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The East 185th Street Transportation for Livable Communities Public Meeting

by John Boksansky, Commercial Project Coordinator, Northeast Shores Development Corporation

If you are interested in the future of East 185th Street and discussing how it can be a more livable community, and designed for the future, you are invited to the public meeting to be held:

Date: Tuesday February 24, 2015
Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Place: Villa Angela St Joseph Gymnasium
Enter North West door entrance, rear parking lot off of East 185th Street.

“Everyone has a vision for what East 185 or a downtown can be,” stated Councilman Polensek, Ward 8 Councilman City of Cleveland. “I am extremely excited about the prospects for the future of the East 185th Street Corridor. The district is a priority for our community. We are counting on valued input from the public regarding the TLCI plan and our efforts to improve the area to serve the neighborhood and the region as well. East 185 is a great place to live, work and visit. Can we improve what we currently have?” “I believe we can by working together, and we look forward to the process and public input”

Mayor Cervenik, from the City of Euclid added, “The collaboration of the Cuyahoga Planning Commission, City of Cleveland, City of Euclid and Northeast Shores will result in a unified approach to revitalizing this important street.”

The TLCI grant is being used to develop specific recommendations for pedestrian and bicycle-friendly transportation improvements, land use and zoning, redevelopment scenarios (or opportunities), and design guidelines for public and private improvements that will promote mixed-use and transit-oriented development (TOD) along the corridor.

URS Corporation (AECOM), the consultants, as well as the City of Cleveland, Euclid and the Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency (NOACA), Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, and Northeast Shores are counting on public input to plan for making East 185th Street a move vibrant and livable community.

“The project grant was awarded recently, and the resulting plan will be completed by the end of 2015. The resulting plan depends on citizen and stakeholder input.” said Brian Friedman, Executive Director of Northeast Shores. Brian Friedman further added, “The plan comes to us because together with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, and the Cities of Euclid, and Cleveland, together, we submitted a compelling application. The \$110,000 funding for this initiative comes to us from NOACA, as well as the required local match investment by: The City of Euclid, City of Cleveland, Hospice of the Western Reserve, University Hospitals, Euclid Hospital: Cleveland Clinic as well as various merchants and Institutions.”

Collinwood High School Student Leaders Participate in The Diversity Center of NE Ohio Event



Railroader Leaders (left to right): Dwayne McGown; Mrs. Greenberg; Tahlia Eskridge; Aleia Beard; Da'zhah Gamble; Edashia Williams; Coreyaun Robinson; Demario Robinson; and Ms. A. Carlson.

by Gail Greenberg

Collinwood High School was well-represented at The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio 2015 Youth Leadership Luncheon and Program, held recently at John Carroll University. Middle and high school students and educators from throughout Cleveland and Cuyahoga County joined in a celebration of diversity and leadership that included conversation, lunch, various

presentations and awards recognition.

Eris Venia Eady, an artist, performance poet, and community outreach educator from Cleveland for more than a decade, engaged everyone in the audience with her moving words and lessons about identity and honoring who you are.

Program sponsors were The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio, Inc. and Charter One Foundation.

Neighborhood Saddened by Passing of Rev. Anthony Cassese



by Mary Louise Daley

Our dear friend, the Reverend Anthony Cassese, 66, Pastor at St. Jerome Parish in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland in Ward 8 of the City of Cleveland passed away on Tuesday, December 30, 2014.

Father Cassese was ordained to the priesthood for the service of the Order of St Paul the Hermit on 23 April 1977 in the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA. After serving in the Catholic Diocese at St Louis Parish in Cleveland Heights and Our Lady of Mt Carmel in Willowick, he was assigned to St Jerome Parish in Cleveland. He was appointed Administrator pro tem (in 1992) and then Administrator (in October 2005) of St Jerome's Church. He was then named Pastor of St. Jerome, Cleveland, on 6 November 2006. He had served at St Jerome for 27 years until his death.

As Pastor he saw St. Jerome through the good times and the tough times we all faced in the Ward, in the City and in the Diocese. St Jerome Parish thrives because of his determination and vision. The Parish community of St Jerome will miss Father Cassese and the Councilman will also

personally miss him since they had become good friends.

Father Cassese managed a battle with Cystic fibrosis from the time he was a child until complications lead to his death. He continued to manage the disease but never let it define him. His good friend, Father Ralph Wiatrowski, Pastor of St. Barnabas parish in Northfield Center, reflected that, “You would never have known he had Cystic Fibrosis unless he told you; he never let it become obvious.”

Thus, On Monday evening, January 5th, 2015, Cleveland City Council passed ORDINANCE 24-15, sponsored by Councilman Polensek, to place the name of FATHER ANTHONY CASSESE WAY as an honorarium to Ridpath Avenue between East 152 Street and East 149th Street. This street runs behind St Jerome's Catholic Church. The new signs will go up as soon as possible.

Councilman Polensek felt it was important that we honor and remember Father Cassese who became an adopted son of the Collinwood community and was humbled to be Pastor of St. Jerome Catholic Church. May the Good Lord watch over him.

Father Bill Jerse Named Pastor of St. Jerome's Parish

by Fr. John McNulty

I am happy to announce that Bishop Lennon has appointed Fr. Bill Jerse pastor of St. Jerome Parish. This appointment is effective Wednesday, February 18, 2015. Fr. Jerse is presently assigned as a parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish, Strongsville, Ohio and is serving as an Adjunct Judicial Vicar at the Diocesan Tribunal. Fr. Jerse is “from the neighborhood” having been raised in Collinwood as a parishioner of St. Mary's. Please keep Fr. Jerse in your prayers.

I will continue as administrator of the parish until Fr. Jerse's appointment takes effect. I am very grateful to Fr. Frank Walsh for his care of the parish throughout Fr.

Anthony's illness and his assistance during this time of transition. He is a wonderful priest.

I am also very grateful to the parish staff Adele Markert, Deacon Pete Travalik, Lawrence Wallace, Marguerite DiPenti, Peter Bucilli, Bob Masciere, and Susan Coan along with the faculty and staff and countless volunteers for their dedication to the parish at this difficult time. I am very impressed with your care for the parishioners.

As many of you know, Fr. Anthony was a good friend of mine and is sorely missed. May God grant him his peace and may God's compassion be with his family.

Sunday Polka Dances

by Pat Nevar

The Polka Dances at the Waterloo Ballroom of the Slovenian Workmen's Home are held every Sunday October through May from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. For \$12 per person you receive a ticket for a sandwich and a fountain soft drink. The coffee pot is always on and it is complimentary. A different sandwich is served every Sunday. Some of the types of sandwiches that are served are Slovenian sausage (from R & D Meats), Italian sausage, sloppy Joe's, roast pork, hamburgers, etc. There are always a selection of pastries to purchase at reason-

able prices.

The up-coming bands that will be performing are:

February 1st - Polka Magic

February 8th - Joe Novak

February 15th - Eddie Rodick

February 22nd - Frank Moravcek

March 8th - Mike Wojtila

March 15th - Bob Kravos

March 22 - Eddie Rodick

The Slovenian Workmen's Home is located at 15335 Waterloo Road. For additional information, please call 216/481-5378.

Community

Our Beaches Deserve Lifeguards, Too



by Allison Lukacsy

As a resident of North Collinwood I am very thankful for the continued stewardship and vision of Cleveland Metroparks and its management of Euclid Beach, Villa Angela Beach, and Wildwood. The parks are clean, safe, and attractive recreational public spaces for the community, drawing many more residents to the Lake over the past two summers than when the parks were managed by the cash strapped State of Ohio.

Yet, over the past two summers, one fundamental safety concern has been sorely overlooked, lifeguards! Since the Cleve-

land Metroparks began managing Euclid Beach and Villa Angela Beach, a total of three drownings occurred, one in 2013 and two in 2014. In each of these tragic instances, the drownings occurred when an older adult entered the water to rescue a child. These drownings happened on a weekend afternoon in the summer when families were picnicking and other children were swimming in the Lake.

In statements released to local news media following each drowning, Cleveland Metroparks' officials stated that they would look into the incidents and explore how to improve water safety at Euclid Beach and Villa Angela Beach. Last year, signage was installed warning swimmers of the dangers of rip currents around the rock breakers. This was a good first step towards educating the public about swimming safety and employing lifeguards should have been the logical next step.

However, earlier this month Cleveland Metroparks released their seasonal hiring announcement for lifeguards and while Huntington Beach and Edgewater Beach

were listed as usual, Euclid Beach and Villa Angela Beach were once again excluded!

When I expressed my concerns to an equally outraged Councilman Polensek, he stated that he had heard from Cleveland Metroparks that the lack of lifeguards over the past two seasons was due to poor water quality and the limited number of days the beaches were able to be used for swimming as a result.

Last summer, based on data collected by Ohio Nowcast and reported by the Ohio Department of Public Health <http://goo.gl/jrPIFo>, Euclid Beach had 30 water quality advisory days due to higher concentrations of E-coli bacteria in the water and Edgewater had 19 advisory days (consistently staffed by lifeguards), that's just an 11 day difference over a 3 month season.

Furthermore, regardless of water quality advisories, people, especially kids, are going in the water when beaches are left unguarded. It happens every hot day in the summer. If lifeguards were present only to tell people that it is not safe to swim (as they do at Edgewater), it would be well worth

the personnel expense.

Euclid Beach and Villa Angela Beach are the only two swimming beaches on Cleveland's east side. Why these east side beaches are neglected while Edgewater and Huntington Beaches have lifeguards remains unclear.

In 2015, there must be parity along the Lakefront. Euclid Beach and Villa Angela Beach must be treated as equals to Edgewater and Huntington Beaches and their users.

If you too are outraged by this disparity, contact Councilman Polensek at (216) 664-4236 or via email at mpolensek@cleveland-citycouncil.org. The Councilman has been one of the loudest proponents for lifeguards and he needs your voice as neighborhood residents.

Also consider contacting Brian Zimmerman, Executive Director of the Cleveland Metroparks: (216) 635-3295 office bmz@clevelandmetroparks.com 4101 Fulton Parkway Cleveland, OH 44144

A Love Letter to My City

by Allison Lukacsy

This is a love letter to my city, your city, our city.

#iheartCLE

The hashtag began as a promotional campaign (think Positively Cleveland!) and spawned a population that truly does love Cleveland. And why not?

Last month I had the opportunity to chat about our city with a reporter out of Atlanta, Georgia. His former post in New York City had him crossing paths with a friend of a friend who became a Facebook friend whose

Newsfeed constantly reminded her of the fact that I, Ali Lukacsy, love my adopted hometown on Lake Erie.

Cleveland, recently and suddenly shoved into the spotlight as a top travel destination, popped on the reporter's radar and two degrees of separation later I was happily chatting off his ear.

I moved to Cleveland four year ago, in January 2011. Yes, in the dead of winter. I quickly busied myself with the lay of the land after work and on weekends, digesting Scene's "Top 10 Lists", taking pottery classes,



The author proving happiness in Cleveland is real. Volunteer at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Experiencing the city solo forced me to keep my ears and eyes open. The more I saw, the more I loved. But the stigma of Cleveland, a reputation that reached skeptical family and friends back home, was pervasive here and really, really perplexed me.

"WHY?!", people would shout or laugh or heckle in disbelief. Oh, what a fall I must have taken to come to Cleveland. I was a three-headed monster each time I exclaimed that I WANTED to move here. I LIKE it here. I learned to reply "for the job" so as not to attract crazy stares, which of course was true but if it were only for the job I could have been anywhere.

It's hard to pinpoint when the shift occurred. After a while I was no longer the "new girl", although I may always be an

anomaly since I didn't flee and return - a trend amongst Clevelanders it seems.

The reporter asked about this shift in perception from Cleveland being a place where people are stuck to a destination for living, eating, shopping, playing, creating. It's palpable. Now, when I proudly state that I've been here for four years and counting the responses are positive reflections of the Cleveland, of me, of the thousands of other people who call this city our home.

In any community nothing is perfect. We're experiencing growing pains, but no pain no gain, right?

It's an incredibly exciting time to be part of a movement of truly engaged, celebratory people that no longer need a hashtag to self-affirm that we are happy here. But what the heck, let's shout it from the roof tops anyway! #happyinCLE

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Cardale Jones Returns to Ginn Academy to Make Announcement



Florence and Cardale Jones at Ginn Academy



Cardale Jones talking with reporters at Ginn Academy after his announcement that he'll stay at Ohio State University

by Karin McKenna

Cardale Jones is the third-string Ohio State University quarterback who found himself suddenly thrust into the brightest spotlight he'd ever seen when he was called to lead his team through the Big 10 championship game, the Sugar Bowl playoff game, and then finally the first ever College Football Championship game after his fellow QBs were injured. It's been one of the biggest stories in sports since he seized that first opportunity and everyone started asking, "Who IS this guy?"

This guy is one of our kids at The Ginn Academy. This fairy tale began years ago. Cardale started at Ginn as a freshman in Ginn Academy's inaugural year, 2007, and graduated in 2011. He played football for Coach Ginn at Glenville for all four of those years.

Cardale's story could be the story of any one of the Ginn Academy boys. He just happens to be the one who throws the football the best at this point in time. Each and every one of our students at Ginn is learning that they have a purpose in this world, that they are valuable, and that they are loved.

It is our mission to teach our students that they all have the potential to do something great, whether that means that they are the very best nurse they can be, the most caring teacher, a hard working Marine, an award-winning engineer, or the most inspiring writer. Cardale is a shining example of all of the rest of his Ginn brotherhood.

At Ginn, Cardale learned something that would prove to be invaluable when his number came up in November. Our creed states that our young men will "stay patient and poised to seize every opportunity for success." It seems as if there can be no better example of staying patient and poised and seizing opportunities for success than what we've witnessed from Cardale.

At this point, we'd like to clarify the often confused sports rules in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District: young men from all over Cleveland are enrolled at Ginn Academy. They do not all play for Glenville. They play for the school that their residence dictates. Our students play for several different schools in the district.

After leading Ohio State to the national championship on January 12th, Cardale



Cardale Jones with his two-month-old baby, Chloe



Coach Ginn at Cardale Jones's press conference at Ginn Academy

returned to Cleveland. This time he had an enormous decision to make: he had two days to decide whether he'd stay at Ohio State with no guaranteed starting spot, or declare himself in the NFL draft.

The sports world waited and finally on January 15th, after spending time with his family and his trusted mentors, Cardale's decision to stay at Ohio State to finish his education was announced at a press conference at Ginn Academy.

Broadcast live on ESPN, there was much excitement over what he would do. The gym was packed with reporters from every media outlet and students, old friends, and even community members who just wanted to be there for the announcement. The general opinion around the country seemed to be that he should go for the money in the NFL, that his stock would never be higher.

Theo Washington is one of Cardale's mentors. Theo was the Glenville quarterback himself in 1964 and the two are very, very close. As the day went on, Cardale's family and friends let him know that whatever he decided, they would be there with him.

"When the time came and Cardale said

that he would be staying in school, it was a burden taken off of my shoulders," Theo says. "People kept talking about money, but if they really listened to Cardale, they clearly got the definition and understanding of who he is and what he is about. He clearly stated to them that an education is for life."

It was a surprise to most people. He wants to do it right, to complete what he's started, both for himself and as an example for his 2 month-old daughter, Chloe.

Now Cardale is back at Ohio State and will graduate next fall. He returns with no guarantee of starting as quarterback. "I want to go back and compete for the spot," he said. "I don't want anything given to me," says Jones.

Nothing has ever been given to Cardale Jones, except an opportunity. A sudden and unexpected opportunity to show the world what he is made of. He stayed patient and poised for years for that opportunity, and when the time came, he seized it like no one has ever seen before.

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Unity in the Community



On Sunday, January 19, 2015 the Lake Shore Ministry Group celebrated their 4th Annual “Unity in the Community” event in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Lake Shore Christian Church.

The Lake Shore Ministry Group consists of Boulevard Presbyterian Church, Church of the Epiphany Episcopal Church, East Shore United Methodist Church, Lake Shore Christian Church and Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church. In addition to the MLK Event, these churches also collaborate on monthly prayer walks, National Day of Prayer, Community Stations of the Cross and a Thanksgiving Prayer service.

The Unity in the Community Event was filled with prayer, litanies, songs and celebration of the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is a blessing each year to have the attendees participate in marching to the protest songs “Keep Your Eyes on the Prize”, “I Woke This Morning with Mind Stayed on Freedom”.

The afternoon was very moving to many in attendance. Especially poignant was a reading of the “Ballad of Birmingham” by Pastor Denise Cunningham-Doggett and an excerpt of one of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s speeches recited by Pastor Jeffrey Doggett from Providence Baptist Church. It was encouraging to hear and see people join in singing, “Let There Be Peace On Earth and Let It Begin with Me.”

Bishop Pilla to Help Our Lady of the Lake Celebrate 5 Years



by Dana Heil, Pastoral Minister

Beginning in February 2015, Our Lady of the Lake will be celebrating its fifth year as a parish community. It has been a period of change and growth, and we are looking forward to more good years ahead. To help us kick off our anniversary

year, please join us for Mass on February 22 at 12:00 p.m. Bishop Pilla will be in attendance as our Honored Guest, and we will gather for a reception afterward to greet friends new and old. All are welcome.

Our Lady of the Lake will be celebrating with activities throughout this 5th anniversary year, and we welcome friends, neighbors and alumni to join us. Monthly events will be announced in the Observer, on facebook and online at ourladyofthelake-oh.org.

Power of the Pen Winners



seventh graders participating, Our Lady of the Lake’s Jacob Smith placed 10th and Catherine Doley placed 14th. Of 82 eighth graders, Monika Hovever placed 10th, and Khalid Mitcham placed 14th.

The seventh grade stories were scored with high points, which put them in 2nd place overall! Seventh grader Catherine Doley received the Best of the Best Trophy for one of her rounds of writing.

Our Lady of the Lake’s eighth grade team includes Khalid Mitcham, Monika Hovever, Emily Kovacic, Lauren Hahn, Will Cartwright, and Jeri Huggins. The seventh grade team includes Catherine Doley, Caitlin McGarry, Liam Walsh, Lilly Schmidt, Shannon Gron, and Jacob Smith with three dedicated alternates: Carrie Petters, Deavan Trumble, and Darby Smith. In the next few weeks, the coaches and students will find out who made it to regionals. Good luck, Falcons! Not only are they Power of the Pen champions, but the skills they’re learning at Our Lady of the Lake School will last a lifetime.

Students at Our Lady of the Lake School have been learning the power of the written word. Their Power of the Pen team has been meeting and practicing since September, working with their crack team of coaches, Mrs. Millet, Mrs. Kish, and Mrs. Zigman. They meet weekly after school to write, share, and discuss different writing pieces, and prepare for regional competitions.

Their first competition this year was at Monticello Middle School on January 10, 2015. Fifteen different schools came out, with students writing for three different rounds and prompts. Of the 76

Retreat Focuses on Families

Our Lady of the Lake is offering a Pre-Lenten Retreat in February that has special appeal for parents. Families in the community are invited to attend the noon Mass on Sunday, February 15, 2015 and stay for a meal afterward. Activities will be provided for kids, while parents and other adults will have time for thoughtful discussion, prayer and reflection. Participants in past retreats have found them to be powerful and uplifting. All are welcome at this special gathering: while the focus is on parents of school-age children, anyone interested is encouraged to take part. Those not attending Mass can come to the church hall at 1:15 p.m. to take part in the rest of the activities. There is no charge, although goodwill offerings will be accepted.

For more information and to register, call (216) 486-0850.

Buddy Days at Our Lady of the Lake School

If you’re thinking about registering for Pre-school or Kindergarten, call Our Lady of the Lake School first, to schedule a Buddy Day visit. Buddy Day is a great way to let your child experience a real classroom, and meet students already in school. Sign up for either February 20, 2015 or March 13, 2015 by calling (216) 481-6824.



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Upcoming Parish and School Events

Saturday & Sunday, February 7 & 8

Food Pantry Collection After Weekend Masses

Altar & Rosary Society Bake Sale

Friday, February 13 - St. Jerome Reverse Raffle

Call the school or parish office for ticket information

Lent Begins

Wednesday, February 18 - Ash Wednesday

Ashes will be distributed during Mass

8:30 a.m. - Join our school students for morning Mass

7:00 p.m. - Mass in the evening

Friday, February 20

Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.

Monday, February 23

Collinwood Catholic Parish Cluster

7 p.m. Mass at Holy Redeemer Church, Kipling Ave

Theme: “Where Charity and Love Prevail” - In Ourselves

Friday, February 27

Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.

Monday, March 2

Collinwood Catholic Parish Cluster

7 p.m. Mass at St. Mary Church, Holmes Ave

Theme: “Where Charity and Love Prevail” - In Families

Tales of the Past

by Marilyn Ottato

The fifth graders just finished studying different kinds of American Indians. As we wrapped up our study on Indians, we have read several books by Paul Goble. Paul Goble is an illustrator of children’s books. He specializes in Native American stories. One of his books, The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses, won a Caldecott Medal in 1979.

Paul Goble was born in England, but was always interested in the American Indian, so much that he moved to America and became a citizen. He loved the Plains Indian culture, which he depicts in all his illustrations and shows a close relationship with nature.

The children each took one book to read and now they are summarizing the story that they read to themselves. Their summaries will go through the 5-step writing process. From there, they will type them on the computers. They have also made teepees out of construction paper and decorated them as the Plains Indians would with brightly colored paper. Inside the teepees they will display their finished product for all to read.

In the fifth grade, it makes it more interesting when we integrate reading, English, art and technology into our studies. The children get to learn a little more about the Indian culture and express their talents through art and writing.

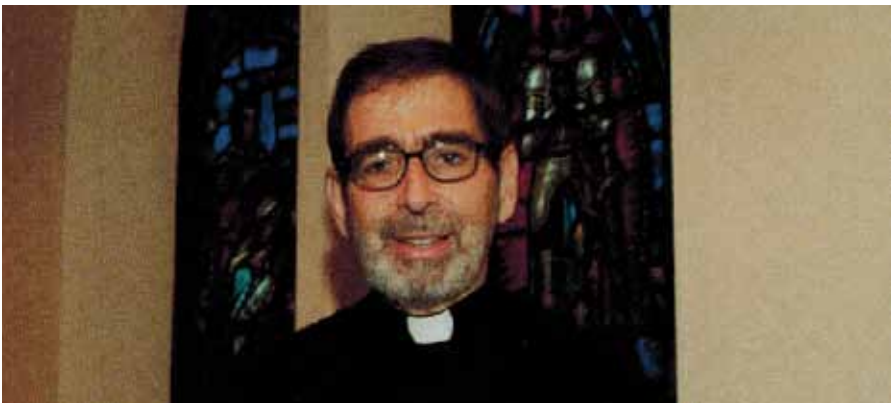


Mass Schedule

Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.

Saturday Evening Vigil: 4 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m.



December 30, 2014, was a significant day in the history of St. Jerome’s. After twenty-seven years of dedication, service, and leadership to our school and parish, Father Anthony Cassese, our beloved pastor, departed this life. Hundreds of people attended both the Vesper Service and Mass of the Resurrection that took place in the days that followed. St. Jerome parish was honored by the presence of Bishop Richard Lennon, Bishop Emeritus Anthony Pilla, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Roger Gries, and the great number of clergy who assembled for services to celebrate Fr. Cassese’s life. Individuals, businesses and organizations from Collinwood and neighboring communities supported the ceremonies and events. Mama Roberto’s, Scotti’s, and Buettner’s prepared food for family and visitors. Euclid Blue printed the programs. The Cleveland, Bratenahl and East Cleveland police provided traffic control and a safe escort to Lakeview Cemetery where Fr. Cassese was laid to rest. While his kind and loving presence will be missed, his memory will endure. On Monday evening, January 5th, 2015, Cleveland City Council passed Ordinance 24-15, sponsored by Councilman Michael Polensek, to place the name of FATHER ANTHONY CASSESE WAY, as an honorarium, to Ridpath Avenue between E. 152 and E. 149 streets that runs behind St. Jerome Catholic Church. The entire parish family offers thanks and gratitude to those whose outpouring of consolation and concern sustained us and Fr. Cassese’s loved ones at this time of loss. He was a dear friend to many.

May he rest in peace with the angels and saints.



St. Jerome School

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House Meetings

There is always a special energy in the air as students walk into the school to the beat of lively music, smiling staff at the front entrance, and the greeting of their teacher at their classroom. Imagine Bella Academy of Excellence felt that energy get an extra boost on Friday, January 23, 2015. Students and teachers dressed down in their house colors and held house meetings at the end of the day. During house meetings, stu-

dents engaged in team building, ice breakers, and learned more about the meanings behind each of their houses. Students from the houses of Adkeysega, Igboya, Self-Ulwazi, Ujima, and Unhu are in a competition to earn the most points for their house. It is a close competition and the students are over halfway to when the winners will be revealed!



Students from Adkeysega meet with Ms. Billingsley in one of their stations



Students from Igboya met in the art room.



Students from Self-Ulwazi make a plan for earning more house points with Mrs. Gamble.

Upcoming Dates

February 2nd-6th | Scholastic Book Fair

Thursday, February 5th | Family Night (4:30-6 p.m.)

Friday, February 13th | No School for Students (Staff Professional Development Day)

Monday, February 16th | No School (President's Day)

Friday, March 20th | 3rd Quarter Ends

Monday, March 23rd | 4th Quarter Begins

March 30th - April 6th | No School (Spring Break)



Students in Ujima met with other students in their house from all grade levels.



Students from Unhu in the Cafeteria.

February Family Night

Imagine Bella Academy of Excellence hosted an Open House in October, a Winter Art Walk in December and of course has something special for February! Imagine Bella Academy of Excellence will kick off February with a Scholastic Book Fair. The book fair will be open starting Monday, February 2, 2015. The February Family Night

will be on Thursday, February 5, 2015 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. with a spotlight on math strategies. The book fair will be open for families to shop together this evening. It's the perfect chance to find that "just right" book before the Scholastic Book Fair ends on Friday, February 6, 2015.

Technology Connection

Imagine Bella Academy of Excellence is using technology to enhance student learning, provide online resources available outside of school hours, and improve the home to school connection. Below is a list of some websites used by many grade levels. Additional electronic tools or websites may be recommended by teachers outside of this short list.

MyMath Online

MyMath Online matches our current math curriculum. Students can access their workbook as an e-book. There are additional tutor videos and games available. Teachers can provide the school specific web address and student log-in information.

TenMarks

http://www.tenmarks.com
Teachers will provide student log-in information to activities that support classroom math instruction and improve mathematics fluency.

Accelerated Reader

Students take quizzes about books they have read. Points are earned for each reading comprehension quiz you pass. More points are earned for more difficult texts.

GetWaggle (Grades 3-5)

GetWaggle is a program that allows students to challenge themselves with reading and math activities assigned by classroom teachers. The program adapts to support students based on their responses. The perfect opportunity to review skills learned this year. Teachers can provide the school specific web address and student log-in information.

ProgressBook

It is that time of year when parents begin their search for the perfect preschool. As a parent of four, I found the best way to determine which school best meets the needs of both the parent and child is to visit. Euclid Cooperative Preschool will hold an Open House on Saturday February 7, 2015 from 10:00 to 12:00 and Tuesday, February 10, 2015 from 9:30 to 11:30. Open Houses give parents an opportunity to visit and get a sense of how the educational program fits.

Class Dojo

http://www.classdojo.com
Class Dojo allows teachers to encourage students and also keep parents updated about their student's behavior. Classrooms that use this program can provide parent access information.

School News

Menlo Park Academy



by Amber Oxley

As a resident of North Collinwood I am Why Families and Students are Happy to "Menlo" at Menlo Park Academy (MPA).

In a time when many gifted and talented programs are shrinking, Menlo Park Academy offers Cleveland and all NE Ohio parents and students an educational option that is dedicated to gifted programming all day, every day.

Founded by a group of parents frustrated by the lack of choice for their own gifted children, MPA has created a whole-child learning environment for gifted children from kindergarten through 8th grades. Recently the Menlo Park Academy community highlighted stories, ideas, and experiences that exemplify, "Why We Menlo." Using pen, paper, colored pencils, and lots of heart, students created original essays, poems, and drawings that share why they are happy to "Menlo."

From sweet stories about making friends on the first day of school to exuberant sharing about favorite teachers and unique educational experiences, MPA students shared

their passion for the school, teachers, and fellow classmates. Some favorite sentiments included:

"Everything we do at Menlo is so awesome from the beginning of the day to the end of the day. All of the teachers here are so inspiring and helpful, they always help you no matter what the problem is."
Coco T.; Lower School

"Menlo Park Academy is my home. It makes me feel excited to come to school and about education. I used to be afraid to be my weird, crazy, colorful self but because of Menlo I am not afraid to be myself."
Livvy P.; Middle School

"This school has something different every year. It is unique and one of a kind just like we are. We are gifted and proud to be."
Kiernan K.; Middle School

Menlo Park Academy, one of the highest-performing schools in Ohio, is currently enrolling for this year and the 2015/16 school year. Families can learn more about the school and register for upcoming tours or Open Houses at www.menloparkacademy.com.



Consider a Cooperative Preschool Experience at Euclid Cooperative Preschool



Michelle the turtle visits Euclid Cooperative Preschool

by Donna Sudar

It is that time of year when parents begin their search for the perfect preschool. As a parent of four, I found the best way to determine which school best meets the needs of both the parent and child is to visit. Euclid Cooperative Preschool will hold an Open House on Saturday February 7, 2015 from 10:00 to 12:00 and Tuesday, February 10, 2015 from 9:30 to 11:30. Open Houses give parents an opportunity to visit and get a sense of how the educational program fits.

Cooperative Preschools began in 1916 when mothers needed help with child care

so they could contribute toward the war effort. Today Euclid Cooperative Preschool and the thousands of other cooperative preschools throughout the country, offers a unique experience for the entire family. A Cooperative Preschool allows parents to play a very active role in their child's first formal education. Parents are responsible for the running of the school. Some parents choose to be board members. Other parents actively participate in their child's classroom as well as on a committee. Some parents who work choose to pay a staff member to participate in the classroom and focus on being a member of a school committee. No matter how you participate you are guaranteed to build relationships with your child's teacher, classmates and their families.

For 66 years Euclid Cooperative Preschool has educated children in the city of Euclid. The preschool is located at 21000 Lakeshore Blvd. Euclid Cooperative Preschool. The preschool is a Four Star Step-up-to-Quality rated center that follows the Ohio Early Learning Content Standards and prepares children for kindergarten as they play. Classes are offered for 3, 4 and 5 year old children.

If you would like more information about Euclid Cooperative Preschool visit www.euclidcoop.org for more information or visit us at our Open House.

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Northeast Shores’ Annual Meeting



The new Board of Directors for Northeast Shores Development Corporation.

by Carly Marginin

Thanks to everyone who came out to the Northeast Shores’ Annual Meeting on January 20, 2015. At the meeting, Executive Director Brian Friedman shared with attendees all the great things that the organization has helped make happen in 2014. Including the construction of a ceramic studio on Waterloo, live/work apartments at the Glencove, and the completion of the Waterloo Streetscape. Members also got a chance to hear about projects that Northeast Shores will be undertaking in the upcoming year. Some of the projects include neighborhood wide tree planting, Renter Equity, healthy Collinwood 2015, and the Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative for East 185th Street. This will certainly be an exciting 2015 for Collinwood.

The meeting was not just informational, members also had the opportunity to vote for residents and businesses running to be on the Northeast Shores’ Board of Directors. This year brought some new faces, as well as some returning directors. Those in the running shared their interest in joining the Board of Directors to the members. There have been some exciting additions. This new class will certainly share their enthusiasm for the neighborhood!

Ms. Marlene Gatewood-Allen, resident has lived in the neighborhood for over fifteen years. Ms. Gatewood-Allen is an active volunteer for the Euclid Beach Blast and has operated the concession stand at Euclid Beach Park. She is also active with Pneuma Chapel on Grovewood Avenue and is an Administrative Clerk with Kemira Logistics in Euclid.

Ms. Laura Lee Martin is a resident of East Park Drive dating back to 2003 and of the neighborhood since 1992. Ms. Martin is the Director of Operations, Development, and Communications for the Hospice of the Western Reserve. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Cleveland Print Room. Ms. Martin is currently the President of Northeast Shores as well as the chair of the Residential Development committee. Ms. Martin is seeking her third consecutive term on the board.

Ms. Emily Martis, resident recently joined the community with her husband



Executive Director Brian Friedman sharing 2014 success stories with members.

and lives near the Waterloo Arts & Entertainment District. Since joining the neighborhood, Ms. Martis has become an active participant in many community activities including joining the Northeast Shores Quality of Life Committee, volunteering at Euclid Beach Blast and Waterloo Arts Fest, Artist at Yarn and Yoga, and is an upcoming artist at the Phone Gallery. Ms. Martis is an LED Lead Systems Engineer with GE Lighting at Nela Park since 2007 where she pursues her passion of designing energy efficient products to improve our world.

Mr. Frank Barresi, owner of Martin’s Men’s Wear on East 185th Street. Mr. Barresi has remained a long-term participant in the East 185th Merchants Association over several decades. Mr. Barresi (representing Martin’s Men’s Wear) is running for his seventh term on the board.

Ms. Melanie Hershberger, Music Saves - Ms. Hershberger is the owner of Music Saves record store, which has been on Waterloo Road since 2004. She recently took over full ownership of the business upon the resignation of her partner, Kevin Neudecker. Kevin was a member of the Board, and Melanie is seeking to fill Music Saves’ third term on the Board of Directors.

Ms. Vaiva Mieldazys, from Lakeshore Intergenerational School has six and a half years of teaching experience with the Intergenerational School model. She joined the teaching staff at Lakeshore Intergenerational School when it opened this past fall. Ms. Mieldazys is excited that this new high quality charter school is located in the community she has lived in for 20 years. Ms. Mieldazys is a lifelong parishioner at St. Casmir’s and is a trustee of the East Shore Park Club.

Mr. Scott Andrew Mills, president of Maverick Insurance Group LLC a locally-owned insurance broker that offers commercial and residential options for its customers. Mr. Mills manages Maverick Insurance out of offices co-located at his Highland Heights home. Prior to Maverick Insurance, Mr. Mills was a Business Banking Officer with PNC Bank. During this term of employment, Mr. Mills was on the Board of Directors and served as President. Mr Mills volunteers annually at the Waterloo Arts Fest.

Free Tax Preparation Services

by Kathy Augustine

Cuyahoga County and the Cuyahoga Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition will be hosting free tax preparation services as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. Last year in Cuyahoga County, the VITA Program served 11,950 people and brought back more than \$14.8 million to the community. County VITA sites are at the County’s Westshore Neighborhood Family Service Center (NFSC) and at the Southgate NFSC. Westshore NFSC is located at 9830 Lorain Ave, Cleveland Ohio 44102; the tax site will be open Monday evenings and Saturdays. Southgate NFSC is located at 5398 ½ Northfield Rd, Maple Heights Ohio 44137; the tax site will be open Wednesdays and Saturdays. To schedule an appointment go online to www.211oh.org or call 211/United Way First Call for Help.

Returns will be prepared and filed by IRS certified tax-preparers and completed while the tax-payer waits. All returns will

be screened for eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit. To qualify, tax-payers must have a 2014 earned income less than \$52,427, and must be filing a simple return.

Tax-payers should remember to bring: Current photo I.D., Social Security cards for each adult and child on the return, W2 and 1099 income statements, child care expense statement and provider’s Tax I.D. Number, Form 1099-INT for any checking or savings accounts as well as bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit. If the taxpayer purchased health insurance under the Affordable Care Act, bring 1099 tax credit from health insurance company

Community members who want to volunteer to prepare taxes can register online at www.refundohio.org. Free training is available to become an IRS certified tax preparer.

For more information, please visit www.refundohio.org or www.cjfs.cuyahoga-county.us.



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Community

Join us for the exciting programs at the Collinwood Branch Library!

by Monique Christian-Long

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH Black History Story Time

Learn About African American History while enjoying a story. This Program is for Children of All Ages.

Tuesdays, February 3rd, 10th and the 24th at 3pm

Collinwood Family Literacy Night & African American History Month Read-In

This program will be held at Collinwood High School in Collaboration with the Cleveland Public Library and the Ohio Center for the Book.

Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 6pm

Love is...

Let’s talk about love and make Valentine’s Day Cards for our loved ones, children of all ages can participate.

Monday, February 9th at 3pm

Cleveland School of the Arts Information Night

Information session for families who are interested in the admission process for the 2015-2016 school year.

Tuesday, February 17 at 3pm

Attitude and Communication Workshop

In Collaboration with the Cleveland Clinic the library is hosting a workshop to help our young adults to communicate better.

For ages 10 and Up.

Wednesday February 18 at 3pm

The Griot

Learn the Art of Urban story telling and learn how to tell your own story in an enthusiastic and captivating way. Students 13yrs and up.

Thursday February 19 at 4pm

America Reads FREE After School Tutoring

Students in K-8 can get assistance with their homework. College students from Cleveland State University assist with any subject and/or research project.

Mondays-Thursdays from 3:00-6:00 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. Mondays-Fridays from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

FREE GED Classes

The GED class will have two sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please contact 216-371-7138 or visit www.tri-c.edu/ged for more information on registration and enrollment.

Mon. & Wed. from 12:30-2:30pm

UpStage Players to Perform Once On This Island Jr.



by Matthew Orgovan

North Collinwood’s UpStage Players, one of Northeast Ohio’s hardest working children’s theatre companies, celebrates its 21st season in 2015 with the beloved musical Once On This Island, Jr. Tickets to all three performances can now be purchased online.

Performance Dates

Friday, March 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 22, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

Performance Venue

Cleveland Public Library Auditorium, 17109 Lakeshore Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44119

Ticket Prices

\$8 in advance; \$12 at the door

Online Ticket Ordering

Tickets may be purchased through WWW.SHOWTIX4U.COM.

The site will walk customers through the process so that they will be able to choose specific seats.

Once on the site, click “Buy Tickets” and then search “UpStage Players.”

All advance tickets must be purchased before March 16th through the site.

After March 16, 2015 tickets will only be available at the door prior to performances for \$12.

Questions regarding ShowTix4U can be answered by e-mailing Kris at KrisUpStage@aol.com.

An added bonus event this year is a special Luau on Saturday, March 21, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. prior to that evening’s musical performance. The Luau will take place at East Shore Park Club and will offer a Chinese Auction, a full course dinner, beverage and dessert in true luau style, a hula contest and fun! Luau tickets include the price of admission into the show, Once On This Island, Jr. with VIP seating, and are \$25 per person.

Seating is limited, so patrons interested in this event are encouraged to purchase early. For Luau questions, e-mail Kris Carroll or Joelle Barath at info@upstage-players.com. Cash and checks are accepted, as are all major credit cards.

The mission of UpStage Players is the dedication to the child performer, instilling a love of theatre while building leadership and community. The nonprofit group was founded in 1994–1995 with 30 children and a vision to create love and respect for the performing arts. Beyond evolving into a strong “teaching theatre” organization of nearly three times as many children today, two keys to the success of UpStage over the years have been its unwavering no-cut policy and its army of committed volunteers.

The children of UpStage Players come from varied backgrounds and neighborhoods throughout Northeast Ohio, yet they all enjoy a demonstrable transformation from everyday kids into accomplished artists. For more information, or to get involved with UpStage Players, visit www.upstage-players.com.

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February Events at Memorial-Nottingham Library

by Jeanne Coppola

Free GED Classes, Every Monday and Wednesday, all month, at 10:15 a.m. (For Adults). These GED classes are FREE. They are offered in conjunction with a partnership with Tri-C, but to take the classes, registration is required. Please call the Memorial-Nottingham Library at 216-623-7039 to register, and for further information.

I Give You My Heart, Thursday February 12, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. (For kids). This will be

a fun class that will teach kids how to make pretty Valentines Day cards. Children will learn how to trace and cut out beautiful patterns, and use them to create lovely Valentine’s Day cards and decorations, for all their family and friends.

Russian Book Club, Saturday, February 7, 2015 (For adults and seniors). This will be a discussion, in the Russian language, about the book “Dom v Passi” by Boris Zaitsev.

Finding Yourself

by Jayna Stokes

As I sit at my laptop and wonder what this article is going to be about, I began to think about how 2015 is going to be my year. Lets face it this has been a rocky year for some of us and were ready for a fresh start. I titled this article “finding yourself” because we all have new findings that we may come across and decisions that were going to have to make. New years resolutions, long term goals, and short term goals that we want to accomplish.

Now when I say “finding yourself” I mean finding what makes you happy, and knowing exactly what you want to do with your

life. Eliminating the negative and bringing in nothing but positives. Sometimes we tend to focus on others more so than ourselves and forget about what makes us happy. Happiness is the key to finding yourself.

Being yourself is what makes you special. Dont let anyone tell you otherwise. You can do anything you want to do in life, and those negatives that were around you, will see your success because you found yourself and your happy and nothing can stop you!

By: Jayna Stokes

Follow me on twitter: @jayna_blog

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| 2900 Community College Ave., Cleveland
Western | Student Services Building
| 11000 Pleasant Valley Road, Parma
Westshore | WSHCS Building Atrium
| 31001 Clemens Road, Westlake
Brunswick University Center | 3605 Center Road, Brunswick



Can't make it? Request an individual tour at www.tri-c.edu/campusvisits

For more information or to register for Presidents Day Campus Visitation Day, go to: www.tri-c.edu/campusvisitation

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Aikido, the “Peaceful Martial Art,” Comes to Euclid



A matter of balance: O'Donnell shows how it's done

by Dennis Dooley

You wonder if you heard Betsy O'Donnell right. Or whether she is pulling your leg (maybe to knock you off balance, as any martial artist might want to do). But no, she's serious.

“The secret to Aikido,” she says, “is non-resistance. That doesn't mean letting somebody hurt you. The mistake many people make is thinking of non-resistance as something passive. In Aikido it's about refusing to be a victim. Confidently. Because you're so balanced and centered you know you can defuse the violence of an attack.”

One of the first things you learn in Aikido, says O'Donnell, is that a person who is violent is out of balance. By practicing Aikido, you create a strong sense of balance

in yourself, so you can defuse a potentially violent situation by bringing balance back to it.

“Fighting will never get you what you really want, which is to be safe and respected,” says O'Donnell, who has a 4th degree black belt and 25 years of experience in Aikido, and has also studied Seido karate. She believes Aikido offers a better way.

Watching the students enrolled in her newly opened Lake Shore Aikido dojo at Euclid's Shore Cultural Centre, you begin to see how it works. The strikes and kicks associated with other martial arts have no place here. O'Donnell's students meet their “attackers” instead with circular, flowing movements that come from a center of un-earthly calm.



Confidence springs from a center of calm

Senior News, How to Save on Your Water / Sewer Bill!

by Elva Brodnick

Well, here we are, at the start of yet another “New Year”, halfway thru a considerably milder winter than last year (ok, it's cold, but there's alot less snow at least!), and I'm here to kick off this new column for the Collinwood Observer, a Seniors column.

Considering that here in Collinwood, we boast the largest senior population cluster in Cleveland (or so I'm told), the Observer thought we seniors would appreciate a column in this paper that focused on seniors. So here I am.

You may well ask why me? I admit, at a mere 63 years old, I'm on the younger end of senior, but hey, you can join AARP at 50, so at 63, I figure I'm at least in the ballpark.

What I'm looking for though, is where this column should go, and for that, I'm looking for feedback from all of you. There's so many topics, issues and information out there, that I think I need to hear from you about what you need to see here in this column. Meanwhile I'll be looking for and checking out information that'll be useful. In fact, I've got great information on lowering your water and sewer bills.

If you haven't yet checked out, or signed up for, the Water Affordability program, you need to. Quoting from the website: The Af-

fordability Program offers a 40% discount on all standard water charges. This includes both the quarterly fixed cost recovery charge and the consumption charge.

Seriously, you need to look into this! I did it, and my entire water and sewer bill went down very nicely. That doesn't count the “local charges” for trash pickup etc, of course, this is for just the water & sewer, but we're still talking big savings here.

It's easy to do, no going downtown, just get the application, fill it out, mail it back with the documentation they need, and they'll let you know in 2 or 3 weeks. For questions or to apply for the Affordability Program, contact the Cleveland Housing Network at (888) 901-1222.

And let me know how it works for you.

But it's not just the information side of things I think we need, but our stories too. No matter how long we've been in Collinwood, we all have experiences that need to be recorded and no saying that “no one would be interested in that”. As an amateur historian I will tell you really don't know that.

That's it for this issue then. Looking forward to seeing everyone out and about.

Thanks for reading!
Elva Brodnick

“Instead of trying to break your attacker's arm,” explains Euclid resident Kirste Carlson, a regular at the new dojo, “you learn to move in harmony with them, using the force of their attack to redirect them to the ground, where they're pinned and immobilized.”

O'Donnell demonstrates with a husky male student. One minute he is moving belligerently toward her; a split second later she's behind him, using his own forward momentum (and twisted arm) to guide him safely to the ground. “Attacking Betsy Sensei is like attacking air,” says Cedric Melton, who has been doing Aikido for 8 years (Sensei means teacher). “There's nothing to hit. Suddenly you're on your back.”

Learning how to fall in a gentle roll without injuring yourself, he notes, is a side benefit of Aikido.

O'Donnell next proceeds to fend off multiple attackers in a dazzling display of calm self assurance and seemingly effortless moves. “Aikido techniques don't depend on physical strength,” she says, “but on relaxation and serenity of mind.”

Practice is usually done in pairs, so students get instant feedback on their progress. “But you also know it in your gut,” says Carlson, an advanced practice psychiatric nurse at the Cleveland Clinic who's been doing Aikido for 13 years. “You can't fake balance or a sense of harmony.

“We take turns being the aggressor,” she explains, “not to learn how to hurt people, but so we can help one another practice being peaceful in stressful situations. And once you've learned how to do that,” she says, “you find yourself applying it to other situations in your daily life. By creating a strong sense of balance and harmony in yourself, you can influence a potentially violent situation by bringing balance back into it.”

Betsy O'Donnell puts it this way. “It's easy to talk about peace and harmony when you're sitting with friends in a comfortable setting sharing good food and conversation; it's a much bigger challenge to create a peaceful situation when somebody wants to hurt you, either verbally or physically. I think you can see where Aikido has implications for daily life. I've had many students tell me they find themselves acting more positively, and confidently, in business and school situations.

“Aikido is also a great physical workout, of course, that keeps you fit. And a way to build some discipline into your life.”

Classes meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6:30-8:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m., in Room 217 of Shore Centre (291 E. 222nd Street). New students can start anytime. Call 216-310-2147 or visit lakeshoreaikidocleveland.com for more information.

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