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The Collinwood Observer

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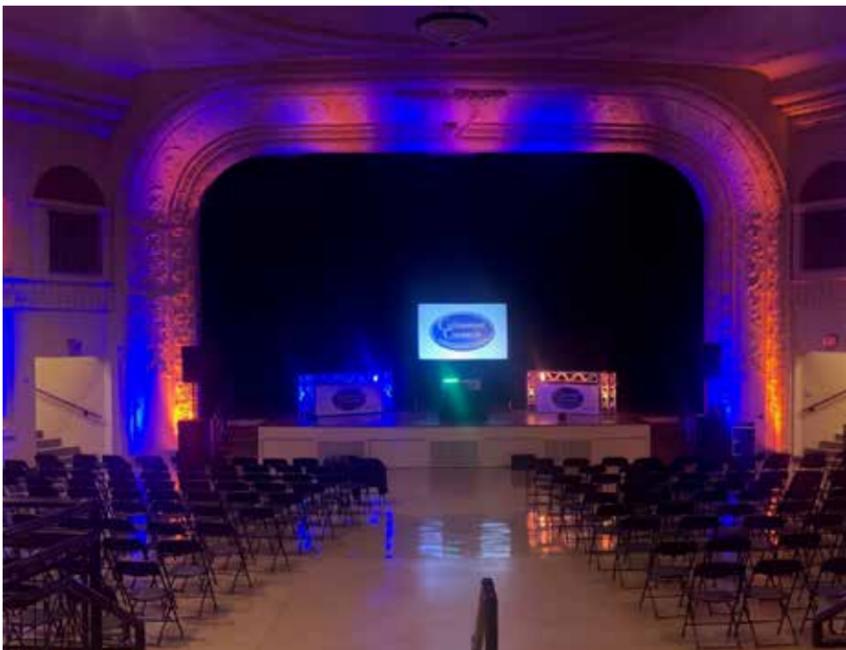
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December 2019

Collinwood Connects Hosts Neighborhood Family Feud Grand Finale



by Carly Lovely

Collinwood Connects, a community engagement campaign coordinated by Greater Collinwood Development Corporation, hosted Neighborhood Family Feud Grand Finale Friday, November 15 at the historic LaSalle Theater. Six teams competed for the grand prize of \$4,000 towards their community projects, with East 185th Market Park winning the final round. The team plans to establish a market park that will include a manicured green space with center performance deck, tents along the perimeter for makers and merchants, and two shipping containers placed on-site for storage and administrative purposes.

Ten total teams competed over the course of two Neighborhood Family Feud events with Collinwood Connects. Eight teams will receive \$500 funding towards their community projects, and Haldane Road Block Party will receive the \$2000 runner-up prize for their beautification and civic engagement project.

Each of the ten teams pitched their ideas to Collinwood Connects over the 2019 summer season. The Neighborhood Family Feud competition also includes a

short workshop series to facilitate the development of team projects, partnership between the teams, and avenues for identifying matching funds.

Collinwood Connects also gave away gift cards to The Standard, Dave's Supermarket and Winter Wonder Cleveland at the Grand Finale event with a total value of \$250+. Neighborhood Family Feud Grand Finale, catered by The Standard fine dining restaurant on East 185th, was well attended by the community as well as City Council and Greater Cleveland placemakers.

Collinwood Connects hopes to facilitate and fund grassroots community projects with this pilot program in the future. The community engagement team hopes that events like Neighborhood Family Feud bring pride and connectedness to Greater Collinwood and empower the community to create the change it would like to see.

Collinwood Connects Neighborhood Family Feud is made possible thanks to funding from Cleveland Neighborhood Progress through their Neighborhood Solutions Award. Projects will take place beginning in 2020, so stay tuned for that!

Happy Holidays from Your E. 185th St Merchants!



by Sarah Gyorki

The East 185th Street merchants are teaming up to bring some holiday cheer to the community. On December 18th, they'll be bringing photos with Santa to OH Perry during the school's holiday open house. Along with offering pictures with the man in the red suit, they'll also have treats to

give away and holiday crafts for the kids. And they'll be featuring some very special raffle baskets packed full of goodies from some of the wonderful shops and businesses up and down the street. It's bound to be a festive occasion!

In October, E. 185th St merchants chipped in to make Trunk or Treat special for children in the community, contributing dozens of bags of candy, along with decorations and volunteers. More than 100 families enjoyed the event. It's wonderful to have merchants and Community working together, making our E.185th Street neighborhood a better place.

Wishing a very happy holidays from your E. 185th St merchants and businesses, to all of our neighbors!

Santa Comes to Collinwood: Breakfast with Santa

by Collinwood & Nottingham Villages Development Corporation

It's that time of the year again! Santa and his helpers are in full force spreading holiday cheer. Please come join us at our Annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 9:30am-12pm at Cleveland Job Corps Gym 13421 Coit Rd Cleveland, Oh 44110, entrance off of E. 140th Street. Sponsored by Greater Collinwood Development Corporation, Councilman Polensek and Councilman Hairston, and Cleveland Job Corps. The food will be donated by Gus's Diner 185 and we will

have volunteers from Cleveland Job Corps.

This is a free event, we will have free pictures with Santa, Christmas Crafts, and youth hats, gloves, scarves distribution from Project Warm.

If you are interested in participating, registration is required. For registration, please go online to santacometocollinwood2019.eventbrite.com or call 216-268-2138. We are excited to continue to build our relationships in the neighborhood and can't wait to come together as one community to celebrate the holidays!

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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Next deadline: December 25, 2019

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Collinwood and Christmas



by Michael D. Polensek

Our community received an early Christmas gift this week for on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 when the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) backed away from their official announcement made a month earlier that Collinwood High School (CHS) would be officially closed next year. I don't have to tell anyone what a blow this announcement was. When they officially notified my office on October 18, of their decision to close our historic high school, it hit me like a tons of bricks.

As I indicated publicly at the time, the announcement was devastating. How did we collectively act after the announcement? We started to mobilize alumni, residents, businesses and community activists to form a united front against the decision that we believed would have a devastating impact, not only on our students and their future but the stability of the Five Points Business District, property values and future development opportunities throughout the St Clair Corridor.

Well, they heard us loud and clear. Of the ten schools they were proposing to merge and/or close, there was no greater outpouring than there was for Collinwood High School. I wish to thank everyone who wrote emails, letters, made phone calls, signed petitions, and who attended CMSD Meetings. I further wish to thank Dr. Lisa Thomas and Ms. Louise Dempsey, CMSD Board Members who became major cheerleaders for the Collinwood cause, due to their close relationship to the community. They were a major factor in believing in Collinwood, along with my colleague, Ward 10 Councilman, Anthony Hairston, and another Railroader, who lobbied against their plan. Thanks also to Mayor Frank G. Jackson who took the time to talk to me on three separate occasions about the Long-Term School Plan and the future of CHS. I made it clear to the Mayor that the plan, as presented, would do irreparable harm to Cleveland's east side, in light of the fact that CMSD had already closed more than twelve (12) elementary schools on the east side over the years.

The closure of CHS and the closure of two (2) preK-8 elementary schools, one being Iowa-Maple School, in Collinwood and the North Glenville neighborhoods, will also add to the loss of additional students and families from our area. The proof is in CMSD's own documents and statistics; as schools close, families talk with their feet and enrollment drops overall. This has happened far too many times in our city, and especially on the east side. This must cease.

We are in the process of the forming a "Collinwood High School Advisory Team" with CMSD with the focus on programs and curriculum within the building. Watch for future announcements and updates.

CMSD owns and operates Collinwood HS on behalf of the taxpayers and our students. We expect them to be real stakeholders in this process and we look forward to working with them to reestablish CHS as a center for learning and advancement.

Work on the Marcella Road / East 185th Street Storm Sewer Project is now in full gear. Work is now proceeding north bound on East 185th Street to Pawnee. Traffic detours are in place! Watch for construction workers, pedestrians, and students who attempt to navigate around the barriers. As traffic has increased on adjacent residential streets, remember that the speed limit is 25 mph and 20 mph in school zones. I appreciate everyone's patience during this project especially the businesses along the corridor. Please SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESSES during this difficult process. They need our patronage. So, during this Holiday Season, please, SHOP LOCAL.

As we look back over 2019 much has been accomplished. We continued to address ongoing sewer and flooding issues throughout the ward; we had the opening of the new Oliver Hazard Perry preK-8 elementary school which has been a major addition to our ward; we installed new water lines and hydrants on East 157, East 158 and East 160 Streets in the Waterloo Arts & Entertainment District due to water pressure issues; the \$1.5 Million Mark Tromba Playground Project was completed on time in the Collinwood Village neighborhood; the East Side Market opened with great fanfare on May 23 in the Glenville Neighborhood so we could address the "food desert" in the neighborhood; we officially dedicated the new Euclid Beach pier with our Partners at Cleveland MetroParks; and, we had the largest crowds ever at our Friday night Euclid Beach LIVE Concert Series, as well. In addition, the closed and abandoned historic Longfellow Elementary School, on East 140th Street, was officially transferred from CMSD to the City and then, in turn, sold to the Vesta Corporation to be developed into senior housing. We also tore down numerous abandoned, condemned and derelict homes in partnership with the City and/or the Cuyahoga County LandBank, and this will also continue throughout 2020. The historic LaSalle Theatre on East 185th Street is open for special events and the expansion of the parking lot adjacent to the theatre should begin soon. Finally, we were able to have several streets resurfaced this year ie. Coit Road, East 156th Street south of Lakeshore Boulevard, East 168th Street off St Clair, and other residential streets.

I have listed all of these projects because none of these would have happened without partnerships. In this Holiday Season, I wish to thank all who helped in any way to make our community a better place. Our work is far from done. I call upon all residents and concerned businesses to become stakeholders. Get involved in a neighborhood group or organization. The Greater Collinwood Development Corporation is looking for residents, businesses and institutions to join with them in their develop-

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

COLLINWOOD HOMEOWNERS MEETING
1st Wednesday of the month
7:00 PM
St Mary Church
15519 Holmes Avenue

MyCOM MEETING
1st Thursday of the Month
5:30 PM
Salvation Army Temple Corp
17625 Groveview Avenue

EAST 185th STREET NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
2nd Tuesday of the Month
6:00 PM
Lithuanian Hall
877 East 185th Street – next to Post Office

DEMOCRATIC WARD CLUB
2nd Wednesday of the Month
(September to June)
6:30 PM
Collinwood Slovenian Home
15810 Holmes Avenue
PRESIDENT: Councilman Polensek

FRIENDS OF COLLINWOOD RECREATION
2nd Thursday of the Month
6:15 PM
Collinwood Recreation Center
16300 Lakeshore Boulevard

5th DISTRICT COMMUNITY RELATIONS MEETING
3rd Wednesday of the month
6:00 PM
Collinwood Five Points Community Center
East 152 Street except for:
May (Murtis Taylor),
July (St Clair Superior Dev Corp),
October (Cleveland Job Corps Annual Dinner),
November (Glenville Rec Ctr.)

EAST 156th STREET NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
3rd Thursday of the month
6:00 PM
Collinwood Recreation Center
16300 Lakeshore Boulevard

EAST 140TH STREET NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
4TH Wednesday of the Month
(March to November)
6:00 PM
Collinwood Five Points Community Center
East 152 Street

CLEVELAND CITY COUNCIL
Monday night at 7:00 PM
Please note – this is a public and an open meeting but does not take public commentary

Any questions about these meetings please feel free to call
Mary Louise Jesek Daley,
Councilman Polensek's office, (216) 664-4236

ment activities. Our doors are always open to individuals who care. Let us all recommit to our community in 2020, to make our Ward and the Greater Collinwood neighborhood the best it can be.

On behalf of myself, my Family, Staff and the Greater Collinwood community, I wish you and yours a Happy Chanukah, a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous Kwanzaa. As always I may be reached at my office at (216) 857-7363 or via email at mpolensek@clevelandcitycouncil.org.

Michael D. Polensek

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COMMUNITY

Collinwood High School is Saved



by Eric S. Gordon

CEO, Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Dear parents, caregivers, residents, partners, and friends-

As you know, the District has engaged over the past year in long-term planning for our schools that included analyzing data and gathering stakeholder input. Last month, I presented to you and to the greater Cleveland community a set of draft recommendations for proposed impacts to our K-8 and high school portfolio.

Following extensive community engagement on these initial recommendations at meetings across the city, and in discussions with our Board of Education, we have explored additional options with District staff. Based on those steps, I am releasing a revised set of recommendations that will be presented to the Board of Education for their consideration on Tuesday evening. The full set of revised recommendations will be available shortly at QualitySchoolsForCLEKids.org.

Although much of the plan proposed in October remains unchanged, I am recommending two significant amendments to our high school recommendations.

First, I will propose to the Board that any decision regarding New Tech Collinwood and the Collinwood campus be delayed for at least one year. As part of this recommendation, we are asking the Greater Collinwood community to form a Friends of Collinwood High School community group to:

- develop and implement a robust manufacturing careers pathway and post-gradu-

ation opportunities for scholars

- create and implement a strategy for recruitment and retention of students to ensure program viability, and
- identify community partners and businesses to assist in providing opportunities for the Collinwood campus to become a mixed-use asset for the Five Pointe area.

This recommendation reflects the strong desire of community stakeholders in the Greater Collinwood community to pursue innovative options to keep the campus viable.

It is important to note that I am still recommending the consolidation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. and Glenville programs at the existing Glenville campus. This will allow us to continue enhancing our scholars' learning experiences by eliminating excess capacity in outdated facilities and by using those operational savings to expand academic and extracurricular offerings.

Secondly, after extensive community feedback, I am withdrawing the recommendation to phase out and close New Tech West. While my team and I examined alternative options for co-locating this model with another program, we found no options that will maintain the integrity of the program without adversely impacting other schools. I will therefore recommend continuing New Tech West in its current location to continue its progress on academic growth and enrollment viability.

I am grateful for the thoughtful input and participation of the school community in the long-term planning process. I remain inspired by the passion of our school community that was evident at community meetings and in my personal interactions with many of you.

I look forward to your continued involvement as we work together to provide quality schools for all of Cleveland's kids. Sincerely,

Eric S. Gordon
CEO, Cleveland Metropolitan School District

A Thank You from CMSD CEO Eric Gordon



by CMSD News Bureau

Dear parents, caregivers, residents, partners, and friends-

I wanted to take this opportunity to send a brief note of thanks for your engagement in and contributions to our long-term school planning process.

The journey involved a great deal of data and information, difficult conversations and tough decisions. Your time and input were invaluable in helping me, my team, and the Board of Education arrive at a set of decisions that move our system towards greater efficiencies and effectiveness in schools and programs.

For your reference, the final decisions

approved by the Board of Education at their November 19th business meeting are available at QualitySchoolsForCLEKids.org.

We've reached the end of this first phase of consideration and engagement. Yet, there is much more work to do in the coming months to achieve good implementation for students, staff and our families. We may not have agreed on all of the results, yet we appeared to agree on the foundational goal --- ensuring that all students have access to the best possible education our improving system can provide, while also achieving the efficiency that taxpayers deserve.

After the holiday break, we will begin to share ways in which stakeholders can be involved and/or engaged. We hope that one of the methods, whether it is being informed through written updates; participating on transition teams; and/or being a more visible supporter at schools, will work for you.

We look to the future with great optimism and hope, while again, being grateful and appreciative of your involvement and input, to date.

Have a wonderful holiday season. With deep appreciation,
Eric S. Gordon
CEO, Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Kipling & Ivanhoe, for the past 100 years



Mirabile's Tavern

by William McCulloch

1919 was a boom year in Collinwood. We've noted earlier this year the centennials of St. Jerome's and the Slovenian Home on Holmes Avenue. Three generations of the Mirabile family have also operated a family business from the corner of Kipling and Ivanhoe for the last 100 years. Initially their grandfather operated a barbershop out of the corner storefront. Purchasing the building in the twenties, they would then open the tavern as prohibition was repealed



in 1933. In 1990 they then opened Messina's Bakery, named for city in Sicily where the family was from, two blocks down on Ivanhoe. There you'll find everything from fresh baked breads, pizzas, prepared subs, and pastries.
- Messina's Bakery, 1071 Ivanhoe Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44110, (216) 761-7744
M-F 7:00-6:00, Sat 7:00-5:00, closed Sunday
- Mirabile's Tavern, 1025 Ivanhoe Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44110, (216) 761-8084

Improbable? Not!



IMPROBABLE PLAYERS (Left to right) Karen Snyder, Marcus Cothran, William Drake, Christina Strong, Joy Gadberrry, and Mark Isler



by Lillian J. Anderson

Nine actors with the Cleveland chapter. Plays and workshops. Keegan Carty, Marcus Cothran, William Drake, Joy Gadberrry, Mark Isler, Jenny Keaton, Christina Strong, Karen Snyder and Lindsey Webb, five of whom grew up in different parts of Ohio.

Improbable Players, led by Ohio Regional Director Karen Snyder, have performed at schools, community centers, and treatment centers. They educate through theatre with their own personal experiences. This troupe (or family as some players called it) shares a common bond of sobriety.

Why they do it: Karen saw the need in Cleveland and began the Cleveland chapter in 2018. "Ohio is third in the nation of opioid overdose deaths and I knew that we needed this message of hope," Karen stated. She also shared on how miserable drinking made her feel. Reaching out for help saved her life.

Joy, who lost her son to a heroine overdose, had this to say: "...we've reach so many people...700 students at a school...I have grandchildren ranging from ages 6 to 14... substance abuse disorder affects my whole family. I am literally in tears after every



performance." Though Lisa grew up in a 'Recovery House' with parents who lived sober and loved her, she was introduced to drugs by the parent of a friend. She experienced life on the streets as an addict. "When the detective found me on the street he cried because I was gray and weighed 89 pounds." She stated. She normally weighed 148 pounds. "I don't ever want to live like that again. I never felt good enough...One of the root problems...is thinking," said Lisa.

"Marcus stated, "[I] give back through... giving a snippet of my story." They all hope to give back through their gift of acting to share a message of recovery, hope, and living sober. "There's something...real...when you see it in person...the emotion...questions start pouring [in during the question and answer period]," said Mark.

The Improbable Players share three things with their audiences: how everyone is affected, recognizing addiction, and learning how to help.

To contact them: Karen Snyder, Regional Director, Ohio, Phone: 216.714.3288; email: karen@improbableplayers.org; mailing address: Improbable Players, P.O. Box 175, North Olmsted, OH 44070

COMMUNITY

Nan's Notes



by Nan Kennedy

COLLINWOOD HIGH SCHOOL UP-DATE

A couple of weeks ago, I attended the CMSD board meeting at which the hold on closing Collinwood High School was to be announced. What did I learn?

That East Tech has a terrific (and deafening) drum line (I love drum lines).

That Councilman Polensek envisions a new career-oriented curriculum at CHS as a model for the city, and does not see one year as an adequate allowance. (Some members of the board have already pressed for three.)

That Jamar Doyle (Greater Collinwood Community Development Corp.) believes that with 2000 jobs going unfilled every year for want of trained workers, CHS is well placed to rebuild the CHS curriculum. (When Jamar called for Collinwood attendees to stand, most of the auditorium rose to its feet – including a long line of students with posters.)

That the Save CHS Committee has received calls from Peter Lawson Jones (former County Commissioner, now an actor and playwright), Felton Thomas, director of the Cleveland Public Library, Dan Moore and Jack Schron, neighborhood industrialists.

That Robert Gatewood of GamerHaven on E185 is ready to set up a business incubator on the third floor.

That Judge Suzan Sweeney sees a restored CHS as a crucial component in her campaign to save the teenagers who so often appear before her.

That former City Councilman Zack Reed (now statewide minority affairs coordinator) wants to end mayoral control of the school system.

That all we have to do now is work ferociously for the next year, taking advantage of our advantages.

ON WATERLOO Winterloo AND Walk All Over December 6

After months of preparation ... Winterloo is coming!

Featuring fire dancers, musical performances, food trucks (Barrio, Smoke This and Rolling Beans Espresso), face painting, kids crafts, free yoga at Pop Life, Art of the Ornament opening and sale at Waterloo Arts, grand opening of Photocentric gallery in the former Gold Building, fire pits, s'mores kits, Christmas carolers, and the lighting of the Waterloo Tower tree, with a star cut out by Jerry Schmidt.

We can thank Third Federal, Greater Collinwood CDC, McBill's Beverage, Tint Max, Dave's, Cleveland Garden Center, The Standard, Muldoon's, Gamerhaven and Allen Wine Bar, Six Shooter, Image Mart, Totally Sweet, Music Saves, and Star Pop, for donations of money, goods and gift cards. Among others.

AT WATERLOO ARTS Art of the Ornament Opening Party Friday, December 6

Start the holidays with a great big party - the Art of the Ornament show's opening

at Waterloo Arts – December 6. There will be a staggering assortment of free food from local vendors, as well as a cash donation bar serving beer and wine. There will be a (literally) fantastic selection of ornaments, all being auctioned off to benefit WA's community programs. I imagine there will be live music. Oh – and there will be decorated trees.

Combined with the street's WinterFest, this is the most dramatic start for the holiday season Waterloo has ever seen. Don't miss it.

Calling all makers!

Meanwhile, Waterloo Arts wants more ornaments – more and more ornaments, there can't be too many. If you're an artist, make an ornament and donate it to Waterloo Arts, then join the party and watch it being snapped up. Don't feel compelled to produce something traditional – this is Waterloo. Interpret the "ornament" how you see it. Diversity is key and half the fun is seeing how an ornament is realized by vastly different creative minds. Deadline for donations is December 1st. Click the link for more info: tinyurl.com/ArtoftheOrnament



Playwrights Local Present Live Bodies for Sale

Live Bodies is one of the five must-see plays of the season, according to Andrea Simakis, the PD's drama critic. Along with Kinky Boots. Written by Christopher Johnston, directed by Terrence Spivey. And it's not your typical feel-good holiday fare; it is in danger, in fact, of making you think and stirring you to empathy.

It opens this weekend, on November 22, at the Creative Center at Waterloo Arts (307 E156 St) and runs through December 15. Friday – Saturday at 7:30 p.m. & Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available at <http://www.playwrightslocal.org/livebodiesforsale/>.

"Live Bodies" explores the lives of Cleveland women who are survivors of human trafficking in a new documentary play in the mold of the theater's powerful "Objectively Reasonable," an examination of the Tamir Rice shooting and its aftermath in 2016.

Playwright Christopher Johnston conducted in-depth interviews with five women forced into prostitution as well as those working to help free sexually exploited women, including Renee Jones (an urban Mother Teresa figure who runs her name-sake empowerment center in Cleveland), law enforcement agents, prosecutors and judges. Nov. 22 to Dec. 15 at Creative Space at Waterloo Arts, 397 East 165th St.; 216-

302-8856 or playwrightslocal.org.

In the Gold Building: New Gallery! Photocentric

The Gold Building has not only escaped the wrecker's ball, it has become the home of Photocentric, 1000 sq. ft. of newly renovated, well-lit gallery space featuring works of exceptional regional and national contemporary photographers. Photocentric will also offer processing and scanning, film camera rentals, and professional b&w and digital printing. Regular business hours will be Wednesday through Saturday from 11am to 6pm.

Come visit the grand opening exhibition, Hopeful, featuring the works of Robert Aufuldish, Bruce Czecefsky, Lori Kella, Michael Loderstedt, Nancy McEntee and Arnie Tunstall on December 6 during Walk All Over Waterloo.

Photocentric is always interested in discovering new artists working in photographic media. Contact Michael for a Tuesday portfolio review appointment, or to learn more about the gallery at (216) 219-7568. Photocentric Gallery, 15515 Waterloo Road.

And that's not all, folks. A suite of newly renovated artist's studios and offices on the second floor will be opening soon. And the Tyvek will eventually disappear. Trust me. All you folks who came to the community meeting and wrote letters to the Land Bank and the councilman, come and enjoy.



At Praxis: "Wild and Blooming"

Work by Deb Berkebile, Joyce Jentoft and Sandy Shelenberger. Show runs through January 22.

"We are friends connected by a desire to share our creativity. Our inspiration for this joint exhibit was the quote 'to bloom where you are planted.' We have used a variety of surface design techniques including batik, dye painting, experimental screen-printing processes and Shibori to give voice to our personal and collaborative expressions on fabric. We want this colorful exhibit to bloom and have vitality. Our goal is to inspire those who see our work to not only look more closely at our unique individual marks, but to discover the beauty and strength when our visions are interwoven."

At Article: Holiday Art and Craft Show Friday December 6 Opening, 6 pm

The Artists of Article present "Harmony in Six Voices." Original art, ceramics, hand-crafted ornaments, prints and lots more unique items eminently suitable for gifting.



Matt Shiffler Photography

"Quite honored and proud," says Matt, "to announce that I'll be exhibiting around 30 of my works in the Trudy Wiesenberger Gallery (once occupied by an Andy Warhol show) at University Hospitals from November 26 through February 2020."

Opening catered reception on November 26 from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. The exhibited photographs showcase a mix of Matt's travels in America and the time he spent in Southeast Asia. Between photographing the culture and landscapes of Asia, his favorite part was photographing the compassion and kindness of the people along the way.

For more information please contact

Tom Huck, UH Art Curator, thomas.huck@UHhospitals.org; Matt Shiffler shiffmlt@gmail.com; mattshifflerphotography.com

Phil Sisto Fills In

While Matt's works are on display elsewhere, Phil Sisto will be showing his outstanding astrophotography and wildlife images at the gallery - and during WAOW, they will jointly host a Seasonal Beer Tasting. Phil will also be raffling one of his stunning pieces off the wall with a \$5 buy-in for a ticket. Please bring at least 2-3 craft beers to the gallery to share and sample everything - a good Pumpkin or Christmas ale would not come amiss; numerous growlers will be ready to go. The whole affair will be laid back and unstructured; get your DD or Uber app ready.

At the Millard Fillmore More Guitars Than Saturn Has Moons! December 6

Yoid at the Fillmore Friday, December 6, 8 – 11:30 PM. YOID-action IV will bring our heroes and their utterly preposterous mashup of Glenn Branca and Kraut/psych to the Millard Fillmore Presidential Library on Waterloo Rd on Friday, December 6th. 15617 Waterloo Rd,



Cleveland Rocks and the Music Saves Storefront

If you don't know what Cleveland Rocks: Past, Present and Future is, I can pass on Cindy Barber's brief description: They support and preserve popular music culture, and stimulate music-centered initiatives. This year they are looking to raise \$2000 dollars to help open a Cleveland Rocks PPF shop in the Music Saves building, to support local musicians and train college students and the unemployed in a music retail business environment.

Plans for the Music Saves Space

A PPF shop focused on Northeast Ohio musicians and history. CDs...vinyl...product... also maybe books of local music history.. and historic memorabilia that might be on consignment for sale... We may develop the other storefronts for photos and equipment in the future...

Some December Concerts at the Beachland

Canterbury Arts Club EP Release with The Morning Bird and Neilston – December 12
Whiskey Daredevils – December 12
Roots of American Music Presents Bluegrass Jam (Free Event) December 16
12th Annual Holiday Latke Party featuring Blue Lunch with special guests Billy Price and Billy Seward December 25
Northeast Ohio Drum & Music Jam (Free Event) December 26

Happy Birthday STAR POP!!

Celebrate Troy's first decade, with STAR POP vintage + modern's 10th Anniversary Party & Holiday Sale on December 14
STAR POP vintage + modern has been



recycling pop culture and saving the planet since 2009 - buying and selling new and old toys, for kids and collectors, along with classic video games, vintage clothing, records, and other pop culture collectibles.

The event starts off Saturday, December 14th, from 5 PM till 9 PM with a party and sale. The sale continues on Sunday, December 15th, with extended hours from noon till 6 PM. Here's some of what you can look forward to:

- 15% off all purchases! (both days)
- Free cake and snacks! (Saturday)
- Enter to win a \$100 gift certificate! (both days)
- \$3 in STAR POP bucks for kids ages 4-12 to use during the event! (both days)
- The first fifteen people to spend \$5 or above, will receive an envelope with a free gift certificate valued at \$5, \$10, or \$20! Gift certificates will be valid after the sale. (Saturday)

Troy: "We can't thank all of you enough for ten years of support and friendship! If you haven't been in before, we encourage you to come in and experience STAR POP vintage + modern for yourself. If you haven't been in recently, come see everything that's new."

Follow STAR POP on Facebook to stay up to date on future discounts, events, and changes to store days and hours.

At Pop Life

Pop Life is now well and truly open, with seven days a week of programs designed to encourage wellness and inner peace. Turn off NPR and go to Pop Life.

You'll find a wide range of yoga styles — including vinyasa, yin, restorative, Kundalini, color therapy, power, and hot yoga, plus mindfulness and meditation classes, plus ecstatic dance and kirtan (ecstatic chant). Plus visionary movie nights, cacao ceremonies, sound baths. Plans are under way for a wellness services menu with reiki, polarity therapy, quantum hypnosis, astrology, herbalism, reflexology, and more. There are also plans to offer one free community yoga class each month, along with half-off packages for residents of the immediate surrounding neighborhood.

Ritual Juicery

Ritual Juicery is an essential part of the Pop Life world, serving organic, unadulterated and nutritious juices accompanied by fresh and natural smoothie bowls and a daily rotating healthy food selection. An energy boost to fuel the exercise you'll be putting your mind and body through.



Phone Gallery

Cleveland's smallest gallery, in a decommissioned phone booth mounted on the Wall of Russ' Auto Care on Waterloo, is now accepting applications for art exhibitions in summer 2020 and beyond. Apply on Facebook.

At Framed Gallery: Rochelle Johnson

Stacey Bartells has added still another artist to her wonderfully varied portfolio: Rochelle Johnson of Denver.

Rochelle took a winding road to her current painting practice - which focuses on imagery that represents the everyday life of people—from the urban areas to the suburbs. She finds it more interesting than still life, landscapes and non-representational work. "Every painting needs to have a figure in it," she says, although she adds that some of her paintings are inadvertently taking on an abstract form, even with the figure.

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Lady Bug and Kumbaya

Start your holiday shopping now, at Ladybug, the elegant little shop next to Kumbaya by the Shore, at 15224 Lakeshore. Mittie has a remarkable collection of treasures. Rest from your effort with a cup of coffee at Kumbaya, the coffee shop with a social justice mission and good food – home-made soup, cornbread, cupcakes – the menu grows along with Mittie's funding.

Kumbaya is also the site for Saturday afternoon neighborhood conversations, 4-6 pm; December 7 will feature a movie screening (Mittie does lots of movie screenings) of The Preacher's Wife, and conversation with Charlene Higginbotham Adams, long-time Cleveland volunteer extraordinaire.

On Friday December 20, Mittie will be hosting Sherrie Tolliver, actress and interpreter of cultural history, and a member of Cleveland's Women in History. 7-11 pm.

Kumbaya and Lady Bug have regular hours on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, noon to 7 pm. Longer hours are planned. To find out more, contact Mittie at Ladybug@KumbayaShore.com.

Santa Comes to Collinwood! December 7 at Five Pointe

It's that time of the year again. Snow has started to fall, and Santa and his helpers are in full force spreading holiday cheer. Breakfast and photos with Santa will be on Saturday, December 7, 9:30am-12pm. Sponsored by Greater Collinwood Development Corporation, Councilman Polensek and Councilman Hairston, and Cleveland Job Corps. The food has been donated by Gus's Diner 185 and volunteers will be from local area schools. To register, please visit: santacomestocollinwood2019.eventbrite.com

Safety Update

GCDC's safety liaison, Greg Pollard, speaking at the last meeting of Collinwood Collective, encouraged Collinwood residents to always call 911 for an emergency. If you need help advocating for a non-emergency issue, or want to make sure issues are getting to the GCDC, see below for Greg's contact information as well as the comment box from their webpage.

Greg Pollard, Safety Liaison, gpollard@greatercollinwood.org. Phone: 216-383-9772 x202, <https://www.greatercollinwood.org/staff-board>. Greg has been working in public safety in Collinwood forever, and he knows what's what.

Collinwood Slovenian Home in December Harvest for Hunger

Now through December 20th, make a cash donation OR bring in non-perishable food items (e.g. peanut butter, tuna, canned soups/stews, canned veggies, cereal, etc.). 100% of donations will go directly to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank on South Waterloo. Nobody should go hungry, ever.

Let's help those in need by being as generous as we can this holiday season.

Christmas Light Tour

Thursday, December 5th limo buses will be leaving CSH at 5:45pm for a 3-hour light tour, with stops at the Christmas Story House, Public Square, Playhouse Square and drive by Nela Park. Tickets are \$20 each and it is B.Y.O.B.

Poor Man's 50/50 Raffle

Friday, December 13th. Tickets are \$12 each and include (2) sandwiches & chips. Doors open at 6pm.

Ribeye Steak Dinner

Sunday, December 15. Tickets are \$20 each and include salad, steak, potato, veggie & dessert. Sidebands & music, too.

Christmas Party

Friday, December 20th at 6pm. FREE! CSH will be serving ham. Everyone is invited to attend and bring a dish to share.

Tickets for all events are available in the clubhouse or via paypal.me/collinwoodslhome. Collinwood Slovenian Home, 15810 Holmes Ave.

OF INTEREST TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

CityMusic December Concerts

This concert series, conducted by Dr. Stefan Willich, will be held at four locations and will feature music by Tchaikovsky, Haydn, Mozart, Rossini, and more.

Thursday, December 12 – 7:30 PM, Temple Tifereth-Israel, 26000 Shaker Blvd

Friday, December 13 – 7:30 PM, Lakewood Congregational Church, 1375 West Clifton

Saturday, December 14 – 8:00 PM, Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus – 3649 East 65th Street

Sunday, December 15 – 5:00 PM, St. Noel Church, 35200 Chardon Road

McBill's Beverages



Wine tasting every
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10% off import wines
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Instructors: James Page, Astrology,
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Introductory to Intermediate Level



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COMMUNITY

Programs, Events, and Activities at Collinwood Library

by *Kiara Jefferson*
PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
Collinwood Library
856 East 152nd St, Cleveland, OH 44110
216-623-6934, Manager, Caroline Peak
cpl-collwd@cpl.org

Take a look at what else we've got coming up for you in December:

Youth Programs

Kid's Café Meal Program

In collaboration with the Cleveland Food Bank, Kids Café is being served!

Monday - Friday -- 3:30pm-4:30pm

During Winter Break we will be serving snack from 12:30-1:30p on the following days: Monday, December 23rd, Thursday, December 26th, Friday, December 27th, Monday, December 30th, Tuesday, December 31st, Thursday, January 2nd, & Friday, January 3rd

Make a Drum Machine from ANY-

THING

Create a Drum Machine from random things around the library like pencils, foil, plants, and more!

Tuesday, December 10th - 4:00pm

Winter Holidays Around the World

We are celebrating cultural diversity through arts, crafts, and discussion. Participants will engage in discussion, presentations and activities to learn about different cultures and how they celebrate the season.

Tuesday, December 17th - 4:30pm

Adult Programs

Free Computer Classes!

Microsoft Office Graphics and Microsoft Publisher

Use Microsoft Word to learn how to insert and edit pictures, ClipArt, shapes, text boxes, SmartArt, and WordArt. Also, learn about graphic publication.

Fridays, December 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th

- 11:15am-12:45pm

Cleveland-based Nickelodeon Stopmotion Artist on View Now in Phone Gallery



Stop by Phone Gallery ANY TIME of day now through the end of January 2020 to view Tom Megalis' work of mixed media. He worked on shows like KABLAM! and his work can be seen at Choolah restaurants.

by *Allison Lukacsy-Love*

Now through the end of January 2020, Cleveland artist Tom Megalis (<http://www.tommegalis.com/>) will be exhibiting in Phone Gallery (15302 Waterloo Rd, Cleveland, OH 44110) - Cleveland's smallest art gallery and inventive space for solo visual exhibitions inside a once vacant pay phone box in the burgeoning Waterloo Arts District - designed in 2013 and continuously curated by Collinwood resident, architect and artist Allison Lukacsy-Love.

Tom earned a BFA from Carnegie Mel-

lon University in Pittsburgh, PA - also Allison's alma mater! He has been an artist for over 25 years, the last eight with a studio in Cleveland. Tom's work includes stopmotion for Nickelodeon (KABLAM! AMANDA SHOW), MTV and many others. His public art can be viewed on display at Choolah in Ohio and Virginia. He has exhibited work at many shows including Three Rivers Arts Festival, Zanesville Museum of Art, Westmorland Museum of Art and ArtElevated banner in NYC.

His work titled "I Can Start Tomorrow" will be visible in Phone Gallery (www.facebook.com/WaterlooPhoneGallery/) 24/7 although visitors are especially encouraged to experience the work during the monthly first Friday art walks (Walk All Over Waterloo).

Interested in applying for a solo exhibition in Phone Gallery? It's always free! The short application can be found on the 'My Creative Compass' website or by emailing ali.althearchitect@gmail.com. Spaces are now available beginning in Fall 2020, so you have plenty of time to create new and exciting work in this miniature gallery!

Cleveland Clinic Euclid Hospital, others, receive A's in latest Leapfrog Group Safety Grade

by *Ellie Westergburg*

Cleveland Clinic Euclid Hospital was awarded an 'A' in the fall 2019 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, a national distinction recognizing achievements protecting patients from harm and providing safer health care (Leapfrog news release). Other east side Cleveland Clinic hospitals receiving A grades include Main Campus, Hillcrest, South Pointe and Marymount

Hospitals.

Patient safety is a priority at Cleveland Clinic. These grades reflect the hospital system's best performance yet, with 11 Cleveland Clinic hospitals, in addition to Ashtabula County Medical Center, achieving an 'A' grade.

Leapfrog Group releases the semi-annual safety grades associated with patient safety performance and practices.

E 185th Neighborhood Association Meeting: Latest on the E 185th Sewer Project

by *Elva Brodnick*

November's topic of interest was the ongoing construction happening along E 185th St - & on surrounding streets.

After hearing from our Fifth District Community Engagement Officers (a brief visit, as they had another meeting to go to), Councilman Polensek filled us in on upcoming issues & events, such as the upcoming Cleveland Municipal School District's decision, as to whether or not close Collinwood & Glenville High Schools. (After we sang him "Happy Birthday" of course!)

Lauren Calevich also stopped by, to update us on the LaSalle. As did newly elected Housing Judge W Mona Scott, thanking everyone for their support in the recent election.

We then had the Division of Water Pollution Control, talk about all this construction happening on E 185th, and the traffic plans around this.

Don't have the space here, to go into all the details of the work - do check out their website at <http://www.clevelandwpc.com>

tho, & scroll down to "East 185th Street & Marcella Road Sewer Project" or check their Facebook page at "City of Cleveland Water Pollution Control". The traffic issue was of most concern & most discussed. Basically, yes there will be closures & restrictions along E 185th, during this project. Simply put: you will be able to go North on E 185th. Going South tho, you will find detours & restrictions. Look for & follow the posted detour signs.

As always, we invite you to check out your local Neighborhood Association - the meetings are always listed in the Community Meetingscalendar here in the Collinwood Observer. This is your regular chance, to talk to both the Councilman, & our local Police District - & it's a great way to be active in this community of ours.

Look forward to seeing you! (And bring a neighbor!)

See you next month!
Elva Brodnick
Chair / The E 185th Neighborhood Association

Collinwood High School the New Look

by *vincent DEOREO*

The city of Cleveland should try and fix up the Collinwood High School so that the people of Collinwood have a place to send their kid for programs and learning programs. The school should be saved as a piece of history. Fix up the school to house arts offices and other things that would help the area to grow. Also try and fix up the police station and fire dept as well. I think there

is a lot of growth for homes to be rehabbed and all people can come back to the area. Mike Polensik should look into this idea and see if they can be done. The history of Cleveland lies in its neighborhoods and the people who have been there for years. Let's try and move to bring back this area and work to get it back, so all walks of life can find their place in Collinwood.



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A CMSD Communications Publication

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

Faith. Family. Future.

How EdChoice helps local families with tuition assistance

by Kristen Mott '09

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School has been a participating school in the Educational Choice Scholarship (EdChoice) Program for many years. Thanks to recent rule changes made by the state, VASJ has been able to offer vouchers to even more local students who are eligible.

The EdChoice Program provides students from underperforming public schools the opportunity to attend participating private schools. Each year, the state uses a number of factors to identify public schools whose students are eligible to receive EdChoice scholarships to attend qualifying private schools. Each of these schools is then designated an EdChoice school.

Any student entering ninth through 12th grade whose assigned home

public school is EdChoice designated is eligible for the program. Students who are awarded the scholarship receive \$6,000 applied toward their high school tuition.

Residents of Euclid, Richmond Heights, Wickliffe, Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, Bedford, Maple Heights, Parma and Garfield Heights are eligible for the EdChoice Scholarship at VASJ. Residents of these cities who are attending private school and have not previously been eligible for EdChoice will also qualify at VASJ. In addition, residents of Willowick, Eastlake, South Euclid and Lyndhurst may qualify for the program.

Scholarships are renewable through 12th grade as long as residence requirements are met, all required state tests are taken and school absences are fewer than 20 per year.

"EdChoice is a big financial help

to families," said Megan Scheider, director of government programs and compliance at VASJ. "Catholic education is a sacrifice for families from a financial standpoint. This program provides almost two-thirds of tuition, which makes it much more manageable for families."

For local families interested in the program, the first step is to have the student apply to and be accepted at VASJ. The school will then reach out to eligible families and submit an application on their behalf in the spring. Official award letters are typically mailed out in July, although VASJ often knows ahead of time if families have been accepted into the program.

Thanks to this program, Scheider said VASJ can be a choice for many local families when it may not have been a feasible option in the past.

"Most of our families, if they didn't have EdChoice, our school wouldn't even be an option," she said. "The difference between the scholarship and tuition can still sometimes be a challenge, but at least it makes it within grasp."

"The experience of being in a faith-based environment has an impact on kids that's sometimes hard to quantify," Scheider added. "Even for families that aren't Catholic, they still benefit from being in a faith-based environment."

For more information about the EdChoice Program, visit education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Scholarships/EdChoice-Scholarship-Program.

For questions specific to VASJ, contact Megan Scheider at 216-481-8414 ext. 140 or mscheider@vasj.com.

Liz Sellers '02 named VASJ head women's volleyball coach

The Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School Athletic Department is excited to announce the appointment of Liz (Guard) Sellers '02 as the new head women's volleyball coach.

Sellers is an alumna of VASJ, where she was a member of the 2001 OHSAA DIII State Championship team under former coach Mark Royer '75.

Sellers continued her academic and athletic careers at Eastern Kentucky University, where she received both her Bachelor of Arts degree in public relations and her Master of Science in physical education and sports administration. She was a four-year starter for the NCAA Division I Colonels. In 2005, she was named an All-American, the first in program history. In 2015, Sellers was inducted into the Eastern Kentucky University Athletic Hall of Fame in recognition of her stellar collegiate career.

Since leaving ECU, Sellers has spent more than a decade coaching women's volleyball, most notably as

an assistant at the University of Tulsa and ECU. In this past 2019-20 women's volleyball season, Sellers was an assistant coach for the VASJ Vikings.

"We are excited to have Liz as our head women's volleyball coach," said Elvis Grbac '88, VASJ athletic director. "She brings a new and exciting perspective to high school volleyball that will transpire into a competitive and winning program. Her experience and accomplishments can only build upon the tradition and foundation here at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School."



Liz (Guard) Sellers '02

4 VASJ students commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



VASJ students Rhiannan Edwards '20, Annalise Gibbons '21, Sophie Sito '20 and Faith Thompson '21 are now commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

by Kristen Mott '09

The VASJ community observed All Saints' Day with an all-school Mass the morning of Nov. 1. Fr. Patrick Schultz from Communion of Saints Parish presided at the Mass.

The gymnasium was lined with paper lanterns inscribed with prayer intentions and the names of loved ones who have passed away. During the Mass, four students were commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

- Rhiannan Edwards '20
- Annalise Gibbons '21
- Sophie Sito '20
- Faith Thompson '21

The Viking Village now has a total of 14 extraordinary ministers: four students and 10 faculty/staff members.

"The Saints show us the finish line of the human life."

VASJ is a *faith-based* educational *community* that accepts you for *who you are* and helps you become the *person you want to be.*

Open House:
March 12, 2020, 6 p.m.

VASJ.COM/ADMISSIONS

VILLA ANGELA-ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL
18491 Lakeshore Boulevard / Cleveland, OH 44119 / 216.481.8414 / vasj.com

Catholic education in the Ursuline and Marianist traditions

Join the Discussion at: www.collinwoodobserver.com



Faith | Academics | Community



Third Graders who used monies earned to buy apple products for pantry.



Members of our Neighbor to Neighbor Ministry putting away food donations in the Pantry.



Many hands make light work!

Bountiful Blessings! School and Parish Respond with Generosity to Food Pantry.

by Bev Caldwell

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Our Lady of the Lake School students and their families responded in great measure to the annual food drive to donate to the Parish pantry for the holidays! In response to requests to fill the pantry in order to fill holiday baskets, students provided the much needed staples for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner including boxed stuffing and potato mixes, gravy, vegetables, soups, canned goods. Also, the sixth graders also helped carry the groceries over to the rectory.

In addition, the third graders who sold apple products at the school Stem showcase, used those monies to purchase apple products to donate to the pantry. These students brought their apple groceries over to the pantry as well.

OLL parishioners also responded to the call for Food Pantry donations. Dropping off

items at the rectory, some even bringing in an extra turkey to donate!

The Neighbor to Neighbor ministry uses these grocery items for both Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. The Giving Tree, which was put up the last week of November, provides the gifts that go with the grocery items for Christmas baskets. The Angels on the tree, when taken, include a label with a needed item. Presents are then brought unwrapped to the parish office in a gift bag. The elves from the Neighbor to Neighbor ministry work hard putting the Christmas baskets together with groceries and gift items. Baskets are then given to those in need who have requested help and live within the parish area.

The Neighbor to Neighbor ministry also receives donations from generous parishioners who donate using their collection envelope. These donations help them afford items during the holiday season and throughout the year as well.

OLL School Open House Sunday, January 26th 11a-1p • OLL School



by Jenny Millett, Principal

Our Lady of the Lake will host its annual school open house on Sunday, January 26, 2020 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm in OLL School. Our ambassadors will be on hand to give families tours. Come and meet teachers, learn about our curriculum, and speak with current students.

Families will be able to sign up for shadow days and learn more information about the EdChoice Scholarship.

We hope to see everyone on Sunday, January 26, 2020!

For more information please contact the school office at 216-481-6824 or email Mrs. Millett, the school principal at jmillett@olleucid.org

Night at the Races!



SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2020
5:30 - 11:30 PM
EARLY BIRD TICKET PRICE \$50
Until Dec. 18th
\$55 After Dec. 18th

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

PURCHASE A TICKET • BUY A HORSE
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MAKE A BASKET DONATION

For more information about the event, donations, or sponsorship, contact:

Lauren Zbiegien at lzbiegien@olleucid.org
or
Ann Kilroy at kilroy2012@roadrunner.com

Please Join Us!

Adult Evening Prayer
Each Sunday at 6:30pm • OLL Church

Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Monday, December 24th 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 12 Midnight	Christmas Day Tuesday, December 25th 10:00am
--	---

Solemnity of Mary

Monday, December 31st (vigil) 5:00pm	Tuesday, January 1st 10:00am
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Join the Discussion at: www.collinwoodobserver.com



St. John Nottingham Lutheran School exists to equip the children of the Greater Cleveland and surrounding area with integrity, creativity, academics, compassion, and spiritual maturity in a diverse, interconnected, and ever-changing world.

Hunger Center Provides Thanksgiving Meals



Volunteers at the Hunger Center with Thanksgiving Chickens for the Community

by David Peck
The Hunger Center, operated primarily by St. John Nottingham, is a part of the Cleveland Hunger Network. It supplies 3-days' worth of food - 3 meals per day - to qualified, registered individuals. This service is offered once every 30 days. Nearly 300 households, consisting of more than 700 adults and children, are eligible to be serviced through the Pantry.
During certain times of the year the Hunger Center provides special meals, such as the case for Thanksgiving this year. Volunteers from SJN and several other churches helped to load freezers with

whole chickens and then pack Thanksgiving meals including mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, and cranberry sauce. For Christmas this year, the Center will once again provide frozen chickens and for larger families, turkeys.

The Hunger Center is under the guidance of Dr. Walther Marcis of SJN and is administered by Mella Young. Funding of the Center is provided exclusively through donations which may be made directly by mail to SJN Church or through the SJN website under the "Giving" tab www.stjohnnottingham.org

SJN: A Great Place For a Quality, Christ-Centered Education



by David Peck
St. John Nottingham has been offering a quality, Christ-centered education since 1892. Founded as a literal one-room schoolhouse, with the Pastor as Principal, Teacher, Chaplain, and Janitor, SJN has continued to be the most stable private Christian school on the east side of Cleveland for generations.
What can SJN offer you? Small class sizes (an average student to teacher ration of 15 to 1), a dedicated, diverse staff with a solid mix of seasoned veterans and young go-getters (with a combined total of almost 200 years of experience between them), daily religious instruction, highly-involved pastoral leadership, competitive sports teams, high academic rigor (including classes not normally found in elementary schools such as American Sign Language,

Speech, High School Prep, Classics, and others) accredited to standards higher than required by the state of Ohio, varied teaching methodology, a departmentalized middle school with Science, Math, English, and Social Studies specialists, a 95% overall pass rate for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, high behavioral standards, and a unique and innovative system of both student discipline and positive recognition of student achievement and character.

And all of that at potentially very little cost to the family! SJN believes in removing as many barriers to getting a Christ-centered education as possible, and in pursuit of that goal, accepts both Ed Choice and the Cleveland Scholarship (Voucher) program grants as payment in full for tuition. SJN church pays the registration fees for all students in good academic standing, and the dress code is easily managed with very affordable options.

Why not call today to schedule an interview with Principal Peck to explore what SJN has to offer, this year or for next? Classes are filling fast, so act now to avoid ending up on the waiting list!

Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Alec Lawlor



by David Peck
Featured today is our 5th grade homerom/Social Studies Specialist, Mr. Alec Lawlor. Alec is a 9 year teaching veteran who came to SJN in 2015 from Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills. He holds degrees from Concordia University Chicago and oversees the social studies curriculum at the school. One of Mr. Lawlor's favorite class to teach is U.S. History because he hopes to help his students realize their true potential as citizens and inspire them to shape the world into a place of freedom and justice. Mr Lawlor also works diligently to help guide his students on their walk in faith and spiritual

growth.
Alec is very talented at creating an exciting curriculum, often breaking out of the "normal" areas of study to get in depth in the truly interesting aspects of history, and he offers classes beyond the usual, such as Speech class, Classics, and a special class specifically dedicated to preparing students for success in high school. His classroom is filled with flags and helmets and columns and a thousand other artifacts that help to bring his lessons alive. Alec also organizes the flag corps at SJN, coaches the Academic Rally Team, and is one of our Qualified Worship Leaders.
Alec is a Socratic teacher, preparing students through extensive study of source materials to engage in dialogue and discussion to draw out critical thinking and question underlying presumptions. This style of teaching is the oldest and still most effective means of training a student to think critically, a key and essential skill in the modern world.

What is Advent All About?



Pastor's Marcis and Rollins preparing the Angel for Candlelight Service

by David Peck
With Thanksgiving now past the Christmas Season is fast approaching. In fact, the days between Thanksgiving are the shortest in 2019. But that time between these two festive holidays is the season in Christendom known as Advent. It is the beginning of the new Church year and so it is a time of preparation: preparing for Christ's First Advent, or coming, which we celebrate as Christmas, while also preparing for His Second Coming, when He will come in glory to judge both "the living and the dead."
Because Advent points to Christ and

Christmas, it is a time of preparation for St. John Nottingham as well. SJN has come to be known as a very welcoming and special place to be on Christmas Eve for its always creative Candlelight Christmas themes. This year the theme is "God Keeps His Promises to Us."

In the Bible, angels were used by God to act as "messengers". SJN is planning to use an "Angel" theme this year at its Candlelight Worship Service to bring out the understanding of Christians being "messengers" of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world around us.

You can join with other Christians as they gather at St. John for Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship on December 24 at 8:00pm. There will also be a Christmas Day Worship Service of Carols Christmas morning at 9:45am for those who would like to start this joyous day of celebration in worship.

So as the Advent Season gets underway prepare for the celebration to come on December 25 and stay prepared for final Advent when Christ returns!

Students Will Present Lessons & Carols Service



by David Peck
The students at SJN recently made a visit to On Thursday, December 19th, the students

of St. John Nottingham School will present a worship service of Lessons and Carols celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The service will begin at 7:00 in the Sanctuary of the church, and is entirely student-led, with a short homily from SJN Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Marcis. The entire community is invited! Come and worship with us as we praise God for the eternal gift of His Beloved Son!

Imagine Bella Academy of Excellence logo and five pillars: COURAGE, KNOWLEDGE OF SELF, RECIPROCITY, RESILIENCE, COLLECTIVENESS. Contact info: 216.481.1500, www.imaginebellaacademy.org, 19114 Bella Drive, Cleveland, Ohio

Parent of the Month



Congrats Ms. Batson!
Congratulations to the PTO parent of the month for October. Ms. Batson has been an amazing and involved parent all year. She was also the #1 Cookie Seller. Thank you for all that you do. You mean more than you know to our Bella Family!

Field Trip Fun



Students fix their car as 3rd graders head to the Great Lakes Science Center



Ms. Goff's class at the Natural History Museum!



5th and 6th grade had a great time at the Natural History Museum!



2nd graders get to touch stingrays at the Aquarium!

Halloween Costume Parade



Apprentice Principal made an appearance



Students walk by the sensory path during the costume parade.



All smiles during the costume parade!

Check out some great photos from our annual costume parade!



Some of our teacher decorated pumpkin raffle winners!

Stuff the Turkey



We surpassed our goal for the food drive! Imagine Bella students and families donated 2,096 items for our Stuff the Turkey food drive! It was a close call, but Miss Hoy's class took the win with 597 items donated! We are

overwhelmed by everybody's generosity. The Imagine Bella family wishes you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving! Have a safe Fall Break!

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St. Jerome Church

The Beacon on the Boulevard
Collinwood's Catholic School

15000 Lake Shore Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44110



How will you celebrate Advent?



by Monica Marolt

Advent is time of preparation for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. How do you prepare for this momentous event? Go to stjeromecleveland.org on Facebook and share your favorite traditions. Here are some ideas we thought of:

- 1: Pick a gospel and read one chapter daily.
- 2: Call a relative that you haven't spoken to in a long time.
- 3: Visit someone in a nursing home.
- 4: Forgive an old hurt. If you can't reach the person any longer, write a letter saying you forgive them.

- 5: Seek forgiveness. If you know you have hurt someone apologize, even if it was a long time ago.
- 6: Pray a decade of the rosary every day.
- 7: Buy one item for a food pantry every time you shop.
- 8: Bake cookies or bread with a child.
- 9: Write down a favorite memory of your parents or grandparents to give to your children and grandchildren.
- 10: Pray for our priests.
- 11: Introduce yourself to someone in church, try to at least say hello every Sunday of Advent.
- 12: Smile at people when you are out shopping. It may brighten someone's day!
- 13: Donate kid's gloves or mittens to a local school for children who don't have their own or have lost them.
- 14: Pray for Pope Francis.
- 15: If you are blessed to still be able to, call your grandparents.
- 16: If you are blessed to still be able to, call your parents.
- 17: Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.
- 18: Try to get to a weekday Mass.
- 19: Sing the hymns in church. God gave you that voice, he deserves to hear it.
- 20: Set up the Crèche in a place where you will see it every day.
- 21: Pray for our Service members and their families. Go to AMillionThanks.org to learn how to send cards and letters to a service member.
- 22: Put on some Christmas music and sing along.
- 23: Volunteer at the Food Bank.
- 24: Collect/donate baby and children's clothing you are no longer using to Birthright 960 E 185th St, Cleveland, Ohio 44119: (216) 486-2800.
- 25: Celebrate Mass and have a wonderful Christmas!

A Beacon in Education... A Beacon in Faith! Collinwood's Catholic School!

2019-2020 School Year Theme
Our Hearts Are Good & Kind.

Important Information
Important Facts about St. Jerome School
St. Jerome Catholic School provides a qual-

ity education to students of all faiths through the development of spirit, mind, and body. We value the diversity of our students and provide a firm spiritual, academic, and social foundation upon which they can build their future.

SJS offers a quality education for students in Pre-School through Grade 8. Over 95% of our graduates go on to Catholic/Private High Schools. Daily student attendance rate of over 97%. 98% of our students are part of the Cleveland Scholarship and tutoring program (Voucher) or the EdChoice Program. SJS has an extremely dedicated Parent-Teacher Unit (PTU). SJS is fully accredited and chartered by the State of Ohio. All teachers are certified by the State of Ohio and religion teachers are certified by the Diocese of Cleveland. SJS has a complete, updated computer lab and students receive an hour of technology instruction per week. Students receive instruction from our Music Teacher twice each week. Physical Education is important at SJS. Students participate in Physical Education class twice weekly. After-School Care is available on site until

6pm for a nominal, hourly rate. The enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year in grades Pre-school through 8th grade is 234 students. All employees and volunteers who have contact with students undergo thorough screening, including background checks through the Ohio Bureau of Investigation & Identification (BCI&I). For complete information on screening policies, see the revised Policy for the Safety of Children in Matters of Sexual Abuse, section 1.2 (pg. 3) available in the school office.



You are Invited!

- by Adele Markert
We hope you will join us for as many of these special services as you are able during this season of Advent.
- Advent Vesper Service
Monday, December 2nd 7 pm
 - Divine Mercy Chaplet
Friday, December 6th 9 am
 - Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary
Monday, December 9th 8:30 am
(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)
 - Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24th
4 pm & 10 pm
 - Christmas
Wednesday, December 25th, 10 am
 - Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Vigil: Tuesday, December 31st 4 pm
Wednesday, January 1st 10 am

CONTACT US | stjeromecleveland.org | Follow us on Facebook | Phone: 216-481-8200

Join the Discussion at: www.collinwoodobserver.com

COMMUNITY

A Spiritual Journey to the Real You

by Annette Tabar

Are you having doubts about shopping for gifts this season? Before you say "Bah Humbug", think about BEING the GIFT. Yes, you can give of your time, your energy and most of all your Spirit. Wrap your gift of peace, liberty, justice and understanding with encouragement, wisdom and compassion. Lift your consciousness to Peace. Be centered in Divine Mind and let nothing disturb the calm peace of your soul. Be the emissary of love and peace and share these gifts with others. Start with a smile,

continue with words of comfort and joy. Identify where a helping hand is vital to someone's well being. Be a friend... make a new friend... pay it forward and experience the true joy of the season. Blessings to all.

Rishis Institute of Metaphysics, 21933 Euclid Avenue, Euclid, 44117. 216 386-7240.

Path of Light classes will begin again on January 6, 2020. Watch our website for new classes. www.rishisinstituteofmetaphysics.com

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Saturday, 14th December

Bristol Manor
14035 Euclid Avenue

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

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State Senator Sandra Williams,

Who represents Ohio's 21st Senate District

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2 PM- 4PM

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* under 18yo need written consent from parents

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14035 Euclid Ave

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Join the Discussion at: www.collinwoodobserver.com

SCHOOL SPORTS

VASJ Vikings end football season with loss to Warren JFK

by Kristen Mott

VASJ ended a very positive season under first-year head coach Elvis Grbac with a 21-10 loss to visiting Warren JFK at Sparky DiBasio Stadium in Euclid on Nov. 2.

VASJ (6-4, 2-1) took the opening kickoff and marched 87 yards in 12 plays, culminating in a 12-yard scoring by junior Lavelle Smith.

The Vikings followed by forcing a turnover on downs, but two plays later, JFK's Cameron Hollobaugh picked off a pass and returned it 41 yards for a TD to tie the game at 7.

Warren JFK (7-3, 3-0) drove 51 yards on

10 plays to score on a 3-yard Hollobaugh run in the second quarter to go up, 14-7.

VASJ freshman Apollo Percic nailed a 30-yard field goal to cut it to 14-10 at the half.

The Vikings were shut out in the second half.

Jesse Likens broke free for a 45-yard scoring run in the third quarter to extend the Eagles' lead to 21-10.

The Vikings had two opportunities to score after that, but an interception off a tipped pass in the end zone stopped the first one, then a penalty and sack pushed them back on the following effort.

SJN Basketball Takes Second at Tournament



by Kristen Mott

The SJN Jets took second place in the Bethany Lutheran 2019 Pre-Season Tournament, only falling to Redeemer at the last minute in a close 48-51 game that was the definition of what competitive basketball should be. We look forward to a strong season.

St. John Nottingham Lutheran School has a long and storied basketball program. Previously led by Bob Vollman, the program has returned to their winning ways of old by Coach Darnell DePriest. Under Coach DePriest, the SJN Jets have amassed a lengthy list of victories, both on and off the court.

In the past two seasons the SJN Jets have amassed 33 wins, appeared in two Cleveland Lutheran Elementary League finals, back to back, All-Ohio final four appear-

ances and consecutive invitations to the LBAA National Tournament in Valparaiso, IN. In his fourth season Coach DePriest looks to continue the winning tradition and cement St. John as a basketball powerhouse in Northeast Ohio.

However the talent doesn't end there. St. John Nottingham also boasts a girls team which has also had consecutive top four finishes in the CLEL as well as consecutive All-Ohio appearances. The 5th & 6th grade basketball program (which functions as an intensive training program for the upper grade teams) also looks to continue tradition, featuring a boy's team that has only lost three games in three years! They look to put not only all of Ohio on notice regarding their success, but the entire country as well!



VASJ varsity women's basketball schedule

by Kristen Mott

Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m.
Away vs. West Gauge High School

Saturday, Dec. 14 at 1 p.m.
Away vs. Beaumont High School Conference game

Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.
Away vs. Cornerstone Christian Academy

Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.
Home vs. Bedford High School Conference game

Monday, Dec. 30 at 7 p.m.
Home vs. Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School

VASJ junior varsity men's basketball schedule

by Kristen Mott

Friday, Dec. 6 at 4:15 p.m.
Away vs. Gilmour Academy Conference game

Thursday, Dec. 12 at 4:30 p.m.
Home vs. Benedictine High School Conference game

Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 5 p.m.
Away vs. Lutheran High School West

Friday, Dec. 20 at 4:30 p.m.
Away vs. Archbishop Hoban High School Conference game

Saturday, Dec. 28 at 11 a.m.
Away vs. Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School

VASJ junior varsity women's basketball schedule

by Kristen Mott

Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 5:30 p.m.
Away vs. West Gauge High School

Saturday, Dec. 14 at 11:30 a.m.
Away vs. Beaumont High School Conference game

Monday, Dec. 30 at 5:30 p.m.
Home vs. Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School Conference game

VASJ freshman men's basketball schedule

by Kristen Mott

Friday, Dec. 6 at 4:15 p.m.
Away vs. Gilmour Academy Conference game

Thursday, Dec. 12 at 4:30 p.m.
Home vs. Benedictine High School Conference game

Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 5 p.m.
Away vs. Lutheran High School West

Friday, Dec. 20 at 4:30 p.m.
Away vs. Archbishop Hoban High School Conference game

Saturday, Dec. 28 at 11 a.m.
Away vs. Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School

VASJ varsity men's basketball schedule

by Kristen Mott

Friday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.
Away vs. Gilmour Academy Conference game

Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.
Home vs. Benedictine High School Conference game

Friday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.
Away vs. Archbishop Hoban High School Conference game

Monday, Dec. 23 at 7:30 p.m.
Home vs. Cornerstone Christian Academy

VASJ coed varsity bowling schedule

by Kristen Mott

Saturday, Dec. 7 9 a.m.
Spins Bowl Independence

Saturday, Dec. 14 9 a.m.
RollHouse Wickliffe

Saturday, Dec. 21 9 a.m.
Buckeye Lanes

Saturday, Dec. 28 9 a.m.
Brookgate Lanes

VASJ coed varsity swimming schedule

by Kristen Mott

Saturday, Dec. 7 at 9 a.m.
Away
SPIRE Institute
Chardon Hilltopper Invitational

Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.
Home
Euclid High School
Euclid High School Dual Meet - Senior Night

Saturday, Dec. 14 at 9 a.m.
Away
SPIRE Institute
Edgewood High School Dual Meet

Saturday, Dec. 21 8 a.m.
Away
SPIRE Institute
High School Winter Championships



Aquatics Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Lap and Instructional Pool	12:00-1:15pm Adult Lap Swim Adult Open Swim 1:30-2:30pm Adult Water Walk 3:15-5:00pm Open Swim 5:15-6:00pm (Adult LTS) 6:15-7:15pm Aqua Aerobics (Adults Only)	12:00-1:15pm Adult Lap Swim Adult Open Swim 1:30-2:30 Adult Water Walk 3:15-4:45pm Open Swim 5:00-5:45pm (Youth LTS) Level I/ Ages 8-17 6:00-7:15pm Swim Team (Practice Only) 6:45-7:30pm Family Fun Time	12:00-1:15pm Aquacise (Adults Only) 1:30-2:30pm Adult Water Walk 3:15-5:00m Open Swim 5:15-6:00pm (Adult LTS) 6:15-7:15pm Aqua Aerobics (Adult Only)	12:00-1:15pm Adult Lap Swim Adult Open Swim 1:30-2:30pm Adult Water Walk 3:15-4:45pm Open Swim 5:00-5:45pm (Youth LTS) Level I/ Ages 8-17 6:00-7:15pm Adult Lap Swim Adult Open Swim	12:00-1:15pm Adult Lap Swim Adult Open Swim 1:30-2:30pm Adult Water Walk 3:15-5:15pm Open Swim 5:30-6:00pm (Parent/Tot LTS) 6:15-7:15pm Family Swim	10:00-10:45am Adult Lap Swim 11:00am-11:45am Adult Open Swim 12:00-3:45pm Family/Youth Open Swim (Only) 4:00-5:15pm Adult Open Swim (Only)
Water Slide and Kiddie Pool	3:15-5:00pm Open	3:15-4:45pm Open 6:45-7:30pm Family Fun Time	3:15-5:00pm Open	3:15-4:45pm Open	3:15-5:15pm Open 6:15-7:15pm Family Fun Time	12:00-3:45pm Family/Youth Open Swim (Only)

All children under 8 yrs old & under 4 ft tall must be accompanied and supervised in the water by an adult. Two children per one adult. Children using the slide must be 48" or Taller.

Youth Activities

Flag Football	Tues,Wed,Thurs	4:30-7:30pm	(8-18)
Cheerleading	Wed&Thurs	6:00-7:30pm	(3-18)
Cheerleading	Saturdays	10:00-12:00pm	(3-18)
Karate	Saturdays	1:00-4:00pm	(8-adults)
YLP Mentoring	Mon,Tues,Thurs	4:00-7:00pm	(11-14)
Co-Ed Dodgeball	Fridays	5:30-7:30pm	(8-12)
Co-Ed Volleyball	(October-November)	5:30-7:30pm	(8-17)
Photography	Tuesdays	5:30-7:00pm	(13-18)
Ballet	Fridays	5:00-6:00pm	(5-18)
C.A.R.E	Wednesdays	4:30-5:30pm	(11-14)
BMX	Wed&Fri	4:30-5:30pm	(9-12)
Algebra Boot Camp	Mon&Wed	4:00-6:00pm	(11-18)
After School Café	Thursdays	4:00-7:00pm	(11-18)
After School Café	Saturdays	1:00-4:00pm	(11-18)

Cultural Arts

Ceramics	Mondays	12:00-2:00pm	(Seniors)
Ceramics	Wednesdays	9:30-11:30am	(Seniors)
Arts & Crafts	Wednesdays	2:00-5:00pm	(8-17)

Schedule subject to change without prior notice

Tot Room
is available
for ages 4-7 years during
designated times only
Monday - Thursday:
5:30-7:30pm

All children under 8 years old must be accompanied and supervised by an adult in the facility when not using the tot room.



Gymnasium Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12:00-2:30pm Men's Open Gym Adults 18+	12:00-2:30pm Men's Open Gym Adults 18+	12:00-2:30pm Men's Open Gym Adults 18+	12:00-2:30pm Men's Open Gym Adults 18+	12:00-2:30pm School Group 8-17	10:00am-12:00pm NCT Cheerleading Practice 3-18 years old
3:00-4:15pm Open Gym 8-17 years old	3:00-4:15pm Open Gym 8-17 years old	3:00-4:15pm Open Gym 13-17 years old	3:00-4:15pm Open Gym 8-17 years old	3:00-4:15pm Open Gym 13-17 years old	1:00-2:00pm Pee Wee Flag Football 4-7 years old
4:30-5:30pm Kickball 8-18 years old	4:30-5:30pm Basketball Skills 8-18 years old	4:30-5:30pm Dodgeball 8-18 years old	4:30-5:30pm Kickball 8-18 years old	4:30-5:30pm Flag Football Practice 8-18 years old	2:30-3:30pm Youth Open Gym 8-17 years old
6:00-7:30pm Co-Ed Volleyball Training 8-18 years old	6:00-7:30pm Flag Football Training 8-18 years old	6:00-7:30pm NCT Cheerleading Practice 3-18 years old	6:00-7:30pm NCT Cheerleading Practice 3-18 years old	6:00-7:30pm FRIDAY NIGHT FLIGHTS Ages 12-17 (Sept-Oct) Family Gym Night Parents/Children (Nov-Dec)	4:00-5:15pm Golden Oldies Basketball 25/30+

During all family activities children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian

Recher Slovenian Home
20713 Recher Avenue, Euclid
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Kitchen is open on Wednesday and Friday in the "Clubroom"
Regular Menu on Wednesday and Fish Fries are on Friday.
Hours for food 5:00 - 9:00pm

Senior/Adult Fitness Activities

Walking Club	Mon,Wed,Fri	7:00-10:00am
Senior Fitness (Bands, Weights, Balance)	M/W/F	7:30-9:00am
Aerobic Walk	Mon,Wed,Fri	8:00-9:00am
Nutrition Workshop	Mondays	9:00-10:00am
Core Exercise	Mon,Wed,Fri	9:10-9:30am
Hula Hoop	Mon,Wed,Fri	9:30-10:00am
Senior Line Dance	Mondays	11:00-12:30pm
Computer Basics	Tues,Wed,Thurs	10:00-11:30am
I-Connect	Wednesdays	10:00-11:00am
Zumba	Mondays	6:00-7:30pm
Step, Crunch, Kick	Tuesdays	6:00-7:00pm
Sewing	Wednesdays	6:00-7:00pm
Strength Trng Ball/Chair	Wednesdays	6:00-7:00pm
Strength Training	Thursdays	6:00-7:30pm
Yoga	Thursdays	5:45-6:30pm
Strength Training	Saturdays	11:00-12:00pm

Game Room
Monday-Friday: 12:00-3:00pm
3:00-6:00pm
6:00-7:30pm
18+
8-17
Family



Open Track

Monday - Friday	7:00am-3:00pm 3:00pm-6:00pm 6:00pm-7:30pm	(Adults Only) (8+) (18+)
Saturday	10:00am-12:00pm 12:00-3:00pm 3:00-5:30pm	(Family Time) (8+) (Adults)

Fitness Room Adults Only

Monday - Friday 7:00am-12:00pm & 1:00pm-7:30pm
Monday-Friday Closed 12:00-1:00pm (Cleaning)
Saturdays 10:00am-5:30pm
NO ONE UNDER 18 years of age permitted to use fitness equipment

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