

FREE!

The Collinwood Observer

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A member of the Observer media family of community-written newspapers and websites

Voters stick with their incumbents ...but passage of Issues 3, 6 mean change is coming to county, state

Mike Gallagher

Cleveland City Council Ward 10 Eugene Miller defeated challenger Freddie Moore. Eugene Miller was serving as a state representative when he was asked to complete the un-expired term of long time ward 10 representative Roosevelt Coats, who retired/resigned earlier this year. Miller's top priorities for the ward are public safety and public education. Miller brings some youth and energy to a ward that had been served by a long-time council person loyal to his ward, but perhaps running out of steam coming down the homestretch.

Cleveland City Council Ward 11 Michael Polensek can still claim the title, Dean of City Council, as he has been re-elected to the Ward 11 council seat by defeating challenger Curtis L. Thompson II. "I've won a lot of elections but I've never had a win as big as this one, I won in every single precinct," Polensek said Wednesday morning. "I see it as a victory for inclusion and unity over division and race-baiting. I'm very thankful to the people of this community who supported me, especially the African Americans who said that they weren't going to tolerate race-based politics. These are the strengths of this neighborhood that we need to build on—diversity, tolerance, inclusion, acceptance."

Polensek's top priority for the Ward 11 is to keep the community intact during the next city council reduction, which he says is critical for the growth and stability of Collinwood.

Mayor of Cleveland Frank Jackson will continue his tenure as Cleveland mayor, winning his first re-election fight against Bill Patmon. "The campaign is over, the voters have spoken and it's time for me to get back to work," Mayor Jackson said Wednesday morning. "I want to thank the voters for having the confidence to re-elect me."

He had a specific message for the readers of this paper: "I want to make Collinwood a neighborhood where families live in safety, in a prosperous city with a great quality of life where children and young people have the opportunity for a great education and a successful career path."

The mayor has a hope to transform our traditional manufacturing-based labor force into a highly-skilled workforce for the future, along with hopes to create career paths for young people through vocational training and apprenticeships with the city. This double-pronged approach has merit - recognizing that some can make their living with their brains, while others may be more comfortable doing it with their hands. The mayor's low key approach grates on some, but is really appreciated by others.

Issue 1 The passage of Issue 1 has created a constitutional amendment that authorizes the state to issue \$200 million in bonds to provide compensation for Ohio veterans who served in the Persian Gulf, Iraq or Afghanistan. These Ohio veterans will be eligible for \$100 per month, for each month of service, to a max of \$1000. Those who

served in the armed forces during this era, but away from the conflicts, will be eligible for \$50. per month, to a max of \$500. And families of veterans who have lost their lives in service will receive an additional \$5000.

There is precedent for this type of program, as the state of Ohio has offered a state financed bonus to war veterans since World War I

Issue 2 Ohio voters overwhelmingly passed Issue 2. The passage of this issue creates a state constitutional amendment that will form a 13 member board charged with establishing standards for the care of agricultural livestock and poultry, with consideration

to how the standards will affect food safety, family and industry farming, and other farming matters. To many people this is the fox guarding the hen house.

continued on Page 2



Sunshine brightened a blustery fall day for voters at Memorial School Nov. 3rd. The gymnasium there was the only polling place in the neighborhood with precincts for both Wards 10 and 11.

EWAN RANDOL

Waterloo Tower progress update

Miles Kennedy

Monday, Oct 12, at 6p.m. about fifty local residents converged on the Arts Collinwood Gallery at the corner of Waterloo Rd. and E. 156 St. Northeast Shores Development Corp (NSDC) had sent out a general invitation to attend a meeting to see and discuss the plan for the Tower to be built on the new grass space just outside the meeting site.

John Boksansky, the Development director of NSDC spoke briefly to open the meeting. He reminded the audience that this is a part of the Waterloo Road Project which NSDC initiated about five years ago and has been nurturing ever since. The grass patch outside the door where the sidewalk was widened in July is the first visible sign of progress on this project, but John pointed out that "though progress has been slow, it has not been negligible." In fact, the numerous public meetings that elicited so much neighborhood input have now led to the current situation where \$2.8 million have been set aside for this project by the city.

John then introduced the two speakers, Mike Moritz, a local resident who is a member of the Board of Arts Collinwood, and is an artist who designs public art projects and who, as a businessman, is a steel construction fabricator. Beside Mike stood the other speaker, Chris Diehl who, as a faculty member in the architecture dept at Kent State U, had been leader of the design of the Waterloo Project. Chris is also an artist and was present in that capacity. The project had specified that a tower should be built to occupy the new green space, but only a barebones design had been proposed as a placeholder for the final design.

In June, a public meeting was held by NSDC at Arts Collinwood location. Attendees at that meeting were shown the basic



CHRIS DIEHL/DIEHL, INC.

proposed tower design. It was approximately thirty feet tall and consisted of three equal-sized open cubes outlined by steel beams and resting one upon another. We were told this design would get a little tweaking, and were asked for suggestions for its size and location. We were told that the tower was intended to serve the following three goals:

- 1) To be a highly visible marker of the new Waterloo Arts and Entertainment District.
- 2) To be a flexible framework on which a changing set of public art displays could be mounted.
- 3) To provide a stage for 'guerrilla art' such as concerts, poetry readings and plays.

Having learned that electric outlets will be

continued on Page 6

The big story about Villa Angela-St. Joseph? They are NOT closing

Terri Richards

As Admissions Director for VASJ, I am in the throes of recruiting next year's students: visiting schools, participating in high school information nights, scheduling student shadow dates and fielding phone calls from interested parents. These are all things that go on from year to year in every Catholic high school. I am happy to do this because I am lucky enough to work for an exceptional school.

However, my excitement about the new recruiting season has been dampened by a certain nagging rumor and I cannot wait a minute longer to speak out. As Mark Twain once said, "The report of my death has been greatly exaggerated." As we at VASJ retool, plan and deliver a 21st Century education to the young men and women within our walls, good people with the admirable intentions of keeping their neighbors apprised of current events are inaccurately reporting VASJ's imminent demise. For instance, at a recent neighborhood beach club meeting, a well intentioned but misinformed resident stated

their belief that a decision has been made to close VASJ within 2 years.

For the record: it is simply not true.


Understandably, in the wake of clustering parishes, merged or closed parish grade schools and the most recent sad news from Regina High, communities almost expect periodic announcements about Catholic school closings. Oddly, and for no particular reason, VASJ has been a popular subject of this rumor since its formation in 1990. Some of the confusion may have arisen due to the fact that the St. Joseph Center, next door to VASJ, has been closed for some time and was recently sold.

Again, for the record: Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School is NOT closing.

A Catholic educator recently said that the biggest threat to urban Catholic schools is nostalgia. This is true - we cannot live nor educate in the past. The Diocese of Cleveland recognized that it was essential for VASJ to reinvent itself in order to carry out its education mission as effectively as possible. The Bishop recently publicly commended VASJ

continued on Page 8

Dialogue



The Collinwood Observer is a citizen-based news source published every two weeks by Collinwood Observer, Inc., a local business dedicated to the development of grassroots media and increased connectedness of the citizens, civic groups, nonprofits, businesses and institutions in and around Cleveland Wards 10 and 11.

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Far reaching effect

George Matthews

I received the first and second issues you printed from a friend in Cleveland. A local paper representing the views of the community is truly a welcome sight. I wanted to take the time to give it the justice it deserved and read it thoroughly. It surely brings back fond memories. I can remember The Scoop as it published news articles and student award recognitions.

The paper was good for the community, and it was a shame it stopped publication. Attending Collinwood High, and then on to Kent State, The Scoop kept me informed of happy times even when I was away. It also told the story of the saddening event of shootings at Kent State; it was reported professionally, but still brought out the emotional sensitivity of the tragedy.

Your community newspaper has far more readers than just locally. I now live in Tampa Florida and welcome the opportunity to “re-live” those wonderful past memories, as well as present and future events through The Observer. Your paper may be small in size, but very large in the goodness and the appreciative nature it provides to all. Keep up the the good work and thanks for being there.

Thoughts from a student

Jessica Turnage

While looking through this newspaper, I noticed that there isn't a “free write” from students. I believe there should be, because it gives the students something to write about; like me for instance, I love to write and I wouldn't mind doing a newspaper article, in fact I would love it!

The students don't necessarily need to put their names on it unless they want to claim the poems or stories they write. They could also have their opinions of how they feel about school and/or other stuff. I have an idea about students writing their problems down, and what they're going through, and other students giving their true opinion of the situation. That would be sweet!! But it's just an idea I think you should give thought to, for the newspaper.

Comments and thoughts

Jeanne Coppola

As a resident of Collinwood, I want to offer my comments and opinions about The Collinwood Observer, which I have been reading since its debut issue in September. I believe every neighborhood needs a local paper. And since The Sun Press is no longer published in this area, our residents have needed a community newspaper for quite awhile. The Collinwood Observer impresses me a lot, because it's different than other newspapers, since it “is entirely written by the community.” This gives everyone a chance to get involved, and offer their ideas and opinions, and learn about upcoming events in our neighborhood.

When we were teenagers, my sister used to deliver “The Scoop Journal” every Thursday, and she got to know all her subscribers. Now, through the Observer, I think readers will get to know their neighbors and community, on a much larger scale, which I believe will foster a greater sense of community awareness, and pride in our neighborhood. It has been great to read and learn about our many local events and interests, including the Coit Road Farmers Market, Euclid Beach, the new community recreation center, East Clark School (which was my elementary school), recycling, and everything in between! And I look forward to reading “The Grandmothers” parenting advice column. The possibilities are endless! It is especially nice that students can write about their local school news events! I also appreciated the insightful information in the “Forums” explaining Issues 2 through 6. I am sure it was very helpful to everyone.

The Collinwood Observer is printed on lovely paper, and I enjoy reading it. It is a great asset to our community! Thank you for publishing it!

It's your paper, you write it!

Sign on to www.collinwoodobserver.com, click on Member Center, sign in, click on Writer, type out a title, type up your story, and click 'submit.' Don't have a computer? Head to one of our fine libraries and go online there. Please share your story so we can all enjoy it together.

Voters

continued from Page 1

Issue 3 Bucking tradition, Ohio voters have approved this measure in a relatively close vote, paving the way for a single casinos to be built in each of these four major Ohio cities: Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo. Now we will see how the Cleveland casino, spearheaded by Cav's owner Dan Gilbert, unfolds. Since he has a vested interest in other entertainment in our city, hopefully that will mean more of a chance that the casino will in fact fulfill the promises of supporters who claimed only positive impact on nearby businesses. You can bet (now that it is legal) that many feel this is a bad deal, with Gilbert and cronies paying well below the going rate for the licensing fee and profit taxes, and that while casinos are just another way for them to fatten their wallets, this will happen at the expense of many of the most vulnerable among us.

Issue 4, the replacement levy for Cuyahoga Community College operating costs was passed by county voters. Typically tax levies have about the same appeal as Eric Mangini, but replacement/renewal levies generally adjust taxes to keep pace with inflation. On top of that, voters understand that Tri-C performs a vital function in our community, especially in tougher economic times like now.

Issue 5 was soundly rejected by Cuyahoga voters, these voters most likely did not like the cozy relationship between our current county government and this issue. The issue would have created a charter commission charged with proposing a new form of county government to be presented to the voters. County voters did not like the odor of this one—including the direct links between the proposed commission members of one of the two competing slates and the current county government.

Issue 6 passed easily, propelled by voters sick of the mess that county government has become. Issue 6 supporters claim that a single elected county executive, 11-person county council, and executive appointments of key county positions that will be approved by the county council, sure beats the status quo. Supporters feel that key offices being appointed, rather than elected, will reduce the chances of corruption and abuse of power.

Block clubs and community meetings

Collinwood Homeowners and Tenants Association meets the first Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., St. Mary's Church, 15519 Holmes Ave.

Collinwood Nottingham Historical Society meets the third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Lithuanian Village Hall, 877 E. 185th St.

East 185th St. Block Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m., Lithuanian Village Hall, 877 E. 185th St.

E. 156th St. Block Watch meets the fourth Wednesday of the month. 6:30 p.m. at the Arts Collinwood Community Center, 397 E. 156th Street.

Euclid Park Civic Club meets the second Tuesday of every month. 6:30 p.m., Cleveland Clinic Building, 17325 Euclid Ave., 2nd floor.

Euclid Park North Block Club meets the third Tuesday of every month. 7 p.m. Five Points Community Center, 813 E. 152nd St.

Nottingham Civic Club meets the third Tuesday of every month. 7 p.m., Nottingham United Methodist Church, 18316 St. Clair Ave.

Ward 10 Club meets Thursday, Oct. 22 from 5-8 p.m. at the Five Points Community Center, 813 E. 152nd Street.

Ward 10 in Action meets every 2nd Tuesday starting October 13. 6-8 p.m. at the Greater Friendship Baptist Church, 12305 Arlington Ave.

Ward 11/Bratenahl Village Democratic Club meets the second Wednesday of the month, Sept.-May at 7 p.m., Slovenian Club, 15810 Holmes Ave.

Fifth District Police Community Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., Five Points Community Center, 813 E. 152nd St. • (216) 623-5500

Have we missed your meeting? Has the time changed? Let us know! (216) 235-5009.



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Around Collinwood

From the 5th Police District

Dornat A. Drummond

The Cleveland Division of Police 5th District Neighborhood Headquarters and all of its officers are committed to improving the quality of life for those who live, work, and play in the community. Contrary to news accounts, rumors and speculation, crime as a whole, is down. Statistically, Part 1 crimes—which include robbery, robbery with a firearm, rape, arson, theft and auto theft—are down.

However, homicide and residential burglary are up slightly as compared to the same period in 2008. As of the writing of this article, District 5 has experienced 17 homicides and approximately 1100 residential burglaries; a 6% increase from last year. District 5 detectives have made tremendous strides in identifying viable suspects, which has culminated in the arrest of several juveniles for burglary.

Through the help of the community and the dogged determination of the District 5 detectives, a 13-year-old male South Collinwood resident was arrested earlier this summer for burglarizing approximately 18 homes. He was charged in the juvenile court system with over 40 counts of theft. The case was recently adjudicated in court and he was found delinquent. The young man was sentenced to six years incarceration in a juvenile detention facility.

Burglary is an issue in the district; however, I have implemented a robbery/burglary detail. The robbery/burglary detail will concentrate on residential and commercial robberies, coupled with robbery investigations.

Statistics have shown that a high percentage of residential burglaries occur during the daytime hours when most residents are working. The robbery/burglary detail officers will pay particular attention to residential homes and juveniles who are not in school and roaming the streets. These juveniles, most probably in violation of the curfew laws, shall be released to a parent/guardian (if no other charges are pending) and that parent/guardian will receive a curfew citation for daytime curfew violation(s). Detailed officers will also focus on quality-of-life issues including but not limited to corner drug sales, open container violations, possession of marijuana and littering.

I believe that together we can continue to improve the quality of life in our District. With your active participation, we strive to accomplish this goal. You, the citizens of the 5th District, are our eyes and ears. Let us continue to work as one to achieve a safe and viable community.

Dornat A. Drummond is the commander of the Fifth District, Cleveland Police Department



The friendly folks at Famicos Foundation are ready to help. They include, from left, Alice Wilkerson, Donald Woodruff, Radiah Douglas and Carla Goodman.

Famicos opens office in Ward 10

Mary McElrath

The Famicos Foundation has opened a satellite office at 18235 Euclid Avenue which is in the Village Green Lite Shopping Center of Ward 10. On Oct. 6th there was an open house to give the community an opportunity to meet Famicos executive director John Anoliefo and other staff. Famicos now provides services to Wards 7, 8, 9, & 10.

The Famicos Foundation began in 1969 as a volunteer organization to meet the needs of the people of Hough. It is now a strong and well known community development corporation employing approximately 50 people. Their mission is "to improve quality of life through neighborhood revitalization, affordable housing and integrated social services."

Famicos has historically provided services to homeowners through community organizing, weatherization & energy conservation;

adults and seniors, providing linkage to city programs and services; and youth, with varied and age appropriate activities.

Call (216) 383-1273 to ask any questions about the benefits Famicos will provide to Ward 10. Their goal is to strengthen the neighborhoods and empower the people.

Housing clinic for Collinwood a success

Rep. Marcia L. Fudge

Every American deserves a warm and secure home. Home-ownership creates wealth for numerous families, stimulates the economy, and is a source of pride for residents. Sadly, many property owners are having difficulty maintaining their mortgage payments. In fact, the Center for Responsible Lending projects that the Eleventh Congressional District will suffer 18,531 foreclosures over the next four years. Our community's foreclosure rate is distressing and unacceptable.

To assist homeowners, I hosted a housing clinic in Collinwood at the Five Points Community Center in September. The results were wonderful. Over 50 residents attended workshops on foreclosure rights for renters, preventing foreclosure scams, and received training on available support services.

Mariah Harris, a counselor at Neighborhood Housing Services, remarked that Collinwood residents "walked away from the event knowing that help was available to them. Attendees understood that people at all levels of government cared about these issues and are there for them."

The next housing clinic will be held at the Cleveland Heights Community Center on Nov. 17th. Housing counselors will discuss ways to prevent mortgage delinquency and avoid foreclosure scams; foreclosure rights for renters; detail new HUD housing programs; and counsel individuals on their foreclosure issues.

Each time someone loses their home it negatively affects the morale and economic stability of our community. For that reason, I will continue to make foreclosure prevention and job creation my top priorities.

For more information on the clinic, please call my Housing and Foreclosure Liaison, Daniel Fellenbaum at (216) 522-4900.

2-1-1 is your connection to community resources

Louise Foresman

You don't have to live in Collinwood to need community resources, but when folks here or anywhere in Cuyahoga, Geauga, or Medina counties need help with anything from finding out how to enroll your child in your local elementary school, to food pantries, to flu shots, to job training or where to take a yoga class, there are just three numbers to remember: 2-1-1.

211. It's like 911 but for community resources. 211 in Northeast Ohio lists over 10,000 community non-profit and governmental services. This three-digit number is like 911 in two ways—it's available 24 hours a day by telephone, and like 911, was designated by the Federal Communications Commission as a special number. The purpose is to find health and human resources in every community in the United States and to help connect people to consistent, updated, accurate information in times of crisis like snowstorms, blackouts, or public health emergencies like the H1N1 flu virus..

Never heard of it? 211 has been the number to call in Cuyahoga County since February 11, 2004. (Get it? 2/11!) The organization, also known as First Call for Help, has been around as a United Way agency for over 50 years with the number (216)436-2000. In 2008, 211 took over 190,000 calls, and is well on the way to breaking the 200,000-call

mark in 2009.

211 is funded through a variety of sources, including the Area Agency on Aging, United Way of Greater Cleveland, and Cuyahoga County government. 211 is the number to call, for instance, if someone gets behind in their mortgage payments. 211 can connect people to housing counseling agencies that may be able to help homeowners negotiate a workout with their bank to save their home. 211 is the number to call for resources for fathers in Cuyahoga County. At tax time, 211 can connect people to resources that can help them file their federal taxes for free and to get the Earned Income Tax Credit, which often results in a significant refund for working families.

You can reach 211 by dialing 2-1-1 on your phone, but you can also visit the web site at www.211cleveland.org. Using the website saves hold time on the phone, and the data on the website is updated along with the data used by the Information Specialists that answer 211's phones.

If you are having trouble searching the 211 database, you can also have a live chat with an information specialist Monday-Friday from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. through the library's Know it Now instant messaging service. Any health and human service questions that come through Know it Now are transferred

to 211 Information Specialists, who search the database and help those who contact 211 to find resources through the web site.

If you missed getting your free flu shot at the Lakeshore Golden Age Center at the beginning of October, 211's most recent initiative has been listing all the seasonal and H1N1 flu shot sites currently available in Cuyahoga County. Many communities and health institutions have run out of the vaccine for the seasonal flu, and people are looking for resources for the H1N1 flu vaccine. 211 has put together a special web site www.cuyahogaflushot.org, which lists where within 1, 3, 5, 10 and more miles of a zip code flu shots are available.

Information on flu shots is also available on the 211 web site or by calling 211 anytime, but the flu shot locator makes it easy to find what's still available quickly. As more resources for the H1N1 flu vaccine become available, 211 will have the most up to date information on where to get the shot/spray. 211 has the equivalent of 5 full-time research staff constantly updating information on the web sites and providing current data for the information specialists who answer the phones. So whether you're looking for a turkey this holiday season or looking to donate a turkey, try calling 2-1-1 for community health and human services.

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Forum

Why recycle?

Barron Glass

The reasons to recycle trash are many, but right now, I am going to tell you why I recycle and it is not just for the money.

I feel that we now have a choice and a chance to make a difference in our environment, as well as in the whole world. The ways in which I recycle are by doing simple things that are constantly available to me, if I choose to do them. I feel good and satisfied just by doing them.

One opportunity I have is to choose to collect the aluminum cans that are thrown around all over the outside and to recycle them by just picking them up, one by one, and bringing them to a recycling place for recovery. This choice comes with a monetary payment as well, and there is a place to take them right in our neighborhood.

Another reason I recycle is that it makes me feel like I am a participant in helping both the environment and recovering some valuable resources to make more containers. This

also creates jobs in the recycling area.

The “whys” for you readers are maybe a little different, and the “why nots” as well, but right now, we all have a choice to be part of a bigger picture in a positive way, with no cost for participating, just a little bit of your time. The main thing is that you personally are the one who has to decide to belong in one way or another to the whole scheme of this matter. Once you decide, you will notice how happy you feel to participate in this, with the rest of your neighbors, and the rest of the world. You will feel why you belong, and how you are a part of the neighborhood. You have a choice for positive change. Thank you for reading this, and for thinking about it yourself.



Collinwood at a glance; a vision for the future

Curtis Thompson II

I have been a longtime resident of the Greater Collinwood community. I was born and raised on Green Road in the Green and Euclid area back when ward 10 and 11 were one ward, as the old ward 26. Back in 1980 the population of Cleveland was close to 600,000 currently, we are estimated at close to 400,000. As an 80's baby my view of this area is one with so much promise, for a city that at one point was home to close to one million people and was the fifth-largest city in the United States. Growing up through the drug epidemic and gang violence of the 80's, I witnessed first-hand how newly formed non-traditional families play a very large role in the lack of instilling a good sense of social responsibility in the minds of our youth. Had it not been for the guidance my father provided for me, I may be the same as some of our community's youth that are lost to the streets. The youth these days are still suffering from the same problems faced by the people I grew up with during the 80's. The traditional family model has changed and it's going to be a long hard road to bring the majority of our community back to the basics. If we want our community to begin to grow again, we must use non-traditional methods to bring people back to our community and reach out to the youth as early as possible.

In my travels in high school and in college I was able to see how different nationalities, cultures and other regions of the United states addressed different problems and how government can help spur growth in areas that had

been stagnate for years. As a representative of the United States in Australia and New Zealand, I learned more about how the displacement of unrelated cultures can bring social ills to society and how it is important to be more inclusive of everyone in society for a community to grow. In my travels to most major cities in the Southeast United States (Atlanta, Miami, Memphis, New Orleans, Houston, Dallas, Jackson, Birmingham, Nashville, etc.) I found most interesting that no matter how much pride I had in my native city, everyone else had the same sense of pride in their city. I found it extremely useful to fully embrace each city for what it had to offer and learn what things served people best in their locations; I then would compare it to my home town. Being receptive to new ideas allows my eyes to be open to all the possibilities that Collinwood has to offer, and it allowed me to see things in my local neighborhood that I didn't see before my travels.

I found my time outside the community just as valuable as my time growing up in Collinwood. There are many dynamic ways to address the youth problem, we need to focus on creating new venues in our community to draw people back to our neighborhoods to work, shop and enjoy themselves. In modern day society we are no longer competing locally. Now we must leverage our natural resources and enhance them to create an environment where people want to come and enjoy everything that Collinwood has to offer. Let's step-up and recapture our community one step at a time, let's not wait any longer, let's work, grow, think outside the box and be as

Making progress towards success

Donald Holcombe

Hello, my name is Donald Holcombe and I always have been proud of my community, I feel as if it is my duty to be the voice of the youth in our neighborhood. When someone asks me where I am from, I graciously hold my head high and say, “The Lakeshore area.” When everyone says our community needs change, I have this saying, “our community doesn't need change it just needs to be revised.” I never wanted to be a hero in my community because to me heroes save the world, me, I just want to save one helpless child at a time, and then the world would transform. It has been my effort to make children who are non-believers believe and those who are non-achievers achieve.

I always have had faith in the youth of my community. So when politicians make their entire campaign around the youth, that's when I have to draw the line, that's when enough is enough. I hate when political figures use the youth especially in my community for political benefits. Sure our neighborhood has a few bad apples, but my mother always told me, “When you have a bad apple, you don't throw it out. You cut the bad part off and continue to make apple

pie,” and I have always believed that.

So I have to say this, we may not be able to create a perfect community, but we could create a premier community. It has been said that youth crimes in our community have increased 5%. If that is true, wouldn't one think that if we increase youth activities by 6% that would take away at least 5% of crimes? We have to implement programs that work for the youth and not what we think would work for the youth.

I am doing my part by starting a garden in my neighborhood. I hope to make it a Market Garden so I can put the youth in my neighborhood to work gardening. The youth would be able to sell their produce and make money from it. I am also trying to start a Youth Block Club in the E.156th St. area. If you know any youths who would like to join this block club, please call Denis Lorek, the Community Organizer at North-east Shores, for more information 216-481-7660. If you would like to see my video on youtube about the Corsica Garden 2 please follow this link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=he6hdymfpg4>. I am Donald Holcombe, and I would like for you to join my effort in making progress towards success.

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News from Northeast Shores

Ribbon Cutting at Lakeshore Village

Brian Friedman

On October 19th, the Lakeshore Beach Apartments were officially completed with a ribbon cutting attended by Mayor Frank Jackson and Councilman Michael Polensek. The complete renovation of the 108 units at Lakeshore Beach Apartments was hailed as a model public-private partnership. This \$14 million project was completed with assistance from the Department of HUD, Ohio Housing Finance Agency, the City of Cleveland and US Bank. Mayor Frank Jackson commented about how important the improved apartment community was to the quality of life for the renters living there. Councilman Polensek expressed how impressed he was with the workmanship done by the contractor and how quickly the transformation occurred. Lakeshore Beach Apartments is majority-owned by

Dominium Development & Acquisition. Non-profit minority owners are Northeast Shores and Christian Relief Services. Jeff Huggett, principal for Dominium, stated during his comments that “the project went through a lengthy local review process and that process actually led to the project being improved.” Brian Friedman, Northeast Shores Executive Director, shared the history of Lakeshore Beach Apartments and how the renovation is one more incremental step in the fulfillment of the Lakeshore Plan. He commented that “Admittedly, we were skeptical of Dominium because they were new to the area. After underwriting their experience and reputation, we found that Dominium was a great for-profit developer to work with.” Brian Friedman finished his comments by sharing some specific details where Dominium showed their thoughtfulness and finished his comments by inviting



Dominium to please return to the community and invest again soon. The ribbon cutting was held at the brand-new community center available for use by the residents. This new building, located in the center of the project, boasts a computer center for residents, meeting room, and playground. The total project went very smoothly due to the total cooperation of the residents that remained on-site through the total redevelopment.

House on Muskoka undergoes renovation

Brian Friedman

Northeast Shores Development Corporation continues to foster and increase home ownership opportunities in North Collinwood by acquiring and renovating vacant, abandoned, and foreclosed properties. This fall, Northeast Shores began construction at 19205 Muskoka, a three-bedroom, one-bath colonial slated to be completely renovated top to bottom. We are proud to announce that this property has been presold to an artist couple, who will relocate from Lakewood to become a part of our neighborhood’s growing arts community. Northeast Shores worked closely with the buyers to design a home that meets their needs as artists. The house combines the best of vintage charm with today’s modern conveniences.

The first floor includes a mid-size living room with carpet and a brick fireplace. The buyers have a significant interest in having open space, so we were able to remove the wall that divided the dining room from the kitchen. Removing this wall has allowed the homeowners to install a bar-height countertop, offering better use of the space and allowing additional seating when entertaining guests. Northeast Shores offers affordable housing and maintenance-free living in our community. Check out the Northeast Shores Web site (www.northeastshores.org), which lists several properties that still need homebuyers. And please don’t hesitate to call Northeast Shores Development Corporation at 481-7660 if you wish to tour our properties and select your new dream house.



Become a member of Northeast Shores

Why should you become a member of Northeast Shores? I am sure you may have asked yourself what the benefit of being a member of Northeast Shores will do for you. Instead of wondering what it will do for you, you should be asking what being a member of Northeast Shores will do for North Collinwood. What is Northeast Shores? It is a local Community Development Corporation. What does Northeast Shores do? We help people and businesses in North Collinwood. How does Northeast Shores help people and businesses? We provide access to the Weatherization program which heats houses in Collinwood and parts of Euclid. We provide access to the Paint Program through a partnership with the City of Cleveland. We provide technical help to businesses interested in the Storefront Renovation Program. We help new

businesses start up and succeed in North Collinwood. We help people write grants to support their volunteer activities and then help them manage their grants once they are obtained. We buy houses, rehab them and then sell them to qualified buyers. We help start Community Gardens. We help start Block Watches. We are a partner in the rehab of the Lakeshore Village Apartment complex. We just bought the LaSalle Theater. We have parades down E.185th St. We help promote the business districts and help them with branding projects which results in new banners in the business districts. We have helped bring over 42 million dollars in neighborhood investment to this area in the last 5 years. The list goes on and on. Watch this space visit our blog at www.northeastshores.org/blog to keep updated on what Northeast Shores.

General Membership hears final plans for recreation center

Brian Friedman

On Tuesday, October 20th, the general membership of Northeast Shores was invited to hear a presentation covering the final designs for the new Recreation Center to be built on Lakeshore Boulevard. Attendees heard from Paul Volpe of City Architecture as he reviewed the process of the designs and showed the detailed plans for the center. The drawings were quite impressive and thoughtful for what the community has requested over the years. The center, once built, will truly be state of the art with all the modern amenities needed to be a first-class building. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions of Paul Volpe and he was very diligent to respond to all the questions. Tired of missing great community meetings like this? Become a member of Northeast Shores today! Just go here: <http://www.northeastshores.org/membership.php> Missed the presentation but want to read Steve Litt from the Plain Dealer review the designs? Just go here: http://blog.cleveland.com/architecture/2009/10/city_architecture_design_for_c.html

Yes! I would like to join Northeast Shores Development Corp!

TODAY'S DATE: _____

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL
or BUSINESS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

I would be interested in participating in the following committees:

☐ Residential Real Estate ☐ Community Outreach ☐ Marketing and Media ☐ Commercial Development

All membership dues are tax deductible. Northeast Shores Development Corporation is a non-profit IRS Code 501(c) 3 charity.
Please make checks payable to NORTHEAST SHORES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION and mail to 317 E. 156th St. Cleveland, Ohio 44110.

We will provide any donation letters requested by your accountant for tax purposes.

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11-11 HEAVY TRASH • Whiskey Daredevils
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TOMMY CASTRO
COCO MONTOYA

SAT, NOV. 21 • 8:30 PM BALLROOM
ASYLUM STREET SPANKERS

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11-14 STARZ • Hot Rails • Suede Bros.
11-19 IAN MCLAGAN • Greg Townson

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Write for the paper • www.collinwoodobserver.com

Arts & Entertainment

International acts—right around the corner

Cindy Barber

The folks at the Observer have asked me to explain a little of what we do at the Beachland Ballroom and Tavern for some neighbors who may be new to the area or just haven't had the time to look into our efforts. I often lament the fact that we spend thousands of dollars to bring quality national entertainment to Cleveland and few of the people who live within a couple miles have taken advantage of that opportunity.

Sometimes we have more people who have traveled from Detroit or Canada at our events than Clevelanders. Of course some people are live music fans and some are not. And some of my acquaintances in the neighborhood complain about just being too old. However, we often do quiet acoustic shows that are fully seated, for the oldsters of the world. For example: this Saturday, Nov. 7, we have Pat DiNizio from the Smithereens and Freddy Johnston for a sitdown show. On Nov. 13, we are bringing in the legendary Chicago blues performer Lonnie Brooks, for an 8 p.m. show. On Nov. 17, the charming country/folk singer Carrie Rodriguez will wow any fans of Nancy Griffith or Shawn Colvin. And on Nov. 20, the legendary Nashville songwriter Rodney Foster will perform.

If you like more rocking blues, New Orleans horns or classic rock, the Beachland has that too. On Nov. 12, the great Dirty Dozen Brass band celebrates its 25th anni-

versary with a New Orleans explosion of fun at the Beachland. On Nov. 14, '70s band The Starz does a special reunion. On Nov. 16, a great blues guitar double bill features Tommy Castro and Coco Montoya. And on Nov. 19, Rod Stewart sidekick from the Small Faces, Ian McLagan returns to our stage.

So this is for those of you who may not be aware of opportunities you may be missing. If you don't know the sound of some of these artists, we make it really easy to go to our website and click onto their MySpace sites, which usually feature sample tracks to listen to. We do charge a cover charge, but that money goes to pay the bands and makes it possible to bring in this sort of quality entertainment.

We have two rooms, a Tavern that holds 150 standing/100 seated and the Ballroom that holds 500 standing/300 seated. Both venues have a full bar, and a limited menu of food is served at the bar until 11 PM every night there is a show. We provide off-duty security officers to make sure everyone is safe getting to and from the facility. Our sound systems are topnotch, our staff friendly and devoted to the cause of presenting live music in a town that developed the legend of a great live music town, going back to the '40s and '50s.

We especially love to present events that reflect Cleveland's great music history, such



Lonnie Brooks

as our presentation on January 22, in conjunction with the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, of Ronnie Spector, who was at one time an artist with local label Cleveland International Records, after her "Be My Baby" days of the Ronettes.

So you are invited to check us out through www.beachlandballroom.com. We'd love to see a few more neighborly faces at our door.

Cindy Barber is co-owner of the Beachland Ballroom

A SPOOKTACULAR I- SCREAM BASH ON 185TH

Sarah Gyorki

Arts Collinwood is sending a big shout-out to all the great merchants on E. 185th Street who made this year's Halloween I Scream Bash such a huge success. Traditionally held at Mickey's Ice Cream, this year's event moved inside to Helping Hands Day Care—and a little early cold spell did nothing to dampen the fun. More than 100 local children and families turned out to paint pumpkins, make crafts, play games and win prizes, send letters to the military, get their faces painted and hold their very own sidewalk parade. Everyone left with goodies—and a good feeling about our neighborhood. When it comes to Halloween fun, there's no better place to live! And the local businesses that turn out to help provide special memories for the kids deserve our thanks. Can't wait to see what the winter holidays will bring!



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The primary goal of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District is to become a premier school district in the United States of America.



www.cmsdnet.net

High School Spotlight

Villa Angela - St. Joseph's Senior Ronnel Spates rushes for the record



VASJ Senior running back Ronnel Spates broke the school record held by Desmond Howard '88 and Brandon McDowell '00 for rushing touchdowns in a single game when he ran for 6 touchdowns in the Viking's 41-13 win over North Coast League opponent Cleveland Central Catholic on Oct. 10th. With his 6 touchdowns, he ties Brandon McDowell's total game touchdown record. The Vikings finished the season strong with an overtime victory against Trinity, 20-14 on Halloween. The team missed a playoff berth by only .043 points.

VASJ lives

continued from Page 1

for its work and reiterated VASJ's importance to Cleveland and Euclid. In less than a year, our new president has improved our financial position significantly and, with our principal, implemented the work to set our academic bar ever higher. We have a new VASJ Board of Advisors who are passionate activists – your neighbors and friends who believe in the wonderful work our educators are doing here and want to support it. Faculty and staff, those who are new like me, as well as those who are veterans, strongly believe in 21st Century Catholic education and know the exceptional young adults who walk these halls and go out from our doors to improve the world.

It often takes an outsider to see characteristics of a thing that those who've been around it every day can no longer see. As someone new to VASJ and to Cleveland's east side Catholic school community, I recognize what you have in your backyard: a true jewel of Catholic education. VASJ is alive – it is a living, thriving institution of academic excellence that serves a solid and eclectic neighborhood. Its presence is necessary to the people that live around it, as well as to the Diocese of Cleveland as a whole.

VASJ is the only school in the world to hold the distinction of being co-sponsored by the Marianist Brothers and the Ursuline Sisters. Our school lives and breathes the core values of these religious orders which include academic excellence, family spirit, inclusiveness, social justice, community and bondedness, and adaptation to change.

We are adapting and constantly reevaluating how we can best prepare students for college and life. We are fortunate to be able to do it in a safe neighborhood setting so that the young people who spend many hours

here on academics, service, extra-curriculars and sports are conveniently close to home. We are the only high school that offers a pre-engineering program tied to a university. Our partnership with the University of Dayton provides our students with varied and significant engineering learning experiences here, in Dayton and elsewhere. We offer a strong campus ministry program and opportunities for student leadership and participation that only a smaller school can provide. Our college acceptance rate and scholarship awards are consistently high.

It is human nature to take those things for granted that are always with us. VASJ and its predecessor schools have served this neighborhood for decades and have educated many of its children. Sadly, it is a reality that our Catholic schools continue to become casualties to the economic and culture shifts of our time. However, VASJ is not gone and not going. We are moving forward in our mission to enroll those students who want to work hard, excel and contribute to our school and the greater community.

My request to you in the local community is to support VASJ as a necessary and valuable neighborhood anchor. Visit to see the great things our students and faculty are doing. Attend our plays, open houses and sports events. Get to know us again.

My request to parents during this recruiting season is to consider VASJ. We are an excellent educational choice right next door and offer an outstanding Catholic high school experience for your son or daughter. We want your children to be our students and, contrary to the neighborhood talk, we aren't going anywhere but up. Come with us.

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Collinwood's Swaggtacular event

Imane Blaine

Another successful event took place at Collinwood High School on October 24. The diverse group of attendees came to support their school's Homecoming located in the high school's gymnasium. I was amazed at the organization and supervision that was in evidence at this event. With the help of the school's staff and security, everyone was able to come to and from the event safely and securely. Though the girls looked awesome in their 6-inch stiletto shoes, and skinny jeans, I was shocked at how they could still effortlessly "Jerk" and do the "So Icey" dance without ripping or twisting anything.

Miranda Levett and Gary Little took home the crowns for Mr. and Ms. Hollywood Swagg of '09. After doing the "Ricky Bobby" and the "Halle Berry" a million times, it was time to let the homecoming King and Queen lead the first slow jam of the night, "Under" by Pleasure P.

Local photographers helped capture the moment for \$12 with professional pictures and humorous frames. I chose the "Thug Life." Glad that I packed a pair of flats in my bag, I

came out of my own stilettos and ended the night with a final line dance by artist "Cupid.".

Though the dance ended at 11, the night was still young enough for everyone to meet at McDonald's to eat and chat about their night. I decided to just head home to catch some Z's and soak my feet, for that night sure was fun but it wore me out.

I think it's safe to say that Collinwood showed everyone a great "Hollywood Swagg."



CHS pep rally shows respect

Arnita Washington

The students of Collinwood High School prepared for their Homecoming weekend by putting on an all-school Pep Rally the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 23rd. The Pep Rally started off with the students standing showing respect as they opened with the J.R.O.T.C. presenting their colors. Following that came the national anthem sung by Josilin Bell, a young senior with a very strong voice.

As a matter of fact, the entire 12th grade class showed the strength of their voices as they chanted, "Seniors the class of 2010!" They presented to us the young women and men of tomorrow as they came and took their seats in the senior section holding a sign saying 'Class of 2010 and Free Blue' (a senior from last year.) While seniors were holding up their 2010 sign, the 11th graders (future seniors) started to shout "011!" as they went back and forth with the seniors showing their school spirit.

Everyone had a chance to show how much they loved their CHS when the cheerleaders cheered "I LOVE MY CHS!"

There were a lot of other performances, but

the most important part of this Pep Rally was introducing the Fall athletes such as the football team, the volleyball, cross country, and the cheerleaders, varsity and JV. The Railroader, our mascot, came out and hyped up the crowd by bringing down a sledge hammer and letting a member of the football team use it to break the brick. Next, two students came out and expressed to us what a railroader is and how we are all railroaders.

My favorite part of the Pep Rally was when the cheerleaders determined which grade had the most school spirit but of course the seniors won as they rushed the stage and started to dance. Toward the end of the rally, they put on Flocka (a rapper) with the intention to let the seniors dance to it on stage but most of the crowd was up there as well. As the Pep Rally came to an end, J.R.O.T.C. had to retire their colors while the students stood in respect. For being a ninth grader, I enjoyed the Pep Rally. To me the Pep Rally shows the respect and support that the teachers and students have for their athletes that win and lose but most importantly, represent Collinwood!

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School News

SCHOOL NEWS IN BRIEF

Longfellow Students Are Cool About Fire Safety
Suzanne Van Leer

October is Fire Prevention month, and Longfellow teachers made sure their students understood the importance of fire prevention and fire safety. Students in preschool, kindergarten and first grade learned ways to prevent fire, and what to do in case of fire. They know to leave their homes to call 911. The term, “stop, drop and roll” now rolls off their tongues as naturally as saying hello.

On Friday, October 23rd, Battalion Chief Johnny Brewington, along with Fire Fighters Sylvester Johnson and Larry Gray, visited Longfellow to provide students with essential fire prevention information. Decked out in their handmade fire fighter helmets, the students learned important tips, such as don't hide, go outside; practice family fire drills; and crawl low under smoke. Possibly most significant was the importance of having at least THREE WORKING smoke detectors in the home. They presented a child-friendly video featuring a talking smoke detector, “Mr. Seemore Smoke.” He informed the kids about where to place smoke detectors, how to tell if the battery needs to be replaced, and when to replace the battery. They even got hands-on experience with changing a battery.

One of the highlights of the visit was when a fire fighter came out fully suited up, including gas mask and oxygen tank. When the fire fighter was unveiled, the students were amazed to discover kindergarten teacher Suzanne Van Leer under all that gear.

The Cleveland Fire Department will give up to three free smoke detectors to any family that needs them. They'll even install them for you. Simply call the Cleveland Fire Department at 216-361-5535. Thank you, firefighters, for teaching us how to be safe!

Future nurses take the lead at Henry Longfellow
Sean Patton

For several years Henry Longfellow and the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University have been involved in a partnership.

Each fall, nursing students visit Henry Longfellow and engage the entire student body in various projects.

The nursing students work in the classrooms and discuss with the students such topics as nutrition, proper sleep habits, hygiene and reminding students about frequent hand-washing to help prevent the spread of thdisease.

The future nurses also spend recess each Monday and Friday playing games and getting acquainted with students. Their final project, “The Winter Olympics,” is an activity held at Collinwood High School. On this night students at Henry Longfellow, along with their family members, compete at games and events coordinated by the nursing students. This year the event will be held on Thursday, November 19th from 6-8 pm.

Henry Longfellow is very grateful for its partnership with the Case Nursing students and we look forward to our Winter Olympic Night.



Students at Henry W. Longfellow learn about fire safety on Oct. 23rd.

Molly Day - OH Perry
Victoria Janke-Mousty

On October 19, Senator and Mrs. Voinovich returned to OH Perry to honor the memory of their daughter, Molly, who was tragically hit and killed as she walked back to school in October, 1979. This year marks the 30th anniversary of her tragic death. Each year, the Senator and his wife return to Molly's school, OH Perry, to present her school and another Major Work (gifted) school in Cleveland with a gift in her memory. This year, Benjamin Franklin was the other school chosen. Students from both schools prepared a demonstration of Major Work talent. Students from Benjamin Franklin performed a “gifted rap.”

The students from OH Perry put on “The Golden Ticket”, our version of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The skit offered a message to the students of Major Work that they have a golden ticket by being members of the program. After the performances, the Senator presented OH Perry, Benjamin Franklin, and the Catholic Diocese with checks to support the gifted programs at their schools. Senator Voinovich spoke to the children, telling them he felt that Molly's spirit was still in our halls and that she would always be their little girl. He also challenged the students to take advantage of their golden opportunity in their schools. Molly's spirit does live in the halls of OH Perry, as seen by the smiles on the students' faces when they met the Senator and his wife, and were so appreciative of all of their support over the years.

VASJ creates Pilla Scholarship
Brian Menard

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School has announced the creation of the Bishop Anthony M. Pilla Scholarship to begin with the 2010-2011 school year. The \$1,000 renewable scholarship is designed to recognize top Catholic students coming to VASJ from Catholic elementary schools, and will be awarded later this year to two students applying to join the VASJ community as incoming students next fall. Criteria for selection of scholarship awardees will include the VASJ placement test, school transcripts, and letters of recommendation from each applicant's parish pastor and Catholic school principal or teacher.

Thank you, Experience Corps!
Stacy Lambert-Johnson

Iowa Maple School would like to welcome back all of our Experience Corps Tutors. Experience Corps is an organization for “experienced” adults who are giving back to their community. They can be seen at Iowa Maple in the classrooms or in the hallways tutoring students every day. They are usually easily distinguishable because of the red vests that they wear and the big smiles they give our students when they come in contact with them. This year, we are fortunate enough to have 14 tutors along with coordinator, Mr. Young. It takes a village to raise a child, and Iowa Maple School is proud that Experience Corps tutors are part of our village.

Memorial School kicks off Fire Safety Month
Steve Andras

At the beginning of October, Memorial School and the Cleveland Fire Department kicked off Fire Safety Month with several assemblies. With the sad history of Memorial's past, when fire took so many young lives, it was fitting for this site to be the kick-off site for Fire Safety Month. In addition to the assemblies on fire safety, a poster contest was held throughout the month, with winners receiving a book bag full of supplies, compliments of Cleveland's Fire Department. In addition, winning rooms also received a pizza party. Special thanks to Lt. Larry Gray and Chief Johnny Brewington for their effort and support. The winners of the contest were Jaylon Hines, Avonte Donerson, Diamond Patton, Kymberly Payne, Jazmine Matthews, Tamia Bell, Deja Liddell, Cameron Barclay and Isreal Yancy. Congratulations to them and to all Memorial students who took part in the contest and learned how to be safe and prevent fires in their homes.

NAC students meet Sen. Brown
Amy Britton

The path of excellence continues as Noble Academy Cleveland joins Sen. Sherrod Brown in Washington D.C for coffee and tea. Students; Miya Strother, Jazmin Davis, Steven Funnell, Rodney Pittman, Anastasiya Thomas, and Valentina Slechticovas along with director Hasan Kose and language arts teacher Marcie Rashley took a field trip to our Capitol to share our path of excellence with Sen. Sherrod Brown. The students received a private tour of the Capitol Building and then shared the success of the school with Sen. Brown while enjoying coffee and tea. The students eagerly spoke about how Noble Academy Cleveland is preparing them for high academic achievements and their future. The senator thanked Mr. Kose and Mrs. Rashley bringing the students to Washington D.C and building a strong and solid school in our community.





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Faith in Collinwood

Getting to know. . . Monique Sparks

Susan Brandt

I first met Monique Sparks in a class at the Levin College of Urban Affairs; we were both taking the Neighborhood Leadership Class. She is a graduate of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, where she attended Kenneth W. Clement, Margaret Spellacy, Collinwood High School for 2 years and finally Jane Addams Business Careers Center in data processing until 1988.

Monique is the mother of two children, a son who is 17 and a daughter age 9. Her son attends South High School and is in their Animal Care program, while her daughter attends O.H. Perry and is in the gifted and talented program. Needless to say, Monique is very proud of the accomplishments of both of her children.

As a parent involved with her children's schools, she feels there is a lot of work to be done. Parents need to be empowered in terms of knowing their rights and how to better help children, and should definitely come in and have lunch with their kids, and actually eat the food! Parents should ask questions,



and the administration needs to become more friendly.

She began to get involved on a grassroots level and thought, why not try to bring something to the Collinwood area collectively? meaning both sides of the bridge. Monique, along with a couple of other par-

ents, came together and put a plan together for a Community PTA. This is a PTA for the community including parents, seniors, council people and business owners. Everyone involved is invited to come together for sake of the children. Our children are our next leaders, business owners etc... Their first meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Collinwood Library, located on E 152 and St. Clair.

Monique currently sits on the Parent Advisory Council with the Ohio Department of Education. Their aim is to start a regional council across the state. The council will look more closely at the issues parents face with their children, and how the council members can work with the districts in which their members reside, to assist with parental involvement. Their goal is to keep it going, from a strong start at the elementary level, to a lasting end, all the way through to high school. The region she represents is called the Northeast Region; they are the first of the council to start, and to be the model for others that will follow.

Here are Monique's 10 questions:

Q) What is your idea of perfect happiness?
A) My idea of perfect happiness is living my life where I am now, with kids and the level of parental involvement I have now with my children's education.

Q) What do you consider to be your greatest achievement?

A) My greatest achievement is being able to take risks and obtain skills, I can market to supplement income. Also going back to school to obtain a paralegal degree.

Q) What is the quality you most like in a person?

A) I like for people to know how to have fun, be honest and show a level of loyalty toward others.

Q) What do you value most in your friends?

A) In my friends I value honesty, loyalty and the ability to laugh and take a joke and to really know that a friend is not for a sometime but can be for a lifetime.

Q) What is your most treasured possessions?

A) Most treasured possessions are my two beautiful children.

Q) What is your greatest extravagance?

A) My kids are my greatest extravagance; children can always find ways to help you spend money.

Q) Who are your heroes in real life?

A) My heroes in real life are those individuals that have made it through all levels of diversity dealing with race, class or level of accomplishments, and still keep a level head.

Q) What makes you unique?

A) My uniqueness is my love for people no matter where they are in life, good or bad. I never judge anyone and if I can assist in any manner, whether a resource is a phone number or a plate of food, I will give it.

Q) If you could change one thing in your life what would it be?

A) I would like to have lots of money so I can build and develop programs for children and seniors and academies for parents, other programs for the empowerment of others.

Q) What is your favorite word?

A) OMG!!!! OH MY GOD

St. Casimir's Church welcomes the whole community!

Vilija Nasvytis

The changes in the Cleveland Diocese are leaving their mark on many neighborhoods. We are fortunate that the four churches in the North Collinwood cluster will remain to serve the faithful in the community. One church, however, is undergoing some fundamental changes.

On Sunday, October 18, 2009, The Most Reverend Richard Lennon, Bishop of Cleveland, officiated at the Closing Mass of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church at 18022 Neff Rd. The following Sunday, October 25, His Excellence also officiated at the Opening Mass of the newly formed St. Casimir's Parish at the same location.

This new parish is actually the result of the merger of Our Lady of Perpetual Help with St. George Church, formerly of the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood.

Change is bittersweet. At St. George church, parishioners said their final farewells to the church where many went to school, were baptized, married, and from where they buried their loved ones. At Our Lady, parishioners bid farewell to their pastor of 35 years, The Rev. Gediminas Kijauskas, S.J. The new pastor at the new St. Casimir Church is The Rev. Joseph Bacevice, who served at St. George for the past 29 years.

St. Casimir's promises to be a vibrant community parish. The welcome mat is out! Come see what it has to offer - make yourself a part of the new fabric! Masses are as follows: Vigil Saturdays 5:30 p.m., English language mass Sundays 8 a.m. and 12 p.m., Lithuanian language mass Sundays 10 a.m. Daily masses will be at 7:30 a.m.

Miracles happen. . .

Evangelist Margaret Dua

This is a story of my wonderful seven-year-old grandson Gregory Giles Jr. In the middle of the night my grandson woke up. He wanted some assistance with the bathroom so he tried to wake me up. Gregory tried and tried to wake me up but I was unresponsive. He called 911 and stayed on the phone until they found out where I lived. The house alarm went off when Gregory ran outside in the driveway so that EMS could see him. When I woke up there was an ivy in my arm. There were beautiful spirited people all looking at me: The Collinwood Police Department, fire department, EMS, my daughters and my grandson. My grandson told me that he asked God to wake me up and to send an angel to help me. God sent me a caring group of people and my little angel Gregory Giles Jr.



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Our Creator!

Sonya Evans

All of the natural world acknowledges
GOD! Observe—can't we see with
our hearts, that we're not apart.
Except for some men, what or who
do we think we are???

We're not above the clouds, moon, sun,
sky, the stars!!! What or who do we
think we are???

We are dots in the whole creation,
Acknowledge GOD. What or who
do we think we are???

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Nan's Notes

PREVIEWS AND REVIEWS

Nan Kennedy

CASEY AND OMAITZ IN THE GALLERY

November 6 opening
At first glance, these artists couldn't be more different – Amy Casey's continued reworking of the elements of houses and wires – old Cleveland houses, old Cleveland buildings, wire fences, swinging wires like a tornado of utility lines is so much more figurative than Jen Omaidt's assemblages, prints and swirling paintings. But there are points of convergence – the Omaidt swirls often echo the tangled Casey wires, both palettes play off intense, subdued reds and blues against darker colors, and both turn out detailed, complex works that repay long, long looks.
Arts Collinwood 15605 Waterloo Road, 216-692-9500, www.artscollinwood.org. Gallery hours are Thur/Fri 6-9 p.m.; Sat/Sun 1-5 p.m., and whenever the Café is open.

BIGSHOT TOYWORKS AT SHOPAROONI

Opening November 6
Shoparooni, along with Bigshot Toyworks, is presenting what devotees call "an absolutely amazing group show" featuring wooden DIY toy figures customized by more than 40 artists -- including Cleveland's own Amanda Spayd (better known, perhaps, as Squeaky Queen, purveyor of sweet-smelling soaps), who creates – among other things -- insect-gargoyles (gargoyle-insects?) that are strangely appealing; and Chris Ryniak, whose creature paintings and sculptures have appeared in galleries here and abroad as well as in books and periodicals. The exhibit will run until December 5 before moving on to other cities.
Bigshot Toyworks is a creative studio specializing in the design and production of unique collectibles, toys and art objects, with roots in industrial design, toy design and digital sculpting.
SHOPAROONI, 15813 Waterloo, 216.383.3633., www.shoparooni.com. Winter hours: Monday – Closed; Tues, Wed, Thurs - 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.; Friday - 3 p.m. - 10 p.m.; Saturday - 12 p.m. - 10 p.m.; Sunday - 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

REALITIES UNSEEN AT LOWLIFE

Opening November 6 "Realities Unseen" comprises new works by Andrew Shondrick and Adam Hoskins. After spending early childhood digging tarantulas out of the sand and talking to small animals, Andrew became a painter of vampirish bats, flying rats and human figures with very beautiful hands (I have a weakness for well-drafted hands – feet, too – from Da Vinci to a sadly missed Bengali painter we knew in Calcutta). Before making his way back to Cleveland, Andrew graduated from the University of Akron and was featured in the British magazine London Street Art Design as part of an article on emerging Ohio artists.
He is joined at LowLife by Adam H. Hoskins, another UA grad, who creates vast worlds to illustrate his animal novels. The result has an appeal rather like Beatrix Potter's world (on which, as a grandmother, I am an expert) – less meticulously rendered (but Beatrix painted for the Royal Society) but creating a distinct and inhabitable universe.
LowLife Gallery, 16101 Waterloo. Thursdays: 6p.m.-10p.m., Fridays: 6p.m.-11p.m., Saturdays: 5p.m.-11p.m.

FRAGMENTS OF FALL AT WATERLOO 7

Opening November 7 Beautiful pottery from Japan's Ikuko Miklowski. Archival photo collages by Barbara Hacha. Contemporary Chinese peasant paintings and paper cuts from The People's Republic Of China. (I've seen these; they're very appealing. And very reasonable.) Jewelry from Waterloo 7 regular Michelle Lake. Wood and stone carving from Fred Gearhart. Laurel Herbold's little people, inscribed on mugs, glasses and neckties (also her dribble paintings, I hope). Paintings by Ron Smith, a musician and photographer whose canvases reflect composition and camera techniques. Geoff Sallay's Frag-Ment paintings – shaped luan panels intricately painted. New work by fairytale-minded Jenna Fournier. And Jackson Pollack-influenced slate paintings by three students from the Euclid Activity Center, who've been taking welding lessons from Jerry to create an eight-foot sculpture that blows Jerry's mind. Wunderkind Gallery will also be showing its collection, and Jerry's son Tyler has contributed an unusual (to say the least) metal chair, plus his very appealing name tags, created from bits and pieces to spell out the name of your choice (well, in this case Tyler's choice, but he'll take orders). Waterloo 7 Gallery 16006 Waterloo; Waterloo Seven and Wunderkind are closed on Mondays; open 2-8-Tue, 2-8-Wed, 2-8-Thu, 2-10-Fri/Sat, 1-6-Sun. Phone 239-293-95458.

QUIET STORM AND M.A.R.S. AT ARTS COLLINWOOD

On Saturday, November 7, Diverse City will present Quiet Storm and M.A.R.S. at the Arts Collinwood gallery, 8-11 pm. There'll be food, poetry, fun, music and a cash bar. Admission \$5 (\$3 with nonperishable food donation). The event is co-sponsored by CeJa Publishing. M.A.R.S. is an instrumental ensemble that blends classical with jazz and hip hop, led by Matthew "Cool MaTT" LeSueur. Myron "Quiet Storm" Gaines is a poet who performs and instructs high school students in the art of poetry with Slam U.
Diverse City: Multicultural Marketing & Recruitment is an organization focused on teaching underrepresented individuals how to market themselves to academic and employment prospects, and assisting schools and organizations lacking diversity with recruitment, retention, and cultural sensitivity efforts. They will present The Moment of SLAM at Oberlin College, Monday, November 16, starting at 9 pm, and on November 24, they'll be volunteering at the Cleveland Food

Bank, 6pm - 8pm, repackaging food. The Food Bank, of course, is an actual neighbor, standing as it does on South Waterloo. If you'd like to join the Diverse City folks, respond by November 17 to Larkesha Burns at larkesha.burns@gmail.com. Volunteers must be at least 12 years old, and cannot wear sandals or open-toed shoes (because of the danger of dropping 200 pounds of sugar on your toes, perhaps).

SUNDAY AFTERNOON YOGA

Jen Lessin, yoga teacher and certified Occupational Therapist Assistant, teaches Kundalini Yoga in the Arts Collinwood Community Center on Sundays, 2-3:30 p.m. Come learn to use this ancient tool to cope with modern-day stress. This is yoga for all body types. \$10/session. Enter through the Arts Collinwood gallery, 15603 Waterloo Road.

MIDDLE EASTERN DRUMMING AT THE CAFÉ AT ARTS COLLINWOOD

November 6 Super-duper high-energy Middle Eastern drumming from New York City, like Led Zeppelin with no plants (I'm quoting there). Presenter Audio-Kreme (with a sound production stage on E. 185th) assures us that if we invite our friends, they'll love us more, and that's always good. You'll be at the Arts Collinwood gallery anyway on Friday evening, admiring the work of Amy Casey and Jennifer Omaidt; plan to stay for drumming and refreshment (and also to go down the street for the openings at Shoparooni and LowLife, of course).
The drumming begins at 9 pm; tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show, from www.beachlandballroom.com or 216.383.1124.

AND A DRUMMING WORKSHOP

But that's not all; the Friday concert will be followed by a drumming workshop with Raquy Danziger on Saturday, at Audiokreme Recording, 712 E. 185, starting at 2 p.m. \$15 at the door; register at 216.404.7827 or 216.319.1999. All levels welcome ... Bring your drum or borrow from AudioKreme.
Arts Collinwood 15605 Waterloo Road, 216-692-9500, www.artscollinwood.org. Gallery hours are Thur/Fri 6-9 pm; Sat/Sun 1-5 pm, and whenever the Café is open.

THIS WEEK AT THE MARKET

Ever want to learn to brew a beer that is perfect for you? Next Saturday, the Coit Road Farmers' Market will be celebrating the America Homebrewers Association's 11th annual "Teach a friend to homebrew day" by hosting a free brewing class. The Spice Guy (who is multi-talented) will be teaching beginner extract brewing as well as doing a complete all-grain batch. We will also cover equipment fabrication, including immersion wort chillers and mash tuns. Mash-in for the all-grain batch will be at noon, with the demo commencing after 1 p.m., when the market closes. For more about "Teach a friend to homebrew day," and home brewing in general, go to beertown.org. For other info call Kevin at (216) 531-3230 or email kevin@coitmarket.org. (By the way, check out the new website.) Coit Road Farmers' Market Coit Road Farmer's Market is located at the corner of Coit & Woodworth Road in East Cleveland. www.coitmarket.org. Open year-round Monday 4-7pm (featuring Blooming Patches CSA) and Saturday 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday 8 a.m.-1 p.m. mid-April to Mid December.

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Collinwood Eats

Welcome to the Sausage District

Story by Justin Vaughn • Photos by Bridget Caswell

“Welcome to Cleveland’s Sausage District,” my friend greeted me as I entered his backyard for a July 4th BBQ this past summer. “Cleveland’s what?” I returned.

Clearly, this was the right response, as it allowed me to become the recipient of an off-the-cuff seminar on the rich sausage community that we residents of Collinwood live among. The picnic itself was a testament to the community, sizzling on the grill were sausages that had been purchased from each different neighborhood location. Old friends and new from around the ward were laughing and chatting in the perfect, mild, summer temperatures.

Ultimately, that day set in motion the events that led to this story, as well as the three that will follow it. All together, we aim to provide an introduction to and celebration of the Sausage District, bringing you photographs of the institutions and individuals that populate the neighborhood’s industry and information we learn from our conversations

with them. In the coming weeks, we’ll bring you reports from R&D, Old World Meats, and Azman’s Meat, but today as we start this new project, we focus on the first stop on our self-guided tour of the district, Raddell’s Sausage on E. 152nd and Waterloo Road.

Jacob Raddell, the 23-year-old current manager and self-described fourth generation sausage maker, proudly notes he’s been sweeping floors at the family establishment since he could walk. As we chat about the operation, he tells us that the house-smoked Slovenian sausage is their specialty, and that while they make and sell a number of different products, it is this big seller that flies out the door the fastest, to the tune of 1,000 pounds a week (and up to 10,000 pounds during the holiday season).

Raddell’s klobase, which refers to sausage generally and not a particular meat, is made entirely by hand. The trio of young men at work this Saturday morning, three brothers



Jacob Raddell, 23, holds a photograph of his grandfather's store originally on Grovewood in Collinwood. His grandfather closed his store to join his son, Tom, twenty years ago. Jacob and his brothers are the fourth generation at Radell's.



and a friend, would spend as a team about an hour to make a single batch of smoked Slovenian sausage, a task that produces about 200 pounds of sausage and would take a one-man crew three to four hours if the separate tasks of weighing, grinding, mixing in the secret recipe (a precise blend of salt, pepper, sugar, garlic, and ground caraway), pushing, and hanging fell on a single individual's shoulders.

After the production process ends, the sausages then spend another 4 to 6 hours smoking before reaching their final destination: the refrigerated display cases in the shop. The smokehouses, where the hickory wood chips work their magic, are kept at 190 degrees, and the two in operation at Raddell's are a study in contrast; a massive double smoker complete

with hand-set timers looking old-world and sturdy, the newer computerized model a tribute to the modern age.

Regardless of which smoker the product goes into, it emerges the same way, destined to please the family's customer base, much of which goes back nearly as many generations as the company itself. While we were in the store, a pair of loyal customers, hailing from Hinckley and Chardon, picked up their split order – six pounds of Slovenian sausage. I asked one, a curious and warm woman named Diane, how long she'd been coming to Raddell's, to which she replied, "a long time." When I asked how long that size order would last them at home, she gave me a look and smile that said just as clearly, "not nearly so long."

It takes the crew about an hour to make a single batch of smoked Slovenian sausage, which produces about 200 pounds of sausage. Joe Skrabec, family friend of Raddell's is seen in background.

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A delicious ‘Taste of Autumn’

Lawrence Hill

Have you ever been to the Coit Rd. Market? You know, the one that seems to be a well kept secret over there in East Cleveland? Well, if you haven't, you need to go and see what is happening there every Wednesday and Saturday morning. A loyal coterie of vendors have faithfully gathered there for years, offering there wares and produce to all comers.

Kevin Scheuring, who oversees the Market, is on fire about it's possibilities and future. To that end, the Market board hosted A Taste of Autumn on Monday, October 19, at the historic Beachland Ballroom. It was an enjoyable affair, to say the least.



Guests check out raffle prizes won at the Taste of Autumn 2009, a benefit for the Coit Road Farmers Market.

Having heard a few negative things about the venue, I was definitely pleasantly surprised and impressed when I entered the lobby of the Ballroom. It was brightly lit and spacious, tastefully lined with autumn-hued mums. There were several tables, covered with a wide variety of items to be raffled off later in the evening.

Of note was a gift basket filled with over 160 spice packets, donated by Spice Hound, a \$50 gift certificate from Whole

Foods, and a hair care basket from Roots. I personally won one of 12 bottles of wine donated by Bratenahl resident Charles Bauernschmidt. Tickets were only \$20 for 25 tickets. The buyer could choose which items they wanted and deposit any of their tickets in the basket next to the item.

The real fun and excitement awaited within the doors of the Ballroom itself.

Upon entering I was impressed with the large number of people who filled the tables, and stood around the room. It was definitely standing-room only. One could overhear vari-

ous conversations being held among the truly diverse crowd of attendees. Nearly unanimous was the agreement that it was a great event, and the food was wonderful.

A few culinary highlights were: Corn Pudding with Shrimp, by Bistro 185, Chicken and Sausage Gumbo by Eric Wells of Skye Larea's Catering, and Curried Pumpkin Bisque from the Grovewood Tavern. A really unusual offering was Fried Apples from Beach Club Bistro, which looked like french fries, but were in actuality fried apples with a sweet glaze on them. Unforgettable!!

As a result of going to this event, i have had my curiosity piqued about several establishments in the area. I will be definitely going to the Grovewood Tavern and Bistro 185, to further experience their fare. A Taste of Autumn showcased the various chef's and there restaurants, as well as offered an opportunity for the community at large to support the Coit Rod Market. Congratulations to all who organized the event. I, for one, look forward to next year's event.

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