

EUCLID OBSERVER

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Neighbors helping Neighbors

by Gary DeWine

The Euclid Hunger Center (EHC) operates 52 weeks a year. Twice each week, on Wednesday and Saturday, food is distributed from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. In the month of August, we served 684 Euclid households, an increase of 161 households from the same month in 2012. These numbers have increased consistently each month this year. We expect to serve even more households in the coming months as a result of the reduction of SNAP benefits to families that took effect on November 1.

Grace Wright, our paid manager, oversees the daily operation of the Center. She holds a B.S. in Non-Profit Management and Social Work from Cleveland State. Grace coordinates the activities of volunteers, orders food from the Cleveland Food Bank, and arranges for pick-up of food from varying locations.

We maintain a 2002 Chevrolet van to make weekly pickups of food from various sources and locations. This year, in addition to its regular trips to the Cleveland Food Bank, the van transported 17,000 loaves of bread donated by Schwebels on East 200th Street. Additional trips each week to the Cleveland Food Bank allow fresh produce to be available for distribution to our clients. Our van should last us three more years.

The hands of many volunteers allow the EHC to run smoothly. Volunteers handle reception, stocking, pick-up, and distribution. The members of the Board of Trustees also serve voluntarily, and are responsible for the general oversight and management of the Center's operations.

The EHC is located in Room 17 in the lower level of the Shore Cultural Center; the space is ideal for our operations with ample parking,



Gary DeWine, President, Euclid Hunger Center Board of Trustees.

a waiting area, storeroom, housekeeping, and a well-laid-out distribution area.

This year, it will cost the Euclid Hunger Center \$43,000 to distribute 225,000 pounds of food to people in need in our city. Major budget items include wages for two part-time employees, van maintenance and fuel, insurance, rent and utilities. Our most daunting challenge is meeting this budget! We formally solicit monetary donations twice each year, but we accept donations year-round.

Your continued financial support will allow the Euclid Hunger Center to operate another year. We are *Neighbors helping Neighbors*. Thank you!

How to donate to the Euclid Hunger Center

The Hunger Center needs your help year-round!

- Donate online at www.euclidhungercenter.org.
- Mail checks made payable to Euclid Hunger Center to: P.O. Box 23446, Euclid, OH 44123
- Hold a food drive at your business, church or school! Or donate individually.

The following non-perishable items are most needed by the Center throughout the holiday season: gravy mixes, Stove Top Stuffing, cornbread/muffin mixes, canned pumpkin, canned cranberry sauce, flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, cake mixes.

Call Grace Wright at (216) 731-3329 for more information about the Euclid Hunger Center and to arrange delivery of your food drive donations. Thank you!

A dramatic success for Our Lady of the Lake

by Sarah Gyorki

Our Lady of the Lake's parish play performed to near sell-out crowds at the end of November. Nearly 900 people enjoyed performances of *The Adventures of the Fearsome Pirate Frank*, a dramatic comedy that featured more than 130 young members of the school and parish. Director David Malinowski, of Willoughby's Fine Arts Center, brought out the best in all the performers, and all three shows received rave reviews.

The actors were backed by a stand-out team of parents and volunteers, who managed everything from costumes and sound to programs and concessions. Their support allowed every one of the players to shine in what may have been one of the best productions the parish has staged. Father Joe Fortuna said "This was truly a community project. We couldn't be more proud of our children and their families. And perhaps the best part of seeing this show come to life was the way the students just blossomed before our eyes. We saw them displaying talents we'd never seen before."

Special thanks go to all the wonderful helpers, particularly Chairperson Dorothy Kane and Co-Chairs Sharon Furlan, Leah McSween and Katie Quinlan.



The Adventures of the Fearsome Pirate Frank featured more than 130 young members of the school and parish.

Maryanne Hiti created incredible costumes, and Natalie Jarosz, Janet Paciorek, Shannon Jerse, Sam O'Connell, Marilyn Hahn, Pam Smith, Karen McGarry, Kay O'Donnell, and Lisa Brazytis managed everything from make-up, tickets, props and programs to designing the set. Thanks also to Doug Kaprosy, Kevin Beuck, and Drew and Jen Kime, for managing setup and rehearsals. We're particularly grateful to our donors, including Duke Young, Jim Gallagher, Tony Furlan, Dave DeChant, Hosanna Design, Mike McGarry & Sons, VASJ, and Willoughby Fine Arts, who contributed everything from lighting and sound to costumes, flowers and paint. Every single parent helped out in one way or another as well, and it was this wonderful community support that helped to make the students' production magical.

Thank you all, for a whirlwind success for Our Lady of the Lake's drama program. We can't wait for next year!

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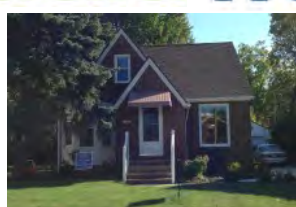
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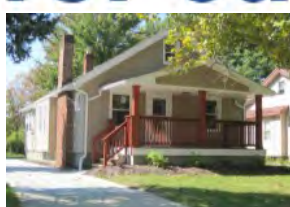
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Dialogue



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Published monthly with a current circulation of 10,000+ copies. The paper is made available free of charge and can be found at business locations within the City of Euclid and on our web site. The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the publisher and staff.

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The mission of The Euclid Observer is to attract, articulate and amplify civic intelligence and community good will in the City of Euclid and beyond.

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As a product of citizen journalism, The Euclid Observer is looking for people, ages 3 to 100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or an amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process.

Register at our website Member Center where you can submit stories, press releases, letters to the editor and photos. Go to www.euclidobserver.com, click on Member Center, sign in, click on Submit Story, and start writing. No need to register to post online calendar or classified ads.

You can mail your stories to the Euclid Observer office at 650 E. 185th St., Cleveland, 44119.

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OFFER EXPIRES: JANUARY 1, 2014

From the desk of Mayor Bill Cervenik

by Mayor Bill Cervenik

Winter is here and the cold and snow that comes with it. And when the snow does fall, you can be certain city crews will be out in full force clearing the streets. ODOT crews will also be nearby since they have recently opened a new 27,000 sq. ft. maintenance garage on the corner of Babbitt Road and St. Clair Ave.

The new ODOT building is large enough to store all equipment indoors, including two fully equipped mechanics' bays, a welding bay, an indoor truck washing station, a 6,000-ton salt storage facility and a decanting station for filtering hazardous materials from street sweeping and sewer operations.

Please remember when 2" or more of new snow has fallen, keep parked cars off the street until it has been plowed. This will allow crews to clear the roads in an efficient and timely manner.

I hope you enjoy the holiday season with family and friends. Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Happy Holidays from Euclid Vet

by Dr. Burt Khemsara

Euclid Veterinary Clinic is celebrating its two-year anniversary. We are located on Lakeland Boulevard in the space that was formerly Euclid Veterinary Hospital. Inc. This was owned by Dr. Stearns who greatly served the public for sixty years.

Now it is owned and operated by Dr. Burt Khemsara DVM. He worked by Dr. Stearns side for twenty of those years.

Dr. Burt, along with his friendly staff wants to carry on Dr. Stearns' tradition of quality care and compassion for our clients and their pets. As an animal clinic we offer reasonable prices for various services.

In the season that is approaching we would like to get to know our neighbors like you. Currently we are offering our new clients \$5 off the first office visit. Please cut out and bring this coupon in for this limited time offer.



All the players get together and jam at last week's Polka Hall of Fame Awards Show and 50th Thanksgiving Polka Party, hosted by the National Cleveland Polka Hall of Fame and Museum.

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Community



Hey Everybody! I'm back and this time I'm focusing on great local Diners & Dives! While some of you may think that the term, "Dive" is less than a term of endearment, I assure you, it isn't! It is used only with greatest reverence! I'm not a big fan of the McTaverns and franchised establishments. So, this is all about local eateries & taverns.

Just recently we did a Dive Bar Bus Trip. Among the stops were a few right here in

the neighborhood. Tradewinds Lounge, on East 200th, was the starting point. As always, Jack Murphy is always the most courteous host and certainly always a great supporter of activities as the Dive Bar bus tours. Popular Prices! All the Popular Beers and a great crowd of locals.

Gostilna's (a.k.a. Bob's Place) was our lunch stop. Bob's been around for 7 years or so, and even though the name suggests a Slovenian cuisine it serves American favorites. While we had a delicious BBQ Beef sandwich with a side of Potato salad, Bob's menu includes everything from homemade soups to burgers to steak dinner. Every day features another lunch and Dinner Special. The servings are huge! For example the Monday Night Pork Chop Dinner includes not two, but three pork chops. Tuesday's Stuffed Cabbage Dinner feeds both the wife and me. You also have to try the Wednesday Lunch Special...

Bob's 1/2# Hot Dog with chili, cheese & onions. (Is it lunch time, yet?) If you enjoy an good beer with your meal, Bob has one of the greatest bottle beer selections in town and usually a couple craft beers on tap and at great prices! He's got to be the best kept secret on East 200th St! Lunch and Dinner Specials are also available as "Carry-Outs. Bob offers lunch, Tuesday through Saturday and dinner Monday through Saturday. While the Browns are playing, Bob offers a free smorgasbord of sausage sandwiches, wings, veggie trays, etc and draft beer specials! Full menu on-line @ www.TheBobsPlace.com Don't miss the Live Music on alternating Saturdays!

Last stop in town was at Coach's Place. While Perry Ward, the Proprietor doesn't offer food, he does have a Craft Beer Special every month! Believe it or not, Christmas Ale was a paltry \$2.25! You gotta be kidding! NO MISPRINT! Really

\$2.25! Perry has done a make-over to the place over the last year. Looking good! I think Coach's started back in the day as a "Speak-easy", then evolved into a Biker Bar, and now is just a great neighborhood tavern with great prices. Jam Session Every Thursday Night!

If you're interested in joining us in the monthly DIVE BAR BUS TRIP, our next trip is Sat. Dec. 14. In the east, we start at Paradise Island, and Dover Garden in Westlake. We meet up at the Harbor Inn for lunch and brews and hit a few dives before finishing up at Becky's with a little pizza! More info on tickets/trips at www.DIVEBARSRUS.com

Just Divin' Around, Ron



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V Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

Faith. Family. Future.

Girls volleyball D-IV state runner-up

The 2013 volleyball season was a magical one for Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School.

A strong regular season followed by a dominating run through the postseason took the Vikings on an unforgettable ride through the Medina district, the Solon regional and all the way to Dayton for the Division IV state final four.

The team ended its season by taking the state championship runner-up trophy home to East 185th and Lakeshore Boulevard.

Maria Stein Marion Local defeated the Vikings in three games, 25-16, 25-22, 25-23, to win the Division IV state title. VASJ had lost only one game in six tournament matches prior to the state championship match. The Vikings finished the season 23-6. The Flyers lost one match all season and ended with a 28-1 mark.

It was VASJ's second state runner-up trophy in volleyball. The Vikings won second place in the Division III finals in 2006. VASJ won the state championship in 2001 and 2005, and the Vikings appeared in the final four in 1999.

VASJ was led in the state finals by junior Toni Beuck with 12 kills and 12 digs. Standout senior Danielle Hicks closed her tremendous career at Viking Village with nine kills and 20 digs. Nicole Cramer dished out 35 assists for the Vikings.

VASJ was hurt by 23 attack errors. Marion Local had just 15 attack errors.

VASJ Coach Mark Royer was named the News-Herald Coach of the Year after leading the Vikings to the Division IV state title game.

Hicks – the NCL White Division Player of the Year – was named to the News-Herald first team. The senior



The Lady Vikings volleyball team proudly display the regional championship trophy after defeating Tuscarawas Central Catholic 3-1 in the regional finals held in Solon. It is the first time VASJ girls volleyball has won this title since 2006.



Senior co-captain Casey Timko, VASJ Coach Mark Royer '75 and senior co-captain Danielle Hicks all received News-Herald honors.

averaged 3.85 kills per game and was dominant during the playoff run. She was chosen by her teammates as the Most Valuable Player for the season and is a D-I college recruit. Senior

libero Casey Timko was named to the News-Herald third team, averaging 5.2 digs per game.

McKenna Walker and Cramer were named to the News-Herald honor roll.



Toni Beuck '15, Nicole Cramer '15 and Rachel Smith '16 celebrate after realizing the team is heading to the state tournament.

Hicks and Timko are the Vikings' only two seniors, so expectations will be sky high for an experienced and talented squad to return to Wright State University in 2014.

Soccer clinches NCL White Division

Villa Angela-St. Joseph Coach K.C. Petraitis has the big picture in mind, but will never forget the image of a Division III sectional final loss to Oberlin that halted a memorable fall for the Vikings soccer team.

The VASJ season ended in heartbreaking fashion in double overtime with a 3-2 setback to Oberlin. The Vikings won 12 games this fall and took home the NCL White Division championship, so while it was an ultra-successful campaign, a painful ending in the postseason will have to serve as motivation instead of another step toward the ultimate goal of winning a state title.

"Our players worked their tails off

and gave everything they had, we just ran out of gas, and we had some injury and depth issues," said Petraitis. "It is what is, and we have to work harder at building up our bench, but I think what we did this year is the foundation for great things to come. We can only hope that what the kids have done this year is something we can use as a program moving forward.

"The school is in a great position right now, and I want everyone to understand to play soccer at VASJ is a serious thing. We have a good thing going, and we want to keep it going in the offseason."

Flint Porter – an honorable mention all News-Herald selection –

tied the sectional final game for VASJ and forced the extra session before Oberlin was able to win it in the second OT.

"When we were able to lock up the NCL championship, that's when I felt we had a special season, but nothing surprised me this year," Petraitis said. "We expected this team to be good, and I think the kids went out and proved we can play with anybody when we play the way we are capable of playing."

The Vikings (12-3-1) return most of the NCL championship squad next year – including Porter, Chad Porter, Jack Gallagher and Daniel Cervenik. Expectations will be high at The Village for another successful fall on the pitch.



The VASJ soccer team will return most of its players next year so expectations will be high for another successful season.

V Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

Faith. Family. Future.

Turnaround season for Viking football

The 2013 high school football season at the Viking Village turned out to be a renaissance for the proud program.

Villa Angela-St. Joseph, which finished 1-9 a year ago, defeated Holy Name on the final Saturday night of the regular season, 55-43, to qualify for the Division VI postseason with nine wins in the regular season. The following week, the Vikings fell at Mogadore, 41-27, in a regional quarterfinal and finished the campaign at 9-2.

VASJ's lone loss of the regular season came in Week 9 at Cleveland Central Catholic. The Vikings were unbeaten at home in 2013 at Sparky DiBiasio Stadium.

Junior standout Marvelle Ross rushed for 366 yards on 26 carries and scored 6 touchdowns in the win against Holy Name. Ross was one off the school record of 7 TDs in a game.

Ross – who rushed for 1,844 yards – was one of several Vikings to earn numerous postseason honors. Ross was named first-team all News-Herald and was one of five finalists for the Tony Fisher Award. He was also named



The Viking football team under the leadership of Coach John Storey '59 finished the 2013 season with a 9-2 record after finishing the 2012 season 1-9.

Division VI Northeast Lakes offensive player of the year and the MVP of the NCL White Division.

Quarterback Tre'Von Williams was a first-team all Northeast Lakes selection and a third team all News-Herald pick. Standout offensive lineman Kovas Kijauskas was named to

the Northeast Lakes District first team and was a third team all News-Herald selection.

Freshman wideout Jaylen Harris and two-way starter Erin Williams were both first team all NE Lakes District picks and honorable mention all News-Herald selections.

VASJ Coach John Storey was named D-VI Northeast Lakes District Coach of the Year and was one of the three finalists for the News-Herald Coach of the Year. Storey credited the coaching staff and the resiliency of the players for never quitting or giving up on the program while going through a difficult 1-9 season in 2012.

"Nobody left. They all stuck with it and learned a lot from that tough year," Storey said during the Fisher Award presentation ceremony on Varsity Chalk Talk at Hooley House on Nov. 25. "With so many juniors coming back next year, obviously we are excited."

VASJ will be a senior-laden group in 2014 with experience, talent and momentum, but the Vikings will be tested by a beefed up schedule that includes the renewal of the neighborhood rivalry with Euclid and a Week 4 game against D-VI powerhouse Kirtland.

The Vikings scored 50 or more points five times in 2013, including a school-record 70 points in a victory over Warren JFK.

VASJ boys hoops No. 1 in preseason Cleveland.com poll

Northeast Ohio is loaded with basketball talent.

According to one media outlet that covers more than 200 schools over seven counties, Villa Angela-St. Joseph is the cream of the impressive crop.

VASJ boys basketball Coach Babe Kwasniak doesn't put a lot of stock into rankings or polls. He puts even less emphasis on rankings in the preseason before any of the teams in the poll have played a game.

Kwasniak isn't interested in who is No. 1 in December. He is much more interested in where the Vikings rank come late March.

With all that said, even Kwasniak took VASJ's No. 1 ranking in the Cleveland.com preseason poll as a significant honor for the program.

The 2013 Division IV state champions – now competing in Division III – sit atop the first Cleveland.com poll of the season, beating out some traditional powerhouses and D-I juggernauts such as defending big-

school state champ Mentor, St. Edward, Shaker Heights and D-II state runner-up Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary.

"I've always said rankings don't mean much to me, so I don't want to be hypocritical and put too much into these," Kwasniak said. "I'm not sure I would have voted that way myself – there are too many good teams that we haven't beaten since I've been here. There are so many great high school basketball teams in Northeast Ohio. To even get mentioned is an honor really."

VASJ has a lot to look forward to this year, plenty of goals to strive for, and a lot to be excited about. Off the floor is equally exciting for the Vikings, if not more so for Kwasniak as his squad, is a top-ranked group in the classroom as well.

"I'm way more impressed with our 3.57 team grade point average than any ranking," Kwasniak said. "Our kids have worked their tails off in study hall."

As for the No. 1 spot in the preseason Cleveland.com poll, Kwasniak isn't taking the honor for granted, despite



The 2013-14 varsity boys basketball team, led by Coach Babe Kwasniak '94, will open the season with the No. 1 spot in the Cleveland.com preseason basketball poll.

the fact the Vikings are still four months away from the ultimate goal of a potential Division III title.

It will be quite a challenge for the Vikings to stay atop the poll for the entire winter considering the schedule VASJ will face over the next four months. The Vikings travel out of state to play nationally ranked teams in showcases in West Virginia, Kentucky and Pennsylvania, and will face Mentor, St. Edward, St. Ignatius and

Cleveland Central Catholic in state.

"The only No. 1 ranking we are interested in is the one that has a state banner attached to it," Kwasniak said. "I can't wait to actually focus on the objective and not the subjective. That is what competing is all about."

VASJ finished 25-4 last season and won the school's fifth state championship in boys basketball by rolling through the D-IV state tournament in Columbus in March.

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DECEMBER EVENTS

December 9	Regular Meeting of the Board of Education 7:30 p.m. at the Fordyce Building
December 11	Holiday Choir and Orchestra Concert 7 p.m. in the EHS Auditorium
December 12	EHS Staff vs. Forest Park Staff Basketball Game 5:30 p.m. at EHS in the Varsity Gym
December 16	Special Meeting of the Board of Education 7:30 p.m. in the Fordyce Building
December 18	Chardon Hills Winter Music Concert (Grade 1); 7 p.m.
December 18	Arbor 4th and 5th Grade Winter Concert; 7 p.m.
December 23, 2013-January 3, 2014 - Winter Break -	

Superintendent Bell Meets with Shoreview Student Council Members



Superintendent Bell met with Shoreview Student Council Members to talk about their vision for their school!

The Euclid City School District would like to express heartfelt gratitude for the generosity and kindness that the Euclid Firefighters Local 337 provided to our students through Operation Warm. A special thanks to Operation Warm organizer and the Chief Steward, Bill Mastroianni of the Euclid Fire Fighters Local 337.



Superintendent Bell with Euclid Fire Leaders

Twelve Days of Christmas at Forest Park

Forest Park Middle School's Student Council is sponsoring the first annual "Twelve Days Before Break" starting December 5. The plan is to countdown to break with surprise prizes, treats and fun! The Student Council created the different daily activities to engage the students and finish the first half of the school year strong. What an amazing way to end 2013.

Haislah signs with Notre Dame College

High-fives were flying after the first official letter of intent (this year) was signed by Euclid High School senior, Erin Haislah. Notre Dame College presented Miss Haislah with a full ride scholarship for basketball while family, friends, teachers, and administrators watched her sign her letter of intent.

Energetic Erin had a smile from ear-to-ear as she described her love for her team and favorite coach, Bob Nance. Haislah has attended school in the District for four years and has only been playing basketball for seven. She is excited to begin her last season as a "Lady Panther" and is looking forward to studying nursing and playing basketball at Notre Dame College. We are Panther Proud of Erin!



Erin Haislah will be taking her basketball talents to Notre Dame College.

COSI Visits Chardon Hills

A whole day full of science fun was brought to Chardon Hills by The Center of Science and Industry (COSI). The Investigating Energy program was designed to introduce students to the science of energy. Students had the opportunity to use an anemometer to test wind speed, built circuits by attaching a variety of components to a power supply, use blocks to transfer energy, and use the "Watts Up" meter to determine the amount of energy being used by household objects. The program was complete with vocabulary words like "biomass," "conductor," "geothermal," kinetic energy," and "nuclear energy." Students also learned science process skills such as observing, inferring, hypothesizing, and predicting. Needless to say, the program left Chardon Hills students and staff very "energized" about science!



COSI "Investigating Energy" at Chardon Hills

Bluestone students plant bulbs for spring



Bluestone student and Mrs. Gibson planting bulbs in the Bluestone Garden.



Vocabulary Words

Central Middle School wins PLAY 60

For the third consecutive year, John Yuha's physical education students have won the Fuel Up to PLAY 60 Challenge. Congratulations to Central Middle School for logging over 2.8 million minutes of play! The top female winner was D'Yani Calhoun and the top male winner was Reggie Moore. Both students along with 20 other top students got to participate in fitness activities with the four of the Cleveland Browns players.

During the Browns PLAY 60 Challenge this past spring, nearly 2,000 students from nine Cleveland-area schools logged more than 4.5 million minutes of physical activity, equivalent to a combined 8.5 years of exercise during a six-week period.

The Browns PLAY 60 Challenge, in partnership with the American Heart Association and in association with Cleveland Clinic; Medical Mutual; and American Dairy Association Mideast and Fuel Up to PLAY 60 is a six-week program for seventh- and eighth-grade students that provides schools additional opportunities to help students be active and healthy throughout the school day. Schools participating in the most recent challenge were eligible for a chance to win Browns prizes, including invitations to the Browns-Jaguars game (Dec. 1) for top student participants, by visiting clevelandbrowns.com/community/play-60.html.



Central Middle School Students with Jabaal Sheard



Browns Players sharing with students about how they got to the NFL.



Central's Drill Team performs for the Browns Players.



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