

# Old Brooklyn

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## News

Summer 2021



Rediscover what is fresh and new  
in Old Brooklyn - pg. 4



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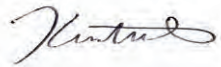
Early Roman calendars designated the beginning of March as the start of the New Year. As we all enjoy the fresh air of spring and prepare to roll into summer, it feels very much like a "new year". Not only because of the weather and season changes, but because the opportunity to safely visit family and friends, go for a walk, and build community again is upon us. In this new year, we are preparing to get back out into the streets of Old Brooklyn. Reinvigorating neighborhood favorites like the Farmers Market and An Old Brooklyn Nite, while also creating a brand-new opportunity called Treadway Takeover. The first Tuesday of the month throughout the summer we are inviting you to join us, and a neighborhood full of your closest friends, to come hangout at Harmody Park.

Why a new event? Our answer is that we could not come out on the other side of the year we just had the same as we were before. 2020 was a time of sadness, uncertainty, and unrest. But the pause from our former days gave us and all the opportunity to reflect and create a vision for a "new year". Treadway Takeover is our start to a new vision that ensures Old Brooklyn's tomorrow is better than today.

A rush to transition back to our old normal would be a discredit to the growth we all have collectively shared. It would be a discredit to our new outlook, and those that are no longer with us. So, we ask – what is your Old Brooklyn in this new year? And how can we help uplift the vision you have developed for your life, family, and neighbors.



Jeffrey T Verespej
Executive Director



Kristen Wilson
President, Board of Directors

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Kristen Wilson President; , Tiffany Sedlacek Vice President; Dave Margolius Secretary; David Robinson, Treasurer, Mike Caparanis, Reggie Clark, Ramon Claudio, Liz Hernandez, David Martin, Adam Saurwein, Philena Seldon.

Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation is a 501(c)(3) - it holds Board Meetings at MetroHealth Old Brooklyn Health Center, 4299 Pearl Rd. every fourth Tues. of the month, 6 - 7:30 pm.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, Board meetings may be held virtually. To inquire on the status, call 216-459-1000

Meetings open to the public but the board reserves the right to close portions of the meetings.

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# Old Brooklyn Farmers Market returns starting Saturdays in June

by Clara Harb

Summer time is here again! While exciting for many reasons, what many in Old Brooklyn look forward to is the Old Brooklyn Farmers Market. Imagine fresh fruits and vegetables, breads and baked goods, dry goods, spices, and snacks all within reach. Live music will fill the air from some of the neighborhood's favorite musicians: Jason Patrick Meyers, Taylor Lamborn, Larry Ketola, and Victor Samalot. Beginning Saturday, June 19th and continuing every weekend through September 25th this neighborhood tradition will return.

In addition, the popular Diamond Line will return in 2021 sponsored by Senior Citizen Resources. This free shuttle service will operate every 15 minutes connecting residents to the market and other neighborhood businesses on two separate routes throughout Old Brooklyn. Riders will be given a token that can be redeemed at the market simply for getting a free ride.

This weekly ritual of awaking on a Saturday morning and getting to the grounds of Pearl Road United Methodist Church will feel like putting on a comfortable pair of old jeans. As society moves past the extremities of the COVID-19 pandemic, Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) knows the need for familiarity and community are critical.

The Old Brooklyn Farmers Market's mission has always focused on creating a healthier community. That health is not just from the foods bought and sold but from

the connections built over the past five years. In addition, the market's success spreads to other aspects of Old Brooklyn and beyond.

As Lucas Reeve, the Director of Neighborhood Development at OBCDC states, "the Old Brooklyn Farmers Market brings residents and visitors from all over the city into the heart of our neighborhood. The impact stretches far beyond the green space on Pearl Rd., but drives sales at nearby small businesses and creating a unique, magnetic experience. With the opening of Brighton Park just north of the market site that experience will grow by foot, bike, and exploration."

This year's vendors range from fresh locally grown produce, jams and jellies, baked goods, and even honey. Returning vendors and Old Brooklyn favorites such as Don Anna Farms, Markos Farm, and The 3 Aprons will be joined by new vendors including JDL Treatshop, Old Brooklyn Mustards, and more. The Old Brooklyn Farmers Market accepts many nutrition incentive programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as EBT; Women's Infants and Children's (WIC) program market vouchers; Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) coupons; and provide a match of Produce Perks tokens to those who spend up to \$25 in SNAP at the market.

The Old Brooklyn Farmers Market remains committed to public health and safety guidelines. State and local

*Cont'd on next page*



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guidelines and precautions will be followed, communicated, and signed on site for the safety of visitors and vendors.

If you have wanted to get involved with the Old Brooklyn Farmers Market, now is your chance to do so. This year OBCDC is seeking volunteers. Some of the duties will include taking pictures, helping operate the Old Brooklyn booth, and helping with set up and clean up. To sign up as a volunteer, please visit [www.rebrand.ly/OBFMvolunteer](http://www.rebrand.ly/OBFMvolunteer). For the most up to date information on the Diamond Line, vendors, and all matters related to the market visit its page on Facebook (Old Brooklyn Farmers Market), Instagram (@OldBrooklynFarmersMarket), or [www.oldbrooklyn.com/market](http://www.oldbrooklyn.com/market).

The 2021 Old Brooklyn Farmers Market kicks off on Saturday, June 19th and continues every Saturday through September 25th. The market hours are from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and is located in front of Pearl Road United Methodist Church (4200 Pearl Rd.).

Clara Harb is a resident of Old Brooklyn who still finds something new to love about the neighborhood every day. She is a world traveler who follows the best foods, but has always found the best company at home.



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# New summer event series aims to explore, connect, and create community

by Laura Bednar

After having to cancel some events last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) is returning with a safe outdoor event that offers activities for people of all ages.

The new summer event series is called “Treadway Takeover” and takes place at Harmody Park, which is also the site of the Treadway Creek Trail. It will be held from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on June 8th, July 13th, and August 10th.

OBCDC staff Carlos Laboy and Hope Fierro are leading the creation and development of the event. Laboy said after events were cancelled last year, it was a challenge to engage with the community and this program promotes people of all ages coming together. When deciding on a location, Laboy said that Harmody Park is an underappreciated greenspace that the OBCDC wants to activate.

Executive Director Jeffrey T. Verespej said that OBCDC’s previous events at Loew Park were successful inspirations for Treadway Takeover. “When we put events in a park, good things happen around that park. We want to spread out our investment,” Verespej said. He continued saying that for some residents, attending the event may be exploring a new part of Old Brooklyn they have not seen before.

Treadway Takeover will include activities for children like Talespinner Children’s Theater, a professional children’s theater group in Northeast Ohio that, according to their website, aims to “produce collaborative, original productions and educational programming aimed at opening the hearts, minds and imaginations of all children.”

There will also be a recreation partner at the event for



Harmody Park, 1700 Mayview Ave.

children and teenagers to move around and expend energy. Laboy said this could include some type of dancing or aerobics on the baseball field.

Adults will have the opportunity to walk along the Treadway Trail as part of the “Walk, Learn, Experience” program. An expert in ecosystems and nature will educate participants about the ecological aspects of the Treadway Trail as they walk it.

The main focus of the event is to build community as Fierro said, “We wanted a way for everyone to have fun and get to know each other. I hope to see new connections made.”

In addition, arts and community partners will be present to connect with residents. Neighborhood favorite food vendors will be there offering bites and treats for all who attend.

Fierro added that because the event takes place outside, visitors can feel more comfortable gathering. Laboy was excited at the idea of finally engaging with people in-person because “neighbors have been missing these opportunities.”

This summer event series free of charge, with light food items available for purchase. “Free family fun; that is what it is all about. I expect a warm community welcome,” said Verespej.



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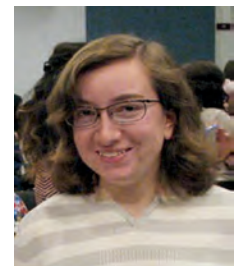


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  - November 2, 2021 (general election)

Paid for by Friends of Rebecca Maurer

Laura Bednar is currently a content writer for Secure Data Inc. She is a freelance writer for The Sun News and public relations company CMP Communications. She is glad to have the opportunity to expand my freelance work by writing for the Old Brooklyn News.





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# Ben Franklin Garden celebrates 40 years of gardening and community building

by Samuel Hoag

There's a big birthday coming to Old Brooklyn this year. For the past 40 years, the Benjamin Franklin Community Garden has established itself as a community pillar by giving neighborhood residents the space to flex their green thumbs. And, they have a jam-packed season planned to celebrate.

To celebrate the garden's long tenure in the neighborhood, the committee has undertaken a construction project: resurrecting the gazebo that used to stand on the garden's grounds. The pavilion will serve as a community gathering space for different events and a space for outdoor classes for the nearby Benjamin Franklin Elementary School. The garden committee hopes, through the funding of their IOBY project, to have the gazebo built for their July 31 birthday celebration.

Separate from the gazebo project, the garden holds a yearly fundraiser to ensure that everything runs smoothly for those looking to rent a plot, paying for tools, seeds, and fresh soil. Because of the pandemic, the committee has decided to replace their day-long event with a longer run fundraiser. Alongside a 50/50 raffle, they plan to run a raffle with baskets from local businesses, starting on July 17. "Metropolitan coffee donated a basket last year, and we had some gift cards from Honey Hut," said Elicia Polacek, the treasurer of the garden committee and gardener of eight years at Ben Franklin. "The community always pitches in to help."

The garden has been an anchor in the community, despite the pandemic. "We have way more gardeners than ever this year, and last year we practically sold out of plots," said

Jennifer Terry, committee chair and 9-year gardener. For many, the green space was a welcome outdoor refuge in the midst of quarantine measures, closed businesses, and working from home. When you're weeding, tending your vegetables, or otherwise, "you don't have to worry about all the craziness that was everywhere else" said Terry.

In fact, you aren't even required to have a plot to visit Ben Franklin's calming environment. The gates are open for everyone, and part of the appeal of rebuilding the gazebo is to attract more neighborhood residents to the space through events. Mark Tapajna (who grows some killer tomatoes for spaghetti sauce every year), a veteran gardener of 25 years and committee member, is coordinating various local music artists to perform throughout the year. The dream is to have the garden as a cultural hub alongside a space for growing. Along with musicians throughout the summer, the committee hopes to have many other events taking place for the whole neighborhood to attend, including cooking demonstrations, performances and plays, and space for the elementary school to use. "Besides the wonderful stuff that is happening between the gardeners, now we can make it more inclusive with the community too," said Tapajna, "And then, a lot of the people there will probably be future gardeners too, by what they see."

In a way, the Benjamin Franklin garden is a microcosm of Old Brooklyn itself. For long-standing gardeners like Elicia Polacek, Jennifer Terry, and Mark Tapajna, it's been part of their everyday lives: chatting with your plot-neighbors about the weather and different growing techniques,

raising your kids in the garden (Polacek took this literally; she was back in the garden just two days after her second son was born!), and enjoying the fruits of their labor. But, just like Old Brooklyn, it's a place of vitality and growth: "A lot of younger families are here, and they're excited by being gardeners" said Tapajna. "That sense of community has been growing from the new families in the neighborhood." For plants and for people, it's a great place to grow.

The garden needs our help, though. Consider contributing to their IOBY fundraiser for the gazebo project - the first \$3,000 of donations will be matched by Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. Their regular fundraiser will also be starting in July for the 50/50 and basket raffles - these funds cover the day-to-day operating costs of the community garden. Check out their website for

*Cont'd on next page*



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Photo from the CSU Memory Project  
Original gazebo that once stood in the Ben Franklin Garden.

event details: <http://benfranklincommunitygarden.org/>.  
But, most importantly, take a trip over to the land behind  
1905 Spring Road! There's a lot to discover.

Samuel Hoag is an Old Brooklyn  
native writing from Washington,  
D.C., where he attends Georgetown  
University. He misses his family,  
front porch, and all the rest of Old  
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# In memoriam

George John Jicha, Sr. 5/6/1925 - 3/19/2021



Some words just go together naturally – salt and pepper, bread and butter, bacon and eggs.

There are also words which go naturally with George J. Jicha; for me they are “Kiwanis Club of Brooklyn-Cleveland”. George joined the group in 1998 when he was 74 years old; at the time of his death this past March, he had served as the group’s president, lieutenant governor and district administrator for K-Kids. Perhaps more importantly, quite a few of George’s fellow Kiwanians had become his close friends.

George was president of Kiwanis in 2007 when the group raised funds to purchase and install the vintage-style street clock in front of Busch Funeral and Crematory Services at 4334 Pearl Rd. But no doubt the Kiwanis activity for which George was most renowned is putting on the attire and persona of Santa Claus at the Christmas parties for neighborhood children.

George already had the Santa jacket and pants and hat from the years when he used it for his own family’s Christmas celebrations. But when he started wearing it for the Old Brooklyn function, in addition to the traditional red suit, Santa George asked his daughter Debora to sew a green cloak for him to wear. It was made of crushed velvet, lined in satin, and trimmed with white fur.

What a sensation George was when he made his grand entrance into the crowded room of children and adults! Of course, he also had black boots and white gloves, bells, authentic-looking gold-framed glasses and a pouch. To complete his Santa outfit, George even carved himself a walking stick from cherry wood.

The Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) and the Kiwanis Club had long been sponsoring Christmas (and Halloween) gatherings for neighborhood children but in the early years they were held at different locations throughout Old Brooklyn. When MetroHealth purchased and reopened the former Deaconess Hospital as its Senior Health and Wellness Center, Medical Director Dr. James Campbell wanted to get involved in community ac-

tivities.

Thus circa 2010/2012, the Old Brooklyn Collaborators group was born. In addition to Dr. Campbell, the original members of the group were: Katie Austin, Kathy Violand, Alyce Bell from MetroHealth; Lori Peterson from OBCDC and MetroHealth; Sandy Worona from OBCDC; John Young from Speed Exterminating; George Jicha from Kiwanis; Tom Kehoe from Kiwanis and Kehoe Bros. Printing, Inc.; Steve Shroka from Deaconess-Krafft; and (former) neighborhood attorney Roger Bundy.

In 2012, MetroHealth’s Old Brooklyn campus became the permanent home of the holiday Christmas party which was officially named *Cookies and Cocoa with Santa*, (and the Halloween gathering was officially named *Fall-O-Ween*).

George did retire from his Santa responsibilities a few years before his death because interacting with so many excited children became too tiring for him. He passed on many of his Santa accessories to Dr. Campbell (who was also his primary care physician). But even as regulars at the event welcomed Dr. Campbell as the new Santa, they also retained their memories of George in that role.

Playing Santa and erecting a street clock were not George’s only interests in Kiwanis. He also helped his granddaughter, Katie Lewis, resurrect the Kiwanis-supported Key Club at Brooklyn High School.

Kiwanian and Old Brooklyn Collaborator Tom Kehoe shared the following story about Brooklyn (and Rhodes) High School and George –

*If you knew George, you knew that he never did things half-way. And that’s how he approached his membership in Kiwanis, too -- full bore. Not everyone saw eye-to-eye with him on his ideas, but ideas he did have. When the Kiwanis group shot down another member’s proposal to fund the emerging technology of consumer portable defibrillators for James Ford Rhodes and*

*Cont’d on next page*

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Brooklyn High Schools, he organized a raffle and spent many weekends selling the tickets at Giant Eagle to fund the project. It took several months but finally he, along with help from some other members, raised enough to buy a defibrillator for each athletic department and train people in their use. Rhodes and Brooklyn were probably among the first high schools in the area to have defibrillators, and now defibrillators are everywhere.

The youngest of five children, (four boys and one girl), George grew up on Seymour Ave. and Erin Ave. on the Near West Side of Cleveland. He graduated from West Tech High School at the time World War II was raging so he then entered the United States Navy. George wanted to go the war zone but he was assigned to work for an Admiral at the Naval Air Station in Norfolk, Virginia.

After the War George married Mildred Sasura and in time they became the parents of three daughters and a son -- Debora; George J., Jr.; Paula; and Judy. The Jichas raised their children on Seymour Ave, After their children left home, George and his wife moved to a home on Schiller Ave. At the time of his death, George was also the grandfather of ten, and the great-grandfather of eleven.

George's first job after the War was as a manager at Sherwin Williams. Next he ran the print shop for General Motors at the Cadillac Tank Plant. After he retired he founded a business called Jay Office Supply on Broadway Ave. and E. 55th St., and after that he sold cars for Bob Gillingham Ford for a while.

According to the obituary posted on Busch's website, George "was creative and inventive - writing stories, painting, and woodworking. George loved traveling with his children and grandchildren, exploring places both near and far."

Cleveland Councilman Kevin Kelley honored George as the Ward 13 "Senior of the Year" in 2014.

A Celebration of Life service was held at Busch Funeral Home's Parma facility, 7501 Ridge Rd., on Tuesday, June 1, at noon. Fellow Kiwanian Rev. Tom French presided over the service. A one-hour wake preceded it and a private interment with military honors at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman followed it.

Unfortunately, due to its aging membership, the Kiwanis Club of Brooklyn ceased operating this past year. Before his passing, despite declining health, George and other core Kiwanis members decided how to disburse the remaining Kiwanis funds to several neighborhood organizations and projects. May George and his Kiwanis buddies somehow continue the good works they began in this world in "The Great Beyond".

*(Acknowledgments: Although I knew who George Jicha was, I could not have written this obituary without help from his family and friends. Thank you to Debora Jicha Binkley, Tom Kehoe, George Shuba, Sandy Worona and John Young for the information and stories they shared with me. Lynette Filips)*

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# New businesses sprout in Old Brooklyn in spite of pandemic

by Jacqueline Mitchell

The restaurant and retail industries certainly look different today than they did a year ago. Businesses have been forced to maneuver new guidelines and pivot their business models to stay afloat. But the challenges have not stopped the following determined entrepreneurs from opening new shops and restaurants in Old Brooklyn.

## Tienda el Quetzal

Engel Godinez, owner of Old Brooklyn's Guatemalan restaurant El Rinconcito Chapin, expanded his presence in the neighborhood with a corresponding store specializing in Latin American products late last year. Tienda el Quetzal is located at 4197 Pearl Rd., steps from his Broadview Rd. restaurant.



Quetzal is the brightly hued national bird of Guatemala; El Rinconcito Chapin diners may recognize it from its prominence in Godinez's restaurant logo.

Inside the new store is lined with an array of colorful products including candies, juices, sodas, snacks, noodles, soups and brines, along with Guatemalan sweaters, accessories and home goods displayed in the window fronts.

"We opened with the idea that we wanted the Old Brooklyn community to have access to more Latin American products," Godinez said.

Products are imported from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Puerto Rico. A freezer section in the back offers pre-made foods, including pupusas (thick corn cakes filled with a variety of ingredients such as pork, chicken, cheese or beans). Another highlight is the selection of horchatas, or plant milk beverages.

While Godinez is taking a slow approach to building the business for now, he dreams of eventually expanding the space and adding a bakery.

Tienda el Quetzal's hours are Monday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

## Old Brooklyn Nutrition

Jackie Visalden takes a health centered approach at Old Brooklyn Nutrition, which she opened at 4138 Pearl Rd..

"I'd been looking to open up a shop here in Old Brooklyn for about two years, since 2018," said Visalden, a Lorain native.

"When I first moved to Cleveland, this was the first

area that I really got to learn without a GPS. It reminded me so much

of home, all the diversity and all of the different types of people and cultures here. It really was like a home away from home."

Before she took the plunge and opened her own business, Visalden said she was "a jack of all trades, master of nothing." Her jobs included part-time gigs in food and retail, plus working at Old Brooklyn Nutrition's sister club, West Park Nutrition, a few days a week, and teaching exercise classes in Garfield Heights.



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"I'm just glad it started to work out in my favor," she said. Old Brooklyn Nutrition and its sister clubs throughout the area use and sell products from Herbalife Nutrition, a global multi-level marketing company. Visalden has been selling Herbalife for the past five years.

"I've been on my health journey since then, and I wanted to help others feel better," she said. "I wasn't feeling so great about myself, and somebody helped me change. So I want to help others."

The menu includes complete meal replacement shakes, which Visalden said have 24 grams of protein and 21 minerals and vitamins. Pre- and post-workout beverages are also on the menu, along with fat-burning donut shots. Lastly are the mega teas, which come in a variety of flavors.

"They provide healthy clean energy with no crash," Visalden said. "You get lots of B vitamins for sustainability, and then we also throw in a little beauty booster, which is our collagen and biotin booster, really good for hair, skin and nails. In the midst of a pandemic, we want you to feel good, but we also want you to look good, too."

Old Brooklyn Nutrition's hours are Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.; Saturday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## JDL Treat Shoppe

For customers searching for a gift for a loved one, JDL Treat Shoppe at 4471 State Rd. is a one-stop shop. Dyanne Singleton's store overflows with flower and fruit arrangements, chocolate-covered strawberries, smoothies, ice cream, teddy bears, gift baskets and more.



"I needed to leave the corporate environment," Singleton said. "I was in insurance claims, and I had just gotten

*Cont'd on page 14*

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*Cont'd from page 13*

burnt out. I also wanted to move back home to Cleveland, my hometown, as I was living in Kansas City at the time.”

Singleton landed an opportunity partnering with a larger company to arrange fruit and never looked back. Her shop serves most of the west side of Cleveland, as well as Lorain County. She liked that Old Brooklyn was nestled between these areas, right by the highway.

“It’s diverse; it’s walkable,” she said. “It has that small-town feel, but it’s in the city. When I started looking for locations, Old Brooklyn just embraced me. It seemed like a good fit.”

Singleton said JDL’s concept as a full-service gift shop sets it apart.

For example, she said, a customer recently called inquiring about a gift for her daughter’s 10th birthday. Singleton created a package with a unicorn fruit bouquet, unicorn strawberries and a unicorn birthday balloon.

“Any time you need a gift, you can get it here,” she said. “I love the area and the neighborhood, so I’m just hoping that people get to know that we’re here.”

JDL Treat Shoppe is open Monday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**La Cosecha Galeria**

Will Sanchez has been drawing since he could pick up a pencil and crayon. To Old Brooklyn’s benefit, he recently opened La Cosecha Galeria (which translates to The Harvest Gallery) at 4490 Pearl Rd..

Sanchez first entered the local art scene 20 years ago when he and two other artists launched the first Hispanic-owned gallery in Cleveland (operating under the same name) on Bush Ave.. After taking some time off from gallery ownership, Sanchez reopened La Cosecha Galeria in 2018 at a vacant storefront on Storer Ave..

The pandemic forced him to shut down in March 2020. “Art shows are about getting as many people as you can for the opening night, and that wouldn’t work,” Sanchez said.

In August 2020, he realized he needed to start rethinking La Cosecha Galeria’s model. He found the Old Brooklyn



storefront located just a few blocks from his home, and decided to relaunch in a new space with an added retail component.

Now the shop is filled with Sanchez’s mixed-media art, pieces by other local artists, counterculture merchandise and treasures Sanchez and his fiancée have discovered during their world travels. His fiancée has curated a selection of crystals, sage, incense, jewelry, clothing and accessories also for sale.

“It’s her taste and it’s my taste,” said Sanchez.

He has elaborate plans for the outside of the gallery, too. Sanchez received approval to paint a colorful mural on the building’s exterior, and he rented the grassy lot next door from May through September to host an open-air art shows and events.

Sanchez has rethought the typical schedule for hosting a gallery opening.

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“Instead of having one opening a month like usual, I have an artist coming in every week,” he said. “I’ll keep their stuff up for a month, but their opening show is every Saturday. We will use the patio for what I call Buskers’ Night, which is basically small solo artists or duos close to the garden as you would find in Europe. It is my vision is to have that kind of atmosphere.”

Sanchez also offers painting, graphic design, marketing and communication and creative writing classes.

La Cosecha Galeria is open daily from 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### Pour Lé Pooch

Dogs walking out of the new grooming salon, dog bakery and boutique Pour Lé Pooch (4882 Pearl Rd.), are not only freshly bathed and trimmed. Many are strutting out with pink paws, blue and purple ears, colorful tails and tiny hearts dotting their coats.



Owner Heidi (who asked that her last name not be disclosed), a long-time dog groomer, said the color services have been popular in the wake of dog grooming reality shows like “Pooch Perfect.” The organic dyes, derived from vegetables, fruits and spices, are completely animal-safe, she said.

“I don’t let it go near their mouths, but if they were to take a lick of it while they’re wrapped in foil, it’s safe,” she said. “The color stays for a really long time, and people are nuts about it. I get pretty creative with it. I can do etched out hearts and dye that area so that they have a little cute heart on their hip.”

Pour Lé Pooch offers full grooming services, including baths, nail trimming, ear cleaning and breed-specific haircuts. Customers who walk through the front door of the corner storefront are greeted with a playful space complete with a hand-painted dog mural, a bakery case full of homemade dog treats and a boutique area featuring dog treats and accessories. Bakery items include dog-friendly cannoli, biscotti, pup cakes and pup scoops.

Heidi bakes most of the treats herself, with two taste-testers at home: a Shih Tzu-Bichon mix and a Yorkie-Maltese mix.

“They’re tried, and they love them,” she said. “When I find that dogs really do like a specific item that I make, I continue to keep that on my recipe book.”

Pour Lé Pooch is open Tuesday through Saturday. Hours are 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, and 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Thursday. Dogs are always welcome in the store, where they can try free samples.

Jacqueline Mitchell is a journalist living in Old Brooklyn with her pug, Van Geaux. She is the editor of several local publications at ScripType Publishing in Richfield and president of the Society of Professional Journalists Cleveland chapter. In her spare time, she can be found reading her way through the never-ending stacks of books in her apartment and hiking her way through all 18 of the Cleveland Metroparks.



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# Old Brooklyn Youth League returns to play in 2021 while losing neighborhood hero Angelo Gaudino



The Old Brooklyn Youth League (OBYL) returns to the fields this June, but without a huge part of what made the league and community thrive for more than four decades. Angelo Gaudino passed away last December after a short medical battle but more importantly a long and fulfilling life that changed the lives of thousands of youth in Old Brooklyn and beyond.

Since 1979, Angelo was the driving force behind this all-volunteer-led league offering easy to access coed summer softball. In a world driven by prestige, brand development, and the professionalization of youth sports, Angelo stood out with his moral compass and focus on the fundamentals of life and recreation.

His approach to coaching and youth development was never about an opportunity for making money or for self-promotion, but about what mattered to the youth and the league. The children and the health of the league were what mattered, alongside the values that he brought him to every situation. Former players of Angelo's and of OBYL could likely recite those values about respect and trust, self-confidence, motivation, and teamwork.

I first met Mr. Gaudino (what he always was and will be to me, although most knew him as "coach" or "Mr. G" or "Pops") when I was first learning the fundamentals of softball and baseball. I was no more than 4 or 5, and his warm demeanor, patient approach, and gentle coaching helped me when many other coaches could not.

To this day I am shocked at how easily he could hold a conversation with someone behind the backstop, toss a ball up with his left hand, swing the bat one handed with his right hand, hit the ball to anywhere on the field and in any manner, and provide coaching instructions to the field at the same time. I tried it when I was a youth and failed. I am smart enough to know now that I still could not achieve the feat. I immediately noted his smile and his voice, and was attracted to his coaching style. What I failed to know at that time was the larger than life figure he was in our community.

After he joined OBYL as a coach in his first year, Angelo quickly stepped into larger shoes to make sure that ev-

ery child could play in a quality league, be treated with respect, and learn the lessons of community building. He shortly became the President of the league and for over 40 years was always at or near the heartbeat of OBYL.

More than a coach or administrator, Angelo played many roles for the league and its children. Prior to Loew Park's renovations the fields were notorious amongst ball playing families for their poor conditions. Angelo kept chains in his car so that he could "grade" the field to fix holes or improve playing conditions after a downpour. He, along with other coaches, filled their cars with rakes, shovels, and extra dirt so that their free time could be spent repairing and preparing fields for upcoming games. None of them were ever paid for this; Angelo and the others did it because it was the right thing.

His care as a coach knew no bounds. Children were never turned away from registration if they could not pay or lacked equipment. Angelo would make sure that they had a glove, a ride to and from practice, or a friend if that was all that was needed. He would stay at the fields as long as the last child needed while waiting for a ride, well into the darkness of night, all to ensure safety and wellbeing for the players.

Those reasons are why many former players became coaches and sought him out for guidance. The lifelong relationships led Angelo to attending the high school events of former players, and coaching their children after adulthood. There are grandchildren of his former players who attribute their sport and life success to Angelo, and he was invited to countless weddings and college graduations based on the life he lived.

He was renowned for working with children of all skill wells and abilities; he believed that every child deserved a good experience and he would spend the most time with those who needed it, especially things with special needs.

*Cont'd on next page*

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His team early on was named the Mariners after the then-new baseball team in Seattle. While other team names moved around with different coaches, the Mariners remained tied to Angelo, which now have a 4<sup>th</sup> generation of Gaudinos associated with the team.

Now Angelo's coaching skills should not be overlooked due to the size of his generosity and heart. His record off the field of successfully helping out Old Brooklyn youth was matched by his success on the field. A coach who competed against him once told me that "Angelo would beat your team with his own team. Then you could switch sides and he would beat his own team with your team."

Beyond the ball diamond, Angelo spent more than two decades coaching basketball at Our Lady of Good Counsel (now Mary Queen of Peace) on Pearl Rd. where he also acted as the Athletic Director to make sure that all the children had the opportunity to thrive, be supported, and learn the right way teamwork happens.

Legends like Angelo Gaudino do not come around often. Many of us seek to do well by ourselves and by others. Few can achieve the impact that he had. From when he got involved, OBYL grew from a small league to over 1,000 participants aged 3-18 annually. He continued that legacy as a coach, friend, league President, and mentor for four decades.



Photo by George Shuba

Angelo Gaudino is greeted by a crowd of grateful baseball players, parents and fans on Saturday May 30th, 2009 when Field #2 at Lowe Park was named Coach Angelo Gaudino Field.

Anyone who has had a coach or teacher change their life knows how important someone like Angelo Gaudino is. Fortunately, Old Brooklyn had thousands go on to better lives because of this kind, loving, and larger-than-life coach. His legacy will live on with the ballfield named in his honor at Loew Park, with his family (his beloved wife of 55 years, Kathleen, his children Vince and Gina, who is stepping into his shoes as league President), and most importantly with all of those lives who were made better from knowing Angelo Gaudino and OBYL.

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# Current Coronavirus (COVID-19) not first pandemic/epidemic to visit Cleveland, part IV

by Lynette Filips

**W**hat a difference three months makes! As the world continues to deal with the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, we in Northeast Ohio are now at a point which our ancestors would have envied in their own struggles against infectious diseases; not only have effective vaccines been developed, but they are readily available for free!

This *Old Brooklyn News* series about the most serious medical challenges which Clevelanders have faced over the past 225 years began in June 2020 with a discussion of malaria and cholera; those two diseases were also the topic of the September 2020 history article. After breaking in December for our annual Baby-Boomer Christmas reminiscences article, the series resumed in March 2021 with an article about typhoid fever.

Malaria, cholera and typhoid fever are all water-borne illnesses and they are under control these days in the developed world thanks to an understanding of both bacteria and water purification processes. Although there are drugs to treat them, no across-the-board vaccine was ever developed to prevent them. (Travelers to certain parts of the world do get a typhoid fever shot to protect them from that disease.)

Diphtheria (dif-theer'-e-uh), the infectious disease which is the topic of this June 2021 article, is a different type of illness. Although it, too, is caused by a bacteria (as opposed to a virus), it is spread via direct person-to-person contact and/or respiratory droplets rather than via contaminated water.

Diphtheria has been around since ancient times in Egypt and Greece, but it was not until the 1600s



*Corynebacterium diphtheriae*  
Graphic from the internet

that it reached epidemic proportions. Over the centuries the illness was referred to by a number of different names. “Diphtheria” is the English version of the word a French doctor coined for the malady in 1826. It is derived from the Greek word for leather and is a description of diphtheria’s pseudo-membrane, one of the topics which will be discussed in this article.

An upper respiratory infection, diphtheria can start out like a common cold. It causes a sore throat, low-grade fever, barking cough, enlarged lymph glands, difficulty swallowing and general malaise. The bacteria which causes it, called *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* these days, was discovered in the 1883. It produces a toxin which destroys tissue (i.e., eats away at the cells in the mouth). The waste products form a thick grey pseudo-(false) membrane which can cover the nasopharynx, tonsils, voice box and throat.

If the pseudo-membrane totally spreads across the back of the throat and trachea, totally blocking the sick person’s airway, the disease will be fatal. A fatality also results if the membrane is aspirated. The toxins from a diphtheria infection can also get into the blood stream and/or lymphatic system, in which case the infection becomes “systemic” and can damage the infected person’s heart and/or nervous system. Localized skin lesions (infections) are also possible.

As was the case with Mary Mellon, whose unfortunate story was discussed in conjunction with typhoid fever in our March article, a person with diphtheria can be asymptomatic and yet still be contagious, unknowingly passing the illness on to others.

Although adults can contract diphtheria, it is largely an illness which affects children; those who have it and do not get treatment have a high mortality rate. In 1875, for instance, there were 243 deaths from diphtheria in Cleveland. The year 1921 is considered the peak of the diphtheria epidemic in America, but numbers of people dying from it was still high into the late 1920s. Thanks to the vaccine, by 1938 that number was down to only a handful.

One of the first ways medical people tried to get oxygen into a person afflicted with a blocked airway was tracheostomy, but with no pain-numbing drug during the procedure and a high rate of infection following it, tracheostomy was unpleasant to endure, plus the success rate was not high.

In 1885, a Cleveland physician, Dr. Joseph O’Dwyer, came up with a better treatment for patients with an obstructed larynx and it eventually replaced the tracheostomy; it was called laryngeal intubation (inserting a breathing tube).

Treating people sickened with diphtheria with medicine began in the 1890s. The medication was a mixture of the diphtheria toxin and the antitoxin. The antitoxin was obtained by injecting the diphtheria toxin into horses and then injecting people with the

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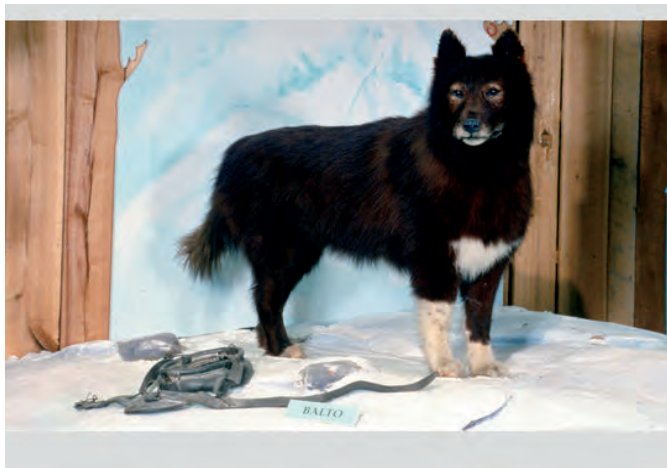
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horse's serum which contained the antibodies. People sometimes got sick and even died from toxin/anti-toxin treatment. Later "toxoids" were formulated and they were safer.

I've been told that Lutheran Hospital on Franklin Ave. was one of the nearby places which treated people with diphtheria. When I began writing this series about epidemics/pandemics, I received a communication from one of our *Old Brooklyn News* readers who shared a diphtheria-related story about his grandmother. She contracted diphtheria when she lived on Potter Court (W. 25th St. just south of the bridge over Train Ave.) and to receive treatment she walked to Lutheran Hospital.

Since 1923, there has been a vaccine to prevent diphtheria. Today the vaccine is given in combination with tetanus and/or pertussis (aka, whooping cough) vaccines and may be called DT, DTaP, Td and Tdap, depending on the drug combination and the age of the person to whom it is administered. Babies and young children need a series of shots before the age of seven, older children need booster shots, and adults need shots every ten years.



Balto as he is preserved at  
The Cleveland Museum of Natural History  
*Graphic from the internet*

Perhaps the best known story about past diphtheria epidemics involves Balto, the Siberian husky which led the team of sled dogs that made the final leg of 674 mile journey

to Nome, Alaska to bring lifesaving diphtheria antitoxin to those stricken by the epidemic there. The year was 1925, and for six days during late January and early February, relay teams of over 20 mushers and over 100 sled dogs raced through subzero temperatures to complete the "Great Race of Mercy" to deliver the serum. The *Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race* reenacts the mission each year in March, but it begins in Anchorage, an even longer distance.

Thanks to a Cleveland businessman who chanced upon Balto and his teammates in a cheap show in Los Angeles in 1927 -- and secured the necessary funds to purchase them -- Balto found a new home in our neighborhood at the Brookside Park Zoo, (now the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo). After his death in 1933, Balto's body was mounted by a taxidermist and is now on permanent exhibit at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

People who contract diphtheria these days are treated with both toxoids and antibiotics. But in this country, thanks to vaccination, diphtheria is almost totally a disease of the past.

Lynette Filips has lived over 50 years of her life in Old Brooklyn and written for the *Old Brooklyn News* for 31 of them. She's most known for her local history articles and *The Town Crier* and for her work as the former monthly *OBN* copy editor.





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# Jesse Owens' legacy continues to take root in Cleveland

by Stefanie Valentic

The Olympiastadion in Berlin was built in 1936 for the Olympic Games hosted by Germany. It is a massive field house, claiming to host more than 100,000 attendees during events throughout that Olympics. In 2019, more importantly the stadium has hosted thousands of athletes and events throughout the last 85 years. James Cleveland "Jesse" Owens, one of Cleveland's and America's most decorated and revered athletes, was one.

Halfway across the world in Cleveland's Rockefeller Park attendees gathered in late spring with elated feelings for a similar historic moment.

Partners, media, students and spectators gathered on April 30, 2021 to watch a piece of Owens' legacy – a grafted tree of an oak he received as a gift that still grows in Old Brooklyn – get planted for future generations.

## Taking a Stand

Owens' journey to the 1936 Olympic Games was tumultuous. With Hitler's regime looming over Germany, he faced seemingly unsurmountable obstacles at the starting line as the Nazis advocated for one, supreme Aryan race and the decimation of myriad racial, religious, LGBTQ and underrepresented groups.

The world was in turmoil, just a few years away from a war of historic proportions as Nazi Germany exercised its power during the Games, promulgating racist policies that



Photo by Bob Perkowski

led to calls for boycott. Berlin had been awarded the Games in 1931, two years prior to the Hitler's rise.

Owens stood on the Olympic track not only to compete for the United States, but to side with the world against Nazi ideals of one superior race.

"Jesse faced incredible hardships before, during and after the Olympics and he overcame them," said Jeffrey T. Verespej, Old Brooklyn Development Corporation Executive Director. "Every step he was denied opportunity. He was denied opportunity as a Black Clevelander in high school. He was denied an opportunity as an amateur athlete going into the Olympics. He was denied opportunities after the Olympics... And that's a really shameful part of our history

*Cont'd on next page*



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for somebody who really represented the ideals of what America strives to be.”

Owens returned to his home in Cleveland with four oak trees, corresponding to four gold medals that he earned – the 100 meter sprint, the 200 meter sprint, running broad jump and 400 meter relay. This was the most gold medals of any Olympic athlete, a record that would remain untouched until the 1984 Los Angeles Games with modern training and equipment.

Following his journey back one of the four trees was planted at James Ford Rhodes High School in Old Brooklyn where Owens practiced track. The tree at Rhodes High School is the only tree where his legacy can still be viewed, towering next to the school’s athletic complex where Owens’ feet once hit the pavement. The others, believed to be have been planted at East Technical High School, where Owens attended high school; the Ohio State University, where Owens attended college (unconfirmed location); and the front yard of the house that Jesse Owens bought for his parents in Cleveland. Each has been lost to history and time.

### Keeping the Legacy Alive

Despite years of care, the oak tree is showing signs that it is coming to the end of its natural life.

A project to graft the oak was first cultivated in 2017 in response to the 84-year-old tree showing signs of age-related distress. Partners from OBCDC, Holden Forests & Gardens, Bartlett Tree Experts and Klyn Nursery formed a consortium that would work diligently over the next few years to propagate the oak tree from a grafting of a stem.

The grafting process insured the genetic integrity of the newly-cloned tree. Bartlett Tree Experts contacted Holden Forests & Gardens for assistance about the initial process. Klyn Nurseries of Perry, Ohio, which has experience in grafting oaks, agreed to do the grafting, which entailed taking the stem of Owens’ tree and attaching it to the rootstock of the same species of European oak.

Four years later, the sapling was ready for its debut.

### Planting the Future

Owens’ sapling is situated in Cleveland’s Rockefeller Park, right on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, adjacent to the Harrison-Dillard Bikeway, a path that runs from Lake Erie to University Circle.

Owens’ cousin Tyrone Owens coached track and field at Rhodes and worked with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) for more than four decades.

“When they told me about the project, I said it was a great idea and the location is perfect to keep this legacy going,” Tyrone Owens said. “Moving forward, these young kids can know what kind of history Cleveland schools have.”

The location was intentional. William Harrison “Bones” Dillard was another Cleveland track and field star who was the only male to earn an Olympic goal medal in both in both the 100 meter sprints and the 110 meter hurdles and named Owens as an inspiration.

There are more saplings in Holden’s nursery that were grafted from Owens’ original tree.

Jill Koski, Holden Forest & Gardens CEO, said they are working closely with OBCDC and CMSD to plant additional saplings in other prominent locations. Holden also will reserve a sapling for their collection.

Stefanie Valentic is the editorial director of Waste360, a waste and recycling industry publication. She is also a board member of the Cleveland Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. In her spare time, Valentic enjoys writing stories about Cleveland and organizing neighborhood cleanups.



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# Church Notes

**Christ Church**  
 6400 Memphis Ave  
 440-236-8282  
 christchurchohio.org

Christ Church is a contemporary, nondenominational, Bible based church. Sunday live stream & facebook live 9:30 & 11 am. on <https://christchurchohio.org>. Please check our updates page for more info.

**Gateway Church Old Brooklyn**  
 4542 Pearl Rd.  
 216-302-4409

[gwcoldbrooklyn@gmail.com](mailto:gwcoldbrooklyn@gmail.com)  
[gatewaychurcholdbrooklyn.com](http://gatewaychurcholdbrooklyn.com)

**Worship Services - every Sun;** 10:30 am. Facial mask covering both mouth & nose required. Check website for updates & more info.

**Summer Blast Block Party Sat., June 26;** 1- 3 pm. Free food, games & fun for all.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
 2928 Scranton Road  
 216-781-9511

**German & English Mass - each Sunday.** German - 9 am. English - 10:30 am. To ensure the safety of all our members & guests, we request everyone maintain appropriate social distancing & wear masks in church.

**Mary Queen of Peace**

4423 Pearl Rd. 216-749-2323

**Masses - Sat;** 4:30 pm. **Sun;** 6:30, 8:30 & 11 am. **Daily;** 6:15 & 8 am.

**Community Meal - 1st & 3rd Sundays** of the month; 1 pm. (*Drive through-Only*)

**Weekly AA Meetings - Daily Reflection;** Mon. 7:30 pm. **Men's Big Book;** Wed. 7:30 pm. (Men's Big Book); **Thurs,** 8 pm. (Men's closed Meeting)

**Mobile Food Pantry - Sat., June 19; July 17; Aug. 21;** 9 - 11 am. (*Drive-through ONLY*).

**MQP School Golf Outing - Sat., Aug. 14.** Coppertop Golf Course.

**Old Brooklyn Pierogi & Food Truck Fest:** Sun., Aug. 8; 1 - 7 pm.

**LEAF** (Listening, Encouraging & Affirming Families of the Incarcerated); **Wed., June 23, July 21, Aug. 25;** 7 pm.

**Pearl Road UMC**  
 4200 Pearl Rd. 216-661-5642  
 pearlroadumc.org

**Worship - Sun.,** 10 am.

See our Facebook page for re-opening & social distancing policies.

**Online Daily Devotionals & Sunday Worship** on facebook.com/PearlRoadUMC with Pastor Harlen.

**Refuge Community Church**  
 (Inside Broadview Baptist Church)  
 4505 Broadview Rd.  
 216-273-8005

**Sun., services** 6 pm. **Fri.;** 7 pm. **Celebrate Recovery - Tues;** 7 pm. **Bible Studies - Mon;** 7 pm. & **Thurs;** 1 pm. Follow us on facebook.com/refugecommchurch as we engage the community & seek to meet needs.

**Vacation Bible School - June 21 - 25;** 6 - 8:30 pm.

**Sports Camp - June 28 - July 2.**  
**Youth Summer Camp - July 5 - 9.**  
 \$185 per youth (looking for scholarships) call for more info.

**St. Barbara Church**  
 1505 Denison Ave.  
 216-661-1191

**Mass Schedule - Sat.,** 4:30 pm. **Sun.,** 9 am *English* & 11 am. *Polish.* **Weekdays Mon. - Fri.** 7:30 am. **Confession - Sat.** 3:45 - 4:15 & **Sun.** 10:45 - 11 am.

**St. James Lutheran Church**  
 4771 Broadview Rd.  
 216-351-6499

[www.stjameslcms.church](http://www.stjameslcms.church)

**Worship services with communion - Sat.;** 5 pm. & **Sun.;** 10:15 am. No requirement to register for regular worship services. Masks are required. You may view the Sunday service live streamed or anytime on YouTube.

**Vacation Bible School - July 26-30,** 6 - 8:45 pm. CDC guidelines will be followed. Children who have completed grades 1 - 6 are encouraged to join in the fun. Registration begins **June 1** online or by calling the church office. No registrations taken after July 15. Visit website at stjameslcms.church to register or for more info.

**AA Groups - Tues., Thurs. & Sat.** Meetings are limited to 50 people & masks are required. *Check the website or call for more up to date info. on meetings & bible studies.*

**St. Leo The Great Church**  
 4940 Broadview Rd.  
 216-661-1006 [leothegreat.org](http://leothegreat.org)  
**Mass Schedule - Sat.** 4 pm, Sun. 8 & 11am. **Weekday - Mon., Wed. & Fri.** - 8:30 am.  
**Prayer Service - Thurs.** 8:30 am.  
**Confession -** by appointment.

**St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
 4464 Pearl Rd. 216-749-3545  
**Sunday service -** 10 am.  
**Wednesday service,** 6 pm.  
**Bible Class - Sun. -** 12:30 pm. **Wed. -** 6:30 pm.  
**Sunday School -** 11 am.

**Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
 4542 Pearl Rd at Behrwald Ave.  
 216-741-2085 [unity-lutheran.org](http://unity-lutheran.org)  
**Sun. Worship -** 9:30 am. & 7 pm.  
**AA Meetings - Mon.,** 8:30 pm.  
**Bible Study - Wed.,** 4:30 - 6 pm.  
**Youth Activities - Sat.,** 4:30 - 7:30 pm. (no activities 1st Sat. of each month).



4542 Pearl Rd. Cleve., OH 44109  
 216-302-4409  
 Pastor: Tony Loseto  
 Sunday mornings - 10:30 am.  
 Community group meetings throughout the week.  
[www.gatewaychurcholdbrooklyn.com](http://www.gatewaychurcholdbrooklyn.com)

# News & Events

**Old Brooklyn Pedal for Prizes - Now through July 4th.** Bicycling event. Free & open to all. Ride at your own pace, visit every destination, win prizes. For more info. & to download a form go to [pedalforprizes.com](http://pedalforprizes.com) or forms are available at the OBCDC office, 4274 Pearl Road. Call 216-459-1000.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Memphis Kiddie Park -** 10340 Memphis Ave. Fri., Sat. & Sun. 10 am. - 8 pm. Tickets: SeasonPak 110; \$140; book of 25 \$37.75; strip of 10 \$24; single \$2.50. Miniature golf: \$5.50 each player for 18-holes, each full price player, one child 5 or under is only \$1. Free parking, no entrance fee. All major credit cards accepted. For more info. call 216-941-5995 or [memphiskiddiepark.com](http://memphiskiddiepark.com)

**Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad -** No in-person ticket purchasing will be available. Seating capacity on all train cars will be at no more than 50%. Tickets for train rides can only be purchased in advance online or by calling customer service 330-439-5708. For more info. [vistcvsr.org](http://vistcvsr.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Cleveland Polka Association ~ Hawaiian Picnic - Sat., June 12.** St. Sava's Picnic Grove, 2300 West Ridgewood Dr. Gate opens 2 pm, music/dancing 3 - 7 pm. Band: DynaVersaStickToneAires. Donation: \$15. 18 yrs. & under free. For more info. call Elaine 216-496-0223. NO b.y.o.b. ~ food & beverages will be available. (including a Hawaiian Cocktail) Public welcome! [www.cpolkas.com](http://www.cpolkas.com). Check our Facebook

**CITY DOGS Run Cleveland 5K Sun., June 13,** 8 - 9 am. Edgewater Park. Register at [tinyurl.com/CITY-DOGSrunCLE](http://tinyurl.com/CITY-DOGSrunCLE). Packet pick up: available the morning of the event or on Fri., June 11, 5 - 8 pm. at Forest City Brewing Co., 2135 Columbus Rd. For more info. go to [friendsofcitydogscleveland.com/events](http://friendsofcitydogscleveland.com/events).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Summer Concerts Over the Valley - Fri., Jun. 18 - Fri. Aug 27.** Gates open 6 pm. Concerts 7 - 10 pm. Mapleside Farms, 294 Pearl Rd. 11 concerts highlighting various genres & musical styles. Bring a lawn chair. Beer, wine & food available. Everyone must purchase a pre-sale ticket \$10. For more info. go to [mapleside.com](http://mapleside.com).

**GardenWalk Cleveland - Sat., July 10;** Fairfax, Glenville, West Park & Old Brooklyn. **Sun., July 11;** Collinwood, Little Italy, Broadway, Slavic Village, Clifton Baltic, Detroit Shoreway. 10 am. - 5 pm. Free, self-guided tour of gardens, urban farms, vineyards, orchards, & more. Tour at your own pace. For more info. visit [www.gardenwalkcleveland.org/](http://www.gardenwalkcleveland.org/)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Cuyahoga County Fair, 19201 E. Bagley Rd. - Aug. 10 - 15. 12 noon - 11pm. Sat.: 10 am-11pm. Sun: noon - 10 pm.** Admission **Tues. - Thurs. \$7, Fri. & Sat. \$8.** Ages 4 - 12; \$6, seniors \$6; under 3 & military free. Discount days. **Tues. only - BOGO** (Buy One Get One) fair admission for all age groups. **Wed. & Thurs. Old Fashioned Dollar Days:** Admission \$1 before 3pm! Also -



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# News & Events

All-Day half-price ride stamps (just \$15) if purchased before 3pm. **Fri. only!** - senior & veteran's day: \$2 admission for seniors (age 60+) & veterans until 5pm. Veteran's must show proper ID. **Sat. only!** - *Family Morning Dance Party*, \$2 admission between the hrs. of 10 am. - Noon. You must be through the fair gates by noon to receive the discount. For more info. go to: [www.cuyfair.com](http://www.cuyfair.com). For more info. go to: [www.cuyfair.com](http://www.cuyfair.com).

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**Taste of Summer** - Flats East Bank, 1055 Old River Rd, **Fri., Aug., 28,** 4 - 10 pm. **Sat. & Sun., Aug. 29 & 30,** noon - 10 pm. This event will feature food, local music, craft cocktails, beer, local vendors, & many more activities for all ages. For more info. go to [scenetasteofsummer.com](http://scenetasteofsummer.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Cleveland National Air Show featuring the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds** - **Sept., 4, 5 & 6.** Burke Lakefront Airport. Kiddie Koncourse for kids newborn to 7 yrs old. crafts & activities. For more info. & tickets go to [www.clevelandairshow.com](http://www.clevelandairshow.com)

**Help for Residents - Call 211**  
**Dominion Bill Assistance** - go to [www.DominionEnergy.com](http://www.DominionEnergy.com)

**Low-Cost Internet Access** at home: Spectrum & AT&T are offering programs to residents for as low as \$10 a month. Call **Spectrum** 800-488-8395 or for **AT&T** go to [www.att.com/internet/access](http://www.att.com/internet/access).

**Rental Assistance** - To apply, residents cant visit [www.neorenthelp.org](http://www.neorenthelp.org). or call 833-377-7368.

**Sewer District Cost-savings Programs - Homestead Program:** 65 or older or under 65 totally disabled. Total household income must not exceed \$34,500. **Affordability Program:** 40% rate reduction for customers whose annual income is at or below 200% of the poverty level.

**Crisis Assistance Program:** customers affected by major events such as sudden medical expenses, job loss, separation, or divorce offering financial assistance of 50% of serer balance up to \$300 toward your account. For more info. contact Cus-

tomer Service Dept. 216-881-8247 or [askus@neorsd.org](mailto:askus@neorsd.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Go Online & No Points for Tickets.** Go online and enter a plea of not guilty for minor misdemeanor traffic violations like speeding & it will be reduced to a minor misdemeanor with no points. The fine is \$55 & court costs. This also includes waste ticket, parking ticket & more. The Cleveland Municipal Court is giving people time to pay for the costs & fees by going to <http://clevelandmunicipalcourt.org>.

**Valley Save-A-Pet** - Program offers a discounted rate to cat & dog owners who otherwise cannot afford tho have their pets sterilized. Modest additional charges are required for all animals not current on vaccinations & for large dogs whose weight might require special anesthesia. Hours: Mon.;11 am - 2 pm. Wed., 11 am. - 3 pm. Feral cat caretakers, call on Mon. only. Call: 440-232-2287 or check for updates at: [valleysavea-pet.org](http://valleysavea-pet.org).

### City of Cleveland Department of Public Works - Division of Waste Collection

216-664-3711 [www.cleveland-oh.gov](http://www.cleveland-oh.gov)  
Call or go to website for information on 2021 holiday waste pick-up schedule, guidelines on waste carts, bulk item pick-up (3 items only), yard waste disposal & more.

Year round **computer, cell phone** drop off.

Year round **shredding** at 5600 Carnegie.

**Household hazardous waste**, first Fri. of the month; no latex paint. *If you need to set out **bulk items** other than the 1st full week of the month, you **must call** to schedule.*



# Community Meetings

*Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19). Confirm details and updates with organizers.*

**Big Creek Connects** - if you have interest in or concerns about preserving greenspace, improving conditions of Big Creek & the natural environment, & improved quality of life for our residents. Contact [info@bigcreekconnects.org](mailto:info@bigcreekconnects.org) to be notified of future events.

**Brooklyn Genealogy Club Meetings** - Email [brooklyngeneclub@gmail.com](mailto:brooklyngeneclub@gmail.com) for the Zoom meeting links. Contact BGC Secretary Sue Hill, 440-865-0402, for more info.

**Brooklyn Historical Society - Museum**, 4442 Ridge Rd. Tues. 9 am. - noon we are receiving queries regarding local history & donations. Small donations by the side door, church side. For more

info call 216-941-0160 or e-mail:[groundhogsgarden@wowway.com](mailto:groundhogsgarden@wowway.com). Facebook

**Cuyahoga Valley Genealogy** - We are now meeting virtually. Check the website [cuyahogagenealogy.org/](http://cuyahogagenealogy.org/) events or call President Bobbi Hamm 330-225-0890 for more info.

**Old Brooklyn Community Meetings** - Virtual meetings **every 4th Wed. of the month** 6 pm. Zoom meeting link for registration <https://rebrand.ly/OBK-Community Meeting>. If interested in learning more about block clubs & neighborhood engagement, call Hope, 216-459-1000 ext. 206 for more info.

**Old Brooklyn Crime Watch** meetings are on hold until further notice. For more info. email Bill at: [billrocky@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billrocky@sbcglobal.net)

**Old Brooklyn Families Group** Check out [www.oldbrooklynfamilies.com](http://www.oldbrooklynfamilies.com) for new meeting dates & the latest OBFGB happenings.

**2nd District Police Community Relations** virtual meetings - **2nd Tues. every month;** 6 pm. <https://cityclevelandoh.webex.com/join/mmcDonald2>. For more info. on future meetings call Michael McDonald 216-664-3293.

**The Historical Society of Old Brooklyn** - For questions, call 216-337-8200 between 12 & 5 pm. for assis-

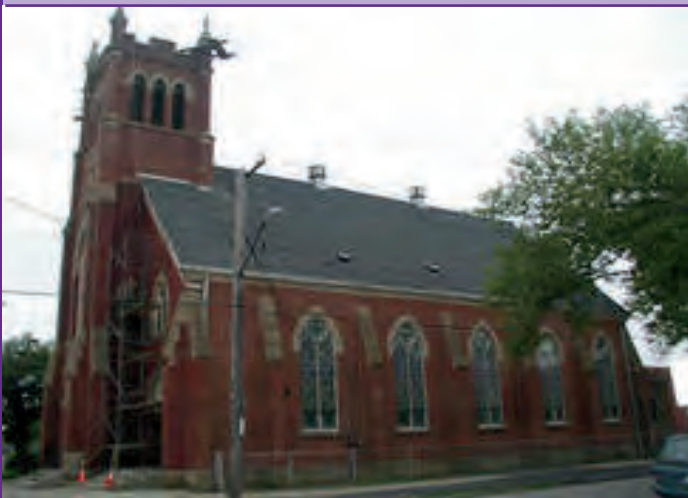
tance or check our website at [www.oldbrooklynhistory.org](http://www.oldbrooklynhistory.org)

**The Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland** - meetings via Zoom. **First Tues.** of the month, 7 pm. No meetings in July & Aug. Check website for updates. <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~ohpgrsgc/>

**Virtual Marketplace - 1st Tues. of the month;** 6 - 7 pm. A high energy, 30-minute exercise that can be used to help people identify & exchange gifts, favors, & advice. Virtual Marketplace is done online. Details & dates can be found at [www.oldbrooklyn.com/obk-virtualmarketplace](http://www.oldbrooklyn.com/obk-virtualmarketplace). To register go to <https://rebrand.ly/OBK-VirtualMarketplace>

## Immanuel Lutheran Church

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If you're reading this column, you've obviously survived the first year – and a bit more -- of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. Sometime in the future, when we look back at this period of our lives and tell our descendants what it was like to live during a pandemic, what will we say?

Of course there will be the part about trying to physically avoid the virus, like the way we've been wearing face masks everywhere, and social distancing, and washing or sanitizing our hands more than we used to. But how did we/are we surviving these times psychologically?

I think that having an 'attitude of gratitude'— gratitude that I am still one of the people 'on this side of the grass' – is a big part of it. And one segment of everyday living which I think helps a person to be positive in their thinking is nature. For me, that means flowers, and I'm happy to report that this past April, after reading so many posts and looking at so many pictures on FaceBook, I was determined to take in some of the most noted floral displays around town. They included

- **'Daffodil Hill'** (it could be called 'Hills'), the expansive area at **Lake View Cemetery**, 12316 Euclid Ave. which stretches to Mayfield Rd, which is ablaze with the golden colors of circa 100,000 daffodil bulbs in April each year;

- The breath-taking varieties of flowering trees along the walkway surrounding **the lagoon** in front of the **Cleveland Museum of Art**, 11150 East Blvd., in University Circle;

- In our own neighborhood, over one hundred Yoshino cherry trees, when they were in bloom, along John Nagy Blvd. in the **Cleveland Metroparks Brookside Reservation** (known as Brookside Park until 1993 when the Metroparks acquired it) and on the tree lawns along Fulton Pkwy. The trees at Brookside were a gift from the Japanese Association of Northeast Ohio to the citizens of Cleveland. Some folks refer to the boulevard as 'Blossom Lane' when the trees are flowering;

- Paying attention while driving on **the side streets of Old Brooklyn** to the other varieties of flowering trees on those tree lawns, too. Although I neglected to write down the names of the most impressive streets, I will do that next spring;

- Visiting the garden of a friend who lives on **West Blvd.** An artistic eye and lots of hard work and money have transformed his corner lot into a botanical paradise, not just in springtime, but throughout the year. His home will be on *Garden Walk* this year, but more about *Garden Walk* later.

Another good place in the neighborhood to look for showy flowers is the sprawling mid-18th century house at **4080 Valley Rd** (on the north side, just before the road starts descending to the Cuyahoga River.) Although it was built by the Brainards, it's been in the Speed (as in **Speed Exterminating**) /Young family for most of its existence. Depending on the weather, the extensive rhododendron plantings may still be in bloom when you're reading this article.

If you miss the rhododendrons, it won't be long before the groupings of towering red canna lilies start to bloom. And when you get to the southwest corner of Valley Rd. and Jennings Rd., take a look around the Old Brooklyn sign there. If it's the right time of summer, you'll see the same variety of canna blooming there.

After years of seeing them, I finally made the connection -- **John Young**, the retired previous owner of Speed Exterminating, is the person who maintains both the canna and the grass there. And after he cuts the grass on his ancestors' home, he rides his John Deere tractor down the grassy area on the north side of Valley Rd. to keep the grass trimmed there, too.

John may live in Fairview Park, but obviously there's a piece of his heart which is still in Old Brooklyn.

While they didn't include flowers, I also participated in two of the four hikes which **Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation** sponsored this past spring. They were funded by a grant called **Get Outside** through the **Neighbor Up** program. Being as they were designed for Covid times, they were out-of-doors and limited in the number of people who could attend.

I missed the first two at Brookside Reservation, but I did attend the third one which took in part of the **Treadway Creek Trail** beginning at **Harmody Park** and the final one which began at **Brookmere Cemetery** (at the end of 'short' Broadview Rd.) and then explored the exteriors of some of the oldest structures in that Memphis/Pearl neighborhood which are related to three generations of **Gates family** millwrights. After a long winter, it was great

to be out in the neighborhood again and learning some new things.

If you're sad to learn that you missed these walks/talks, I understand that funding has arrived to do a few more this summer and that there's a separate article about them in this edition of the *Old Brooklyn News* quarterly.

If you have the interest for cycling, **Peddle for Prizes** is another good way to get outside and enjoy nature. This year, in deference to social distancing, it is again being a no-contact, multi-day event. *Peddle for Prizes 2021* began on Memorial Day and is continuing through the Fourth of July. (Last year I heard comments from some participants that they actually liked it better that way because it was less rushed and gave them time to visit all the stops.) Visit [peddleforprizes.com](http://peddleforprizes.com) for the details.

The 2021 **GardenWalk Cleveland** will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 10 and Sunday, July 11. **Old Brooklyn** will be one of four Cleveland neighborhoods welcoming visitors on Saturday; the other three are Fairfax, Glenville and West Park.

The five Cleveland neighborhoods which will be showcased during Sunday's *GardenWalk* are Collinwood, Little Italy, Broadway-Slavic Village, Clifton-Baltic and Detroit-Shoreway.

Although it won't be outside, I can hardly wait to experience the **Immersive Van Gogh Cleveland Exhibit** coming to the **Cleveland Museum of Art** the week after Labor Day and continuing into February, 2022. The online ticket sales site shows that many of the early time slots are already sold out.

I began this column by talking about Covid-19 and I think that I should also close by talking about it. We in this country are very fortunate to have the vaccines so readily available to us. Please take advantage of that opportunity to protect yourself and others.

While many people have gone downtown to the mass vaccination site at **Cleveland State University's Wolstein Center**, there are many other closer options, including small sessions at neighborhood pharmacies and large scale operations at **MetroHealth Medical Center**.

MetroHealth has done vaccination clinics at many of its own facilities as well as pop-up locations at such places as the MCPc building, (the former RTA bus garage) at 4371 Pearl Rd. MetroHealth's Covid hotline is 216-778-6661 or schedule an appointment at 216-778-6100.

And contact me, Lynette Filips, with any information you'd like me to consider for a future column. Send it to Sandy Wrona at [sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com](mailto:sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com) and she will be sure I get it.

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