




COMMUNITY  
Nan's notes  
PAGE 4



COMMUNITY  
VASJ Alumni  
PAGE 6



ENTERTAINMENT  
Movie reviews  
PAGE 19

# The Collinwood Observer

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## Cleveland Plogs returns to East 185th in August!



by Stephen Love  
Hey neighbors!

Cleveland Plogs had another great socially distant plogging last month along Lakeshore Blvd. A small but mighty group of ploggers stayed 6ft apart (which is easy to do when you keep moving!) and wore gloves and masks but didn't let COVID-19 get in the way of keeping our community clean!

Missed out on the fun last month? No worries because the fun continues this month when Cleveland Plogs heads to East 185th St Wednesday August 26th! Ploggers will clean up and down the East 185th St business district. We will be set up outside Villa Angela High School (18491 Lakeshore Blvd.) with bags, gloves and hand sanitizer.

In order for everyone to keep their distance, small groups will be heading out on different routes. Masks are required when meeting to pick up supplies. Once everyone has picked up trash on their route, we'll meet back at the Rec Center around 730pm for a socially distant but fun plogging photo - and if the concession stand at Wildwood is open, we'll head there afterwards for some Honey Hut ice cream! We hope to see you there!

Please plog responsibly. Wear protective gloves when picking up litter and bring along hand sanitizer. Please wash your

hands with soap and water at least 20 seconds when you are done. Please consider wearing a mask.

Need a plogging refresher? Plogging is a fitness and litter cleanup craze from Sweden that is quickly spreading throughout the world and right here in Collinwood. Plogging involves a combination of jogging and picking up trash along your running route using a small bag to collect the litter you find along your route. Plogging is great exercise and a great opportunity to meet new people and make a positive impact on our environment and our neighborhood! Check out - City Lab - Pick Up Trash While You Exercise. It's Called Plogging <https://goo.gl/xRFVRC>

You can check out our 2020 schedule and meet up locations below or on facebook.

Cleveland Plogs 2020 Schedule: September through October the last Wednesday of the month

September 30th - East 152nd - Meet outside Five Points Community Center - 14002 Lakeshore Blvd.

October 28th - Waterloo - Halloween Themed Plogging! - Meet at the Waterloo Tower 15600 Waterloo Rd.

Like Cleveland Plogs on Facebook - [facebook.com/cleplogs](https://facebook.com/cleplogs)  
Happy plogging!

## Grand Opening Event at Dedicated Senior Medical Center



by Lori Perko-Waryk

Dedicated Senior Medical Center is having their grand opening event the first two weeks of August. At Dedicated, we follow a unique model that has transformed the Senior healthcare experience, specializing in compassionate, coordinated care, allowing patients to lead longer, healthier lives. Through prevention and quality care by our doctors, our patients have 28% fewer hospital admissions, 33% fewer emergency room visits, and 38% fewer hospital sick days. Many of the services we offer on site are:

- Primary care providers spending increased time with patient
- Cardiology, podiatry, social workers, nursing, and acupuncture
- Labs and testing, x-rays, ultrasound

- Door to door transportation, exercise, educational, and social events
- Person phone number of Primary care provider provided to patient
- Same day appointments and walk in appointments provided to existing patients

Coordinated care also includes working closely with specialists, with whom our PCP's have long, established relationships. We honor Seniors with affordable VIP care that delivers better health by managing high-risk diseases and reducing hospital sick days. Services may vary by location. Subject to change without notice. Limitations, co-payments, and restrictions may apply. Some services are not covered under all plans. Check plan documents for details.

## Masks Donated



Thank you MetroHealth and Bikur Cholim of Cleveland for your generous donation of masks for Collinwood! We can't wait to distribute these to our community!

## Walk and Roll Carvana

by Barbara Liddell e

Save the Date for Walk & Roll Caravana!

In this time of COVID, we're all having to adjust our plans, and the E.185th are making changes to Walk & Roll this year, too. We weren't able to hold our usual sidewalk event and community festival on E. 185th St - so this year, we're bringing the event to the community, instead! To keep everyone safe and healthy, we're planning a new way to celebrate with businesses and residents with our Walk & Roll Caravana event - a car parade that will tour our North Collinwood community on Sunday, August 30. We'll be decorating our cars, playing some fun music, and heading out - so step out on your porch when we go by to give us a wave and enjoy the parade. We'll also have some great free give-aways, like free masks, hand sanitizer, and even a bike raffle! Watch our Facebook page for more details - just visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/WalkAndRollE185/> for updates and information.





# COMMUNITY

## VASJ Alumni: Get to Know Lisa Urankar '84



Villa Angela Academy alumna and local artist, Lisa Urankar '84

by Cheryl Stashinko  
Since graduating from Villa Angela Academy in 1984, Lisa Urankar went on to Lakeland Community College and earned an Associates Degree in Business, specializing in Graphic Design. After college, she worked as a graphic designer creating page layouts and ads for local newspapers and as a production artist and quality assurance professional in screen printing for the apparel industry. Over the past twenty years, Lisa has concentrated on making a living as an artist and enjoys sharing what she's learned through the years with others. Lisa instructs art at various senior centers in the Cleveland area and offers paint events for

private parties, corporate events, churches and other gatherings. She has been a member of many art associations, including the Euclid Art Association, the Creative Art Association and the Colored Pencil Society of America and has received many honors and awards. In 2018, some of her artwork was featured in the Lake County Dream House for their silver anniversary. More recently, Lisa has joined Stella's Art Gallery in downtown Willoughby where she offers art classes and visitors can purchase her artwork. You can find Lisa Urankar on Facebook at FINE ART BY LISA URANKAR where she posts updated class information, art shows, paint events and

finished art commissions. She especially loves painting pet portraits!  
*Where did you grow up while attending Villa Angela Academy?*  
I grew up in Euclid off of East 260th Street. My family moved there when I was seven years old. I can still remember the first day arriving in our new home and meeting the neighbor kids (Tom, Mike, Amy and Heather) from across the street. We became fast friends and played outside until the street lights came on. We all got along so well whether we were playing tag, football, riding skateboards and bikes, conquering forts or building snowmen. I feel so blessed and fortunate to have such fond memories of childhood and still keep in touch with friends from the old neighborhood.

*Where did you go to school before Villa Angela Academy?*  
I went to grade school at St. William in Euclid. My family was active in the parish. Every Sunday at noon Mass, we sat as a family and always in the same pew. I loved sitting next to my father because he had the most angelic voice and after Mass someone would always comment on his singing. My mother was one of the founding ladies to start the school lunch program at St. William. My father made calls for Catholic Charity donations. My brother Ed and I were always involved with school functions, especially CYO activities. I loved and participated in St. William Youth Renewals. The experiences I had on those weekends meant so much to me. On occasion, I still read through the HELP letters I received from family and friends.

*Which teacher or class at Villa Angela Academy do you remember most and why?*  
My favorite class of course was art and my favorite teachers were Sr. Lucia and Sr. Rosaria. It was at VA that started to feed my passion for the Arts! I believe I learned the necessary foundation and skills I needed to

become the Artist I am today. I can envision myself descending down that spiral stair case into the classroom ready to create that next masterpiece whether it be in clay, stain glass, drawing or paint. I recently ran into Sr. Rosaria at Ursuline College and am so glad I finally got the chance to express my gratitude for being such a wonderful mentor during my time at VA.

*Did you have a favorite spot to hang out and what did you like about it?*  
My friends and I hung out a lot at the McDonald's across the street from Villa Angela. I also have so many memorable moments and fun times at St. Joe's. Hanging out at weekend dances or attending school plays consumed most of my weekends. However, my favorite was attending donkey basketball events and rooting for whoever could stay on that mule long enough to make a basket! I have to admit, it was the funniest thing I have ever seen!

*What, if anything, about your experience at Villa Angela Academy would you do over?*  
One of my greatest honors at Villa Angela was receiving my class ring. I still wear it today and it symbolizes so many things for me. I feel blessed and appreciate that my parents provided me with such a strong, nurturing upbringing and implementing my education in catholic schools. It definitely made a difference in my life. If I could travel back in time to live those days over again I would hop right in that time machine and set the clock back to the 1980's! Attending another father-daughter breakfast with my dad, enjoying skits at school assemblies, participating in spirit week activities, enjoying lunch with my friends in the cafeteria and attending one more Villa Angela summer festival. Yes, I would do it all over again in a heartbeat!

To participate or nominate someone for a VASJ Alumni: Get to Know column, contact Cheryl Stashinko at alumni@vasj.com

## Grand Opening Event at Dedicated Senior Medical Center



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[www.CorriganDeighton.com](http://www.CorriganDeighton.com)



Cleveland City Councilman Anthony T. Hairston and the Collinwood Development Corporation stopped by to get a preview of the new Dedicated Senior Medical Center in #Collinwood for a tour. They got a chance to meet and speak with the Collinwood Primary Care Physicians that will guide the seniors of the community to better health.

The group toured the medical center and discussed partnership opportunities for community service and providing senior programs in the greater Collinwood area. They're excited about the center's opening in just over a week!

**Pictured left to right:**  
Jamar Doyle, Executive Director Collinwood Development Corporation  
Chris Payne, Associate Director, New Markets, Dedicated Senior Medical Center  
Cynthia Brookins, Director of Business Relations, Collinwood Development Corporation  
Bishop J.L. Mathis, Grace and Mercy Church  
Doreen Banks, Certified OSHIP Volunteer Ohio Department of Insurance  
Charles Parnell, Membership Growth Consultant, Dedicated Senior Medical Center  
Dr. Jonathan Wynbrandt, Associate Chief Medical Officer - Dedicated Senior Medical Center  
Chris Sloat - Center Manager - Collinwood  
Dr. Tajul Islam, Primary Care Physician, Dedicated Senior Medical Center  
Cleveland City Councilman, Anthony T Hairston - Ward 10



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# Villa Angela-St. Joseph HIGH SCHOOL

## Misrach Ewunetie '20 selected as Bank of America Student Leader

Bank of America announced that the four Cleveland high school juniors and seniors selected as Student Leaders (#BoFAStudentLeaders) have started their paid summer internship experience of leadership, civic engagement and workforce skills-building.

In light of the health concerns that remain in local communities, the program has been adapted to a virtual format, through which students will have the opportunity to participate in sessions that will expose them to the vital role that nonprofits play in advancing community health, the importance of public private partnerships to advance social change and a focus on building financial acumen.

The Class of 2020 Cleveland-based Bank of America Student Leaders are:

- Misrach Ewunetie, Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School
- Russell Krofta III, Saint Martin de Porres High School
- Diamond Boyd, Glenville High School

• Chukwuemeka Chukwekere, Cleveland School of Science & Medicine

"Now more than ever, as we collectively navigate the challenges we face in our communities, we remain committed to supporting youth and young adults of all backgrounds by connecting them to jobs, skills-building and leadership development," said Jeneen Marziani, Ohio market president, Bank of America. "Creating opportunities for our youth to gain skills and build a network is a powerful investment in the future of our community."

Cleveland Student Leaders will participate in programming that leverages Bank of America's national partnerships and expertise and will work closely with the bank's Ohio leadership and nonprofit partners. They will participate in a collaborative, mentoring-focused project working closely with the Greater Cleveland Foodbank on a project focused on diversity, inclusion and equity. In addition, Student Leaders will engage in conversations focused on

social justice, civil rights and how to build a more diverse and inclusive society, and have the opportunity to gain a better understanding of their personal finances through Better Money Habits®, Bank of America's financial wellness and education platform.

This summer, Bank of America is connecting approximately 3,000 young adults to summer jobs through partnerships with nonprofits and local mayors and its own Student Leaders® program.



Misrach Ewunetie '20

## Adi Taraska named VASJ athletic director

by Kristen Mott '09

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School principal David Csank announced July 15 that Adi Taraska has been named VASJ athletic director.

"We are excited for Adi to take on this new role within VASJ," Csank said. "She has been a wonderful asset to our student-athletes and we are confident she will continue to lead and grow our Athletic Department."

Taraska joined VASJ in July 2019 as associate athletic director. She previously served as assistant director of athletics at Lake Catholic High School from 2017 to 2019 and an assistant track and field, strength and conditioning coach at Cardinal Stritch University from 2015 to 2017. An NCAA Division I student-athlete in track and field at Xavier University, Taraska earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Xavier University in 2014 and a master's degree in business administration from Cardinal Stritch University in 2017.

"This next step continues to fuel my passion for impacting young people through athletics," Taraska said. "I am all about the growth and development of young women and men. Simply put, being involved as a student-athlete allows for life skills to be cultivated on the court, field or track. Learning about leadership

and teamwork only prepares young people for the future. My goal is to help guide and support not only student-athletes but the Viking Village as a whole."



Adi Taraska

Taraska succeeds Elvis Grbac '88, who was named VASJ athletic director in April 2019. Grbac will continue to serve as head football coach and director of the Marianist Urban Students Program (MUSP). He will also remain involved in the Athletic Department as associate athletic director.

"I'm excited about having Adi Taraska as the athletic director at VASJ," Grbac said. "She is extremely qualified and I know the athletic program will be heading in the right direction. I will be continuing on but in a different capacity as associate athletic director because of my role with the MUSP program, where I would like to spend a little more time and I think my students need a little more of my attention. Our athletic program is in great hands with Adi."

## VASJ All-Alumni Reunion canceled

Out of concern for large gatherings and the health and safety of our community members, Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School has decided to cancel the All-Alumni Reunion planned for Friday, Oct. 2. We hope to see everyone at next year's event.

Please join us in continuing to pray for the health and safety of our community members during this time.



## New VASJ street banners installed



Keep an eye out as you're driving up and down East 185th Street for new VASJ street banners!

The banners were installed in early July on East 185th Street as well as at the intersection of Lakeshore Boulevard and East 185th Street. The banners are a welcome new addition to the street and consistent with our school's updated branding.

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

[VASJ.COM/ADMISSIONS](http://VASJ.COM/ADMISSIONS)

VILLA ANGELA-ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL  
18491 Lakeshore Boulevard / Cleveland, OH 44119 / 216-481-8414 / [vasj.com](http://vasj.com)

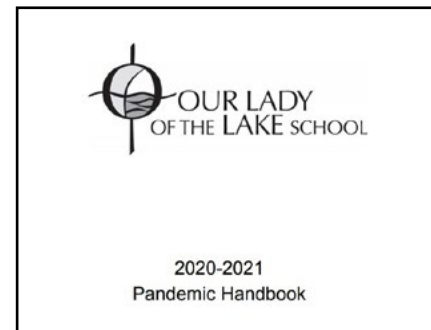
*Catholic education in the Ursuline and Marianist traditions*

Join the Discussion at: [www.collinwoodobserver.com](http://www.collinwoodobserver.com)



Faith | Academics | Community

### Our Lady of the Lake School Welcomes Students Back Safely and with Options



OLL Pandemic Handbook can be accessed on our school website [olleuclidschool.org](http://olleuclidschool.org)

by Mrs. Jenny Millett, Principal OLL School Finding the New "Normal" For the School Year whether In person or Online

Now that the State has released the guidelines on how to safely return to our school building, we can begin to put into place the policies and practices that we have been working so hard on this summer.

Since the pandemic began, we have been busy ensuring that our students remain engaged and successful with school. I am so proud of our staff! We were able to go from traditional learning to online learning in a matter of days. It wasn't a typical end to our school year, but each teacher and student made the most of it.

The spring experience has allowed for us to refine what actions the school needs to take, not just academically, but physically and emotionally when we return. This summer, we have been busy working on creating a plan and putting policies into place to safely return to the building. We have formed a committee to address these issues. The committee is comprised of staff and parents.

We know that many of our families do

not feel comfortable sending their children back to school yet, and we respect that. Any student that is not able or ready to return to the school building can complete the curriculum online. We are working on creating the policies for these students to receive the same engaging education from the safety of their home. We know that these students will be able to participate in Zoom sessions or Google Meets, and we have been researching other ways for our teachers to reach the students at home. The teachers are busy spending their time participating in professional development opportunities to learn more about simultaneous learning.

We are excited that this year that all of our students will be equipped with a device whether at home or in the school building. Our preschoolers through grade one will have Ipads, while grades two through eight will have Chromebooks. We are also equipping our classrooms with Chromecast, which will allow teachers to easily share their screens with the students.

In the fall, we will also be opening our preschool playground, located at the Ministry Center. This will create a wonderful opportunity for our young students to engage in learning while playing.

Next school year will definitely bring some challenges, but we know that we will be ready for whatever lies ahead. Ensuring that our students and staff are in a safe learning environment is our priority. There is an OLL Pandemic Guidebook on our school website for perusal at [olleuclidschool.org](http://olleuclidschool.org). To register, please email Jenny Millett at [jmillett@olleuclid.org](mailto:jmillett@olleuclid.org) or call the school office at 216-481-6824.

### Camping with Christ Vacation Bible School is Virtual and One of a Kind!



by Brianna Wilson, Young Adult Ministry! VBS is Going Virtual with an original program designed by OLL staff.

That's Right! Our staff and some parishioners have created an original Camping with Christ Vacation Bible School that will be offered virtually this year! At the beginning of August, a link will be available at [olleuclid.org](http://olleuclid.org). This link will give full free access to our virtual VBS: "Camping With Christ". It is a new twist on Vacation Bible School that helps all our children participate in the usual VBS fun safely from their own homes.

What will this look like? "Camping with Christ" will be a self-paced virtual experience that families can use when it is best for them. It will include 5 modules (or main lessons). These would typically be the 5 days of the VBS week, but they can now be completed whenever your schedule permits.

Here are the module themes:  
Module 1: Prepare for the Journey  
Module 2: Walk by Faith

Module 3: Seek Your Savior  
Module 4: Catch the Spirit  
Module 5: Shine a Light

Each module will include "places" for children to visit, including Storytime Rock, Arts and Crafts Lodge, Field and Trails, Dining Hall, Song River and the Cabin. Each "place" will offer children a lesson or activity they can do that is related to the theme. What will each of these "places" include? Let's take a look!

**Storytime Rock** - Bible Stories and Videos  
**Arts and Crafts Lodge** - Coloring Pages and Step-by-Step Tutorials for Art Projects  
**Field and Trails** - Outdoor Challenges and Activities

**Dining Hall** - Simple Campfire Recipes  
**Song River** - Sing-A-Longs and Music Videos

**Cabin** - Community Sharing  
As you visit the different "places" your family will be able to see some familiar faces! A few staff members and parishioners have given of their time and talent to create videos for our children. And you get to join in the fun, too! The Cabin will be a place for sharing what your family is doing at home for "Camping with Christ". You will be invited to share photos and videos of what you and your children create and do throughout this VBS experience. You can also connect with us about your VBS experience by using the hashtags: #CampingwithChrist and #olleuclid on social media.

For updates about "Camping with Christ", follow @olleuclid on Facebook and Instagram or check our website, [olleuclid.org](http://olleuclid.org).

For any questions, please contact Brianna Wilson at [brianna@olleuclid.org](mailto:brianna@olleuclid.org). We are excited to share in this summer's Vacation Bible School with you!

### One More For the Road - A Car Parade to Cheer up Parishioners



by Beverly Caldwell

You may have seen a group of cars rolling through the Euclid neighborhoods in Our Lady of the Lake car parade on Sunday, August 2nd at 1pm. The car parade was planned in an effort for parish staff to reach out to those who are home bound and show support for the parish community.

Melissa Gali-Bird, Music Director at Our Lady of the Lake, took part with other parish staff members in contacting parishioners to check on them since the Covid directives

began in March. Feedback from those phone calls pointed to a need for the parish to reach out to those parishioners who are stuck at home. "Many parishioners told us that they are lonely and missing the folks they often see at Mass. Many of these

people are not attending Mass because they are in a high risk group, Mrs. Gali-Bird said. "So we set out to create a car parade to let parishioners know that we are thinking of them and that we love and miss them", she explained. People got their lawn chairs out and waved from their driveways. Some parishioners even joined in the car parade. All in all the car parade reminded everyone how important reaching out can be!

### Baby Corner Helps to Provide Gently Used Baby Clothes to Parents of Children in Our Community



by Beverly Caldwell

Do you need gently used baby clothes and items for your children?

Our Lady of the Lake Baby Corner collects gently used baby items and clothing and distributes them to those in need. We

also accept baby clothing donations and financial donations which help to provide items that we do not typically acquire through donations, such as diapers, wipes, and other baby supplies. We appreciate donations of gently used baby items such as car seats (no expired seats, please), strollers, chairs, swings, car mirrors, baby carriers, and pack-n-plays.

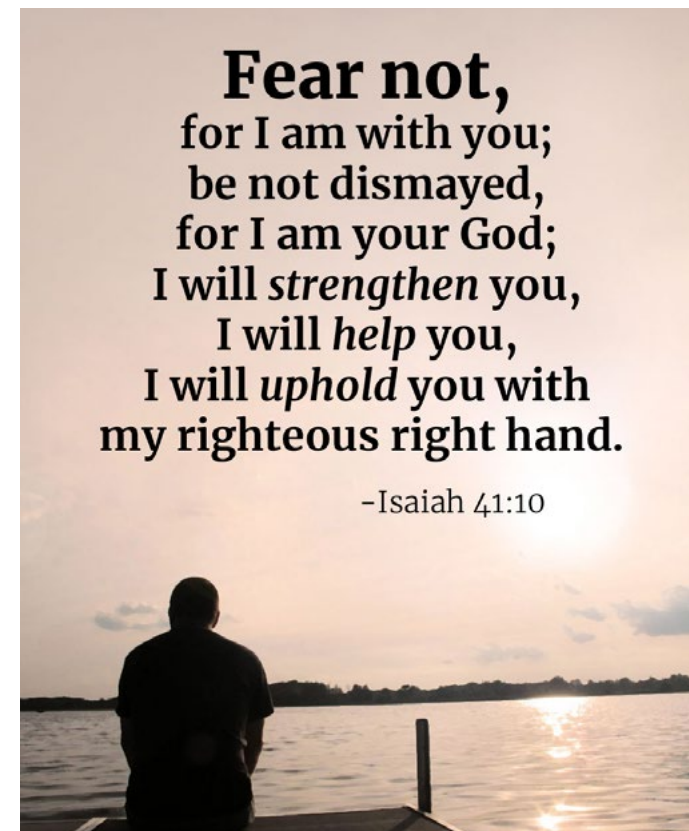
We would be happy to help you if you are in need of baby clothing from newborn to 4T. Please email us at the contact email below to request baby clothing or to get instructions on how to donate your items. If requesting items, please provide child's size and gender.

If you have questions, please contact Melissa Stankus at [mel.stankus@yahoo.com](mailto:mel.stankus@yahoo.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.

### SJN Announces Opening Plans For 2020-2021



by David Peck

Truly we should not fear! As the prophet Isaiah reminds us, God WILL strengthen, help, and uphold us, and that includes during this trying and stressful time. And few things are bringing us all more stress than the imminent beginning of the school year.

St. John Nottingham has officially announced the Opening Plan for the 2020-2021 school year. As we all know, plans may well change before the year begins, and the SJN School Commission is being extremely proactive in adapting plans to the evolving public health challenge presented by Covid-19, so the SJN Opening Plan may change as well.

Full details of the SJN Opening Plan can be found on our website at [www.stjohnnottingham.org](http://www.stjohnnottingham.org), but here are the basics:

SJN will be opening on September 9, 2020, for the new academic year. The current plan is to open for both on-campus and online/remote learning students simultaneously. We will be making the educational experience as close to normal as possible and as close to the same as possible for both on-campus and remote learners. Teachers will be live streaming their classes, and remote students will be expected to log in and participate just as if they were there in person. The only difference will be that the remote student will be present via computer screen rather than physically in the room. This is to ensure that the remote learning student is receiving the same direct instruction that on campus students are, and that the student has the same real-time access to the teacher. On-campus and remote learning students will be assigned the same work, the same projects, the same tests and assessment, and have the same work due dates and deadlines. St. John Nottingham WILL accommo-

date both students whose parents wish them to learn in person in the classroom AND those students whose parents wish them to learn remotely from home.

On-campus students will be adhering to strict physical distancing practices. As SJN maintains smaller class sizes than are normal for the grade level, and a portion of our students will be attending via remote connection, we do not anticipate having difficulties maintaining proper physical distancing. (There are some advantages to being small!) Access to the SJN buildings will be strictly limited to students and staff, and students will not share materials or facilities.

All SJN students grade 3 and above as well as all staff will be required to wear face masks while in SJN buildings, a strict regimen of cleaning and sanitation is in place, classes will not mix, and all students will have their temperatures checked at the door before being admitted to the buildings.

SJN will be offering a full hot lunch program. Students who qualify for free or reduced price lunches may participate even if they are remote learners by arranging a no-contact pick up of meals.

While these measures may seem strict, they have to be. Nothing is of more importance than the health and safety of our staff and students, which is why SJN has adopted the policy that if any staff or student member tests positive for Covid-19, even with all of the strict measures we have in place to utterly minimize the potential for exposure, SJN will immediately go to full remote learning for all students for a period of not less than 2 weeks from the date of last potential exposure.

SJN is also fully prepared to open for the school year with full remote learning for all students if that is what is best. In that event, we will be maintaining as close to normal a school experience as possible. Teachers will be livestreaming their classes from their classrooms and we will maintain a normal school schedule.

If you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming school year, even if you do not go to SJN, Principal Peck will be happy to speak with you.

### Cleveland (voucher) & EdChoice/EdChoice Expansion Application Window Now Open



by David Peck

Both the Cleveland (Voucher) AND EdChoice/EdChoice Expansion scholarships are currently in an open application process! While the Cleveland (Voucher) program ended their summer application window last year, this year they have decided to bring it back, so if you live in the Cleveland

area, a scholarship program is available for you RIGHT NOW!

St. John Nottingham's tuition is set to a level where any of these scholarship programs will cover the cost of tuition IN FULL! When combined with out "No Fees" policy, that means that your child could attempt SJN at no cost to you beyond incidentals and supplies!

If you need assistance in applying for a scholarship, even if you are not currently enrolled at St. John Nottingham, we stand ready to help you through the process from start to finish! Call Mrs. Rollins at (216) 531-8204 for more information.

### Kindergarten Filling Up Fast!



by David Peck

St. John Nottingham's 2020 Kindergarten class is filling up fast. We cap our Kindergarten class at 15 students to ensure that we have a proper teacher to student ratio. Mrs.

O'Dea, SJN's lead Kindergarten teacher, has over 25 years of direct classroom experience, and is assisted by Mrs. Hobson, our experienced teacher's aide. Our Kindergarten is a full-day program, following the normal 8:55 to 3:20 school day, and we have extended care available as early as 7:00 AM and as late as 6:00 PM for the convenience of busy parents. If you are interested in registering for Kindergarten at SJN, contact the School Office at (216) 531-8204 to schedule an appointment!

EDUCATING FOR ETERNITY | 1027 E 176th St, Cleveland, OH 44119  
Church: (216) 531-1156 | School: (216) 531-8204 | [stjohnnottingham.org](http://stjohnnottingham.org)

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216.481.1500   www.imaginebellaacademy.org   19114 Bella Drive, Cleveland, Ohio

### Reopening Plan for the Imagine Bella Community



Our office is open weekdays and we are here for you! Imagine Bella Families,

We hope you and your family are well and staying safe. We have missed you! As we head into the beginning of the school year, we recognize this fall will be different than other school years, and we wanted to share our plan for a safe, caring, and challenging learning environment for the 2020-2021 school year. Within our plan we have included updates on safety precautions and learning models which will be used this year including School site learning, Remote learning, and a 100% virtual option for families. During the school year, we will continue to be flexible to transition between these models as necessary during any mandated school closures or to ad-

just safety protocols to respond to further needs. We have surveyed families to gain your input, and are investing in more technology with all students able to sign out a Chromebook device to support remote and virtual learning models.

We are always available for you to reach out with any questions or concerns and we look forward to supporting your child(ren) during the 2020-2021 school year!

Please regularly check the School's website and Social Media for updates and important information as this plan is subject to change.

Reopening Plan available on our website: <http://imaginebellaacademy.org>

### Stay in Touch

Stay in touch with us on ClassDojo! Imagine Bella will provide important updates to our families through the summer with ClassDojo. We include information on how to sign up to meet your teacher and sign out chromebook devices. Our office is open weekdays. Looking forward to the start of the school year!



Chromebooks available for all students!



Get in touch with us on Dojo!



Sign-up information posted soon on Dojo!

### Early Kindergarten and Enrollment for Next Year!

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### Picnics Past!



Fr. Bill and a few close friends pose for a picture in 2016.



Cindy Preto thought the food was especially good in 2015



Joe Lascio always enjoyed the get together. Here he is in 2015



Debbie had a great time in 2015 at the picnic!



Fr. Bill looks good in this picture from 2017.



Another winner in the making! The raffle is always very popular!



The Fuerst family always makes a good showing.



Deacon Pete seems to know everyone!

by Adele Markert  
Doing our part to control the spread of the Corona Virus has required many sacrifices, including giving up large gatherings. Consequently, our annual picnic was canceled. This much-loved tradition is always a lot of fun as friends gather from far and near to catch up and reminisce. Here are some pictures from recent picnics to tide you over "until we meet again."



Sr. Ruth Ann has a chat with one of the newest members of Biondo clan in 2016



It just wouldn't be a picnic without Fr. Walsh!

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# COMMUNITY

## Collinwood Library



by *Kiara Jefferson*  
Collinwood Library  
856 East 152nd St, Cleveland, OH 44110-216-623-6934  
Manager, Caroline J Peak

[cpl-collwd@cpl.org](mailto:cpl-collwd@cpl.org)  
Collinwood Library Celebrates Summer Lit League & Tarique Elmore, Our Free for All Fridays Raffle Winner!  
**CONGRATULATIONS TARIQUE!**

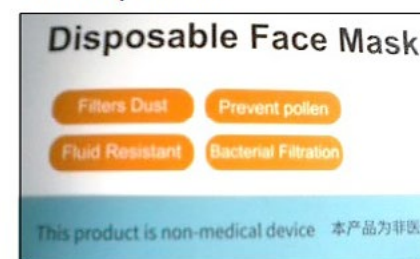
It may be hot outside, but many of our young readers were keeping things cool by participating in our Summer Lit League virtual programming. Whether making a craft every Monday with local artists on Facebook Live or listening to popular authors talk about their books during our Town Hall Thursdays on Zoom - there were so many ways to stay engaged with your local library. Summer Lit League wrapped up at the end of July, but not before one local child was picked to win a weekly raffle

prize from our Outreach and Programming office. Weekly raffle prizes included a Nintendo Switch, Beats headphones, a Chromebook computer, Apple iPad, and Family Pass to either the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo or the Children's Museum. Tarique Elmore was the winner of some awesome Beats headphones! He loves using his tablet to watch movies and have stories read to him, so this is a perfect prize for him to win!  
Our weekly raffles were just the beginning - for every child that completes Summer Lit League they were able to claim two tickets to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame! If your child has read their 10 books required to complete Summer Lit League they are

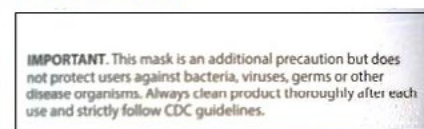
eligible for these tickets. Please call your local Cleveland Public Library branch to learn how to redeem them. To date Collinwood Library has 92 children and teens enrolled, and as of this writing 62 completed the program! Congratulations, everyone!  
\*\*As a reminder: Collinwood Branch is OPEN for Walk-Up service\*\*  
Faxing, copying, and printing from emails are a few of our available services.  
We are available Monday-Friday from 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.  
If you need more information or have any questions please feel free to call us at the branch!

## CDC needs to fully explain about wearing masks; instead of giving partial information

### Ear loop mask



### Fabric mask



by *Jeanne Coppola*  
The CDC has guidelines about the coronavirus and about wearing masks that does not explain everything completely. We need to know about the effectiveness of cloth masks, against aerosols. Because the CDC says cloth masks protect against droplets, but experts say the virus is airborne (in aerosols), which can pass through the mask.  
"...fabric masks may reduce the transmission of larger respiratory droplets... (but) There is little evidence regarding the transmission of small aerosolized particulates of the size potentially exhaled by asymptomatic or presymptomatic individuals with COVID-19. <https://www.nap.edu/read/25776/chapter/1#6>  
The CDC also says wearing a mask

protects other people from us, if we are asymptomatic. But wearing a mask does not protect us from catching the virus from someone else. What mask can protect us from getting the virus?

Something is missing in the explanation about the virus, and the use of masks and hand sanitizers.

I have purchased several different ear loop masks, and some fabric masks. Recently I saw some ear loop masks that have the statement "fiberglass free" on their boxes. Does that mean the masks I originally bought are made with fiberglass? Is that why they make my face itch when I wear them? Am I breathing fiberglass fibers?

One mask I bought was antimicrobial, and has the statement on their box saying,

"This mask...does not protect users against bacteria, viruses, germs..." Does that mean that other masks I have, that are not antimicrobial, promote bacteria growth? Are antimicrobial masks better and safer for people who work all day?

The CDC should explain these things. They should also explain why we are told not to touch the front of our mask when we remove it. If our mask is contaminated, wouldn't our face and hair and clothes also be contaminated? Why would the contamination only be on the front of our mask, and nowhere else? Should we shower and change our clothes after coming home?

If respiratory droplets fall to the ground, as the CDC says, why would they be on the outer surface of our face masks at all?

The CDC guidelines do not tell the whole story.

Since we are supposed to wash our hands and use disinfectant on all the surfaces we touch, does that mean the virus only gets transferred to surfaces we touch? If we wash our hands and do not touch our mask, as they advise, why would the virus be on any surface?

Some information is missing here.  
I recently heard on the news that many hand sanitizers are being recalled because they contain a poison called methanol. But the news did not mention anything about masks that are not sanitary. One box of face masks I was going to buy had the words "non sterile" and "not a medical device" on the cover. What does it mean if the mask is not sterile?

I want a sterile mask to put on my face when I am breathing through it all day. Wouldn't anyone want this?

Another other thing the CDC needs to explain is why they list coronavirus deaths so far THIS YEAR as 132,366, but say nothing about the 250,000 deaths that occur EVERY YEAR from medical errors.

"250,000 deaths per year are due to medical error in the U.S. Their figure, published May 3 in The BMJ, surpasses the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) third leading cause of death — respiratory disease, which kills close to 150,000 people per year." [https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/media/releases/study\\_suggests\\_medical\\_errors\\_now\\_third\\_leading\\_cause\\_of\\_death\\_in\\_the\\_us](https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/media/releases/study_suggests_medical_errors_now_third_leading_cause_of_death_in_the_us)

## Pandemic Casts Shadow Over Thriving Epidemic (continued from page 13)

excitedly. "Two days prior my drug dealer and I were going out of town and the car flipped over. I ended up in the hospital to make sure everything was alright. That really was an eye opener and I said that something needed to change."  
Laurie Beaver currently resides in a sobriety home in Richmond Heights where she has the option to stay indefinitely. With the help of her sober sisters, group therapy, a strict daily regimen and sponsor, she is more focused than ever. When asked about the challenges of sobriety during the coronavirus pandemic, Laurie answered that her only struggle was not being able to physically see her children during the shut down.  
"As long as I keep talking about my feelings and expressing how all of this is making me feel, things have been getting better," Laurie said. Treatment looks a little different now with the introduction of video conference calling but for the Alcohol and Narcotic Anonymous meetings that have opened up, masks are required and social distancing measures applied.  
Beaver encourages those who are currently in recovery to communicate and share their feelings with others. To change their friends, environment and connect with a higher power. Laurie hopes that in

the future she will have custody of her two children, working a phlebotomy job while living in a house. "I'm always going to have this disease. The disease of addiction is a daily battle. I only have today and God willing, I will still be sober," she expressed.  
**Where is Hope?**  
Addiction is a treatable illness yet people are still dying from narcotic drug overdose. Dr. Nathan Gehlert, the Associate Professor and Department Chair for the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at John Carroll University believes that in order to find solutions for today, we must study the behaviors of the past.  
"In 2010, the CDC noticed clearly in data that U.S. life expectancy was decreasing for the first time. That is a really worrisome trend for a country and it was strongly correlated with the increase in opioid prescriptions, use and misuse. So, it took a number of years but in 2016 the CDC only focused on three aspects of the trend by limiting opioid access, the amount of opioids prescribed and limiting the amount of time patients are taking the opioid. Unfortunately, what we've seen in the last four years is that this hasn't resulted in a decline in misuse of opioids or impacted the decreasing U.S. life span," Gehlert exhorted.

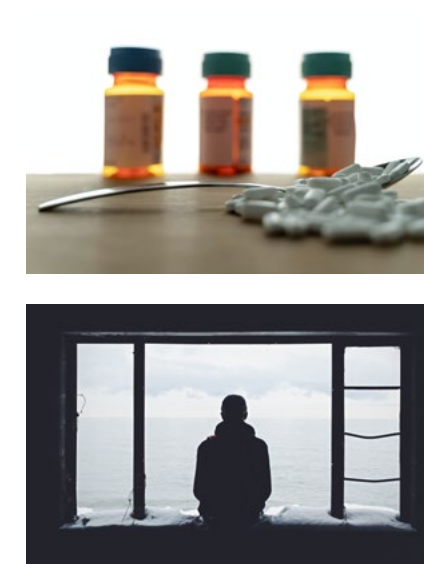
U.S. life expectancy continues to struggle as rates decreased by 0.1% from 2016 to 2017. According to the National Institute of on Drug Abuse, in 2018 67,300 Americans died from drug induced overdose. Out of the 67,300 deaths 31,335 were caused by synthetic narcotics such as fentanyl. Although we've seen a decline in drug overdose, deaths involving synthetic narcotics are still rising.  
"What this means is that what we're doing (as a society) is not working. We've gotten better at treatment over the last decade but we haven't gotten better at all with prevention," Gehlert continued. Addiction is a disease that thrives from isolation. In 2017, it was published in the Harvard Health Blog that according to scientists and clinicians, addiction is triggered by discomfort.

To cope with physical or emotional discomfort, people engage in potentially addictive behaviors.  
The next step in potentially solving the opioid epidemic is to research and invest in addiction prevention methods. Dr. Gehlert suggests education initiatives such as emotional resilience, stress reduction, health education and increasing human connection. Research suggests that human adolescence is a prime development stage to incorporate strategic addiction prevention.  
The unpredictability of COVID-19 has increased stress levels. According to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, stress can worsen the effects of chronic health conditions and mental illnesses.  
"This pandemic is obviously very stressful. People are struggling on multiple levels, they're struggling with isolation, they're struggling with financial issues, they're struggling with fear and anxiety about becoming sick or loved ones getting sick. Our world operates differently and we can't do the things that we usually do. Change causes stress and whenever there is stress present, someone with an addiction is more at risk of relapse," explained Johni Fiber, the Director of Clinical Services at Highland Springs Hospital.  
A common misconception about substance abuse is that the decision is voluntary. But as time passes and occasional drug use continues, the brain begins to change. Research has revealed that addiction can cause physical and physiological

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# FEATURE STORY

## Pandemic Casts Shadow Over Thriving Epidemic



by *Rachel Bevel*  
Summer 2020 has proven to be a deadly season after social distancing restrictions were eased in May. As of July 26, 2020 the United States is leading the world with over 4.1 million confirmed coronavirus cases and 145,982 deaths. While America is fighting the war against COVID-19, a familiar enemy has resurrected in the shadows. The opioid epidemic continues to take the lives of neighbors, friends and loved ones with overdose rates increasing significantly since the pandemic began.  
As of last month, 235 people died from drug overdose in Cuyahoga County and 191 overdose related deaths were reported in Franklin County between January and March. According to The Washington Post, the United States witnessed a 42% increase in drug overdose cases in May. Although not all of the cases were fatal, the data signifies a change in substance abuse behavior that treatment facilities and law enforcement officers must consider.

**What is Addiction?**  
"Addiction is a chronic brain disorder, and a medical disease. Addiction is characterized by compulsive harmful behaviors that are continued, despite negative consequences," said Dr. Martina Moore of Moore Counseling and Mediation Services. "Many addictive substances release the same chemicals in the brain that are associated with the feelings of pleasure, such as sex and eating our favorite food," Dr. Moore adds.  
Johni Fiber, the Director of Clinical Services at Highland Springs Hospital described addiction as "this ritualistic comfort seeking behavior. It's just that some people go and seek comfort in a way that has a lot of negative consequences," said Fiber.

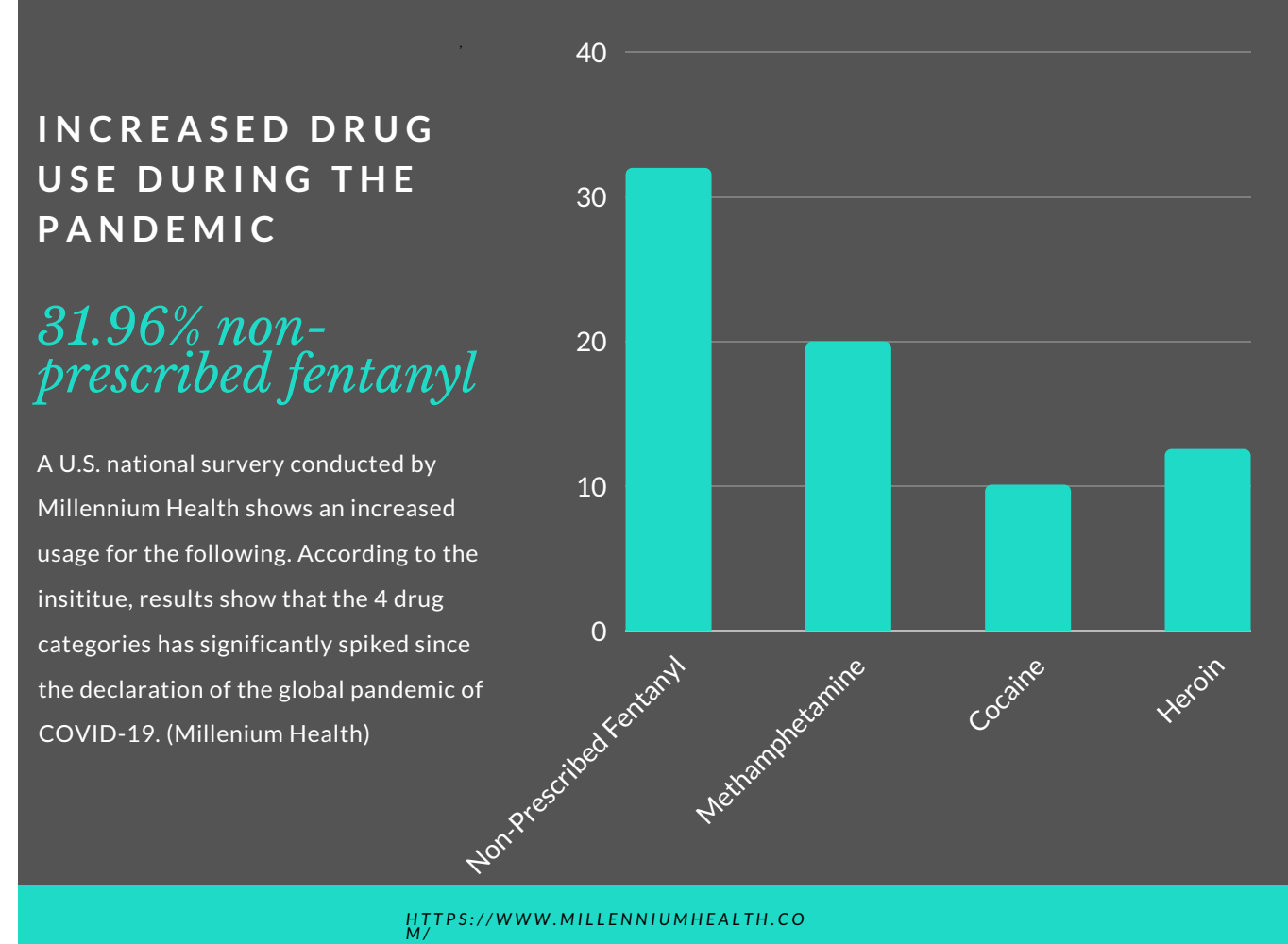
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"This pandemic is obviously very stressful. People are struggling on multiple levels, they're struggling with isolation, they're struggling with financial issues, they're struggling with fear and anxiety about becoming sick or loved ones getting sick. Our world operates differently and we can't do the things that we usually do. Change causes stress and whenever there is stress present, someone with an addiction is more at risk of relapse," explained Johni Fiber, the Director of Clinical Services at Highland Springs Hospital.  
A common misconception about substance abuse is that the decision is voluntary. But as time passes and occasional drug use continues, the brain begins to change. Research has revealed that addiction can cause physical and physiological

dependence. Although both are not mutually exclusive, the human body becomes dependent on the substance, making it difficult to function without it.  
"When you have substance use disorder, it's really a chronic brain disorder that feeds off the reward system in your brain. It is so powerful! People don't believe it, that it causes changes in the brain and takes you over."  
**Fentanyl: The Silent Killer**  
"When the state shut down, tolerance decreased and people were at a much higher risk of overdosing and dying. When they disrupted the illicit drug supply because of COVID-19, many people were using anything they could get their hands on, including fentanyl," stated Dr. Leslie Koblentz, the chief clinical officer for the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County.  
Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. It is medically permissible to use fentanyl for severe pain, such as advanced cancer pain. But as of recently the synthetic drug has found its way in heroin and cocaine.

Clinical Director Johni Fiber analyzed the fentanyl crisis as a supply and demand problem. "People who are selling these substances begin to add it to their drugs to provide a stronger high for substance users. So the problem is nobody really knows what's in their substances, which leads to accidental overdose," Fiber described.

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, tolerance is how a person's body adapts to a drug after prolonged use. Individuals with a higher tolerance level will take more of a particular substance to achieve the same feeling of pleasure. Decreased tolerance occurs for people who have been sober for a while and their body learns to adjust without the substance present.  
At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. Customs and Border Protection increased their efforts to lock down the country and seize illegal drugs. From March to May there was a 57% spike in drug seizures compared to the same time last year. With a shortage of drugs available experts noticed two outcomes; substances were being cut and filled with lethal ingredients such as fentanyl and the second being a shift in drug tolerance for opioid users. Both behaviors have been attributed to the rise in accidental overdose cases in Ohio and nationally.  
**Maintaining Sobriety**  
"I've lost a few friends during the pandemic because of heroin overdose," said Laurie Beaver. "It's just very sad. Everyday you hear that something is killing these people. I keep hearing that there is fentanyl in everything now and that scares me so much. If I don't continue to do the next right thing, I'm going to go backwards and I don't ever want to go backwards," she emphasized.

Laurie, now eight months sober, battled with her crack cocaine addiction for years. Raised in North Ridgeville Laurie Beavers recalls having a normal childhood.  
"My parents were nondrinkers and very devoted to the family. We didn't really have the family dysfunction that's often talked about and I grew up with horses," Beaver said. There were two traumatic events that Laurie recognized as influential, which included her older sister leaving home unexpectedly and the death of Laurie's horse.  
Laurie experimented with different drugs while in college but it wasn't until 2006 that she was reintroduced to crack cocaine and the addiction completely took over her life. Beaver sought the help of family and attended intensive outpatient treatment at Glenbeigh Outpatient Center. After completing her program, Beaver was "dry sober" from 2007-2014. Dry sober can be described as not using any drugs or alcohol but still feeling unwell physically and mentally.  
"I met my daughter's father, who was a regular smoker and I became a regular crack smoker. I was working a phlebotomy job, I had money, I had a car and I had everything. But once I met him, he allowed me to go another way," explained Beaver.  
Laurie continued to battle with her addiction until 2019 when she was hospitalized due to a car accident. "My sobriety date is November 26, 2019," she said







# COMMUNITY

## The New Landscape for Local News



By R.T. Andrews  
Republished from *The Real Deal Press*

If you are going to be scooped on your own story, it's likely best when a friend does it. There is so much happening of grisly consequence these days — from the health, economic and civic ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic and the absolutely horrendous response thereto by so many of our leaders on every level; to what has quickly shaped up to the largest public corruption scheme in Ohio history; to the quiet federal invasion of our city; to the ongoing crises in city administration; to the sense of possibility that exists in this moment of racial recalibration — we might be forgiven for failing to report on a couple of matters right in our backyard. The first of these neighborhood items is captured in this piece by Jay Miller, longtime Crain's reporter, and one of a dwindling core of Cleveland journalists possessed of institutional memory. The local daily newspaper, the Plain Dealer, died

unceremoniously a few months ago, intentionally deprived by its absentee owner over several years of the resources it needed to sustain and reinvent itself. For the moment, its shell is being inhabited by cleveland.com, a digital news site that currently uses the PD nameplate to imply a false continuity with a bygone era. [It's reminiscent of when the Modell Browns slunk off to Baltimore; the NFL team's records and colors stayed behind, but the replacement squad that arrived a few years later still bears no resemblance to the original.] The media landscape has been changing rapidly all over the globe for the past quarter century, a development that shows no sign of abating. But even as so-called legacy newspapers gasp, shrivel, and vanish, the human and community need for local news and information about our increasingly complex, digitized, discontinuous, and amazing world, is, if anything, only heightened. Of the seemingly dwindling number of truths that remain undiminished, one is

this: nature abhors a vacuum. And so, as Miller reports, a "local news ecosystem" is taking root in Northeast Ohio. One of the earliest manifestations was the reconstitution of an association of disparate community publications — some old, some new, some ethnic, some territorial, etc. The reborn organization, to which Miller devotes some appreciative space, is the Neighborhood and Community Media Association of Greater Cleveland. Indefatigable media person Rich Weiss, who, in addition to editing a monthly print publication devoted to Cleveland's Tremont area, also founded and directs the Neighborhood Media Foundation, has been the driving force behind the newly energized NCMA-CLE. Member publications include the Cleveland Street Chronicle, Collinwood Observer, East Side Daily News, Erie Chinese Journal, Euclid Observer, Heights Observer, La Mega Nota, Plain Press, Profile News Ohio, The Neighborhood News, The Real Deal Press, The Tremonster, Ward Seven Observer, and West Park Times. New officers elected at the group's June 25 meeting include The Real Deal Press publisher R. T. Andrews as president, Rich Weiss [The Tremonster publisher] as vice president, Jessie Schoonover [West Park Times editor-in-chief] as treasurer, Ellen Psenica [former Neighborhood News publisher] as secretary, and Ulysses Glen [East Side Daily News publisher] as parliamentarian. "Local news engages citizens, improves public decision-making and makes political and civic leaders accountable to their communities." — a study commissioned by area foundations last year

Miller's article notes that "news deserts" — communities where information about local government and other matters is hard to come by — is not just an area phenomenon. In fact, as profiteers have swooped in and gobbled up legacy publishers' assets, only to shrink the products and decimate the newsrooms, many foundations and other philanthropies have become alarmed, in part because of research that shows local governments tend to become less scrupulous as watchdog journalism decreases. A study commissioned by the Cleveland and Knight foundations last year [I was among those interviewed] concluded in part, Miller writes, that "local news engages citizens, improves public decision-making and makes political and civic leaders accountable to their communities. It also makes contributions to public health and political participation." In December, those foundations, along with the George Gund Foundation, the Akron Community Foundation, and the Center for Community Solutions, announced more than \$110,000 in journalism grants to address community information needs in Akron and Cleveland. While The Real Deal Press has not sought such funding, we are excited about several major recent steps to increase our capacity to keep readers informed, including collaborating with several journalistic partners, among them Eye on Ohio, the Ohio Capital Journal, and Your Voice Ohio Media Collaborative. And significantly, the long-promised and long-delayed rollout of our 2.0 website will occur by this Labor Day, just about a month before early voting begins.

## Collinwood's Professional Boxing Past: Round 2



Al Jackson at his cafe center lighting up.

It's inevitable. No matter how long you may research a subject, as soon as you put something down to print, your sure to find something you've missed. And that fine, the initial idea was to try and flush out anything that may have been missed. In this case I came up with four. The first and earliest found was of Henry "Hank" Yomper who fought professionally from 1897 to 1900. From newspaper articles of the day, he was described as a railroad man, and at different times either a "Collinwood strong boy" or a "Nottingham strong boy". He was a middleweight trained by a George La Blanche, a marine who had a boxing school in Cleveland. I couldn't find anything else regarding him after he finished boxing.

The second was Al Jackson. I was just fishing on google and hit on some postings on the Pinterest website by his grandson, Rick Jackson, who lives now north of Houston Texas, of various pictures and newspaper clippings. Al was another middleweight trained and managed by former boxer Bryan Downey. Noted in a paper as the "Pride of Collinwood" he fought professionally from 1927 to 1928 and afterwards operated a tavern at 573 East 140th Street in the 1930's. He would though pass away at the early age of 37 of pneumonia and is buried at Knollham cemetery. Now Leroy Koeth I had information on, but more regarding his time as a trainer. Leroy started out boxing early on with the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), the

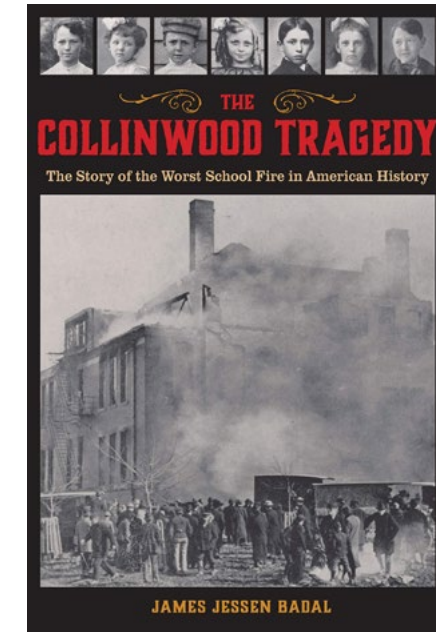


Leroy Koeth

Catholic counterpart to the YMCA. The program was called Highchair Boxing for younger children. He would then later train under former boxers Pat Yates and Tom Grant at their athletic club out of St. Joseph Church's gym at 14422 Aspinwall Avenue for the Golden Gloves Tournament of 1945 as did his brother Jimmy in 1946. He'd go on to fight as a welterweight professionally from 1946 to 1951 while serving in the army. A plumber by trade, he would continue with boxing as a trainer after work out of the Collinwood Community Center from the late 1950's thru the early 1960's. Some of those he trained for the Golden Gloves included Leonard Trem and Al Tremaglio, Rudy Floran, Joe Morgan, Edward and Paul McHale, Art and Ron Snepenger, and Norman Walker. He passed away in 2012 at the age of 84 and is buried at Whitehaven Cemetery. The last I found was Frank Sallee, who trained with Collinwood's Mike Carriere for the 1959 Golden Gloves Tournament. After Mike's passing later that year, Frank would continue training at the Teamsters Council 41 Athletic Club for the following year's Golden Gloves. He would go on to fight professionally for the next three years out of New York City winning three of his fights at Madison Square Garden. Henry Yomper: 1897-1900 (1-1-2) Al Jackson: 1927-1928 (2-4-0) Eddie Bojack: 1929-1933 (16-6-0) Louis Disantis: 1929-1934 (22-2-1) Frankie Bauer: 1929-1936 (23-24-3) Frankie Wallace: 1930-1941 (35-59-11) Carmen Barth: 1932-1941 (45-15-4) Joe Bauer: 1935-1937 (4-6-2) Mike Gamiere: 1936-1946 (29-17-6) Al Sivillo: 1937-1940 (1-1-0) Midge Mangine: 1937-1947 (9-9-1) Frank Bojack: 1938 (1-0-0) Joey Maxim: 1941-1958 (83-29-4) Vic "Jade" Jadrich: 1943-1947 (10-42-3) Chuck Hunter: 1943-1953 (45-26-1) Lou Dell: 1944 (0-3-1) Tony Brush: 1944-1947 (10-3-0) Leroy Koeth: 1946-1951 (8-8-1) Mickey Mars: 1950-1955 (17-7-0) Frank Collica: 1955-1956 (0-2-0) Tony Hughes: 1956-1963 (26-4-0) Larry Wagner: 1956 (4-0-0) Frank Sallee: 1960-1962 (5-8-0) Billy Wagner: 1968-1976 (34-9-2) Phil Brozier: 1977 (0-2-1) John Zele: 1982-1984 (5-0-1)

# COMMUNITY

## The Collinwood Tragedy: The Story of the Worst School Fire in American History



A devastating loss of life and a community's response. March 4, 1908, seemed an ordinary morning at Lakeview Elementary School in Collinwood, Ohio, when fifth grader Emma Neibert noticed wisps of smoke. Her discovery soon led to a panicked stampede inside the school—the chaos of nine teachers trying to control and then save pupils in overcrowded classrooms. Outside, Collinwood's inadequate volunteer fire department—joined by members of the Cleveland fire department—fought a losing battle with the rapidly spreading blaze. While some inside jumped from the building to safety, most were trapped. Ultimately, 172 children, two teachers, and one rescue worker were killed, and the Collinwood community was irrevocably changed. The fire's staggering death toll shocked the country and resulted in impassioned

building inquiries about the fire's cause, the building's structure, and overall safety considerations. Regionally, and eventually nationwide, changes were implemented in school structures and construction materials. James Jessen Badal's extensive research reveals how the citizens of Collinwood were desperate to find someone to blame. Rumor and suspicion splintered the grieving community. And yet they also rose to the challenge of healing: officials reached out to immigrant families unsure of their rights; city charities, churches, and relief agencies responded with medical help, comfort for the bereaved, and financial support; and fundraising efforts to assist families totaled over \$50,000—more than \$1 million today.

## In A Word: OPTIMISM

by Pastor Walther Marcis. Webster's Dictionary gives us the following definition. "1 - the belief that good ultimately prevails over evil. 2 - the tendency to take the most hopeful or cheerful view of things." Looking at the various things that have been taking place in the world, our nation, our state and in the community, it would not give us vary many good choices to make that would make us very optimistic. Yet the optimist should be able to see through tragedy to the blessing that lies beyond. Have you ever considered the reason why some people act differently to the same problems and difficulties. Alan McGinnis says the following: "Optimists are not necessarily born with cheerful dispositions, nor do they lead charmed lives. Far from it, in fact. Many of them grew up in negative environments, and most of them suffered from crushing setbacks. But along the way, they discovered techniques for defeating depression and keeping their enthusiasm high." Just look at some of the situations and challenges of our times: some people hate the president others love him, some belong to one political party and hate those in the other, all of us have some degree of fear regarding Covid 19. Some want the schools to open others to close them and have on line schooling, some want socialism and others capitalism, and so the list can go on and on. Our country seems so divided and it becomes so difficult to be optimistic about anything. So many today would believe the word PESSIMISM is the operative word of the day. All seems so hopeless and depressing we have no clue of an optimistic end game.

Yet there is hope. Here are a number of items to consider: Pray and ask God for guidance and wisdom from His Word. Worship, prayer and Bible study are key to setting us on a positive track as people of God. The Bible says that "All things work together for good to them that love God." This becomes a test and opportunity to put this into practice in our lives. Do those things that would make you a problem solver and part of the positive solutions rather than making things worse. Ask yourself questions like: What can I do to make things better? How can I improve things in the home, church, city, or community? Our world is imperfect so focus on things that you can do to prevent problems by anticipating problems. For example: On line school may happen in the public schools: What alternative do I have for the education of my child? Encourage situations where we may talk freely about situations that differ from ours. This atmosphere is not prevalent in our society today. We tend to shout down any idea that differs from ours. In a negative situation explore the chance that there may be something good out of this negative situation. If there is not anything good, in a kind way, guide the situation into a positive solution. Pray for wisdom for yourself and others. If you are looking for answers to life's tough questions, contact us and set up a time when we may meet or talk. SJN Church 216-531-1156, or wmarcis@stjohnnottingham.org Published in the SJN Newsletter by Pastor Walther Marcis

## Free Legal Help Now Available when Housing is at Risk

by Danilo Powell-Lima. Equal access to justice for all is the foundation of American democracy. Yet, the United States ensures no protections for civil legal issues such as evictions. In these cases, the basis for a thriving family is often in the balance — and without access to an attorney, many people are unnecessarily plunged into deeper instability. Thankfully, in Cleveland, more families will soon have access to crucial legal representation that can protect them from losing their homes. Cleveland recently established a right to counsel (RTC) for low-income tenants facing eviction. Effective on July 1st, 2020, tenants at 100% or below of the federal poverty guidelines who have at least one child in their household will have access to free legal counsel. In Cleveland, about 9,000 evictions are filed each year. Only 1%-2% of tenants facing eviction are represented by legal counsel, whereas most landlords can afford a lawyer. Cleveland's new RTC law, the first such law in the Midwest, will help balance the scales of justice. The scales are already levelling in New York City. In 2017, New York became the first city in America to pass a right to counsel. Its legislation guarantees that tenants under 200% of federal poverty guidelines facing eviction have access to legal representation. In the year following the passage of the legislation, a report by the Community Service Society found that evictions in RTC zip codes declined more than five times faster than those in non-RTC zip codes. New York City is also expected to gain

financially from RTC legislation, with estimates reaching as high as \$320 million in savings annually. This is because for every 1\$ spent on legal aid, \$5-\$6 are saved in providing services, according to a 2014 report from Legal Services Corporation (LSC). The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland began examining the merits of a right to counsel in Cleveland in 2018 thanks to a grant from Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland's Innovation Mission. From this platform, the Housing Justice Alliance was created. The Alliance is led by Legal Aid attorney Hazel Remesch and an advisory committee which includes low-income community members, representatives from the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, and city leaders — including Council President Kelley and Council Member Brancatelli. The signing of Cleveland's RTC is the culmination of the Alliance's work. The United Way of Greater Cleveland is working with Cleveland City Council to lead and implement the new legislation. The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is contracted with United Way to provide legal representation. Come July 1st, Legal Aid will be ready to provide those who qualify for RTC with high-quality legal representation via its experienced staff, pro bono attorneys, and other subcontracted entities. If you need legal help, call 216-687-1900 to get assistance. You can also apply 24/7 for help online at www.lasclev.org.

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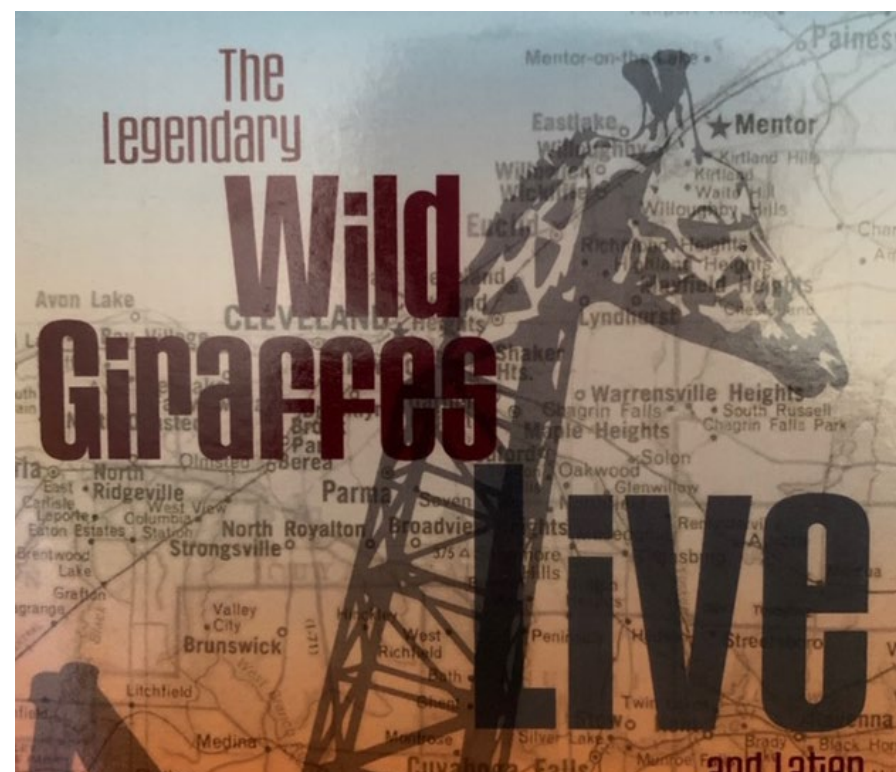
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# MUSIC

## Absolutely Feral: Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands



by Buzz Kompier

The Wild Giraffes - Live At The Cleveland Agora - Neck Records - 8 songs - LP

The Wild Giraffes - Live And Later - Neck Records - 16 songs - CD

I'm combining these because they're essentially two versions of the same release—the first seven tracks and final track are the same on both, the CD just has an additional 8 studio tracks. We'll start with the live material. Oh my god! It's fantastic! They kick off with an absolutely smoking version of "Right Now," the title track from their only LP and it blows the studio version out of the water, which is a story that's repeated with pretty much every track here. I know people think the "Right Now" album is badly produced and sorta not that great—I fully understand that, though I still enjoy it—but they oughta check this out. The songs on the

LP (or the live half of the CD, if that's how you're listening) are basically the definitive versions—particularly the classic originals like "Love Me," "I Don't Know About You," and again "Right Now." There's also "Under My Skin," another great tune that's never been released before (though there is a studio version which someone should put out as a single). This is some of the greatest power pop ever recorded. No exaggeration. Immensely catchy songs, very high energy, perfectly jangly and pretty where it needs to be—but never ever wimpy or any of the other more negative traits associated with power pop, because first and foremost the Wild Giraffes are a rock band. And the group absolutely destroys on here. Dave Ivan and Alan McGinty are a powerhouse rhythm section (Dave "Animal" Ivan gets a couple good screams in, too—and I always

knew Alan was a good drummer, but man, he's on fire here). The twin guitar attack of Edgar Reynolds and Bill Elliott is in full force— it's really incredible the way they work together on here. And I've always thought, but this record certainly strengthened this opinion, that Chris King is the standard that all singers in this style should be held to. He's just at the top of the game. The whole thing makes you excited just listening to it. It's powerful. The final track of the LP is not actually another live track but an earlier studio track that's called "Tell Me You Love Me" on the LP and "Over And Over" on the CD, mysteriously. It's may be the weirdest track in their catalog. It's a six and a half minute groover that's kind of an okay song but is elevated by the presence of the brilliant Monte Carmont (or K.D. Carmont, as he's credited here) doing some bizarre teenage lust/Lou Reed-esque narration over the top of it. I can't quite make out everything he says, but what I can is pretty great ("Girls did respect me. I had no problems."). And then at one point, one of the Giraffes (Edgar, I'm pretty sure) starts doing his own spoken word thing too! It's kind of insane! Besides the Giraffes, who are absolutely underrated, there's another great Cleveland musician who more people should know— pick up that Monte Carmont & What 4 record if you can find it, it's great. Also included with the vinyl version is a nice booklet with lots of photos, newspaper clippings, and other cool stuff (I particularly liked looking at the Wild Giraffes fan club membership cards and seeing such notables as Jane Scott and David L. Atkins). Now that I've told you how great the LP is (and it really, really is and you should get a copy immediately), here's my problem: it's too short! It really leaves you wanting more. The whole thing feels like it's over in ten minutes. Yeah, all seven songs are incredible, but I need more! And

I know there is more! Maybe (hopefully) they're saving some stuff for another future archival release. Fingers crossed. Now onto the studio tracks from the CD. Across the board, they're pretty good. They do not rip as much as the live stuff, but as far as the songs go there are some real winners here. "Good As Gold" is very '60s and very Beatle-y in particular, between the "Tomorrow Never Knows" drum beat and the "Ticket To Ride" quotation at the end. "Angel" is a little more new wave, but still cool. "I Wanna Be A Giraffe" and "99 Times" are both solid power pop rockers. I really like "Talk To Me," though it definitely sounds like an unfinished recording— Edgar and Bill feel not quite present enough, like they did everything but the final guitar overdubs. I'm almost certain I've heard live versions that have more going on. Still, good song and you gotta love when Chris King growls "talk to me" the one time. The weakest three are all right in a row, actually— "Another World" (which, honestly, is still pretty good, and it has some fuzz guitar in there), "A Girl Like You" (which must be earlier because, like "Over And Over," it features Mike Terrell on guitar instead of Bill Elliott), and "Give Me A Kiss," which is a straightforward rock 'n' roller but also a Christmas song. Even with those being the weakest links, they're certainly not so bad you'd skip them or anything. In either form, LP or CD, almost certainly my favorite archival release of the year, and again, I really really hope there's more releases planned because I know there's other great stuff that has yet to see the light of day. Still, for now, this will do you very well. 5/5

(thewildgiraffes.com)

Are you a local-ish band? Do you have a record out? Email vaguelythreatening@gmail.com or send to Buzz Kompier: PO Box 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Hamilton Musical Movie Review

## Eurovision Song Contest Movie Review



by Brian Friedman

I didn't get absorbed into the hype when the show hit Broadway then started touring. So, I was blindsided by the utter brilliance of this musical. Disney Plus pulls off the unimaginable in getting the viewer right into the action of this filmed stage production with the original cast without it feeling distant or un compelling. Truly a wonder to behold even with a few historical inaccuracies. Grade? Solid A



by Brian Friedman

Will Ferrell and Rachel McAdams play an Icelandic couple that go on a super obvious path to become Europe's greatest singers. If there are jokes, 95% of them went over my head in this slog of a film. Streaming on Netflix, the only redeeming qualities are great settings and Rachel McAdams' "singing". If you are tempted to tune in, just rewatch Pitch Perfect 2 again. Grade - D plus.

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