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# The Collinwood Observer

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## The Easter Bunny Came to Town



by Margaret Craig

The Easter Bunny hopped his way down to VASJ last month to have breakfast and pose for pictures with the children from around the neighborhood. The children and their families enjoyed a breakfast of eggs, french toast and sausage provided by Gus's diner and there was plenty of lettuce and carrots for the bunny to munch on. The VASJ students were on hand once again, and provided fun activities for the children, and then we all headed outside for the traditional Easter Egg Hunt. The children waited to hear the word "Go" and then they scurried

across the grass to gather over four hundred eggs that were scattered about. Once back inside the children cracked open their eggs to find the treats inside. After everyone got the chance to sit on the Easter Bunny's lap for a picture, he said it was time for him to leave and we all waved good-bye as he left to prepare for his many Easter visits. Thanks go out to Gus's Diner for donating the food, Laura Robinson, Charlotte Iafeliece, Caroline Peak, and Jill Latkovitch and her army of students from VASJ for making this a most enjoyable event!

## Star Pop almost 5 Celebration



by Troy Schwartz

STAR POP vintage + modern, in Cleveland's Waterloo Arts District, is a store focused on sustainability and recycling pop culture. STAR POP is quickly approaching its fifth anniversary, and to celebrate the store will be unveiling a series of new photographs taken by and featuring STAR POP's friends, neighbors, and customers. Customers are invited to see the new photos, and to enjoy a customer appreciation sale on May 17th, with discounts throughout the store as well as refreshments. Featured photographers will include: Melanie Hersh, the owner of MUSIC SAVES, Bridget Caswell, a photographer at NASA Glenn Research Center, Bryon Miller, the owner of Gallery One Sixty and of Bryon Miller

Photography, and Leia Von Hohenfeld, of Adeva Salon, The Feve, and Pickle Fight Puppets.

Included with this press release is one of the images that will appear in STAR POP's new window display. The photo taken by Bridget Caswell, features Caswell her husband, Lawrence Daniel Caswell, (member of This Moment in Black History and technical producer at 90.3 FM WCPN Ideastream), and their daughter Nya. The photo shows them together listening to records on a vintage 1980's Fisher Price Big Bird record player purchased for Nya at STAR POP. On the wall is a framed copy of Marlo Thomas and Friends' album Free to Be You and Me, a favorite of Lawrences that he wanted to be able to share with his daughter. Other photos are set to feature toy collectors young and old, stylish vintage clothing shoppers, and other STAR POP enthusiasts.

This event is part of the Collnwood Rising Vibrancy Program, and was created with generous support from Northeast Shores Development Corporation, The Kresge Foundation, and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

STAR POP vintage + modern 15813 Waterloo Rd. #5 Cleveland, OH 44110 216-965-2368 [www.starpopcleveland.com](http://www.starpopcleveland.com).

## Cleveland Orchestra plays "Fairy Tales" at Memorial K-8 School



by CMSD NEWS BUREAU

Conductor Kelly Corcoran and The Cleveland Orchestra took the Memorial School students on a journey, bringing classical music and classic fairy tales to life in a one-hour performance in the school gymnasium.

Corcoran explained how music can function as "wordless stories" once you understand how certain instruments represent actions or characters in the fairy tale. "You'll hear the wicked step sisters awkwardly and clumsily practicing their steps — and that is the two solo violins," she told the audience, setting up "The Dancing Lesson" portion of "Cinderella" as the two violins purposely squawked out the cadence of the dance. Later, with animated hand motions and instrument

support, she described the seemingly chaotic festive march in the "Aladdin" piece: "You can imagine a big procession moving through, with elephants and camels and dancers. It's a great, big extravaganza!"

After opening with The Star-Spangled Banner, the 60-piece orchestra played through selected portions of Englebert Humperdinck's "The King's Children," Sergei Prokoviev's "Cinderella," Maurice Ravel's "Mother Goose Suite" and Carl Nielsen's Aladdin before concluding with a rousing waltz from Tchaikovsky's "The Sleeping Beauty."

The concert, among a rare few the world-renowned orchestra does outside Severance Hall or a similar concert hall, was made possible by a grant from the Alfred Lerner In-School Performance Fund. Memorial

Principal Lori Rondo also credited Margaret Craig of the Northeast Shores Development Corporation for bringing the parties together for the performance.

Hundreds of Memorial K-8 students watched the concert, some sitting silently, but others actively conducting on their own or swaying and stomping to the different pieces.

"They need to move in order to really feel the music, I think," said first-grade teacher Stephanie Bluffstone, who taught her students to waltz and march in the weeks leading up to the performance by The Cleveland Orchestra. "There's a time for sitting still, too, but some of this music has to be felt."

## Music Saves Has Record Day



On Saturday, April 19th, a record number of people gave MUSIC SAVES a day of record sales for the 7th Annual Record Store Day!

*Publisher Note: The Collinwood Observer would like to congratulate MUSIC SAVES on its 10th anniversary.*



Community

The Collinwood Observer

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

Next deadline: May 25, 2014.  
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.

East 185th Neighborhood Association

by Charlotte Iafeliece

We are a group of concerned neighbors from the area in and around the East 185th Street/Lakeshore Blvd. in Ward 8. Our group meets the second Tuesday of each month from 6:00 -8:00 pm at the Lithuanian Hall at 877 East 185th Street. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 and everyone from the neighborhood is welcome to attend.

On Saturday, May 17, 2014, we will be participating in "ALIVE ON EAST 185" starting with a parade at 11:00 am from Villaview and East 185th to VASJ. There will be displays and items for sale outside

Volunteers Kick Off the Beach Cleanup Season for World Water Day 2014 at Euclid Beach Park



We are taking beach cleanups to the streets of North Collinwood making sure that trash on our streets does not become trash in our waterways and on our beaches!

by Stephen Love

On Saturday March 22nd, Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach Team volunteers already came within pounds of our all time trash weight record at our UN-Water World Water Day 2014 beach cleanup! Thanks to 45+ students from Case Western Reserve University, employees from Cleveland Division of Water Pollution Control, Keepin' It Fresh, Great Lakes Brewing Company and our dedicated community members, we collected over 516 pounds of trash (including 6 pounds of plastic cigar tips and 185 pounds of tires) and recyclables from the beach, the park, the Collinwood Rec

the businesses along the street. Please let us know if you can help with either (or both) the parade and our booth along the street.

Tuesday, May 20, 2014, we are excited to participate in the first annual "LIGHT THE NIGHT" in Ward 8. We will be turning our porch lights on at 9:00 pm in a show of unity and support for Safety and Security in our area.

Save the Date: Saturday, June 14th – Get to know your Neighbor Day.

For more information, contact Charlotte Iafeliece at 216-401-8778.

Thanks, hope to see you soon!

Collinwood Brotherhood Coalition



by Margaret Craig

Frederick Douglass said “ It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men”. The Collinwood Brotherhood Coalition was formed earlier this year in order to engage, encourage, educate and support the young men in our community. The Coalition was formed after the news of the murder of Stephen Halton Jr. During a community meeting and later at the vigil, many spoke about the need for programming for our youth. A group of men from the neighborhood answered that call and began meeting and set up a plan of action. The group is still in its infancy stages, but has already hosted two events for young men in the neighborhood. The first was a Brotherhood Breakfast, which was held in March at B&M's Barbecue. There were over fifty men and boys in attendance. The boys and mentors enjoyed conversation and a delicious breakfast prepared by our host. After breakfast, the participants were treated to a performance by the drill team from Garden of Prayer Baptist Church, learned about the Boys Scouts and heard several motivational speakers.



The Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach TeamWith chocolate mustaches courtesy of Fears' Confections in hand, naming the winners of the trash weighing contest was no contest! With 163 pounds of trash and recyclables and 185 pounds of tires collected, the competition didn't stand a chance against Phi Kappa Tau!

Center bioswale and along Lakeshore Blvd., ensuring that trash on our streets does not become trash in our waterways. Special thanks to local businesses: Chili Peppers Fresh Mexican Grill, Star Pop, Fears' Confections, Blue Arrow Records, Gus's Diner 185 and Bagel Buddies for donating refreshments, coupons and awesome World Water Day 2014 trivia prizes! And finally, a big thank you to Tim at Cleveland Metroparks for helping us haul out all the trash and recyclables!

Euclid Beach Blast Needs Volunteers for the Alive on 185 Parade and Street Fair

by Stephen Love

Are you interested in marching in a parade? If you answered yes, then you are reading the right announcement! The Euclid Beach Blast event committee is looking for volunteers of all ages (children under age 12 should be accompanied by an adult) to march in the Alive on 185 Parade and pass out event postcards for the Beach Blast and the Waterloo Arts Fest. If you are interested in volunteering to march in the Parade on May 17th, or if you are interested in learning about other volunteer opportunities for this year's Euclid Beach Blast, please contact Stephen Love, Euclid Beach Blast Coordinator, at 216-571-0685 or by email at euclidbeachblast@gmail.com. And mark your calendars for Saturday, August 2nd, from 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm for the 5th Annual Euclid Beach Blast! Euclid Beach Blast is an evening of live music, performances, workshops, kids activities and more celebrating all things Euclid Beach and Lake Erie! [www.euclidbeachblast.com](http://www.euclidbeachblast.com)  
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It is very dangerous to try to Leap a chasm in two bounds.  
- Chinese proverb

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Community

Rumor Busters



by Wade Wilson

In an ongoing series, the Collinwood Observer will now be rumor busting. From time to time, we hear completely ridiculous things that are simply not true. And, sometimes, the truth is actually more interesting than the rumor. Here are this month's Rumor Busters:

Waterloo Sunoco – Common rumor going around is that the Waterloo Sunoco closed due to a reduction in business because of the Waterloo Streetscape. Actually, it wasn't the Waterloo Streetscape. It was a fire! On March 1, one of the coolers caught fire inside the Sunoco station. Thankfully, the Cleveland Fire Department was quick to respond and put out the electrical fire.

Volunteers Needed! Euclid Creek Watershed Day at Wildwood Reservation

by Claire Posius

Please join Euclid Creek Watershed partners for a watershed day where we have a few activities for you to participate: a wetland planting, or you can help maintain a bioswale garden or assist with a beach cleanup.

This event is a partnership with Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach Team in addition to the Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, Friends of Euclid Creek, City of Cleveland, Alliance fo the Great Lakes, and the Euclid Creek Watershed Council.

When: Sat., May 17, 9:00am to noon, Wildwood Lakefront Reservation, Cleve-

land (at E. 174th Street and Lakeshore Blvd., meet at the Wildwood pavilion)

Registration required for wetland planting by May 15 at: <http://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/Main/EventsProgramsCalendar/Euclid-Creek-Watershed-Day-3381.aspx>

Contact Claire Posius for details at 216-524-6580x16 [cposius@cuyahogawcd.org](mailto:cposius@cuyahogawcd.org).

Or more event details are available here: <http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/Euclid-CreekFiles/Event%20PDFs/Wildwood-PlantingFlyer.051714.pdf>

If you are interested in harvesting nuphar/spadderdock from Singer Lake Bog in Geauga County, we will be harvesting

on Friday, May 16th from 9:00am tonoon, contact Claire Posius for details and directions.



Wetland Planting

No Vacancy Here: Art in (Phone) Box



Phone Gallery is located at the yellow wall of Russ' Auto Care on the south side of the Waterloo Road, just west of E156th Street.

by Allison Lukacsy

A few weekends ago Phone Gallery - Cleveland's Smallest Gallery – opened it's first curated show, #ThisisWaterloo, a revolving set of crowd-sourced photographs taken by visitors, residents, and merchants in the Waterloo Arts District.

In the shadows of Russ' Auto, I stood in front of the once vacant, phoneless box and tinkered with the format of the first 16 photographs now on view through mid-May when a new batch of photographs will replace the initial selections. I drew the attention of curious on-lookers and happily chatted about the project's aspirations to engage any and everyone who finds themselves on Waterloo. Not once but twice I was offered the use of a stranger's cell phone or directed down the street to an operable

pay phone. I can only imagine how bizarre I looked, reaching through the wormhole for a phone receiver that is long gone.

Originally conceived in 2013 through collaboration between artist Ivana Medukic of 'Project Pop-Up Galleries' and myself and executed by neighborhood handyman Doug Holmes, Phone Gallery demonstrates the transformation of an otherwise underutilized "space" into an inventive place for art display.

It's mission is to exhibit neighborhood-centric work by local artists, promoting Collinwood and its people to Cleveland and beyond. For the first exhibition, the goal is to engage people who otherwise might not describe themselves as artists or might not otherwise find time to visit Waterloo.

In fact, the intention for all of my community-led, interactive arts projects coming to North Collinwood (LOCKS of Love, from Waterloo; YARN n YOGA; and more) is to convey how accessible making art can be. "Smart" cell phones are prolific: We use them as substitutes for alarm clocks, handheld gamers, and cameras. It's the latter function I am interested in, especially as a tool to promote the wonderful emerging arts scene brewing in Collinwood.

Playing off of Positively Cleveland's newest campaign, #ThisisCLE, #ThisisWaterloo encourages people to document their experiences in the Waterloo Arts District and promote them to each other, greater Cleveland, and beyond. We are our own

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Now through June 21st, 2014: (1) Snap a photograph; (2) upload it to your preferred social media platform (Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook); (3) hashtag it #ThisisWaterloo.

YIKES! Fire plus gasoline could have been quite the boom-time on Waterloo! The insurance company has not yet released funds for the reconstruction of the service building. Once the funds are released, the station will be rebuilt and the Sunoco will reopen.

East 185th Street 7-11 – Common rumor going around is that the 7-11 on East 185th Street closed because of 39 armed robberies that caused the convenience store owner to get fed-up and close. Um, nope! The truth is that the 7-11 was an independent franchise that lost its franchise agreement when the East 185th Street BP opened a corporate-backed 7-11 inside the BP (and removed the Subway sandwich shop, by the way). Corporate would not allow there to be two 7-11 convenience stores on East 185th Street. After the operator lost his franchise, the building owner elected not to renew the lease and put the building on the market. Recently, the building was purchased and will open as an independent convenience store called Quix Food and Deli.

If you want a rumor busted, please send what you have heard to [CollinwoodRumors@gmail.com](mailto:CollinwoodRumors@gmail.com) You might see your rumor busted in a future issue of the Collinwood Observer.

Upstage Players' Shoring Up The Stage Summer Theatre Program is seeking student applicants!

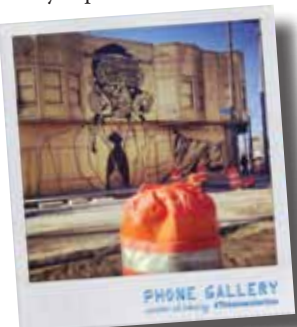
by Stephen Love

Upstage Player is looking for ten motivated students ages 12-18 to participate in a summer theater internship program. The focus of the program will be on protecting our lakefront. We are collaborating with the Adopt a Beach program and will participate in beach cleanups, meet experts on the Lakefront, visit Columbus and tour the Statehouse, research and write and perform an original play to help promote awareness of keeping the Lakefront clean. Each student is expected to attend the following sessions and participate fully. Students will receive a total stipend of \$175. Please include one letter of recommendation from supervisor, teacher, coach etc. stating why you would be a good candidate for this summer program. This cannot be a person related to you. You do not have to be an UpStage Player in order to be considered.

For more information and to download the application, visit: <http://www.upstage-players.com/forms.html>

Applications with letters of recommendation must be emailed to Mrs. Carrie Walsh-Hilf Artistic Director UpStage Players at [walsh-hilf@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:walsh-hilf@sbcbglobal.net) by Sunday, June 2nd

or mail to:  
Carrie Walsh-Hilf,  
891 East 237th  
Euclid, Ohio, 44123  
If you have questions, do not hesitate to email Mrs. Carrie Walsh-Hilf.





Around Collinwood

Jewelry Making Class for Kids

by Jeanne Coppola  
The library will offer a jewelry making class for kids on May 7th from 11:30am to 1:00pm and from 4:30pm to 6:00pm. This jewelry making class will teach you how to make a lovely gift to give your mother. You will have lots of fun, while you make a piece of jewelry, like a necklace or bracelet or more. "Mother's Day is coming, and you do want to give her a gift. So why not learn how to make a piece of jewelry from Ms. Jameson (local artist)," said librarian



Alfonzo Daniels.  
Surprise your mom with this special gift, that you made yourself, and show her how much you love her. All supplies will be provided. Call the library at 216-623-7039 for further information.

**Holiday Polka Dance**  
Monday, May 26th Memorial Day Dance  
SNPJ Farm 10946 Heath Rd. (Off Route 6)  
Frank Stanger Band - Don Wojtila Band  
1 PM - 7 PM

May Events at the Memorial-Nottingham Library

by Jeanne Coppola  
**GED CLASSES**, every Tuesday and Thursday, at 10:15 a.m. FREE GED classes will be taught at the library through a partnership with Tri-C. To register for orientation, attend the orientation, and return for classes: call the Memorial-Nottingham Library at 216-623-7039.  
**LET'S MAKE SOMETHING FOR MOM**, Wednesday, May 7th, at 11:30 a.m. This is a fun event for children and teens which will teach them how to make simple jewelry and create a great Mother's Day gift for their Mom or another special woman in their life.  
**YEAH FOR MOM!** Wednesday, May 7th at 3:00 p.m. This is another fun event for children. Get a chance to show how much you love your mother, while having a great time learning how to make a beautiful tulip-shaped card to give her on Mother's Day!  
**THROUGH THE KALEIDOSCOOPE:** Making abstract Digital Art, May 7th, at 3:00 p.m. Tech Central will present their "Through the Kaleidoscope" lab that will tell you the basics of digital painting (and allow you to make your own unique creation. You will learn how to use Sumo Paint, a free online painting program. To register for this class, please call the library at 216-623-7039, or call Tech Central at 216-623-2980.  
**CROCHET CIRCLE**, every Wednesday, at 2:00 p.m. This is a crafting and community outreach program. Join us to enjoy the company of other crafters and make items for the Warm-Up Cleveland campaign. This is the crafting for a good cause program that distributes new donated items (with price tags attached), and donations of washable yarn, knitting needles or crochet hooks to local charities. You can also drop off these items at any Cleveland Public Library location. Call 216-623-2921 for more information. Everyone is welcome.  
**RUSSIAN BOOK CLUB:** A Literary Map of Ohio, Saturday April 19, at 12:00 p.m. A Russian Book Club special event. Many famous authors were born or lived in Ohio. Celebrate National Library Week with a literary tour of the state of Ohio. Discussion and presentation will be in the Russian language.

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Around Collinwood

The NEORS D project on Lakeshore Blvd.

by Jeanne Coppola  
The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS D) is doing a massive sewer project on Lakeshore Blvd., at the cost of over \$10 million dollars. The residents of the area need to know what is going on and why.  
I recently spoke with a sewer worker who said huge machines with whirling blades will tear up Lakeshore Blvd., from Neff Rd. to East 185th. St.  
Some of the trees will be in the way, because the blades are so wide, so the trees are marked with pink "X's" to be removed. This does not make any sense, because tele-

phone poles next to the trees are the same distance from the street as the trees, and are not going to be cut down. Why is the NEORDS planning to chop down our trees, and not the telephone poles? Will they replace them?  
How will this affect residents, and traffic? Will residents still be able to take the bus? (The Lakeshore busses are the #39 and #30, and the #39, runs the length of Lakeshore Blvd. Will parts of Lakeshore Blvd., be closed down, and traffic be rerouted?  
This project is supposed to last all summer long, and the water will be shut off for a day. When and why?? How will residents be notified?  
NEORS D needs to tell the public what is going on, and why they say sewer lines are being replaced because of flooding. My apartment on Lakeshore Blvd has never flooded, in the basement for the 8 years I have been here. So how prevalent and serious is this flooding?  
The questions that should be answered in The Observer for all residents, are:  
Who started this project? Why is it being done? Who is financing it? Will the whirling blades cause flying debris, which could injure residents or their homes? What will happen to our trees, and why are the tele-

NEORS D Responds to Readers Concerns

by Jean Chapman  
What is the name of the project?  
The project is called the Euclid Creek Pump Station - Lakeshore Boulevard Relief Sewer (ECPS-LBRS).

What is the purpose of the project?  
The purpose of the project is to increase sewer capacity in the area and update the existing Pump Station.  
Currently, during a rain event, the existing sewer cannot contain the flows and, as a result, untreated wastewater is discharged into the environment. This happens approximately 40 times per year.  
After construction is completed, when the current sewer becomes too full during a rain event, flows will be redirected to the new Lakeshore Boulevard Relief Sewer. Those flows will then be diverted to the Euclid Creek Tunnel where it will be stored until it can be treated at the Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant. Sewer discharges will be reduced from 40 times a typical year to zero. 27 million gallons of former sewage discharges to the environment will be captured and fully treated each year.  
Additionally, the project may alleviate some basement flooding as long as the local system can convey the flow to the relief sewer.

Who will pay for the project?  
Sewer District projects are paid for by our customers through sewer fees.

Are grants available to help cover the costs?  
Through 1991, the Sewer District received grant monies. Unfortunately, those grants monies no longer exist.

How will this affect residents, and traffic?  
The work will progress northbound on Lakeshore Boulevard starting at Marcella Road. Lakeshore Boulevard will be reduced from four lanes to two lanes where the work is being performed.  
On East Park Drive and Crestland, there will be no curb side parking. Traffic will be reduced to local access only; traffic will be flagged through the area. Residents will have access to their driveways. At the completion of the work, the area will be restored to its previous state including new pavement throughout the work area, and replacement of curbs and sidewalks where necessary.

I'm concerned about the safety of the project. Should the residents be concerned about the large whirling blades used to cut the street?  
The Sewer District wants to assure residents that safety is a priority, and this is a safe project. The equipment used during excavation is standard (a track mounted excavator to dig the sewer trench, and trucks to haul spoils and backfill); it does

not include the use of large whirling blades. Additionally, the work will be done behind concrete barriers and fencing. As with any construction project, the contractor is required to follow all safety regulations.

Will trees need to be removed? If so, why? Will new trees be replaced? How about telephone poles?  
Yes, in the fall of 2014, 12 trees will need to be removed on East Park Drive. However, the contractor may elect to work on the street sooner than scheduled, so the trees may be removed prior to the fall of 2014.

The Sewer District has consulted with an Arborist with the City of Cleveland and determined that the location of the work required to build the new sewer would result in damage to the existing trees and their roots such that the trees would not likely survive. Therefore, they will need to be removed. At the completion of the project, for each tree removed, two new new trees will be planted in its place.

The telephone poles will remain intact. Fortunately, unlike trees which have roots, the excavator can work around the telephone poles.

Will bus routes be impacted?  
Bus routes will be minimally impacted. Drop off and pick up locations may vary slightly depending on the current work location and because of the reduced number of lanes.

Will water and electricity be impacted? If so, for how long? How will residents be notified?  
There are some utilities lines that will need to be relocated, and those utility compa-



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# V Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

*Faith. Family. Future.*

## 2014 Classic Mixer Gala nets \$250,000

Fundraising records were broken at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School's Fourth Annual Classic Mixer Gala held on Saturday, April 5. After all expenses were paid, the school netted \$250,000, making it the most successful fundraising event in the history of the school (including founding schools Villa Angela Academy and St. Joseph High School).

Of the \$250,000 netted, \$195,000 was raised for "Continuing the Dream" which provides funds to be used exclusively toward scholarships and financial aid for deserving students and families.

Board of Advisors Chairman Don Dailey '70 set the stage for "Continuing the Dream" by announcing that a group of "Dream Makers" had each agreed to donate \$5,000 or more. Leading the list was Joseph Scaminace '71 with a donation of \$25,000. Several additional donors stepped up to join the Dream Makers at the event.

In support of the 23 former St. Peter Chanel High School students now at VASJ, a group called the "Firebird Family Dream Makers" then was announced. Before the night was over, supporters of the former Chanel students had given \$35,000.

Jeff and Dr. Sandra (Pertekel) '66 Turner announced that they would join the Dream Makers by donating \$20,000 to endow The Evelyn A. Svete Memorial Scholarship at VASJ, named in honor of Sandra's aunt who was a 1941 graduate of Villa Angela Academy. The couple received a standing ovation from the enthusiastic crowd of 330 attendees.

In addition to faculty and staff, current VASJ students were a significant presence at the event. Junior Danielle Paus and sophomore John Henry Posey served as the night's emcees.

The event was a true team effort



Student representatives at the Fourth Annual Classic Mixer Gala gathered on stage to say "thank you" to donors after fundraising records were broken and the event raised a quarter of a million dollars to help "Continue the Dream" of a VASJ education.



Dr. Sandra (Pertekel) '66 Turner and her husband, Jeff, announced a \$20,000 gift to kick-off "Continuing the Dream."

and would not have been possible without the hard work of the event chair Mike Romeo '88 and the entire Classic Mixer committee.

"Every successive year, our donors, staff and volunteers outdo themselves," says VASJ President Richard Osborne '69. "Their

support speaks volumes about their commitment to continue the dream of a VASJ education for generations to come."



John Henry Posey '16 and Danielle Paus '15 served as the student emcees for the evening.

VASJ, Northeast Shores Development Corporation and Hermes Road Racing are excited to announce the Third Annual Escape on the Lake 5k run and 1-mile walk on Saturday, July 12, 2014.

The race will start and finish at VASJ. All pre-registrants will receive a t-shirt.

Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m.  
The 5k run/1-mile walk will begin at 9 a.m.

Pre-Registration Entry Fee (before July 9) - \$18

Race Day Entry Fee - \$23

More information can be found on the VASJ website at [www.vasj.com/escape-on-the-lake](http://www.vasj.com/escape-on-the-lake)



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# V Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

*Faith. Family. Future.*

## Kwasniak '94 named Director of Advancement

Babejohn Kwasniak '94 has been named Director of Advancement for his alma mater, Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School, effective May 1. The announcement was made by VASJ President Richard Osborne '69.

"Babe brings a wealth of talent, experience, passion and enthusiasm to our school," Osborne said. "As the Director of Advancement, he will play a key role in our strategic plan for continued success."

Kwasniak is the head coach of the VASJ boys basketball team, which ended its season this year as state runner-up in Division III. Under Kwasniak's leadership, VASJ won the 2013 state championship in Division IV. He will remain as basketball coach in his new position.

"I have often said I don't love coaching – I love VASJ and the kids that I get the privilege to coach," Kwasniak said. "I believe taking this job proves that. I'm thrilled about the opportunity to use my business background to give back to an institution and community who made me the man I am today. This place is special. What an exciting time to be at VASJ."

The Director of Advancement reports to the President and is responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive advancement program, including fundraising, alumni relations, donor stewardship and budgeting.

Overall fundraising at VASJ, the fastest-growing private high school in Ohio, has increased some 44 percent since the 2010-11 school year. Key to this success is engagement with the school's base of nearly 20,000 alumni through calls on personal and corporate donors to meet goals approaching \$1 million annually.

Kwasniak was part of the first graduating class to attend VASJ all four years after Villa Angela Academy and St. Joseph High School merged in 1990. He is in an elite category by winning a state championship as both a player and a head coach.

Kwasniak received a Bachelor of Science degree in Geopolitics from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1999. He served in the Army until 2004. His service included roles as an Executive Officer, Operation Officer, and as the head basketball coach for the Armed Forces Basketball Team, which won a gold medal in 2004 and 2001. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and Global War on Terrorism Medal upon completion of his military duty.

From 2005 until 2012 Kwasniak worked for Ameripath, the largest anatomic pathology company in the nation. He started as a territory manager in Kansas City where he won various president club trips for being a top salesman in cancer diagnostics and molecular testing medical field.



Babe Kwasniak '94

He was promoted to an Anatomic Pathology Sales Director in Cleveland where he won an award for being the top director in 2010. Kwasniak managed in excess of \$43 million of business while serving in that role.

Kwasniak is the co-founder of the Live for Joy Foundation, a non-profit organization that raises funds for ocular melanoma research and scholarship funds in memory of his sister, Joy Kwasniak-Swanson, a 1991 graduate of VASJ.

Kwasniak is married to Laura (Worthing) Kwasniak, MD, whom he met when they were both cadets at West Point. She is a board-certified dermatologist with a practice (Hirsh Dermatology) in Mayfield Village. The couple have three children: B.K. (10), Quinn (7) and Logan (2).

As Director of Advancement, Kwasniak succeeds Mary Paxton who has accepted the position of Director of Development with The Salvation Army of Greater Cleveland Services.

## Viking Views



by Richard Osborne

With apologies to the old Ford Motor Company commercial.... If you haven't seen VASJ lately, you haven't seen VASJ.

Oh, don't worry. All the traditions and character you remember from back in the day remain. Graduates' portraits still line the first-floor hallway. Trophies and other memorabilia from Villa Angela Academy and St. Joseph High School endure throughout the building. Hall of Fame plaques continue to honor many of our most distinguished alums.

But the past 12 months have seen an unprecedented number of improvements that have made the Viking Village even more, well, memorable than ever. And the spruce-up, clean-up projects will continue this summer. You might say that the new Three Rs at VASJ are: Remodel, Refresh and Refurbish!

Elsewhere on this page you can read about the exciting things to come in the school gym. Always a great place to see a game, the experience will be accompanied by increased comfort and visual appeal when this big project is completed in time for the next basketball season. Because the gym is also the site of numerous other activities and events, all those special occasions will be enhanced as well.

While the gym serves as the main gateway and venue for many visitors to the Viking Village, you won't want to let your tour end there. Our chapel has been restored as a beautiful center of spiritual reflection and renewal. Conference rooms – including the spacious Villa Angela Heritage Room on the second floor of the library – are in the process of updating and redecoration. A digital display called "Head of the Class," celebrating leading donors, is set for installation this summer.

In light of all this, it is little wonder that our student population is on track to grow by yet another 20 percent this fall. No doubt about it, VASJ is on a roll. The proud past of VA and St. Joe's has served as the solid foundation for growth and strength in the 21st Century. As we look forward to our 25th anniversary as the merged school in 2015, we also look forward to serving the Collinwood-Euclid community for generations to come.

And while you're making note of our Silver Anniversary, please mark your calendar for August 17. Save the date for a reception and tours of the "better than ever" VASJ!

Richard Osborne '69 is the president of Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School.

## VASJ begins renovation of 64-year old gym

The athletics program at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School will be taking another step towards ensuring that the established legacy maintains a strong presence at the corner of East 185th Street and Lakeshore Boulevard with a plan to renovate the 64-year old gymnasium.

The old bleachers will be replaced with state-of-the-art, molded plastic seats from the Hussey Seating Company, boasting a capacity of 1,250 seats with end and back railing, along with an aisle railway, giving a college-like atmosphere to the gym with an obvious upgrade that will advance both the safety and aesthetics for all fans.

The stage will have platform risers in front, creating VIP seating with cushioned folding chairs, adding an exciting new cheering section behind the basket with a great vantage point.

The banners, a daily reminder of all of the storied accomplishments of past and present Vikings, will also see a new look. There will be a consistent color and theme, with new Final Four, State Championship and branding banners adorning the rafters.

The restrooms in the gym will also be enlarged to accommodate the large crowds, becoming ADA-compliant. In doing so, space will be created for new concession stands and a Spirit Shop will be added to the Viking Village. Replacing the metal railings above the north end bleachers, will be sleek, new, glass five-foot-wide panels with stainless steel rails. The glass will be branded with VASJ logos as well as provide advertising opportunities. The current and current scoreboard advertising will also be renegotiated. Finally, the basketball hoops will become suspended from the ceiling rather than movable posts.

First-year Athletic Director Nate Zavorek '94, has spearheaded the effort.

"We have all reaped the benefits of this gym," said Zavorek. "Now it is time to give back and give this special place, which has housed so many memories, a face lift. This gym has shaped the growth from adolescence to adulthood for many of the people who walked these walls and I think all of those people want to see it being taken care of and upgraded for future generations to enjoy just as much."

With a rich tradition of producing professional, legendary athletes and a current spot among Northeast Ohio's elite competition, VASJ is capturing the unique combination of a strong foundation with a fresh outlook.

Construction on the gym began on April 8 and is targeted to be completed by the start of the 2014-15 school year in August.

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## Exciting New Preschool Program at Our Lady of the Lake



A quality school setting is important for nurturing young students

by Sarah Gyorki

Studies have clearly shown how important early childhood education is to your child's success in school and in life. So it's particularly exciting that local families have a new, quality option for preschool coming this fall at Our Lady of the Lake School.

Principal Rita Kingsbury is introducing an innovative, curriculum-based

preschool that offers the highest quality of education at affordable rates, with flexible full and half-day options. Students will benefit not only from experienced, highly qualified teachers, but also access to a full array of school amenities, including a complete gymnasium, dedicated art and music rooms, iPads and a computer lab.

Our Lady of the Lake School has been expanding its advanced, enrichment and extracurricular offerings at all grade levels, while maintaining small classrooms with lots of teacher attention, advanced technology initiatives, and a warm, nurturing environment grounded in faith, academics and community. They are currently accepting registrations for Pre-K through 8th grade. For registration information or to schedule a tour, contact Rita Kingsbury, Principal, at (216) 481-6824 or by email at kingsburyr@ourladyofthelake-school.org.



## Our Lady of the Lake Ramps up the Fun for 200th Street Stroll!

by Dana Heil

We all love the E. 200th Street Stroll, with all its opportunities to meet neighbors, visit local merchants and get out and about in the community. Our Lady of the Lake loves the Stroll so much, we're putting on a party to celebrate!

At the corner of Lakeshore Blvd. and E. 200th Street visitors will find live music, kids games, crafts and prizes, snacks and refreshments and fun for all ages. It's

all free and open to the public, so stop by and visit us any time between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 31st. You can also buy your wristband for non-stop rocket car and trolley rides, and make this your kick-off point for enjoying all that the 200th Street Stroll has to offer. We're looking forward to meeting some new friends, and enjoying a great day with our neighbors!

## Monthly Prayer Walks

by Dana Heil

The last Saturday of each month, a cluster of Lakeshore churches gets together to host a prayer walk throughout different parts of our neighborhood. It's a great way to meet friends, get a little fresh air and share some conversation. All ages and denominations are welcome, so bring a friend and come

join us. This month's Prayer Walk begins at Our Lady of the Lake on Saturday, May 31, at 10:00am. We'll be walking through the E. 200th Street Stroll, so it's bound to be a fun morning. For more information about our Prayer Walks and other activities, visit Our Lady of the Lake on facebook, where we share photos and other information.

## Youth Mass Celebrates Young People

by Rita Testa

In his World Youth Day homily, Pope Francis said: "The Church needs you, your enthusiasm, your creativity and the joy that is so characteristic of you." Our Lady of the Lake is excited to celebrate the creativity, joy and enthusiasm of our young people in monthly youth masses. Friends and neighbors of all ages are invited to join any of these celebrations.

**May 11, 2014 10:00 am:** Mother/Daughter Mass

**June 15, 2014 10:00 am:** Father/Son Mass

For a full schedule of mass times, visit Our Lady of the Lake online at [www.ourladyofthelakeoh.org](http://www.ourladyofthelakeoh.org), or call (216) 486-0850. All are welcome!



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**Tuesday, May 20**  
4:00pm - 6:30pm

**Saturday, May 31**  
10:00am - 11:30am

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## Solving the Homework Challenge

by Molly Wimbiscus, MD

Life is busy! Four kids, 8 years old and younger, full time jobs and some weekend work, several extracurricular activities--how can we find time for homework? Oddly, homework is a peaceful time of day. After dinner, kids at the table, excited to read their "just right" books for at least 30 minutes that they have chosen with care from their book boxes at school, write in their journals briefly, sometimes practice math as directed by their teachers. I have never had an unnecessary worksheet to check or watched a child stress over ambiguous directions. They know exactly what to do, and I can relax reading with them (as needed) or listening to them read as we clean up the kitchen and get things ready for the next day.

If homework is a reflection of school, the Intergenerational Schools must be a calm and reassuring place. My children know exactly what is expected of them. They gain confidence

throughout the year as they transition into new developmental stages. Mae informed me that she is now an "early beginner," and I wish you could see the delight in her eyes! She is writing real words in her "Quick Write" journal that started out as pictures of "details" just a few short months ago. Last week, she took my hand on a walk and said, "Mom, I can't wait to write about my weekend in my journal!"

Why do I notice this time of day if it is so easy? Why would it be otherwise? I am a child psychiatrist and work closely with many families struggling over homework challenges. In many homes, this time of day is a nightmare and leads to anxiety and frustration for kids and parents alike. Intergenerational educators have gracefully trained us as parents and our children in the meaningful routine of authentic homework. This is just one distinctive element of the Intergenerational Way!

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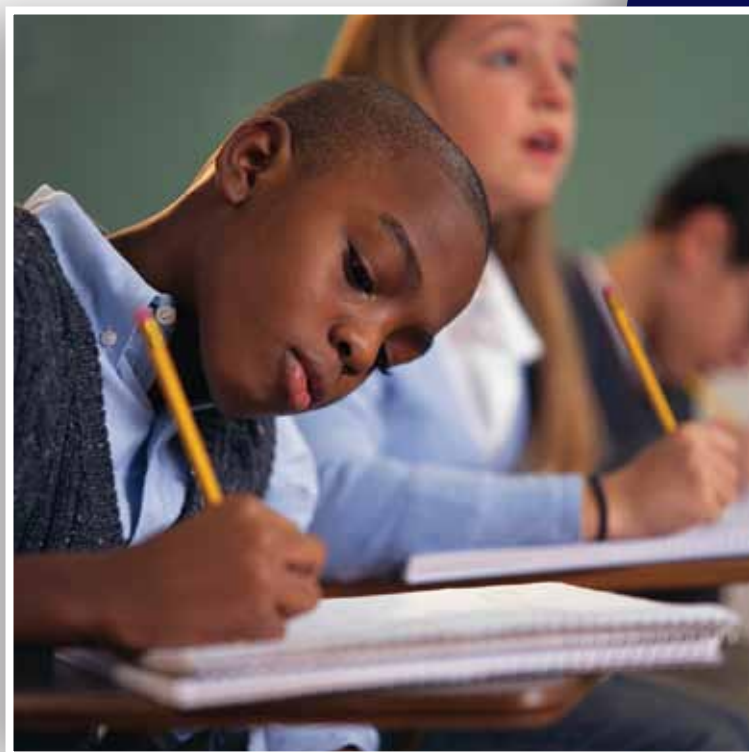


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## Schools

### National Student Poet Sojourner Ahebee Visits Collinwood High School



Jayla Terry (left) and Sojourner Ahebee discuss ideas for poems.



Dayaunna White (left) and Gigi Elder, Instructional Coach, concentrate on their thoughts.



National Student Poet Sojourner Ahebee (center) is surrounded by poetry workshop participants.

by Gail Greenberg

A prestigious V.I.P. – Very Important Poet – visited Collinwood High School, in celebration of April as National Poetry Month. Sojourner Ahebee, National Student Poet Class of 2013, met with a group of promising Collinwood High School student writers, educators and community members for a poetry writing workshop and presentation. Also in attendance was Timothy Owens, Senior Library Program Officer, at the Institute of Museum and Library Services in Washington, DC.

Recently appointed one of five National Student Poets, chosen from among the national medalists in the Scholastic Arts & Writing Awards, Sojourner will serve as a literacy ambassador to people across the country and around the world. She will share her passion for poetry and inspire her peers, through readings and workshops at libraries, museums and schools.

Sojourner attends Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, where she majors in Creative Writing. Born in Cote D'Ivoire, West Africa, she left her birthplace at age 7,

after the start of the Ivorian civil war. Her current home is Philadelphia, PA.

Sojourner's visit to Collinwood was made possible by a collaboration between Cleveland Public Library and its staff and Collinwood High School. Caroline Peak, Collinwood Branch Manager, Amy Dawson, Manager, Ohio Center for the Book, Steve Capuozzo, Literature Department Librarian, Ohio Center for the Book, and Gail Greenberg, Media Specialist, Collinwood High School, planned and coordinated the day's event.

### Hello Collinwood: the iMedia Students Invade the Rock Hall & Meet Jay-Z's Engineer



Young Guru and the iMedia class

by Darece Daniels

Teens from Collinwood's iMedia pro-

gram met with Grammy award nominated Young Guru (engineer and record producer to Jay-Z) on March 19th at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The meeting was a panel discussion and interview with Young Guru, kicking off a three day series celebrating Hip Hop. The event was a collaboration between Cuyahoga Community College and the Rock Hall.

Young Guru is one of the most sought after engineers in the music industry and has worked with artists such as Ludacris, Mariah Carey, Rihanna, Beyonce, Cam'ron, Talib Kweli, and Cleveland's own Bone

Thugs-N-Harmony, along with many others. Known as "The Sound of New York", Young Guru has over a decade of experience in production, sound engineering and A&R for Def Jam and Roc-A-Fella Records. The acclaimed producer has engineered 10 of Jay-Z's 11 albums, along with Kanye West, Alicia Keys, and many others.

Young Guru shared his experience in the music business with the teens while giving sound information and advice to those who are interested in a career in the music industry. He graciously responded to the many questions that were in the room and stayed later than planned to continue his conversation with our students. "It definitely had an impact on me", said Devon Merritt, singer and iMedia participant. "I'm taking it all in." "I greatly appreciate the time that Young Guru spent with our kids and all of

### Cleveland Job Corp recognized as a Gold Star Center



by William Houston  
Center Director

The Center Director and the Business Community Liaison (BCL), Michael E. Taylor, had the opportunity to participate in the 2014 NJCA Policy Forum two weeks ago in Washington, DC. He had the opportunity to meet with Grace Kilbane, National Director, as well as the directors from the National Job Corps Association, as they lead discussions about increasing student enrollment, JC Funding and a variety of other matters. It was one of the most open dialogues that the NJCA leadership and office of Job Corps had in a long while.

I am very proud to announce that the Cleveland center was recognized by NJCA as a Gold Star Center. Special thanks to our BCL, along with Community Relations Council and Industry Advisor Council for

### Summer Guns

by Tahlia Eskridge

Teens from Collinwood's iMedia progThe summer is fast approaching and with the heat comes craziness. Who wants to stay in the house? Pure laziness. But is it worth risking your life and safety? I don't want to see another one of my friends or family members laying on the hot concrete, only for someone to say I don't know what went on and I definitely don't want that to be me. What do you do when there's nowhere to run; everywhere you turn you're staring down the barrel of their guns? When everyone thinks it's ok to fight what do you do? Why can't people put down their weapons and fight for things that matter? What about our education or the fact that businesses keep closing? What about the abandoned homes on our streets, but homeless families on our corners? I wish people would be more passionate about fighting for these things instead of fighting because someone said the wrong thing to them. But no matter what I say I know I'll be hearing gun shots ringing. Old women singing, at funerals of their grandchildren. Truth is I'll lose more friends, leaving my mood as blue as the summer sky. The summer should be fun but for some it will bring another year of grief and tears.

the knowledge that he shared", said Darvio "Kingpin" Morrow, CEO of FCB Entertainment & one of the iMedia instructors. "It means a lot for our kids to be able to see people who are successful in the fields that they are interested in."

The teens are part of the iMedia program, whose mission is to explore their creativity by broadening their horizons in the areas of the arts, music and the media. Members of the class have met and/or interviewed luminaries such as legendary engineer Young Guru, Cleveland City Councilman Michael Polensek, Newschannel 5 Reporter Stephanie Ramirez, Cavs legend Austin Carr and Greater Cleveland Film Commission President Ivan Schwarz, among others. The class meets at the Collinwood Recreation Center on Wednesdays at 4:30pm.

helping make it happen.

As you may be aware, the President's administration's budget called for \$1.5 billion in funding for Job Corps, which is \$200 million below our need for FY-15. We focused on urging members of congress to support the Dear Colleague letter initiated by Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge of the 11th Congressional District Office regarding Job Corps' appropriations. They all displayed a great deal of professionalism, pride, knowledge, and confidence.

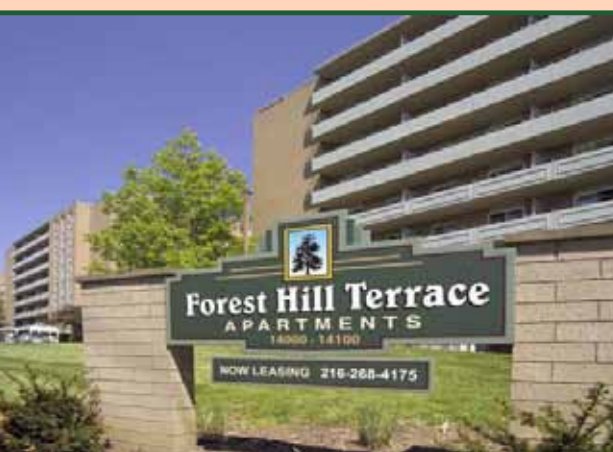
The NJCA is declaring the week of August 18th as Job Corps Week. During this Congressional recess, they are requesting that centers invite their Congressional delegates to their respective center and begin putting plans in place to recognize the great history of Job Corps and those who have made contributions to the past, present, and future of the program. The success of the Cleveland JCC couldn't have been possible without the great partnerships and support from our stakeholders. All of our third graders would like to express our appreciation to the Cleveland Orchestra for coming to dazzle us with their playing. We know it was a big job getting here, but hope you enjoyed us as much as we enjoyed you. Bravo!

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## Grants Awarded to Hospice School Crisis Response Program

by Laurie Henrichsen

Hospice of the Western Reserve has received continued grant funding of its School Crisis Response Program from the Ridgecliff Foundation (\$25,000) and the Pentair Foundation (\$1,325) in 2014. Both foundations have provided annual support since 2007, enabling the experienced counselors of the nonprofit agency's Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Bereavement Center to respond to students and staff when death-related crises occur in Northeast Ohio's school communities.

In the period of 2007 through 2013, counselors provided 150 immediate on-site responses in the aftermath of suicides, shootings, accidental deaths, unexpected sudden deaths, and anticipated deaths due to serious illness. Each crisis response is carefully planned in coordination with the school's staff, to fit the specific needs of the impacted school community.

"We're grateful for this continued support, which allows our team of trained counselors to provide immediate, on-site

support for administrators, staff, students and parents in collaboration with school crisis response team members," said Diane Snyder Cowan, Director of the Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Bereavement Center.

The school crisis response team helps the students develop a normalized view of the grief process, find appropriate ways to express their feelings, and memorialize the deceased. After the initial response, many schools invite the counselors back to lead follow-up activities such as grief support groups and classroom presentations.

The Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Bereavement Center's School Crisis Response Program supplements the programs and resources already available in schools. "We offer proactive consultation services, and presentations on the grief responses of children and adolescents for teachers and school staff," Snyder Cowan said. More information is available at [www.hospicewr.org/grief-loss](http://www.hospicewr.org/grief-loss), or by phone at 216.486.6838.

## B & B Upholstery Art and Artisan Exhibit

by John Copic

Do you need a beautiful piece of furniture reupholstered? Do you need the vinyl booth in your restaurant repaired? Whether your upholstery needs are commercial or residential, marine or auto, I highly recommend you stop in at B & B Upholstery located at 15319 Waterloo Rd. They have been in business there on Waterloo since 1996.

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## Health

## June 8 Walk to Remember Celebrates Loved Ones While Helping Hospice



The Burning River Roller Girls are ready to again serve as "rolling ambassadors" at this year's Walk to Remember.

by Laurie Henrichsen

Collinwood residents are encouraged to gather family and friends and register for the third annual Walk to Remember at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Honorary Chair for this year's event is Monica Robins, Senior Health Correspondent, WKYC TV Channel 3. Sponsored by FirstMerit Foundation, the event will be held Sunday, June 8, 2014, 8 a.m. to noon. Over 2,000 participants are expected to enjoy the leisurely walk through the zoo celebrating the memory of their loved ones. The event benefits patients and families cared for by Hospice of the Western Reserve, including the residents of David Simpson Hospice House on E. 185th Street. Registration is \$20 for an individual and \$60 for a family. Children's admission is \$10. Registration includes all-day admission at the Zoo and Rainforest, T-shirts, snacks and live musical entertainment. To register, visit <http://www.hospicewr.org/walk>.

"It's a great family event. We have multiple generations of families and their friends walking together as a way to pay tribute to those who have had a lasting influence in their lives. It's a wonderful, uplifting way to honor the memory of loved ones," said Collinwood resident Laura Lee Martin, who is Director of Operations, Development and Communications for the nonprofit agency. "The day always has a very celebratory feel

to it. Last year, many teams even created and wore customized T-shirts with pictures and names of their loved ones on the front. The event is open to anyone wishing to honor and celebrate the memory of a loved one; no hospice experience is necessary."

Martin said all proceeds stay within Northern Ohio to help seriously ill patients and their families by helping to fund compassionate services not fully covered by Medicare or private insurance such as grief counseling, pediatric hospice care, music and art therapy and the school crisis grief support program.

Among those participating for the third year will be the Burning River Roller Girls, Cleveland's first all-female, skater-owned, flat-track derby league, who will help kick off the Walk and add to the celebratory mood of the day. "We had such a great time and were honored to be a part of something so special," said Daniela Reagan, Vice President of Public Relations for the group. "I am happy to help because hospice took such great care of several of my family members in their last days."

For more information or assistance with registration, email Bridget Murphy, Hospice of the Western Reserve, at [bmurphy@hospicewr.org](mailto:bmurphy@hospicewr.org), or call her at 216.383.3715.

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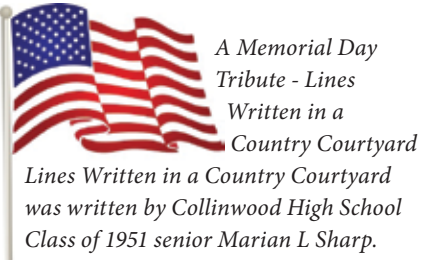
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Back Cover

# Lines Written in a Country Churchyard

by Marian Sharp  
Editors note: Reprinted by the permission of the Collinwood Nottingham Historical Society



Lines Written in a Country Courtyard was written by Collinwood High School Class of 1951 senior Marian L Sharp. Her father having served in World War 1, and her grandfather having also served in the military, a deep respect for our veterans was instilled in her at an early age.

It was after Marian's Navy Seal fiancé had been killed serving in Korea, that she wrote this piece. Her daughter, Susan Crismor, was kind enough to allow us to reprint it, for this Memorial Day issue, in memory of her mother, and in tribute, like her, to our veterans.

Thanks Susan, for sharing this with our Collinwood community!  
© 2014 Estate of Marian L Sharp

It's peaceful here now. One would never

suspect that only a few days ago it was the scene of a military funeral. That was the day they brought you home, this time to stay. They brought you across the ocean in a large ship with others like yourself. As you came toward the dock the tug whistle remained silent a quiet salute to you. They lifted you gently to the pier, then to a train and then they bore you up here. You're home now. It's peaceful here now. The rifles are silent, the people gone, and you are left to rest. Was it quiet then, on that day they laid you to rest?

It's beautiful up here today. The sun is warm on your grave and trees are whispering softly that your sleep may not be disturbed. They are not mourning for you, they're raising their branches, tall and straight to give thanks that we have men like you. You died to protect this land, this tree, this country, and all of us. Your were called on to do a job, and you did it, at the expense of your own life "that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom" Freedom isn't free. You paid dearly for your few short years of it.

It's peaceful here on the hill. You can look for miles around and see the farmer

in the fields you fought to save. Far off on the horizon, their smokestacks reaching the sky, are the cities with their factories and industries, the heartbeat of America, the things you fought to keep free. They're working for democracy.

Some say that they don't know who you are, but they do know, we all do. You're an American, from "the land of the free and the home of the brave." You fought to keep these words a reality. You are endeared in the hearts of all true, freedom-loving Americans. You fought and died for us. Some say the price was too great for you to pay. Do you think it was? A little way down the road children are playing, playing in a free world. A world where there isn't any fear or dictatorship. Is this worthwhile?

It's peaceful here today. Are you spiteful that you had to give your life for us? Perhaps your buddies are fighting again, in another war. But that doesn't mean that you died in vain. For as long as the persecuted people of the world know that there are people like you who will die to save them, they will have hope. The cross at your head tells this. He, who was the first to die there, died to save us. He whom we all remember. You died like him, to save the persecuted. Someday there will be an end to war and then the persecuted will be free.

It's peaceful here today. "Let not your heart be trouble, ye believe in God." You did not die in vain. There are those who would have believed it, but you did not die in vain.

I bought a newspaper tonight, several

as a matter of fact. I read of the corrupt administration in some place and of the good in other cities. I was able to get a true picture of our country. That is why you did not die in vain. We will go to the polls to vote and elect new officials. The officials of our own choice. This is why you did not die in vain. Sunday I will go to church, the church I choose and will worship God in the way I see fit. This is why you didn't die in vain. I can go to a civic meeting and criticize or praise our country and its administration. I can say what I think and feel. This is why you did not die in vain.

All this is America, and this is why you did not die in vain, for we still have these things, thanks to you. But you say what of yourself? You are not dead for your soul lives on in the hearts of your loved ones, and in those who pass by here and look at your white cross. You are an inspiration for those coming on after you. Your strength, courage, and devotion to your country are examples to be followed carefully. For you are on of those who "more than self their country loved."

It's peaceful here today. But down in the cities and towns the people are going about their work. The work of making this nation, this world, a better place in which to live. You have finished your work, so rest well soldier, it's a job well done. And when God feels that we have done our jobs, we will come to join you in the sleep that only one who has done a good job can have. You've done your job, but we will continue in your line and try to finish it.

Sleep soldier, you've done your job well.

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