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# The Collinwood Observer

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## Waterloo Brew comes to Slovenian Home

by Betsy Voinovich

Alan Glazen's Operation Lightswitch will be opening a micro brewery in the Slovenian Home, coming this summer. The Collinwood Observer caught up with the very busy Alan Glazen to ask him a few questions about what will be happening.

**CO: The first question that I think Collinwood Observer Readers will have is whether the Slovenian Home will still be offering their Friday night fish fries, their polka dances, and will they still host parties in that space.**

AG: The home will continue doing everything and more than they've done for decades. We are learning the fish fry from them, donating our labor to be helpful. Polka dances, parties....nothing will change, but there will be more reason to go there.

**CO: You have said said: "Slovenian Workman's Home was not sold to us by the way. It is owned by hundreds of shareholders, whose works and mission we honor." Would you mind elaborating on that a little for the neighborhood?**

AG: The Slo Home is owned by the many people who viewed it as the social center of their lives. Our company has leased the east side of the building, with the bar and bocce (balinca) courts. In the rear of that bar is a door that opens to the old bowling alley, which has been dismantled. This is where we will install our micro-brewery.

**CO: If you could bring us up to date on how the place will function, that will be great.**

AG: Starting when Operation Lightswitch kicks in (hopefully June-July, our part of the hall will be open regular business hours for the public to enjoy. We are presently talking to lots of people about upping the number of public events to be held in their amazing theater/auditorium. Look for a lot more entertainment!

**CO: Two more questions: One, how did you become interested in the Collinwood area to begin with? What about it made you know that it was a place worth investing in, and a place in which you would want to hang out?**

AG: We have been fortunate to have prospered from investing in other Cleveland neighborhoods like Ohio City, Detroit Shoreway, University Circle and downtown, but we weren't there first! We wanted to do our share and take the bigger risk by being among the first new players in this wonderful neighborhood. So far so good!

**CO: Two, I think when we first talked you mentioned some family roots in Collinwood, can you tell me about your personal Collinwood connection?**

My father was raised in Collinwood, which is icing on the cake!



## Will trolleys return to Collinwood?

by Nan Kennedy

RTA's Redline Extension Plan is considering the full range of transit options for the northeast corner of its service area: Rail (Red Line Extension or Connecting Service) and Street-Running (HealthLine Extension, Light Rail, or Streetcar)...and many possible neighborhoods:

- Euclid Square Mall/Redevelopment Area at Babbitt & St. Clair
- Collamer/Redevelopment Areas on NS Railroad
- St. Clair Ave. (Five Points to E 185th)
- Euclid Avenue
- Lake Shore Boulevard
- Five Points
- Downtown Euclid
- Red Line Health Line Extension

So they're having a community meeting – for Collinwood and Euclid – December 12, 6-8PM, at the Rec Center, 16300 Lake Shore Blvd.

Please attend. If you can't be there, we'll tell you what happened next month.

## Help warm up Cleveland

by Monique Christian-Long

Nothing is more important during winter than keeping warm. Most will be bundled up with mittens, hats and scarves. A native Clevelander is always prepared for the brisk winds and heavy snowfall. What about those who aren't as fortunate to have these things on hand? In our community we have a program called Warm-Up Cleveland which is hosted by the Cleveland Public Library.

This annual campaign was started by library staff in 2010 in memory of Librarian Diane Mathews, who was a lifelong knitter. She wanted her talents to be used for a charitable cause and Warm-Up Cleveland does just that. Items have been previously donated to charities such as: 2100 Lakeside Men's Shelter; Westside Catholic Center; Lau-



Crochet Club at work: Beginners and Experts

ra's Home; Asian Services; Providence House; and the Women's Recovery Center. At Collinwood Branch the Crochet Club is working on more items to donate with goals to reach even more people this year. We also need your help to make this program an even bigger success! Donations can be made at any Cleveland Public Library Branch or Main Library and upcoming Crochet Club meetings are as follows: December 20, and January 31. Join us and use your creativity to better our community.

## Visitors to Slovenian Workmen's Home

by Pat Nevar

Radio/Television Slovenia representatives Mojca Delac and Lili Bruner visited the Slovenian Workmen's Home during the afternoon Polka Dance Thanksgiving week. A tour of the SWH property was given and the reps were very impressed, especially with the four indoor balina/bocce courts. Quite a few photos were taken and will be shown on their programs.

Mojca Delac interviewed officers of the SWH, Joe Brada, president and Pat Nevar, vice president. The interviews will be used on a future "Slovenians Abroad" program.

While visiting Cleveland, the reps stayed at one of the downtown hotels within walking distance of all the lively happenings, which they enjoyed. In addition to the SWH, they visited a



From left to right: Pat Nevar, Lili Brunec, Mojca Delac and Joe Brada.

few of the other Slovenian homes and attended several of the events in the area over the Thanksgiving weekend.

The Slovenian Workmen's Home is always one of the stops for visitors from Slovenia, especially if Joe Valencic, president of the Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame is the tour guide.

## My Collinwood: Vol. 5 Where the Heart Is

by Allison Lukacsy

Every now and again an article about Cleveland is written in a National/International publication and the City goes crazy. I suppose its worthwhile to celebrate the little victories along with the big ones (to paraphrase my yoga instructors), yet I cannot help cringing when I hear fellow residents cheering the mere notion that east and west metropolises know we on the Third Coast exist.

Don't misunderstand me, I love reading about our City just as much as I love writing about her, but I am growing weary of these articles out-sourced to non-residents. Despite their increasing frequency, these articles do little to capture the true spirit of Cleveland, and

more importantly, its people.

Predictably, the author provides an all-too-brief synopsis of the City's history, blithely noting that Cleveland was once an industrial boomtown and is now but a museum of ruin-porn. Inevitably, the next few lines serve to persuade far-flung readers that the River is no longer on fire and nowadays the Cleveland Clinic hardly ever treats a resident for black lung. However, modern problems do plague the city: population loss, the housing crisis, vacancies, political scandals, and a penchant for treating women horribly in the privacy of century-old homes, our witnesses to the great rise and fall of this City.

While these mostly-opinion pieces undoubtedly serve to educate non-

Clevelanders, filling greater society in on our quiet progress, the overt message becomes "move here and you won't be poor like your peers in New York City and Los Angeles. Why not pick up some inexpensive tickets to the game (any game!), enjoy happy hours on weekends, too, and don't forget the bargain-basement rent prices (and you don't even have to live in a basement!)"

Sure, I love all these things the City offers, mostly because it affords me the opportunity to fill my calendar with a plethora of cultural and social activities on the cheap. But it truly is not the lower cost of living that became the catalyst for my 2011 move here or my decision

*Continued on Page 2*



Dialogue

The Collinwood Observer

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To submit a story to the Collinwood Observer, go to [www.collinwoodobserver.com](http://www.collinwoodobserver.com), click on Member Center, sign in, click on Submit Story, and start writing.

Next deadline: December 25, 2013. You can mail your stories to the Collinwood Observer office at 650 E. 185th Street, Cleveland, OH 44119.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Let's make a neighborhood resolution for the new year – check out the block clubs. It takes just one evening a month, it often involves food, you get an up-close view of neighbors you didn't know, you hear what's going on and you can seize the moment and ask why. Or why not. Stick this list on the refrigerator. Or on your iPhone.

**Collinwood Homeowners' & Tenants' Association** First Wednesday, 7 pm,  
St. Mary's School, 15519 Holmes Ave.

**E185 Street Block Watch**  
Second Tuesday, 6 pm, Lithuanian Village Hall, 877 E185 (rear entrance).

**Nottingham Civic Club**  
Third Tuesday, 7 pm. Nottingham United Methodist Church, 18316 St Clair.

**E156 Street Block Watch**  
Third Wednesday, 6 pm. M&M Bar-B-Que, 15116 Lakeshore Blvd at E152.

**Northeast Shores Development Corp**  
NSDC holds its quarterly meetings, open to all, members and public, on the third Tuesday of January, April, July and October, at 6:30 pm, at our lovely new rec center. These meetings are well worth attending, all kinds of neighborhood-wide initiatives come up for discussion.

**Collinwood/Nottingham Historical Society**  
Second Thursday of the month, St Mary's Church Hall, 15519 Holmes Avenue, beginning at 6:30 pm.

Councilman's Corner

by Councilman Mike Polensek

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who voted in new Ward 8 for the support you gave me on Election Day, November 5th. To have received 98.5% of the votes cast in new ward 8, is very humbling. Furthermore, to have the third highest vote total in City Council says a lot about the support I have received from our community over all the years. As someone who was raised in this community and a proud product of Collinwood High School, I wish to say, once again, "Thank You;" and I will not let you down. No councilman in this city has ever had the kind of support I have had. I am honored to represent the present Ward 11 community and God willing, come January 1st, the new 8th Ward. I look forward to working with my colleagues Kevin Conwell, in new Ward 9, and Jeff Johnson, in new Ward 10.

Updates on neighborhood projects:

Lakeshore Boulevard resurfacing project is virtually complete from East 140th Street to East 174th Street, even though there are some sewer lids and other items that need to be resolved weather permitting. Work has begun in earnest by the Northeast Regional Sewer District on the historic pump house at East 174th Street Lakeshore Boulevard at Euclid Creek with the installation of new lines and underground connectors. Work at the Triangle continues in connection with this project. NEORS D will go out for re-bidding on the \$10.5 million Lakeshore Boulevard Relief Sewer Project which should get underway sometime in early 2014. All of these projects, including the Euclid Creek Tunnel Project, are part of an historic effort to address flooded basements and to clean up Euclid Creek and our lake front beaches.

The Waterloo Road Streetscape project has been very difficult, to say the least. This project, which has been in the works for a long time, has had its share of challenges from running into undisclosed underground utilities to just dealing with the size and scope of a complete tear out and rebuild of the roadway while trying to maintain traffic flow. My sincere appreciation to all the businesses, residents, and property owners who have to endure this massive construction project. I urge all residents to please support the businesses and institutions associated with Waterloo Road; for they have suffered dearly as a result of the disruption and yet, have been

strong advocates of the project for they see the long term benefits and the "light at the end of the tunnel."

The Cleveland Range/ Manitowoc project is in the home stretch and my sincere appreciation for their investment in our community. St Clair Avenue was opened for east/west traffic at Euclid Creek ahead of schedule and thank you to the NEORS D getting their work done in an expeditious manner.

As we end 2013, the biggest challenge I find myself dealing with on a daily basis is abandoned and foreclosed properties. I find it absolutely incredible that the Federal Government bailed out all these financial institutions only to have them turn their backs on "the American dream of home ownership." These financial institutions virtually have walked away from their responsibilities and have shifted the burden on clean up and demolition onto the backs of the taxpayers of Cleveland and every other urban area across the country. However, the City Administration has to come up with a better gameplan as to how to enforce the basic building code, Cuyahoga County needs to come up with a more aggressive plan of attack on abandoned tax delinquent properties, and the City's Law Department needs to take a far more aggressive approach when it comes to dealing with absentee and slum landlords. "We don't need to re-create the wheel." The Code and the Laws are in place but they need to be aggressively enforced; that is not happening to the liking of our community and this councilman. All of us should make this a priority for the new year especially our civic organizations and neighborhood groups.

We have faced many challenges this year; however, by working together we made significant progress in many areas. Who would have thought just a year ago, that the Cleveland MetroParks would be operating our three (3) lakefront parks? I can tell you – not many. However, we did it. In this upcoming new year let us continue the progress we have made. Get involved and become a stakeholder in your neighborhood. Together let us make our greater community the best it can be.

On behalf of the Ward 11 community, my family and staff, I would like to wish you all a very MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY, SAFE AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

GOD BLESS THE CITIZENS OF THE GREATER COLLINWOOD AND GLENVILLE COMMUNITIES.

As always I may be reached at my office at (216) 664-4236 or via email at [mpolensek@clevelandcitycouncil.org](mailto:mpolensek@clevelandcitycouncil.org).

The Coit Road Farmers' Market is growing in the neighborhood

by Joe Jerdonek

With most farmers' markets closed for the winter, the Coit Road Farmers' Market continues year-round on Saturdays 8am to 1pm. You'll find fresh greens from local greenhouses including Coit's urban farmers. Ever present Francis of Carousel Farm brings other vegetables such as beets, cabbage, potatoes, turnips, winter squash, cheeses and free range eggs.

Kai Wingo, of Kai's Cultured Mushrooms, offers oyster, shiitake and portabella mushrooms. "I'm a mushroom ambassador," Kai says. "I want people to know about benefits we get from mushrooms." Melvin, of Sad Bastards Breads, bicycles from Collinwood with vegan bread, desserts and chevre cheese. Pleasant Valley Farm from Wiloughby has many varieties of apples at very reasonable prices. Ever pleasant Carlos of Inner City Bakery offers locally-roasted Crooked River Coffee by the bag or cup. Plumcreek Farm of Valley City will bring a variety of local, responsibly-raised pork, lamb, duck and geese on Saturday, December 7.

To sharpen your skills, Kevin "Spicehound" Scheuring conducts bi-weekly sessions on food preparation. November included sausage, pasta and pie crust making. You'll find upcoming sessions on Facebook and the "coitmarket" Yahoo group. As a bonus, Ohio Direction Card Users get \$20 worth of food for \$10 charged to their card each day they shop at the market. The market is located at 15000 Woodworth Rd near East 152nd and Noble Rd. Call (216) 249-5455 or go to [www.coitmarket.org](http://www.coitmarket.org) for additional information.

Heart Continued from Front Page

to stay. And it certainly shouldn't be the one-dimensional sales pitch for attracting new talent.

Yes, in Cleveland, you can have it all. We are quickly becoming a foodie's paradise, especially if you are the type of food-connoisseur who loves craft beer and gourmet burgers and packing on winter weight. You can live steps from Lake Erie, a Metropark, or both no matter your income. You can apply for one of very many grants and make your neighborhood a better place to live, work, and play. You can pursue your passions 9 to 5 or become a weekend warrior; either way you can count on community support.

Cleveland is truly a phoenix, rising and reinventing itself everyday. While makers in this City transform vacant properties into community assets, others donate their time and energies to fellow residents who need our attention most. It's this passion that keeps the gears turning, people moving, our reputation growing.

So if you're living here, reaping the monetary benefits, look to a neighbor in need and share your good fortune. And if you're looking to move here-from a far-flung city or the suburb over-challenge yourself to look past the dollar saved and you'll find Cleveland's true heart.

Around Collinwood



Hey Everybody! I'm back and this time I'm focusing on great local Diners & Dives! While some of you may think that the term, "Dive" is less than a term of endearment, I assure you, it isn't! It is used only with greatest reverence! I'm not a big fan of the McTaverns and franchised establishments. So, this is all about local eateries & taverns.

Just recently we did a Dive Bar Bus Trip. Among the stops were a few right here in the neighborhood. Tradewinds Lounge, on East 200th, was the starting point. As always, Jack Murphy is always the most courteous host and certainly always a great supporter of activities as the Dive Bar bus tours. Popular Prices! All the Popular Beers and a great crowd of locals. Gostilna's (a.k.a. Bob's Place) was our

lunch stop. Bob's been around for 7 years or so, and even though the name suggests a Slovenian cuisine it serves American favorites. While we had a delicious BBQ Beef sandwich with a side of Potato salad, Bob's menu includes everything from homemade soups to burgers to steak dinner. Every day features another lunch and Dinner Special. The servings are huge! For example the Monday Night Pork Chop Dinner includes not two, but three pork chops. Tuesday's Stuffed Cabbage Dinner feeds both the wife and me. You also have to try the Wednesday Lunch Special... Bob's 1/2# Hot Dog with chili, cheese & onions. (Is it lunch time, yet?) If you enjoy an good beer with your meal, Bob has one of the greatest bottle beer selections in town and usually a couple craft beers on tap and at great prices! He's got to be the best kept secret on East 200th St! Lunch and Dinner Specials are also available as "Carry-Outs. Bob offers lunch, Tuesday through Saturday and dinner Monday through Saturday. While the Browns are playing, Bob offers a free smorgasbord of sausage sandwiches, wings, veggie trays, etc and draft beer specials! Full menu on-line @ [www.TheBobsPlace.com](http://www.TheBobsPlace.com) Don't miss the Live Music on alternating Saturdays!



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Last stop in town was at Coach's Place. While Perry Ward, the Proprietor doesn't offer food, he does have a Craft Beer Special every month! Believe it or not, Christmas Ale was a paltry \$2.25! You gotta be kidding! NO MISPRINT! Really \$2.25! Perry has done a make-over to the place over the last year. Looking good! I think Coach's started back in the day as a "Speak-easy", then evolved into a Biker Bar, and now is just a great neighborhood tavern with great prices. Jam Session



Fifth Annual Food Drive and Holiday Open House at Beachland Hair Design

by Susan Brandt

The 5th Annual Food Drive and Holiday Open House at Beachland Hair Design was held on November 30, 2013. Beachland Hair Designs has been hosting this fun-filled Open House for the last five years. Many friends, family and neighbors participate in donating non-perishable food items, which are donated to the Cleveland Foodbank on South Waterloo Rd. We at Beachland Hair Designs want to thank all those who showed up to donate food, money and baskets. As of this date we have donated 170 pounds of food to the Cleveland Foodbank

Every Thursday Night!  
If you're interested in joining us in the monthly DIVE BAR BUS TRIP, our next trip is Sat. Dec. 14. In the east, we start at Paradise Island, and Dover Garden in Westlake. We meet up at the Harbor Inn for lunch and brews and hit a few dives before finishing up at Becky's with a little pizza! More info on tickets/trips at [www.DIVEBARSRUS.com](http://www.DIVEBARSRUS.com)  
Just Divin' Around, Ron

A \$5.00 basket raffle is still going on til December 15, 2013-- one of the baskets includes a year's worth of haircuts for one lucky individual!  
We are open Monday through Friday 8 am til 6 pm and Saturday from 8 am til 5pm. We will be open from 8 am til 2 pm on Christmas Eve, and 8 am til 6 pm New Year's Eve, closed on Christmas and New Year's Day.  
Again, thank you to all those who participated at the Open House. We wish all of our friends and neighbors here at Beachland Hair Design a Happy, Joyful, and Safe Holiday.

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Northeast Shores

Join Northeast Shores – Membership has its privileges

by Carly Marginian

Are you a member of Northeast Shores? Would you like to be able to take advantage of neighborhood specials? Did you know that when Northeast Shores applies for grant money, we have to provide our list of members? Would you like to help increase our chances of getting grant money for North Shore Collinwood?

With the competition for funding greater than ever, our membership list could be the difference between our neighborhood getting grant money or not. In an effort to increase our membership we are offering our “Members Have Privileges” card. When you join you will receive a keytag membership card that you can present at the local merchant who is offering the monthly special. You will be able to take advantage of the special all month long.

Waterloo Streetscape Grants

by Charlie Kamen

Waterloo is currently undergoing a major transformation through the streetscape. Alongside the construction the district’s commercial businesses will be hosting a variety of free public events that will be occurring monthly in partnership with the Collinwood Rising Grant Program made possible by the generous support from the Kresge Foundation.

Starting on December 2, Jesse Rhinehart, a Cleveland-based artist, will paint a mural on the wall of the Callaloo Cafe located at 15601 Waterloo Rd. Rhinehart has been featured on the wall of the Cafe before, with his watercolor paintings of the Caribbean. The mural will be unveiled on December 20th when the Callaloo Cafe will host “A Caribbean Christmas”. This event will run from 6-11 p.m. and will also feature traditional Caribbean food as well as the Panic Steel Ensemble, that will perform throughout the evening.

Throughout 2014 and during the Waterloo Streetscape, Northeast Shores will be giving the businesses, non-profits, and community groups of the Waterloo Arts and Entertainment District the opportunity to collaborate with artists to create transformative change in the neighborhood. Grants are awarded monthly and will incorporate a free event in the district. For an application or for more information please contact Charlie Kamen at (216) 481-7660 ext 31. Make sure to keep tuned in monthly in 2014 to join in the great events that will be taking place in the Waterloo District. In the meantime celebrate the holiday the Caribbean way at the Callaloo Cafe!

It’s the most wonderful time of the year – Ugly sweaters, Santa and more

by Margaret Craig

The hustle and bustle has begun, lights are being hung, trees decorated and children are counting the days until Santa comes, and everyone is looking for holiday festivities to attend. Well, don’t look any further because the best holiday happenings are right here in Collinwood.

On Friday, December 13 from 5:30-7:30 join Northeast Shores for an old fashioned holiday celebration with a new twist. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the season as you walk along the street and see all the decorated windows as well as listen to carolers and the Salvation Army band. Have a cup of hot chocolate and some sweet treats along the way. After enjoying the sights and sounds stroll over to The Standard 779 E.185 for our Annual Ugly Sweater Party. The party where we all claim that “Ugly never looked so good”! Beverages and appetizers will be provided with your donation of \$5 and a nonperishable food item.

Then on Saturday, December 14 Santa will be arriving to have breakfast with us at Villa Angela St. Joseph High School from 10am to 12pm, tickets are \$5 and include a yummy breakfast provided by Gus’s Diner, a photo with Santa and lots of activities. Please call Margaret at 216 481-7660 to make your reservation or if you have any questions about these events.

So you see there’s no need to leave the neighborhood for the most festive and fun holiday events! And don’t forget to support our neighborhood merchants and restaurants.

Schools & Libraries



**Collinwood High School**  
15210 St. Clair Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44110  
tel: (216) 268 6052 & (216) 268 6125

Investing in Collinwood High School Update: Parent conferences REQUIRED

by Tamera Harris

There isn’t much that has changed since my last article, but I did find out that it is required for every student to have at least one parent-teacher conference per semester.

The students who haven’t complied with this were informed on their interim reports that they needed to set up a parent-teacher conference before the semester is over. CMSD must feel that teachers meeting with parents is very important and influential of the student’s education.

Our staff is also very avid and meticulous when it comes to the students’ attendance. They may send home a letter questioning the child’s lack of attendance. It seems as if the CMSD’s transformation plan may be changing Collinwood for the better.

Your Collinwood HS reporter: Tamera Harris

by Tamera Harris

Most of you may remember my first article in an earlier paper introducing myself, while some of you may not so here’s my reintroduction. I am Tamera Harris and I am a senior at Collinwood High School. I have been attending Collinwood since my freshman year. I’ve been playing volleyball for Collinwood since my freshman year and I have been attending High Tech Academy since my

sophomore year.

High Tech Academy is a Post Secondary Enrollment Options program (PSEOP) where high school students in the CMSD earn college credits at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C). I have been doing very well in the program and plan to graduate with approximately 39 credits.

The extracurricular activities that I participated in besides volleyball, were student council, a math competition and a battle of the classes competition during my sophomore year.

I am one of the people who will keep you updated on how things have been since the transformation plan at Collinwood has been put into place.

Memorial Nottingham Library schedule

by Jeanne Coppola

**The Memorial Nottingham has many classes and events for the month of December:**

**GED CLASSES EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY** Tuesdays: Dec 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31. and Thursdays: Dec. 5, 12, 19, and 26. 10:15AM

**FREE GED classes** will be taught at the library through a partnership with the Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) ABLE/GED Program. Registration for these classes is required. Call the Memorial-Nottingham Library at (216) 623-7039 to register. For adults.

**CROCHET CLUB EVERY WEDNESDAY** 2:30PM (Every month) Learn how to crochet and meet other people who enjoy crocheting. In December The Crochet Club, donates crocheted items to charity. For adults.

**HELP SIGNING UP FOR AFFORDABLE CARE ACT** - Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, and Jan. 1. 10AM–6PM. There will be Enrollment Assistants available every Wednesday at the library to answer your questions about the Affordable Care Act, and help you with the enrollment process on the government web site: www.healthcare.gov. For adults.

**PEER PRESSURE: “COURAGE OF COMPROMISE”** Dec. 11 11:30AM. This program will help teens “learn to deal with peer pressure in issues such as clothes, decision-making and planning their future so that they can become a respectable, successful young man or woman.” For teens.

**MICROSOFT EXCEL 1, 11, & 111** - EVERY THURSDAY Dec. 5, 12 and 19. 5pm. Classes in Microsoft Excel will be taught on three consecutive Thursdays at the library. The first class in Microsoft 1 will be on Dec 5, with the second class in Microsoft Excel 11 on Dec 12 and the final class in Microsoft Excel 111 on Dec. 19. Each class will help you “learn how to enter and edit data and perform simple tasks.” Registration for the December classes begins on Mon, Nov 25. To register, call (216) 623-2980. For adults, seniors.

**RUSSIAN BOOK CLUB** - Dec. 11 3PM. Book discussion in Russian, of “Uainsburg, Ogaio” by Sherwood Anderson. For adults, and seniors.

The library is located at: 17109 Lake Shore Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44110. (216) 623-7039. HOURS: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 10am - 7pm. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday: 10am - 6pm. Sunday: Closed.

What’s happening at the Collinwood Library?

by Natasha Wells

Stop in this holiday season and check out what’s happening for all ages at the Collinwood Branch Library!

**PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH**

**America Reads FREE After School Tutoring** Students in K-12 can get assistance with their homework. College students from Cleveland State University can assist with any subject and/or research project. Please note that tutoring for this semester will end on Dec. 12, but will resume on Mon., Jan. 13, 2014. Mon-Thur 3-6 p.m.

**Kids Café Snack Program** The Cleveland Foodbank in collaboration with the Cleveland Public Library offers FREE after school meals for ages 18 and under. Please note that this program will end on Dec. 20, but will resume on Jan. 6, 2014. Mondays-Fridays from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

**Teen Book Club** Join us for a discussion of Who Am I Without Him?: Short Stories About Girls and the Boys in Their Lives by Sharon G. Flake. Light refreshments served. December 9 at 5:30 p.m.

**Kwanzaa Celebration** Learn about how to celebrate Kwanzaa through crafts. December 17 at 4 p.m.

**Winter Wonderland** Join us as we create holiday crafts and cards to share in the joy of giving. Dec. 19, 4:30 p.m.

**PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS**

**Ohio Benefit Bank** Find out how the OBB can assist with your basic needs. A representative is available at the branch on the last Monday of each month. The next assistance session will be held on Dec. 30 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Making Tunes: Virtual Rock Band** Have you ever wanted to create your own songs and vocal recordings or play a variety of virtual instruments? Join TechCentral for this digital jam-session and learn how to use Apple’s GarageBand to create your own sounds and melodies. Learn how to create your own virtual rock band. No musical experience is required but a ‘good ear’ for harmony never hurts. Basic computer, mouse, and typing skills are required. Space is limited. Register by calling the Collinwood Branch at (216) 623-6934 or TechCentral at (216) 623-2980. Dec. 16 at 4:30 p.m.

**Warm-Up Cleveland: Crochet Club** Crafting for a good cause! Join our fourth annual Warm-Up Cleveland campaign and help neighbors in need stay warm this winter. Donated items will be distributed to local charities this winter. Drop off items at any Cleveland Public Library location. Call (216) 623-2921 for more information. Dec 20 at 4:30 p.m.

**FREE GED Classes** Cuyahoga Community College offers free GED classes this fall 2013 at the Collinwood Branch. The classes meet twice weekly on the following dates: December 2, 4, 9, 11 Mon and Wed from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Please contact (216) 371-7138 for more information on registration and enrollment.

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The Adventures of the Fearsome Pirate Frank featured more than 130 young members of the school and parish.

A dramatic success for Our Lady of the Lake

by Sarah Gyorki

Our Lady of the Lake’s parish play performed to near sell-out crowds at the end of November. Nearly 900 people enjoyed performances of The Adventures of the Fearsome Pirate Frank, a dramatic comedy that featured more than 130 young members of the school and parish. Director David Malinowski, of Willoughby’s Fine Arts Center, brought out the best in all the performers, and all three shows received rave reviews.

The actors were backed by a stand-out team of parents and volunteers, who managed everything from costumes and sound to programs and concessions. Their support allowed every one of the players to shine in what may have been one of the best productions the parish has staged. Father Joe Fortuna said “This was truly a community project. We couldn’t be more proud of our children and their families. And perhaps the best part of seeing this show come to life was the way the students just blossomed before our eyes. We saw them displaying talents we’d never seen before.”

Special thanks go to all the wonderful helpers, particularly Chairperson Dorothy Kane and Co-Chairs Sharon Furlan, Leah McSween and Katie Quinlan. Maryanne Hiti created incredible costumes, and Natalie Jarosz, Janet Paciorek, Shannon Jerse, Sam O’Connell, Marilyn Hahn, Pam Smith, Karen McGarry, Kay O’Donnell, and Lisa Brazytis managed everything from make-up, tickets, props and programs to designing the set. Thanks also to Doug Kaprosoy, Kevin Beuck, and Drew and Jen Kime, for managing setup and rehearsals. We’re particularly grateful to our donors, including Duke Young, Jim Gallagher, Tony Furlan, Dave DeChant, Hosanna Design, Mike McGarry & Sons, VASI, and Willoughby Fine Arts, who contributed everything from lighting and sound to costumes, flowers and paint. Every single parent helped out in one way or another as well, and it was this wonderful community support that helped to make the students’ production magical.

Thank you all, for a whirlwind success for Our Lady of the Lake’s drama program. We can’t wait for next year!



# Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

*Faith. Family. Future.*

## Girls volleyball D-IV state runner-up

The 2013 volleyball season was a magical one for Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School.

A strong regular season followed by a dominating run through the postseason took the Vikings on an unforgettable ride through the Medina district, the Solon regional and all the way to Dayton for the Division IV state final four.

The team ended its season by taking the state championship runner-up trophy home to East 185th and Lakeshore Boulevard.

Maria Stein Marion Local defeated the Vikings in three games, 25-16, 25-22, 25-23, to win the Division IV state title. VASJ had lost only one game in six tournament matches prior to the state championship match. The Vikings finished the season 23-6. The Flyers lost one match all season and ended with a 28-1 mark.

It was VASJ's second state runner-up trophy in volleyball. The Vikings won second place in the Division III finals in 2006. VASJ won the state championship in 2001 and 2005, and the Vikings appeared in the final four in 1999.

VASJ was led in the state finals by junior Toni Beuck with 12 kills and 12 digs. Standout senior Danielle Hicks closed her tremendous career at Viking Village with nine kills and 20 digs. Nicole Cramer dished out 35 assists for the Vikings.

VASJ was hurt by 23 attack errors. Marion Local had just 15 attack errors.

VASJ Coach Mark Royer was named the News-Herald Coach of the Year after leading the Vikings to the Division IV state title game.

Hicks – the NCL White Division Player of the Year – was named to the News-Herald first team. The senior



The Lady Vikings volleyball team proudly display the regional championship trophy after defeating Tuscarawas Central Catholic 3-1 in the regional finals held in Solon. It is the first time VASJ girls volleyball has won this title since 2006.



Senior co-captain Casey Timko, VASJ Coach Mark Royer '75 and senior co-captain Danielle Hicks all received News-Herald honors.

averaged 3.85 kills per game and was dominant during the playoff run. She was chosen by her teammates as the Most Valuable Player for the season and is a D-I college recruit. Senior

libero Casey Timko was named to the News-Herald third team, averaging 5.2 digs per game.

McKenna Walker and Cramer were named to the News-Herald honor roll.



Toni Beuck '15, Nicole Cramer '15 and Rachel Smith '16 celebrate after realizing the team is heading to the state tournament.

Hicks and Timko are the Vikings' only two seniors, so expectations will be sky high for an experienced and talented squad to return to Wright State University in 2014.

## Soccer clinches NCL White Division

Villa Angela-St. Joseph Coach K.C. Petraitis has the big picture in mind, but will never forget the image of a Division III sectional final loss to Oberlin that halted a memorable fall for the Vikings soccer team.

The VASJ season ended in heartbreaking fashion in double overtime with a 3-2 setback to Oberlin. The Vikings won 12 games this fall and took home the NCL White Division championship, so while it was an ultra-successful campaign, a painful ending in the postseason will have to serve as motivation instead of another step toward the ultimate goal of winning a state title.

"Our players worked their tails off

and gave everything they had, we just ran out of gas, and we had some injury and depth issues," said Petraitis. "It is what is, and we have to work harder at building up our bench, but I think what we did this year is the foundation for great things to come. We can only hope that what the kids have done this year is something we can use as a program moving forward.

"The school is in a great position right now, and I want everyone to understand to play soccer at VASJ is a serious thing. We have a good thing going, and we want to keep it going in the offseason."

Flint Porter – an honorable mention all News-Herald selection –

tied the sectional final game for VASJ and forced the extra session before Oberlin was able to win it in the second OT.

"When we were able to lock up the NCL championship, that's when I felt we had a special season, but nothing surprised me this year," Petraitis said. "We expected this team to be good, and I think the kids went out and proved we can play with anybody when we play the way we are capable of playing."

The Vikings (12-3-1) return most of the NCL championship squad next year – including Porter, Chad Porter, Jack Gallagher and Daniel Cervenik. Expectations will be high at The Village for another successful fall on the pitch.



The VASJ soccer team will return most of its players next year so expectations will be high for another successful season.

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# Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

*Faith. Family. Future.*

## Turnaround season for Viking football

The 2013 high school football season at the Viking Village turned out to be a renaissance for the proud program.

Villa Angela-St. Joseph, which finished 1-9 a year ago, defeated Holy Name on the final Saturday night of the regular season, 55-43, to qualify for the Division VI postseason with nine wins in the regular season. The following week, the Vikings fell at Mogadore, 41-27, in a regional quarterfinal and finished the campaign at 9-2.

VASJ's lone loss of the regular season came in Week 9 at Cleveland Central Catholic. The Vikings were unbeaten at home in 2013 at Sparky DiBiasio Stadium.

Junior standout Marvelle Ross rushed for 366 yards on 26 carries and scored 6 touchdowns in the win against Holy Name. Ross was one off the school record of 7 TDs in a game.

Ross – who rushed for 1,844 yards – was one of several Vikings to earn numerous postseason honors. Ross was named first-team all News-Herald and was one of five finalists for the Tony Fisher Award. He was also named



The Viking football team under the leadership of Coach John Storey '59 finished the 2013 season with a 9-2 record after finishing the 2012 season 1-9.

Division VI Northeast Lakes offensive player of the year and the MVP of the NCL White Division.

Quarterback Tre'Von Williams was a first-team all Northeast Lakes selection and a third team all News-Herald pick. Standout offensive lineman Kovas Kijauskas was named to

the Northeast Lakes District first team and was a third team all News-Herald selection.

Freshman wideout Jaylen Harris and two-way starter Erin Williams were both first team all NE Lakes District picks and honorable mention all News-Herald selections.

VASJ Coach John Storey was named D-VI Northeast Lakes District Coach of the Year and was one of the three finalists for the News-Herald Coach of the Year. Storey credited the coaching staff and the resiliency of the players for never quitting or giving up on the program while going through a difficult 1-9 season in 2012.

"Nobody left. They all stuck with it and learned a lot from that tough year," Storey said during the Fisher Award presentation ceremony on Varsity Chalk Talk at Hooley House on Nov. 25. "With so many juniors coming back next year, obviously we are excited."

VASJ will be a senior-laden group in 2014 with experience, talent and momentum, but the Vikings will be tested by a beefed up schedule that includes the renewal of the neighborhood rivalry with Euclid and a Week 4 game against D-VI powerhouse Kirtland.

The Vikings scored 50 or more points five times in 2013, including a school-record 70 points in a victory over Warren JFK.

## VASJ boys hoops No. 1 in preseason Cleveland.com poll

Northeast Ohio is loaded with basketball talent.

According to one media outlet that covers more than 200 schools over seven counties, Villa Angela-St. Joseph is the cream of the impressive crop.

VASJ boys basketball Coach Babe Kwasniak doesn't put a lot of stock into rankings or polls. He puts even less emphasis on rankings in the preseason before any of the teams in the poll have played a game.

Kwasniak isn't interested in who is No. 1 in December. He is much more interested in where the Vikings rank come late March.

With all that said, even Kwasniak took VASJ's No. 1 ranking in the Cleveland.com preseason poll as a significant honor for the program.

The 2013 Division IV state champions – now competing in Division III – sit atop the first Cleveland.com poll of the season, beating out some traditional powerhouses and D-I juggernauts such as defending big-

school state champ Mentor, St. Edward, Shaker Heights and D-II state runner-up Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary.

"I've always said rankings don't mean much to me, so I don't want to be hypocritical and put too much into these," Kwasniak said. "I'm not sure I would have voted that way myself – there are too many good teams that we haven't beaten since I've been here. There are so many great high school basketball teams in Northeast Ohio. To even get mentioned is an honor really."

VASJ has a lot to look forward to this year, plenty of goals to strive for, and a lot to be excited about. Off the floor is equally exciting for the Vikings, if not more so for Kwasniak as his squad, is a top-ranked group in the classroom as well.

"I'm way more impressed with our 3.57 team grade point average than any ranking," Kwasniak said. "Our kids have worked their tails off in study hall."

As for the No. 1 spot in the preseason Cleveland.com poll, Kwasniak isn't taking the honor for granted, despite



The 2013-14 varsity boys basketball team, led by Coach Babe Kwasniak '94, will open the season with the No. 1 spot in the Cleveland.com preseason basketball poll.

the fact the Vikings are still four months away from the ultimate goal of a potential Division III title.

It will be quite a challenge for the Vikings to stay atop the poll for the entire winter considering the schedule VASJ will face over the next four months. The Vikings travel out of state to play nationally ranked teams in showcases in West Virginia, Kentucky and Pennsylvania, and will face Mentor, St. Edward, St. Ignatius and

Cleveland Central Catholic in state.

"The only No. 1 ranking we are interested in is the one that has a state banner attached to it," Kwasniak said. "I can't wait to actually focus on the objective and not the subjective. That is what competing is all about."

VASJ finished 25-4 last season and won the school's fifth state championship in boys basketball by rolling through the D-IV state tournament in Columbus in March.

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Nan's Notes

Nan's Notes

by Nan Kennedy,  
WATERLOO FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Waterloo has a lot going on all month, despite the streetscape. (Streetscape? What streetscape?)

The Maria Neil Art Project “The Winterloo Art Mix,” Through December 22: a holiday exhibition and sale featuring eight of Cleveland’s most interesting and talented artists: Ray Caspio - Gina DeSantis - Bridget Daryl Ginley - Morgan Randall - Maria Samuelson - Rebecca Murray-Strong - Dawn Tekler - Mark Yasenchack. Plus high quality custom framing by Frameworks. Who offer gift certificates. Open Saturdays and Sundays 12-5 pm, Friday 11/1 - 5-10pm, Friday 11/29 - 12-9pm, Friday 12/6 5-10pm, Friday 12/20 5-10pm and other hours by appointment. Find them on Facebook or visit [www.marianeilartproject.com](http://www.marianeilartproject.com) for more information.

Maria Neil Project • 15813 Waterloo [marianeilartproject@gmail.com](mailto:marianeilartproject@gmail.com), [facebook.com/events/161674874027103/](https://www.facebook.com/events/161674874027103/)

A Caribbean Christmas at the Callaloo December 20

A new mural (indoors) making the Callaloo still more Caribbean, Panic Steel Ensemble, colorful Caribbean drinks – and Trinidad&Tobago hospitality.

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AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

MIRACLE ON E185th STREET Fri-day December 13  
“Revive 185” – in Northeast Shores’ Holiday Celebration, Friday December

13, 5:30 – 7:30. Enjoy an old-fashioned holiday street party with the Salvation Army band, carolers, performers, hot chocolate and cookies, children’s activities and of course Santa Claus. After taking in the sights and sounds of the neighborhood, move on to the newly opened Standard Restaurant (779 E. 185th St., (216) 731-9463) for the Ugly Sweater party (admission is \$5 and a nonperishable food item; drinks and appetizers included). Please call Margaret at (216) 481-7660 if you’d like to join the three groups of carolers she’s collected so far.

AT THE BEACHLAND

Tue, Dec 10 | 7:30 PM: Alex Meixner Polka Holiday Show

Tue, Dec 31 | 9 PM: Wesley Bright & The Hi-Lites New Years Eve Party.

Complementary champagne toast & hors d’oeuvres provided at midnight

We have a fresh stock of Beachland t-shirts you can ship to that loved one across the country who is missing Cleveland. We have gift certificates available for future concerts (or we can actually print out tickets for you for specific shows). Or get vouchers for our Sunday brunch or buy someone a shopping trip to our highly regarded vintage store in the basement, This Way Out. We have a remarkable kitchen now and would also love to host any small office parties luncheons or happy hour gatherings. Call (216) 383-1124 to discuss available times...As always thanks for supporting the Beachland Ballroom and Tavern.

Beachland Ballroom, 15711 Waterloo, 216.383.1124, [www.beachlandballroom.com](http://www.beachlandballroom.com)

Happy Holidays from Euclid Vet

by Dr. Burt Khemsara

Euclid Veterinary Clinic is celebrating its two-year anniversary. We are located on Lakeland Boulevard in the space that was formerly Euclid Veterinary Hospital, Inc. This was owned by Dr. Stearns who greatly served the public for sixty years.

Now it is owned and operated by Dr. Burt Khemsara DVM. He worked by Dr.

Stearns side for twenty of those years. Dr. Burt, along with his friendly staff wants to carry on Dr. Stearns’ tradition of quality care and compassion for our clients and their pets. As an animal clinic we offer reasonable prices for various services. In the season that is approaching we would like to get to know our neighbors like you. Currently we are offering our new clients \$5 off the first office visit. Please cut out and bring this coupon in for this limited time offer.



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Ginn Academy Art Notes: Empty Bowls

by Adrienne Khan


On December 12, Ginn Academy will hold its first annual Empty Bowls fundraiser to directly support the Cleveland Foodbank. For a \$10 donation, you will receive a handmade bowl, created by a member of the Ginn Academy ceramics program. The bowl will then be filled with homemade soup, and you will receive a spoon and linen along with a slice of freshly made bread. Please come to the Ginn Academy from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. to support this important cause for those in need in Northeast Ohio.

Helping to Feed People in Need: Empty Bowls is an international grassroots effort

to fight hunger and was created by The Imagine Render Group. The basic premise is simple: Potters and other craftspeople, educators and others work with the community to create handcrafted bowls. Guests are invited to a simple meal of soup and bread. In exchange for a cash donation, guests are asked to keep a bowl as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. The money raised is donated to an organization working to end hunger and food insecurity. From <http://www.emptybowls.net/>

*This fundraiser has been organized by Judy Rickel, ceramics teacher at the Ginn Academy.*

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