan’s Notes

by *Nan Kennedy*

**AT NORTHEAST SHORES**

DO ATTEND the annual meeting of Northeast Shores Development Corporation on Tuesday, January 17. If you'd like to run for a post on the Board of Directors, get a letter in by December 20. NSDC holds open quarterly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month – very informative. 317 East 156th Street Cleveland, OH 44110-1357 (216) 481-7660

**AT ARTS COLLINWOOD**

**COLLINWOOD CLUB Saturday, Dec 17**

We've just discovered this lively neighborhood group, who play an eclectic mix of everything from folk to jazz to salsa – including occasional Celtic and Romanian moments.

**JOEY BELTRAN Friday, Dec 30**

Arts Collinwood 15605 Waterloo Road, 216-692-9500, [www.artscollinwood.org](http://www.artscollinwood.org). Gallery and Café hours: Thursday –Saturday 11-11; Community Center, 397 E156.

**AT THE LIBRARY**

Collinwood Branch

**King Mel Thurs, Jan 12, 2012, 4:30-6:30 pm**

Teens will participate in a Jeopardy trivia game. The game will revolve around questions dealing with the life and times of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The winner will receive a mystery prize. Contestants will be asked to bring in a can of food to donate to one of the free neighborhood food pantries in honor of Dr. King.

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration Puppet Show; Thurs, Jan 12, 3:30-5:00 pm**

Through puppetry and storytelling, children and others will learn about the life and contributions of civil rights leader, orator, and Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. in collaboration with CPL Outreach Department.

Collinwood Library 856 E152 St. (216) 623-6934 Library Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10 am – 7 pm; Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10 am-6 pm; [www.cpl.org](http://www.cpl.org)

**FAMILY NATURE ADVENTURE; Thurs, Dec 29**

Let's learn to navigate! Knowing how to find your way in nature is a good skill to have. Come learn how to use a compass and then follow a course outside. This program will start inside and then go outside so please dress in layers. Pre-registration is appreciated. 10:30 am-noon.

Lakefront State Park (216) 881-8141 ext. 3001

**COLLINWOOD NOTTINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Regular Meeting, Thurs, Jan 12 at 6:30 pm St Mary's Church Hall, 15519 Holmes Ave

When to Get Help

by *The Grandmothers*

**My pediatrician says he'll outgrow it.**

Of course he will. He's an average kid from a good-enough family so he will not be wearing diapers to high school, sucking on his pacifier at his college graduation ceremony, or throwing tantrums in the grocery check-out line when he goes shopping with his wife.

Of course, because he is of average good health and from a good-enough gene pool, he probably would outgrow all his childhood diseases too, without medical intervention. But you take him for regular check-ups anyway, and make sure he sees the doctor when he is sick, because you don't want him to suffer the unnecessary pain and stress of an untreated illness. You don't want him to suffer the unexamined pain and stress of an unexamined developmental conflict, either, so that's why you worry about the diapers and pacifier and tantrums, even though any number of people tell you not to worry, that he'll outgrow it.

**My mother says I worry too much.**

She means well. Some parents do tend to worry too much, and need to be reminded once in a while that some problems are minor, predictable, and won't last forever. Ah, but you ask, which ones?

**I'm still worried.**

Start with trusting your own judgment. If you are concerned, you should listen to that concern.

If you are concerned about something your child persists in doing or saying, first ask, “Is the behavior developmentally appropriate?” Even though they sound like jargon, those

two words are helpful, and what they refer to are behaviors that match, very broadly, the behaviors expected of a child at your child's stage of development – not necessarily his age, because kids grow at different rates. But, for example, if your toddler bites his playmates, while the parents of the other toddlers are not likely to smile benignly over the toothmarks on their children's arms, you can be assured that such behavior is within the normal range. If your kindergartener is biting his playmates, however, this would be an issue of greater concern. By kindergarten, biting should have stopped.

**I wish I could understand why he's doing it.**

The second thing you might do is try to understand, for yourself, why your child is having difficulty with – with whatever it is. Try to figure out what is going on in your child's small head and heart, why he erupts in anger or dissolves in tears or refuses to pick up his Legos. He is a child; he doesn't process information or react to setbacks or experience time the way an adult would, so often it isn't easy to figure out if he's upset over something you said twenty minutes ago or if he's worried about a larger issue – maybe that baby brother or sister you keep talking about with such enthusiasm. But you can observe, and listen, and make guesses, and get so in tune with him sometimes that you are feeling what he feels. And then you can talk to him about it, and let him know he is understood. Just as you are consoled by a friend nodding understanding over a cup of coffee, he will be comforted by your simple acknowledgement of his feelings.

**Maybe I need advice.**

But maybe you need some help in

your understanding, so a third thing you might do is find a professional you can talk to, some neutral, objective person, preferably someone with whom you have (or with whom you feel you can develop) a trusting relationship. You need to talk to someone who is knowledgeable about child development, of course, but also someone who can understand your discomfort and not dismiss it, someone who will know how hard it is to hear from your child's teacher, for example, that your child is disrupting the classroom. This person should not be telling you either to ignore it (because he'll outgrow it), or, at the other extreme, that your child is clearly disturbed. Your someone needs to help you determine what the stress is that is causing your child's behavior, and to work with you in order to understand what your child is feeling and why.

**When you understand, what to do about it will become clear.**

By listening to your child, your own concerns, and possibly the advice of a caring professional, you will no longer be waiting for your son or daughter to “outgrow it.” Instead you will be better able to grow along with your child through each remarkable stage.

If you have a parenting question, please email it to us at [thegrandmothers@collinwoodobserver.com](mailto:thegrandmothers@collinwoodobserver.com). Or mail it to The Grandmothers, Collinwood Observer, 650 E. 185th St., Cleveland, OH 44119.

*The Grandmothers are Kathy Baker, Maria Kaiser, Gann Roberts and Ginny Steininger. They meet at Hanna Perkins Center, 19901 Malvern Road, which houses the Hanna Perkins School and the Reinberger Parent/Child Resource Center. For information call Barbara Streeter (216) 991-4472.*

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