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May 2015

Cleveland Metroparks Euclid Creek Reservation Connector Bridge Installed Over Creek



by Joe Yachanin

Cleveland Metroparks installed a brand new pedestrian bridge over Euclid Creek earlier today, connecting Villa Angela and Wildwood parks in the lakefront section of the Euclid Creek Reservation.

150-foot, ADA accessible pedestrian bridge will improve visitor access from Villa Angela to Wildwood by crossing over Euclid Creek at the existing trail rather than requiring walkers or cyclists to circle up toward the road to get to the current crossing. This \$678,000 project is under construction now and should be open by May 31. The project also includes 800-feet of all purpose trail, trail lighting, and beach-front landscaping.

The bridge, installed by Platform Contracting, is approximately 10 feet above the creek and will allow for new views of Lake Erie and the creek bed.

In the near future, visitors to Euclid

Beach, Villa Angela and Wildwood parks can expect to see upwards of \$2.5 million in capital improvements over the next 24 months as part of the ongoing fulfillment of the Park District's Lakefront Master Plan.

These improvements will be guided by several overarching principles including making the parks clean and safe for all visitors, incorporating elements of urban ecology and sustainability, connecting people with water, enhancing access through wayfinding signage and improved connections to surrounding neighborhoods and existing greenspaces, and supporting the lakefront as a catalyst for strengthening the community.

For more information and to see the Lakefront Master Plan drafts, please visit clevelandmetroparks.com/Main/Lakefront-Planning-Meetings.aspx.

The Standard: Classy and Delicious

by John Copic

If you are looking for that perfect place to have a delicious lunch be sure to stop by The Standard. The kitchen opens at 11:00 AM seven days a week. The prices are reasonable, the food quality is very high, and the service is amazing. All this combined with

daily specials in a classy environment is the reason The Standard has The Observer's Seal of Approval.

The Standard is located at 779 E. 185th St. in Cleveland. It is open 7 days a week. The kitchen is open 11-10pm weekdays and 11-11pm on weekends.



Grilled Swordfish with daikon and cucumber salad ponzu.



Ricotta Spaetzel with Leeks, Grilled Chicken, Applewood smoked Bacon bits, Herbs, Peas and smoked Moody Blue Cheese

Collinwood National Honor Society Inducts New Members



Pictured (l to r): NHS 2015-2016 inductees Danyell Hall-Rucker; Danielle Echols; Marquitta Billingsley; Cayla Napoleon; and Rajiah Stuart.

by Gail Greenberg

The Collinwood High School Chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed five new members at a special induction ceremony held recently at the school. Recognized for their outstanding achievement in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service and character were these 2014-2015 inductees: Marquitta Billingsley; Danielle Echols; Cayla Napoleon; Danyell Hall-Rucker; and Rajiah Stuart.

Keynote speaker for this event was Larry Gray, Chief Information Officer for the City of Cleveland Fire Department and a Collinwood alumnus. The chapter's fac-

ulty advisor, Cassandra Treadwell and co-advisor, Rosalyn Allen delivered opening and closing remarks. Also participating in the ceremony were members of the JROTC Color Guard, vocalist Sanita Washington, principal Maria Carlson, and CTAG advisor Michael Russell. NHS faculty council members Gail Greenberg, Naomi Leveck, Donese Harris and Sherrell Germany-Clark described each of the organization's four qualities that must be continuously satisfied.

A reception for the new inductees and their families was held in the atrium, following the ceremony.



Corned beef, cabbage, carrot soup

Community

The Collinwood Observer

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

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To submit a story, go to www.collinwoodobserver.com, click on Member Center, sign in, click on Submit Story, and start writing.

Next deadline: May 25, 2015. You can mail your stories to the Collinwood Observer office at 650 E. 185th Street, Cleveland, OH 44119.



Councilman's Corner - Spring !?



by Michael D. Polensek
Dear Friends:
It is hard to believe that it is May already. It's still cold but we are all looking forward to all the activities for warm weather.

Thank you to all residents for turning in potholes to the Mayor's action Line at (216) 664-2900 and to the Division of Streets to (216) 664-2510. If there are road issues – please do not hesitate to call these in. Don't assume someone else has turned them in already. Be proactive about this.

The Lakeshore Boulevard project, from Marcella Road east, is in the home stretch. I wish to thank everyone for their patience and tolerance during this period. It was truly like root canal. The project is definitely needed and there will be additional projects coming to address sewer, flooding and waterline breakage issues.

The construction is well under way on the new MetroParks Pedestrian Bridge, between Wildwood Marina and Villa Angela Beach, and the erection of the superstructure should be taking place during the week of April 27, weather permitting. We continue to have ongoing discussions with the MetroParks with regard to lifeguards at Euclid Beach. These discussions are productive and I look forward to hearing some good news before the swimming season.

There is still no final agreement between

the City of Cleveland and the Department of Justice (DOJ) with regard to their review of the Cleveland Police Department. I, like most citizens, are really hoping to see a strong Community Policing component in the final agreement. Citizens want more police visibility and a greater interaction with the Police Officers in our community and the whole of the City. We need to get back to basic community police where the citizens can look on the Police as protector and the police see the citizens as partners in combating criminal activity. Stay tuned for future updates.

Our neighborhood, like the City of Cleveland, is waiting to hear about the County's demolition bond. We have abandoned and derelict properties which need to be razed throughout our community and in the entire city. The City's demolition funds have been exhausted and are only being used for forthwith demolitions on severely fire damaged structures or where there is an eminent collapse condition. The city is hoping to receive several million dollars to address these conditions. I urge all our neighborhood activists to express their support to our County Councilman, Anthony Hairston, who's already on board, and County Executive, Armond Budish.

I urge our neighbors to do what you can to clean up your yards and around your property. It was a rough winter and there is a lot of debris around. If everyone does their bit our neighborhoods can look better than they do now.

I look forward to seeing everybody at the many upcoming neighborhood events.

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.

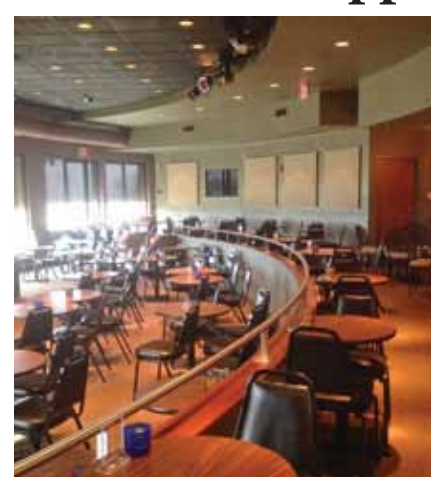
E156 Street Block Watch Third Wednesday, 6 pm, M&M Bar-B-Que, 15116 Lakeshore Blvd at E152.

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.

Please feel free to call me at the office at (216) 664-4236 or email me at mpolensek@clevelandcitycouncil.org.

A Place To Support, A Place To Enjoy



by Reverend Damon P. Dillard
This past Saturday evening I had the esteemed privilege of attending a wonderful concert in a fantastically intimate setting. The event was in support of one of Cleveland's greatest non-profit treasures; The Cleveland Music Settlement. For those of you who may not be aware The Cleveland Music Settlement is, "a hidden gem of University Circle. The Music Settlement offers music therapy, early childhood education, and music instruction to people of all ages and levels of experience in Greater Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. Founded by Almeda Adams in 1912 as part of the Settlement movement and featuring a cam-

pus that includes the 1910 Burke Mansion and the Bop Stop, The Music Settlement is the most beautiful place to learn music in Cleveland."

On this brisk Cleveland evening I sat in the warmth and listening pleasure of Cleveland Music Settlement's newest acquisition; The Bop Stop (conveniently located at 2920 Detroit Ave. in Ohio City, a "stone's throw" from downtown Cleveland) to a world renowned Jazz Guitarist Randy Napoleon accompanied by an extremely talented and harmonious percussion section of local favorites Glenn Holmes on bass and Ron Godale on drums.

Donated to The Music Settlement in late 2013, The Bop Stop is the place to see high-quality up-and-coming and well-established acts on the near-West side. All programming is booked by the staff at The Music Settlement. With a century's worth of musical expertise, you can be sure that a night out at The Bop Stop is always worthwhile. Additionally, when you buy tickets for a Bop Stop show, or buy food and drinks at this classy venue, your purchase helps to support The Music Settlement and its many programs (including financial aid).

The Bop Stop also features artwork from local artists and also partners with Cleveland Culinary Launch and Kitchen to showcase local chefs and local food. I

strongly suggest that you arrive early for snacks and drinks at the beautiful bar. Featuring tiered seating and an open floor plan, there's not a bad seat in the house.

The Music Settlement, Bop Stop also holds classes for music instruction, music therapy, and arts for the young.

In short The Bop Stop is a million dollar blossoming center of arts, culture, and entrepreneurship. The space is suitable for row seating, nightclub tables, or banquet seating for up to 100 people. Concerts are held nightly and I highly recommend that you check them out. I truly believe that The Bop Stop has exactly the piece de resistance that will whet the appetite of the most discriminating connoisseur enabling you and your guests to experience a most memorable time in an extraordinary venue.

For more information check out their website at: <http://www.thecms.org/event-rentals/>.

P.S. And by the way don't forget to support our other famous as well as local high school; Collinwood High on the corner of East 152nd. Street and St. Clair Avenue. Spring sports are in full swing. The Baseball Team including Coach Beasley (15 year tenure) would love the support. Please follow the attached link for their schedule: <http://clevelandmetroschools.org/Page/3009>.

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Are you concerned about memory and aging?

May is Mental Health Month

Our ability to remember and to recall our past links us to our families, our friends and our community. As we age, subtle changes in memory occur.

"Simple forgetfulness can be part of the normal aging process," says Upma Dhingra, MD, geriatric psychiatrist at Euclid Hospital. "This includes things like losing your keys, or delay in recalling names, dates and events."

Most normal changes in memory and cognition (which includes awareness and judgment) are of little importance. But when memory loss prevents



Upma Dhingra, MD

us from performing daily tasks and our accustomed roles in life, it becomes a health concern that needs further evaluation by healthcare professionals.

Dr. Dhingra shares some signs to watch for:

- Memory loss that disrupts daily life
- Difficulty completing familiar tasks
- Confusion with time or place
- Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
- New problems with words in speaking or writing
- Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
- Decreased or poor judgment
- Less attention to grooming and hygiene

- Changes in mood and personality
- Withdrawal from work or social activities

Some loss of mental sharpness as people age is normal, but it can be a sign of depression or dementia. Because the symptoms of these conditions are similar, it can be difficult to tell the two apart. That's why it is important to seek the input of medical professionals for accurate diagnosis and treatment.

For an appointment with Dr. Dhingra, call 216.692.8803. For an appointment with another professional in Cleveland Clinic's Behavioral Health Department, call 216.636.5860. Cleveland Clinic offers same-day appointments.

Stroke: Four things you need to know.

When it comes to stroke, it's important to understand your risk.

Andrew Russman, DO, stroke neurologist, shares some things you should know:

- Age is the biggest risk factor: Men over 55 and women over 60 are at highest risk for stroke. But if you're younger, don't assume you're in the clear.
- Some risks can be controlled (such as smoking, alcohol consumption, diet, exercise, blood pressure, cholesterol levels). Some risk factors are beyond control, such as family history.



Andrew Russman, DO

- Understand your risk. Maintain a relationship with a primary care physician and have regular physicals.
- If you've already had a stroke or heart attack, be vigilant. Your doctor will watch for things that could put you at risk for another one. Sometimes, medication or surgery may be recommended to reduce your risk.

Assess your stroke risk today!

Estimate your chance of having a stroke within the next 10 years. Use our free online calculator at clevelandclinic.org/strokerisk.

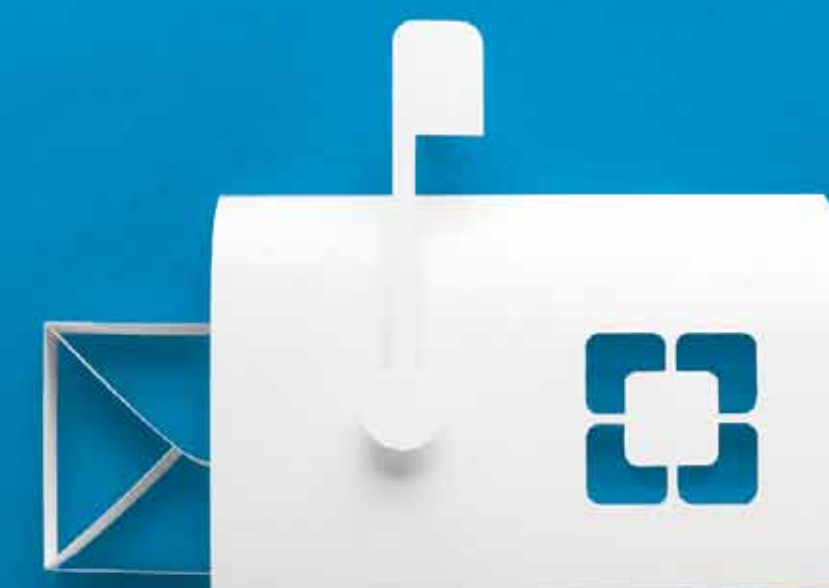
Cleveland Clinic can help

Consistent protocols ensure the best outcomes for stroke patients:

- Joint Commission Certified Comprehensive Stroke Center at Cleveland Clinic's main campus
- Interventional stroke capabilities at Cleveland Clinic's main campus, Hillcrest and Lakewood hospitals
- Eight Primary Stroke Centers – Euclid, Fairview, Hillcrest, Lakewood, Marymount, Medina and South Pointe hospitals and Ashtabula County Medical Center
- Six Stroke Ready Centers – Broadview Heights, Brunswick, Lutheran Hospital, Richard E. Jacobs, Sagamore Hills and Twinsburg emergency departments

To make an appointment for an evaluation, call 216.636.5860 or 866.588.2264. Cleveland Clinic offers same-day appointments.

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Allison's Page

Celebrate Summer with Books on the Beach

by Allison Lukacsy

Beginning Saturday, May 30, 2015 "The Lakefront Literacy Project" will bring literature and a love of learning to Euclid Beach Park with a custom-crafted mini mobile library. Part of the renowned "Little Free Library" network.

Join us from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for a celebratory kick-off. Supported by Neighborhood Connections, Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, Cleveland Public Library Collinwood Branch, Northeast Shores Development Corporation, Geis Companies, Half Price Books, and generous friends, family, and neighbors like you!

Be among the first to borrow a book to read at the park or to take home and enjoy. Donate a book (or two or three) on or before May 30, 2015 and be entered to win a literacy prize pack!

We are also pleased to feature a live science fiction reading from local author Marie Vibbert. Marie is an IT professional from Cleveland Heights. She has sold work to Asimov's and Analog, among other science fiction magazines. Until recently, she was a lineman for the Cleveland Fusion women's tackle football team, and she has ridden 15% of the roller coasters in North America. You can learn more about Marie at her website, <http://www.marievibbert.com>

11:40 a.m. Official ribbon cutting

11:45 a.m. Enjoy a slice of pizza while you browse the shelves

12:15 p.m. Local author reading with Marie Vibbert

1:00 p.m. Celebrate with a slice of cake

1:15 p.m. Make your own bookmark

1:45 p.m. Raffle drawing, donate a book for a free entry into the raffle (must be present to win)

All summer long, visit the library on the

Borrow a book!

the Lakefront Literacy project

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EUCLID BEACH PARK
16250 LAKESHORE BLVD. CLEVELAND, OH

SATURDAY, MAY 30TH
11:30AM - 2:00PM

Coming Summer '15

Join us on Saturday, May 30th and be among the first to borrow a book from Collinwood's newest 'Little Free Library'!

promenade to borrow a book, magazine, or newspaper for free during weekends, holidays, and special events. With a rotating collection for children, teens, and adults including Russian language speakers, you'll always find something new.

Volunteers... Have an hour to spare?

Email us at read.euclidbeach@gmail.com and let us know of your interest and availability for staffing the library. The position is fun and easy, and yes you can sit down and read a magazine on the job!

Books... and more books and magazines! Spring clean your bookshelves and

donate the books your children outgrew, the bestseller you read once and never will again, the magazines collecting dust on your coffee table. Email us at read.euclidbeach@gmail.com and let us know you're happy to purge and donate! Learn more: www.facebook.com/lakefrontliteracy

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Fixed and Finished



Before

by Steven Tyler

In August 2014, my girlfriend Melissa and I moved in to a house on Edgely Cliff that she bought from her parents after they retired to Florida. Although the location was beautiful and picturesque, the interior of the house needed work. The last time any updating took place was in the late 1970's.

About the time we were preparing to move in to the house, we saw an article on Facebook about a new TV show coming to film in Cleveland. The show, called 'Fix It and Finish It' airs locally on CBS WOJO channel 19. The show and its host, Antonio Sabato, Jr., travel the country fixing and/or finishing rooms and living spaces. (i.e. Patios, basements, kitchens, yards)

We applied via email to the producers of the show asking to have the living room updated. The wallpaper was original and a yellow/gold. Since the house was built in 1930, that meant the wallpaper was over 80 years old. The closely matching carpet was installed during the late 1970's which means it was only about 40 years old. Practically new compared to the wallpaper. The furniture in the living room was a mish-mosh

of contemporary, antique and just plain awful. The thick, yellow/gold curtains, also original, could have been used in a haunted house as they blocked every speck of light from outside. They also hid the beautiful woodwork around the windows. We were in need of serious help when, almost magically, it appeared.

We were contacted in late August by the producers of the TV show. They wanted us to send in pictures and videos of the room and of the two of us. We complied. Shortly thereafter we were contacted again by the producers who advised us that they wanted to send a location scout to our house. The location scout came out in early September. His purpose is to make sure that we are real and the house exists.

As time went on, many things happened behind the scenes. Things we aren't allowed to discuss. Seriously, we signed a legal document. Suffice to say, we felt like Dorothy looking behind the curtain in The Wizard of Oz.

Finally, to our surprise and delight, on November 10, 2014, Antonio knocked on our door. That was when the REAL fun and



After

a very long day began. We got to see how a TV show is made. The cast and crew could not have been more friendly and thoughtful. And everybody works. Including Antonio. We helped pull carpet, wallpaper and painted some furniture. We got to see the demolition of the room, but were not around for the renovation. We were asked to leave the house while 35 strangers transformed the living room from an outdated mess, to a vibrant and awesome living space.

When we were called to return, were led into the living room with our eyes closed. Antonio announced that we could open our eyes and we could not believe the sight before us. The wallpaper was replaced with tastefully painted walls. Hardwood flooring replaced the old, ugly carpet. The windows, facing Lake Erie, were left devoid of any covering to accentuate the wood work and the view. New furniture, lamps and accessories adorned the space that, 12 hours earlier, could have been used as a dungeon. There aren't words to describe how we felt. It was like winning the lottery.

One of the best things about 'Fix It and

Finish It' is that they use only local contractors. We are grateful to everyone involved. The designer for our episode, Robin Sweeney, owns Cosmic Girl Goes Home in Lakewood. Patsouras Home Renovations of Cleveland did the demolition and painting. The hardwood floor was installed by National Carpet Mill Outlet of Medina. The furniture and accessories were provided by Northeast Factory Direct in Eastlake. And The Wicked Chafer (thewickedchafer.com) catered the event with the most amazing food. Without these fine people we would not have the beautiful living room we have today.

What started in June with a simple email, was completed on January 26, 2015 when the show aired on CBS 19. Once the show aired, we were finally allowed to share the space with friends and family. And now, we're sharing it with the entire city.

It was difficult keeping the secret, but it was all worth it. As a result of our good fortune, we know now more than ever, "there's no place like home."

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OUR LADY OF THE LAKE SCHOOL
Pre-K through 8th Grade

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Confirmation



Our Lady of the Lake joined St Paschal Baylon and Bishop Gries, for a confirmation ceremony on April 26, with Bishop Pilla in attendance. Afterwards, the newly confirmed and their families celebrated

with a lovely reception hosted by the 7th grade parents of St Paschal Baylon. Congratulations to the newly confirmed. May you take your gifts out into the world!

Living Stations



Holy Week is always a very special time at Our Lady of the Lake. It's wonderful to see so many parishioners, visitors and friends



in church. Living Stations is a particularly treasured tradition for our parish, and this year the youth did a wonderful job.

Vacation Bible School Will Be a Blast!

by Rita Testa
Join Our Lady of the Lake Vacation Bible School for some exciting explorations with SonSpark Labs! Every day June 8-12 from 9:30-noon kids in grades 1-5 will enjoy activi-

ties, crafts, music, snacks and more. Take advantage of early bird registration before May 12 and save \$5. All are welcome! For more information, contact Rita Testa at (216) 481-6824, or email Rita@OLLEuclid.org.

Parish Picnic

Save the Date for the Our Lady of the Lake parish picnic. In honor of our 5th anniversary, we're very excited to be bringing in the Joey Tomsick Orchestra. It's going to be

a wonderful celebration, and we look forward to sharing it with all our parishioners and friends. Mark your calendars for June 21st!

Walk-A-Thon Supports Education

On May 13, Our Lady of the Lake School will host its popular Walk-A-Thon, a healthy way for students to get moving and support their school. Thanks to this great effort by students, with lots of support from friends and family and a very active PTO

leadership, this year's Walk-A-Thon is on track to raise more than \$15,000! If you'd like more information, or want to make a contribution, please call the school office at (216) 481-6824.

OLL School Open House

Our Lady of the Lake School is happy to welcome families with children entering preschool or kindergarten to join us for an open house on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. At Our Lady of the Lake School, you will find that we are like family. Your child will learn good habits and attitudes in our loving Catholic community. Through patient and respectful methods, our earliest learners develop a positive sense of themselves, which will make a difference throughout their lives. Our Lady of the Lake School offers a full-day kindergarten program that is fully ac-

credited by the State of Ohio and offers a warm, caring environment. Our children make use of all our wonderful teachers and facilities, including our state of the art computer lab, library, full gym, art and music classes. We know you want the best for you child, and we can help you get the best possible education.

For more information about the open house or school registration, please call Rita Kingsbury at (216) 481-6824, or email rkingsbury@ourladyofthelakeschool.euclid.org.

E. 200th Street Stroll Festival



Our Lady of the Lake is happy to be hosting a free community party to support the E. 200th Street Stroll. On May 30, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. you can make Our Lady of the Lake your base for music, games, prizes, treats and activities. Park here and catch the trolleys for a great day in the community, exploring everything the Stroll has to offer. We look forward to welcoming friends and neighbors, and hope to see everyone out enjoying this great day in the neighborhood!

Our Lady of the Lake School: Award Winning Teachers and Students



Our Lady of the Lake 8th grade students won honors at this year's Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair

Our Lady of the Lake School is delighted to be congratulating third grade teacher Cathy Gentile on being the recipient of Northeast Ohio Media Group's Crystal Apple Award for Teaching Excellence. Mrs. Gentile is a dedicated educator, who has touched the lives of thousands of students, including current third-grader Caroline Brown. In her nomination, Caroline wrote: "Mrs. Gentile is a true inspiration to her students. She inspires her students to think globally and act locally.... She goes above and beyond in her role as an educator." We

are very fortunate to have talented, caring teachers inspiring tomorrow's leaders.

8th Grade Students, Science Awards
April was a big month at Our Lady of the Lake School. Mayor Bill Cervenik came to congratulate the 8th grade students who received proclamations from Euclid City Council for their award-winning contributions to this year's Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair. Congratulations to all the award winners!





Gostilna/Bob's Place 

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Live Music on some Saturdays



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Collinwood's Catholic School

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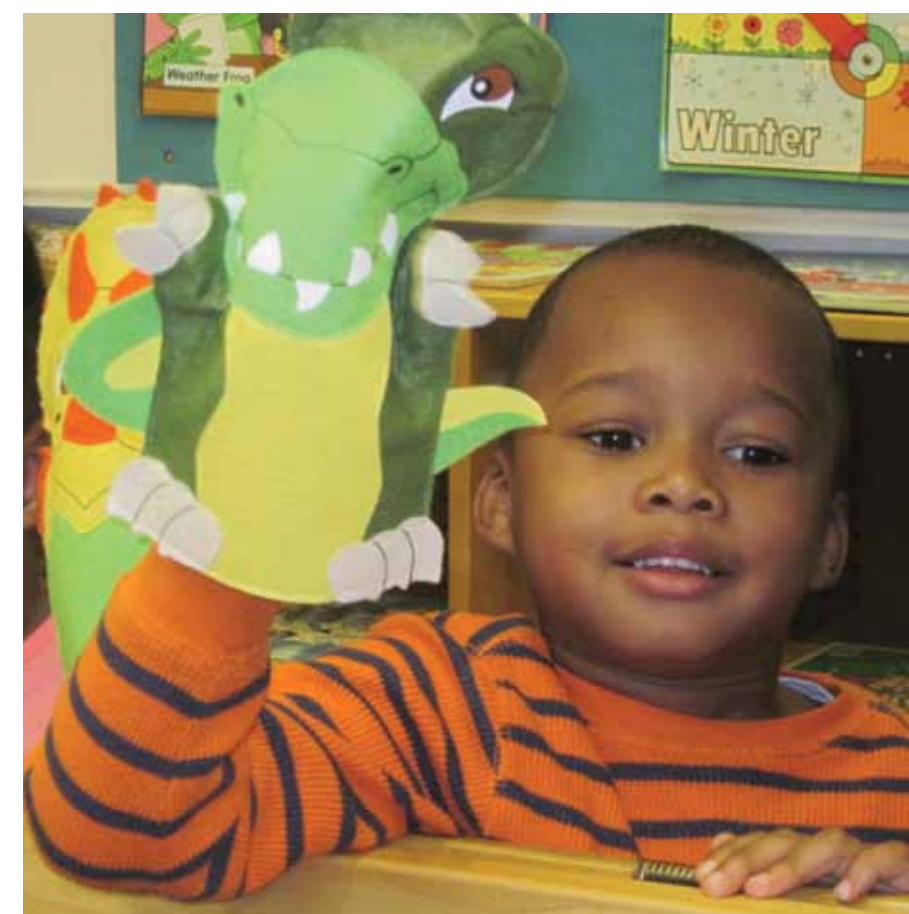


Collinwood's Catholic Pre-School Program Now Accepting Applications

by Marguerite DiPenti

Our Catholic Pre-School program at St. Jerome provides children with a safe, high quality learning environment that is based on discovery, guided experiences and play. Our program uses a learning center approach with daily activities in the areas of Reading Readiness, Math, Social Science, Health/Safety, Religion, Perceptual Motor skills, Art, Music, and Creative Movement. Children receive loving support in the de-

velopment of personal skills and values, academic and cognitive skills, group values and relationships. The staff wants each child to know that he or she is a unique individual with a special place in the world. When children feel safe and secure in their environment, their self-concept and self-confidence increases. Each member of our staff is committed to providing this kind of care. Call 216-481-1138 for information or to register today.



Catholic War Veterans Coming to St. Jerome May 16 & 17

We will remember them...



by Marguerite DiPenti

Why poppies? In May 1915, on the battlefield of the Western Front, blood-red poppies bloomed. Col. John McCrae was moved to pen his famous poem, In Flanders Fields. The same year, Mrs. Moina Michael, inspired by McCrae's poem, replied with a poem of her own:

We cherish, too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.

She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Today, virtually all Veterans Service Organizations distribute poppies during the month of May. Catholic War Veterans was founded in 1935 by Fr. Edward J. Higgins,

a WWI army chaplain. A local chapter, St. Vitus Post 1655 was chartered in 1949. Fr. Bill Jerse was associate pastor of St. Vitus Church from 1987 until 1992. During his tenure, he became involved with the St. Vitus Catholic War Veterans and was named one of their chaplains, a position that he has held ever since. Fr. Bill has invited post members to distribute poppies at St. Jerome the weekend before the Memorial Day weekend. They will accept free-will offerings. Post members are easily identified by their hats and the powder blue blazers they wear. Any Catholic who is an honorably discharged veteran of any branch of the military is eligible to join. Please welcome the St. Vitus veterans and thank them for their service! Know that they are very grateful for your support of the work of the post. The donations received are used to benefit hospitalized and homeless veterans and widows and children of service members.



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V Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

Faith. Family. Future.

25th Anniversary Gala nets \$425,000

When Petco CEO Jamie Myers '76, and his wife, Josie, addressed the guests at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School's Sterling Silver Classic Mixer Gala, he noted how highly he valued his Catholic education and how much one teacher's influence impacted his life and career.

With that in mind, Myers issued a \$100,000 challenge: He and his wife would match scholarship donations up to \$100,000 with an equal gift in the form of a \$100,000 donation to the Timothy W. Robertson Scholarship. Robertson '62, a longtime math teacher and administrator, passed away in 2011.

The challenge was met – and then some.

In total, after all expenses were paid, the school netted more than \$425,000 at the gala, a celebration marking the school's 25th anniversary. Of that amount, \$356,000 was raised for the school's "Continuing the Dream" program that provides funds to be used exclusively toward scholarships and financial aid for deserving students and families.

The April 11 event was the most successful fundraising event in the history of the school and its predecessor schools, Villa Angela Academy and St. Joseph High School. The event would not have been possible without the generosity of its Presenting Sponsor, OM Group CEO Joe Scaminace '71, as well as VASJ Board Chairman Don Dailey '70 and his wife, Mary Jo, and other sponsors. (A list of all sponsors and "Dream Maker" donors of \$5,000 or more can be found at vasj.com).

Sister Susan Durkin, OSU, President of the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, and Rev. Martin Solma '66, SM, Provincial of the Marianist Province of the United States, spoke of the pride their respective religious orders feel as the school's sponsors. VASJ, which is owned by the Diocese of Cleveland, is the only school in the world sponsored by both the Ursulines



Students gather on stage at VASJ's Sterling Silver Classic Mixer Gala to say "thank you" to the generous donors who helped break the school's fundraising records by raising more than \$425,000 for scholarships to help "Continue the Dream" of a VASJ education.



VASJ President Richard Osborne '69, lead donors Josie and Jamie '76 Myers and VASJ Board Chairman Don Dailey '70.



Presenting Sponsor Joseph Scaminace '71 pledges additional money for scholarships during the Continuing the Dream drive.

and the Marianists. Nearly 350 guests – including faculty and staff, current VASJ students, parents, alums, board members and friends – were there to be a part of the celebration in the school gymnasium. After the total amount raised was announced, students gathered on stage to give their heartfelt

thanks to all the donors.

The emcee of the event was Director of Advancement Babe Kwasniak '94, who also is coach of the 2015 Division III State Champion boys basketball team, along with senior Danielle Paus and junior John Henry Posey. Chairman of the event was Mike Romeo '88.

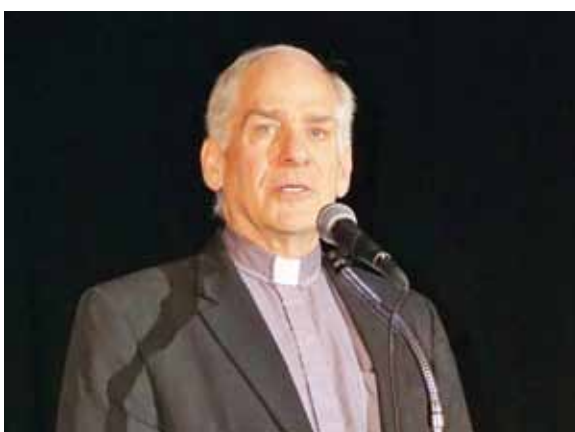
"The night was a beautiful tribute to VA, St. Joe's, the Ursulines, the Marianists and the Diocese of Cleveland," said VASJ President Richard Osborne '69. "It was an overwhelming validation of our mission and a wonderful way to mark 25 years of remarkable progress and success."



Sr. Susan Durkin, OSU, president of the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, delivers the dinner prayer at the gala.



Babe Kwasniak '94 (left), Danielle Paus '15 and John Henry Posey '16 (right) served as the night's emcees.



Rev. Martin Solma '66, SM, Provincial of the Marianist Province of the United States, addresses the guests.

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V Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

Faith. Family. Future.

Boys basketball wins state championship

The Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School boys basketball team had high expectations, goals and standards for the 2014-15 season.

Despite a brutal schedule and outside chatter, everything the Vikings did this season was directed at winning a state championship.

Mission accomplished. VASJ defeated Lima Central Catholic, 63-50, to win the Division III state championship at the Schottenstein Center in Columbus.

It was the second state title in three years for the Vikings (23-4) and the sixth in program history.

The Vikings joined Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary (six) and Middletown (seven) as the only teams in Ohio history to win six or more titles, while becoming the first team to win a crown in all four divisions.

The win was also the 100th career victory for Coach Babe Kwasniak '94. "To do it with these guys, what are the words? Perfect? Serendipitous?" Kwasniak said.

"Lima Central Catholic is one of the toughest teams we played this year and we played an unbelievable schedule and some incredible basketball teams. I think they play as hard as any team we faced. Congratulations to them on a great season, too. They are everything that is right about high school basketball. They came right at us."

Senior Dererk Pardon barely missed a triple-double with 15 points, 12 rebounds and nine blocks. The 6-foot-8 Northwestern recruit was brilliant in his final game as a Viking, and also became the VASJ single-season record holder, surpassing Eric Riley's mark of 95.

"He's going to the Big Ten. He's going to be a great player," Kwasniak said of Pardon. "He's a better young man, and I'm going to miss coaching him."

The Vikings played large stretches of the game without McDonald's All-American Carlton Bragg due to foul trouble, but were able to secure a 27-22 halftime lead against the team that beat them in the 2014 state championship game. VASJ got its revenge, using a third-quarter surge to open up a 42-31 lead after three quarters and extended the lead prior to the starters leaving late in the final frame.



Members of VASJ's boys basketball team excitedly display their trophy after winning the 2015 DIII State Championship.



VASJ's boys basketball team won the 2015 Division III State Championship after defeating Lima Central Catholic 63-50.



VASJ's 2015 Division III State Championship team were presented with a proclamation by Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson in recognition of their state title win.

VASJ finished with four players in double-figures: Pardon, Brian Parker — the game's leading scorer with 17 — Simon Texidor and Bragg, both of whom finished with 12.

"I know we just won, but what is

going through my mind right now is the fact that I won't play with these seniors anymore," Parker said. "I'm glad to go to state three years in a row. It's a great feeling."

"When I came in as a freshman, I

didn't honestly expect to make it this far until my sophomore year (2013 Division IV state championship), I realized how good we'd be."

Pardon was the star on floor of Ohio State — where he will see time as an opponent playing for Northwestern in college. But rather than talk about his stat line, which Kwasniak compared to former Viking great Clark Kellogg, he said he'd remember the team and school for another reason.

"These people, they're my family," Pardon said. "No one can ever take that away from me. It's a great feeling."

Bragg, a Kansas recruit and the Division III AP Ohio player of the year, put an exclamation mark on his high school career with 12 points, five assists, three rebounds and zero turnovers.

"We accomplished our goals and nobody can take that from us," Bragg said.

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Rock the O-A-A!

To encourage 3rd graders on their big day, the school went outside to kick off the day with an OAA cheer while younger students held signs to show their support. Third

grade students must receive a score of 394 or higher on the 3rd Grade Reading OAA in order to be promoted to fourth grade.



4 star work is what Imagine Bella is all about!



Everyone knows our 3rd graders can do it!



Reading tips for 3rd grade to track the words with their finger.



2nd graders show their support

Fourth Grade Travels to Columbus

On April 21st, fourth grade and some fifth graders took a trip to Columbus, Ohio to take a tour of the State House, the Topiary

Gardens, and have dinner at Dirty Frank's Hot Dog Palace. Check out the pictures of their amazing day!



Being a lawyer isn't easy work.



Just another day in the courtroom

PARCC Party



4th and 5th grade students with perfect attendance for all days of Performance Based testing in February and March celebrated with a PARCC dance party before Spring Break. #Perseverance #PERFORMANCEcharacter

Character Essay Contest Winners



Grade level winners from the Imagine Character Essay Contest (Grades 3-5) were honored in a Reception in April.

- 3rd Grade
 - 1st place- Simiya Howard
 - 2nd place- Aniyah Idom
 - 3rd place- Jade Tucker
- 4th Grade
 - 1st place- Jermaine Palmer
 - 2nd place- Shyanne Stevens
 - 3rd place- Jariah Reed
- 5th Grade
 - 1st place- Tony Jordan
 - 2nd place- J'Kwon George
 - 3rd place- Janiah Johnson

Upcoming Dates

- Spring Book Fair May 4th-8th
- 5th Grade Underground Railroad Simulation May 4th-5th
- Imagine Bella 1st Annual Carnival Thursday, May 7th
- Kindergarten promotion picnic Thursday, May 28th
- Last day of school for students Friday, May 29th

World Changers Wanted

Want to know more about Imagine Bella? Want to help our exciting journey to become a National Blue Ribbon School? Enrollment packets available online and in our office. Call 216-481-1500. We would be more than happy to give you a tour and answer any questions!



Approaching the Ohio Supreme Court.



Outside at the Topiary Gardens

Josh's Family Meats has all your Grilling Needs



Stop in and say Hi to Josh, Euclid graduate, at 20068 Lake Shore Blvd. His butcher shop is fully stocked with grillables. I give his service and his product the highest recommendation

Quix Now Open on East 185th



by John Copic
Quix food store and Hanini Subs are now open at 870 East 185th Street. This was formerly 7/11. The store was extensively cleaned and renovated. The new shop is much more than a convenient store. The sub shop makes Made to Order sandwiches 24 hours a day. On the menu are cold subs, hot subs, clubs, Gyros and more. I personally sampled the fried chicken and it was delicious. Whether you are looking for lunch or a late night snack, be sure to stop in to Quix and tell Hamzah Najjar (Ham for short) the Observer sent you.

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Performing Arts Camp
For youth entering Grade 3 to 6 in Fall 2015, with instructors Darryl Lewis and Angela Miloro-Hansen. Camps will culminate with a performance. & reception.

Euclid Farmers' Market, Fridays beginning on June 5 through Oct. 9, 3 to 6:30pm Locally grown produce, plants & flowers, baked goods, and more! New weekly raffle for market goodies. FREE sampler classes in the arts on Friday June 5th and June 19th - Balloon Twisting, Visual Art and Music! Visit website for details.

Wonderful Land of OZ When: weekdays June 29 - July 10 (no camp July 3), Mon. - Fri. 9am - 3pm. **Visiting Wonderland** When: weekdays July 20-July 31, Mon. - Fri. 9am - 3pm. Visit our website to learn about fees, early registration and sibling discount, and grade requirements.

Birthday party, shower, special event or meeting being planned? Consider Shore Cultural Centre!
Event rooms start as low as \$40/hour. Kitchen area with sink, refrigerator and microwave. 900 seat Auditorium for special events & productions. Call to 216-289-8578 to schedule a tour.

Visit our website for more summer camp & class options.

Shore Cultural Centre offers an array of arts and educational programming in the heart of downtown Euclid

Green Collinwood

Cuyahoga SWCD and Cleveland WPC to Host Green Cleaning Workshop in Cleveland

by *Claire Posius*
Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Cleveland Division of Water Pollution Control (WPC) are conducting a "Green Cleaning: Inside and Out" workshop in Cleveland this summer. The workshop will be held Thursday, July 16 at the Collinwood Recreation Center and will run from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The workshop is free and open to the public, however, participants will have the opportunity to make two green cleaners to take home and try for \$10.

For more information or to register, contact Claire Posius at 216-524-6580 x16 or by email at cposius@cuyahogawcd.org or to register online, go to www.euclidcreekwatershed.org under the events page.

Registration is required by July 15. The workshop is intended for anyone interested in reducing the use of toxins and other harsh chemicals at home and in the

yard. Household cleaners and lawn chemicals are potential sources of water pollution, making their way into local streams and rivers, and eventually Lake Erie. By using more natural homemade cleaners, residents can reduce their environmental impact, save money, and reduce their exposure to harmful chemicals.

The workshop is sponsored by Cleveland Division of Water Pollution Control, Friends of Euclid Creek, and the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District. To learn more about the Euclid Creek Watershed Program go to www.euclidcreekwatershed.org.

The Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District's mission is to promote conservation of land and aquatic resources in a developed environment through stewardship, education, and technical assistance. www.cuyahogawcd.org

Eastside Greenway Plans to Connect 19 Greater Cleveland Communities with Bike and Pedestrian Paths

by *Edward Chenock*
Imagine living close to a trail system that connects neighborhoods throughout the eastern portion of Cuyahoga County with employment centers, transit, services, parks and green spaces. Imagine walking or biking to school, work, the store, or a park. Imagine being able to bike from the Euclid Creek Reservation to the Shaker Median Trail, or from Rockefeller Park to the North Chagrin Reservation. Imagine the Eastside Greenway.

The Eastside Greenway will increase pedestrian and bicycle connectivity in and between the eastern portion of Cleveland and 18 suburbs: East Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, University Heights, Beachwood, Pepper Pike, Richmond Heights, Highland Heights, Highland Hills, North Randall, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Euclid, South Euclid, Lyndhurst, Bratenahl, Orange Village and Warrensville Heights. Leaders from these cities are working alongside planners and other regional organizations, like the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, LAND studio, the Cleveland

Metroparks, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and Bike Cleveland, to develop a plan for the greenway that can be used to guide the way to implementation.

The project team will be hosting a third round of public meetings, in which the final greenway plan, shaped by input from the first two public meetings, will be presented and you are invited. The same content will be presented at each meeting, so choose the date and location that works best for your schedule. The meeting dates are as follows:
Tuesday, May 12, 2015 6:30-8:30 p.m. Warrensville Heights Public Library
Wednesday, May 13, 2015 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sterle's Country House
Tuesday, May 19, 2015 6:00-7:30 p.m. Collinwood Recreation Center
Wednesday, May 20, 2015 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bottlehouse Brewery
More information on the Eastside Greenway can be found on the project's website at www.eastsidegreenway.weebly.com. Meeting schedule and news courtesy of LAND studio.

Cleveland Water's 2014 Water Quality Report Now Available

by *John Goersmeyer*
Water quality is essential to all of us, and the quality of our water affects the quality of our lives. Cleveland Division of Water is committed to providing its customers safe, high-quality drinking water.

That is why the division maintains a rigorous quality control program and continues to invest substantial financial resources to improve our water treatment facilities and distribution system. Our water is constantly monitored and tested. The water produced and delivered by Cleveland Water far exceeds the most stringent water quality standards currently mandated by federal and state water regulations, and last year was no exception.

Cleveland Water has continued to significantly enhance the quality of life by meeting the growing need for safe, clean water in the communities we serve. Therefore, we present you with the division's Annual Water Quality Report for 2014. This report



provides an overview of the division's water quality during the past year. It shows the source of your water, how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies, and how your water is treated and tested.

Additional copies can be requested by calling 216-664-2639 or by viewing and downloading it at www.clevelandwater.com/2014WQR.pdf

Did you get your Free Rain Barrel?

by *Julia DiBaggio*
That's right, I said Free Rain Barrel! The City of Cleveland is offering residents a free rain barrel system. This reduces stormwater runoff, helps you save money, and engages Cleveland youth through employment opportunities with Youth Opportunities Unlimited and the Mayor's Youth Summer Employment Program.

How do you get a rain barrel? You will need to complete three forms by June 26, 2015. Contact Julia DiBaggio at Northeast Shores at 216-481-7660 or jdbaggio@northeastshores.org to get your forms today!

Do you want that rain barrel to be beautiful? Check out The Collinwood Painted Rain Barrel Project!



May Events at the Memorial-Nottingham Library

by *Jeanne Coppola*
PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN
Read to the Beat: Wednesday May 20th and 27th at 10:15 a.m. This program is for preschooler's ages 3 to 5, and will be lots of fun with "reading readiness activities set to a musical beat."
Remembering Those Who Fought: Thursday May 21st at 4:00 p.m. "Memorial Day, was originally called Decoration Day," because it was a way to remember the people who fought for and died fighting for our freedom, while they were "in the service of the United States of America." To celebrate and to remember our brave soldiers, kids will get to make US flags in their honor.
PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS AND SENIORS
Russian Book Club: Saturday May 23rd at

3:00 p.m. This will be a discussion of the novel "Shchegol" (The Goldfinch), by Donna Tartt, in Russian. The Goldfinch won the Pulitzer, and is the third novel written by Tartt. It is about a boy (Theo Decker) who survives an accident where his mother was killed, and then is taken in by a family, after his father abandons him. Theo struggles with memories of his mother and clings to a small painting which reminds him of her, and is eventually drawn into the world of art, where he works in an antique store as an adult. "...It combines unforgettably vivid characters, mesmerizing language, and breathtaking suspense, while plumbing with a philosopher's calm the deeper mysteries of love, identity, and art..." -- from the publisher. (<http://www.pulitzer.org/works/2014-Fiction>).



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

by *Monique Christian-Long*
PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH
Make Mother's Day Cards!
Come make a mother's day card to show your mom just how much you love her! This program is for students of all ages.
Friday, May 8th at 3:00 p.m.

Growing Readers Storytime
Help Grow Your child's early reading skills! Children 3-5 are invited for stories songs and rhymes that will help them become better readers.
Tuesdays and Thursdays May 4th- 28th at 10:30 a.m.
For additional storytime appointments call us at the branch 216-623-6934.

Cleveland State University assist with any subject and/or research project.
Mondays-Thursdays from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Last day of tutoring May 7th

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. Last Day of "Kid's Café" after school Snack Program May 22nd
Look for Summer Lunch Program Starting in June

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 12:30-2:30 p.m. Last Day of Classes on May 6th

Something 2 Do!
Exciting and fun STEM based activities for children and teens!
Friday, May 22 at 3:30 p.m.

America Reads FREE After School Tutoring
Students in K-8 can get assistance with their homework. College students from

CHS Students Tour Cleveland Public Library's Main Library

by *Gail Greenberg*
The word of the day was definitely "adventure," when a group of Collinwood High School students recently took a unique interactive, behind-the-scenes field trip to the Cleveland Public Library's landmark Main Library, in celebration of Ohio Library Day and National Book Week.
Participants were able to see first-hand the wealth of free resources, programming and services geared to teens and how readily-accessible they all are. This visit also gave students the opportunity to meet library staff members informally and discuss career possibilities in library, technology and information science.
Highlights of the trip included: a scavenger hunt; job shadowing; book checkout; and tours of the newly-launched Cleveland Digital Public Library, the Youth Services Department, Special Collections, Human

Students also discovered 3-D printing and makerspace technology, the extensive chess and checkers collection, rare and miniature books, Collinwood High School yearbooks, and archival newspapers covering the tragic Lakeview (Memorial) School fire in 1908.
"The importance of this field trip is to welcome our students to all areas of the Main Library," explained Gail Greenberg. "For many, this trip may be their first visit to this facility. Our goal is to fill this void and help students make the connection between their future and the limitless role this library can play," she concluded.
Erica Marks, children's librarian at CPL's Collinwood Branch, and Gail Greenberg, Collinwood High School library media specialist, collaborated on this project, with funding made possible by a Target Field Trip Grant.



(Left to right) Brandone Pennicooke, Sanita Washington, and Siera Thomas check out some of the books in the Youth Services Department.

Tahlia Eskridge and Demario Robinson enjoy past Collinwood High School yearbooks.

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Music for Miles

by Nan Kennedy

Blue Water Chamber Orchestra is a group of local world-class musicians committed to bringing exciting and unusual music directly into the neighborhoods of Northeast Ohio. Carlton R. Woods, founder and Artistic Director, has collaborated with such artists and composers as Itzhak Perlman, Sarah Chang, Dave Brubeck, and the Juilliard String Quartet.

See more at: <http://www.bluewaterorchestra.com/about/artistic-direction/#sthash.uwS7DNyU.dpuf>

The Music for Miles (M4M) chamber concerts are at Waterloo Arts, 15605 Waterloo Road, at 4 pm on the second Sunday of the month. They are free and very informal; the audience is encouraged to visit the adjoining Callaloo Café for a glass of wine, a

cup of tea, or a light meal with West Indian flavors. Concerts are presented with the support of Local 4 Music Fund, the Music Performance Trust Fund, the Arts Collinwood Friends' Committee, Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, and Ohio Arts Council. Waterloo Arts is at 15605 Waterloo Road, corner of E156. waterlooarts.org; 216-696-9500.

"Sundaes on Waterloo" Music for Miles Benefit Sunday June 14

In support of our Sunday concert series Music for Miles, we will be holding a benefit party in the Waterloo Sculpture Garden at 16006 Waterloo Road, where an exhibition of work by recent University of Akron graduates, curated by Laila Voss, will be set against the background

of trees and flowers. Mitchell's Ice Cream will be serving sundaes, along with cookies baked by the Friends Committee (and a little champagne). Gallery 160, at the edge of the Garden, will be showing innovative photography; artist Lisa Kenion will be receiving visitors in her studio and musicians will be playing. You can admire the new-Waterloo Road, transformed by its \$5 million streetscape makeover, and take home all sorts of treasures from the silent auction and the raffle.

Sunday June 14, 3-5 pm, 16006 Waterloo Road, Cleveland 44110. Street and attended parking. Tickets: \$50 per person. R.S.V.P. by June 1 to Waterloo Arts (M4M), 15605 Waterloo Road, Cleveland 44110.



Tomatoes, Zucchini, and Bell Peppers, Oh My!

by Julia DiBaggio

Picture it, a table full of all your favorite vegetables. Now that the snow has (hopefully) stopped falling, it is time to get into the garden. If you don't have the yard for gardening, you're in luck! There are community gardens all around Collinwood

that are eager for people like you to join them. If you are looking for a garden plot, contact Julia DiBaggio at Northeast Shores for more information. She can be reached at 216-481-7660 or jdibaggio@northeastshores.org

Collinwood 2015 is Underway

by Julia DiBaggio

A healthy Collinwood is right around the corner. Artists and health practitioners from around Cleveland have expressed their interest in Collinwood 2015. Last month we held two information meetings and had an impressive turnout. We are

thrilled that there are so many creative projects that have been proposed. If you think of a fantastic way to combine the arts and health, there is still another opportunity to take your idea and turn it to reality. The next round of applications is happening in August 2015.

Annual Sports Banquet Fundraiser

by Mary Louise Daley

The Friends of Collinwood Recreation invite you to our ANNUAL SPORTS BANQUET FUNDRAISER

To be held on

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015 | MULDOON'S SALOON & EATERY
1020 EAST 185TH STREET | CLEVELAND, OH 44119
8:00 – 10:00 PM | TICKETS: \$20.00 per person
Make checks out to "Collinwood Recreation"




Tickets good for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages
Proceeds from Ticket sales and Raffle go for food, refreshments, trophies and certificates for our Sports Teams who have worked and played their best this past year.

For Ticket information please contact
Tierra Biggers at the Recreation Center at (216) 420-8323 or Mary Louise Daley in Councilman Polensek's Office at (216) 664-4236.

COME & CELEBRATE COLLINWOOD RECREATION WITH FOOD, FUN, FRIENDSHIP AND A RAFFLE or TWO!!!!

Join the Discussion at: www.collinwoodobserver.com

Upcoming Events

Impacting Youth Leaders



by Breana Sweeney

If you're looking to make a difference in the community get involved with the

Young Leaders program. Young leaders program teaches 6th to 12th graders life tools consisting of problem solving, critical thinking, leadership skills, and community responsibility. This is an afterschool program located at the Collinwood Recreational Center, who not only strives to build young leaders, but to build a better community. We actually go into communities and do service. We are looking to hire managers, teachers, secretaries, and promotion workers. Help us reach the youth! If you're interested in getting involved contact Vice President Breana Sweeney 216-622-5849 or send a resume to youngleadersprogram@yahoo.com.

Cleveland Youth Rowing Association Summer Programs



CYRA 2014 Spring Season Team Photo at the Hoover Regatta in Columbus

by Anne Hribar

Summer Rowing is here in Cleveland! Cleveland Youth Rowing Association (CYRA), Cleveland's oldest existing rowing club for high school students, is currently accepting registrations for all summer programming. Striving to be a premier competitive junior rowing program, the mission of CYRA is to provide a competitive rowing experience to positively impact the mind, body, and spirit of young athletes in the Greater Cleveland community. Our rowers are comprised of girls and boys from numerous schools and communities throughout the Cleveland Metropolitan area. This summer, CYRA will offer a high performance competitive team for high school athletes with experience with a select crew to represent the club at a regatta; a junior development team which will fo-

cus on increasing technical proficiency of fundamental rowing technique open to athletes from 6th - 12th grade with some experience; and learn-to-row options for grades 6th - 12th which will focus on the fundamentals of rowing. These programs run throughout the summer at various times and days. For more information: check out our website at cyrarowing.org

If you have an interest in being on the great Cuyahoga, please contact us to visit the boathouse and learn more about the unique sport of rowing and its scholarship opportunities. We even encourage you to try out the sport to get a feel for it before committing through registration. Further details can be found on our website cyrarowing.org. For additional information or contact Anne Hribar at hribaranne@gmail.com.

Hospice of the Western Reserve Walk to Remember Scheduled for Sunday, June 7

by Laurie Henrichsen

Hospice of the Western Reserve's 2015 Walk to Remember, sponsored by First-Merit Foundation, takes place Sunday, June 7, 2015 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, 3900 Wildlife Way, Cleveland. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m.; the walk begins at 9:00 a.m. Registration is \$25 for adults, \$10 for children and \$60 for families (two adults and three children under age 12) and includes full-day admission to the Zoo and Rainforest, t-shirts, live musical entertainment from InCahootz, memorial crafts, face painting, healthy snacks and beverages and more. Registration is available online at hospicewr.org/walk, or by calling 216.383.3715.

More than 3,000 participants are expected to walk to honor the memory of their loved ones while raising funds for services not covered by Medicare and private

insurance. These include pediatric palliative care, the granting of special wishes for patients, art and music therapy, crisis response services in Northeast Ohio schools and community grief support groups.

Register or donate by May 10 for chance to win free airline tickets

"All those who register by Sunday, May 10, and who raise at least \$100 on their Walk webpage or donate \$100 to a walker will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win their choice of either two free round-trip airline tickets or \$500 in gift cards," said Bridget Murphy, corporate relations/special events manager. Hospice of the Western Reserve is offering an incentive for each additional \$100 raised or donated. "There is no limit to the number of times a person's name can be entered," Murphy explained. More details on the raffle are available at hospicewr.org/tickets.

Energizing Euclid Kick-off to Health

by Julia DiBaggio

If you're looking to make a difference in Euclid Mayor Bill Cervenik has partnered with the Cleveland Clinic to designate the City of Euclid as part of the Clinic's Healthy Communities Initiative (HCI) for 2015. The HCI is designed to positively impact our community through education and awareness, using community resources to promote optimal health and wellness. This year-long initiative will include monthly health programming such as quarterly health talks, a health and wellness fair, a signature walk/run, a wellness challenge, a community walking program, healthy cooking demonstrations, and other outreach activities. In addition, North-east Shores Development Corporation has partnered with the Cleveland Clinic on their Healthy Collinwood 2015 initiative.

Since both programs look at keeping our residents in both communities healthy, the kickoff is a way to incorporate both programs into one. Local businesses, with an interest in health and wellness are also partners and will be showcasing their programs or services at the kickoff.

Join us Sunday, May 17th from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Euclid Family YMCA, 631 Babbitt Rd, Euclid, 44123 for activities and information on health and wellness. Screenings will be provided (blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, body mass index and eye). The best news is that the event is FREE and you can begin your journey toward good health by joining the ENERGIZING EUCLID community health initiative. To see the flyer, click on <https://www.facebook.com/EnergizeEuclid>

Free Senior Financial Workshops



by Deonna Kirkpatrick

Our community's senior population is growing fast. Unfortunately, so are scams aimed at taking their money, financial security and dignity. Seniors often possess valuable assets and as they age they become increasingly vulnerable to scams, fraud and financial abuse.

That's why Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP) is working with local libraries, churches, senior groups and community centers to help to educate seniors on how to identify and avoid financial exploitation and learn more about how to manage their finances and remain vital members of our neighborhoods.

Free classes are currently being offered on Thursday's at the Collinwood Branch of the Cleveland Public Library from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

As part of ESOP's Senior Financial Empowerment Initiative, the agency offers free financial counseling, benefits checkups

to make sure seniors receive all the public benefits they can to maintain their home and income, loans for seniors with property tax delinquency, and financial education workshops.

The workshops are based on the Money Smart for Older Adults (MSOA) curriculum developed by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in partnership with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). There are six sessions covering the following topics: how to identify and avoid elder financial abuse; how to identify and access additional benefits and entitlements; understanding credit reports, scores and how to improve your credit score; financial goal setting and budgeting; and understanding affordable banking and financial products.

The workshops also provide seniors with important information on where and how to report financial exploitation. Seniors are strongly encouraged to sign up for one-on-one financial counseling to assess their financial stability.

A complete schedule of upcoming workshops is posted on ESOP's website at http://www.esop-cleveland.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=192&Itemid=102. For more information or to schedule a workshop for your group please contact Sonya Edwards at 216-361-0718 or sedwards@esop-cleveland.org.



Walkers celebrate the memory of their loved ones at Walk to Remember. The June 7 event benefits hospice patients and includes a full day at the Zoo and Rainforest, commemorative t-shirts, snacks, live music from InCahootz, make-and-take crafts and more.

Join the Discussion at: www.collinwoodobserver.com

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