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SUMMER 2023

A PUBLICATION OF



OLD BROOKLYN CDC UPDATES





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Contact Sandy Worona 216-459-1000 x 210 or sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com

SUMMER 2023



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Cover Photo: Ben Franklin Community Garden, 1905 Spring Rd.

Photo Credit: Maria Sharp

Our volunteers are the real **MVP'S OF OLD BROOKLYN!**

by OBCDC Staff

Old Brooklyn is a great place to grow, but it takes a village to keep our community sustained and thriving. **We need your help!** OBCDC has recently created our Mighty Volunteers Program (MVPs) to provide greater service to the community as well as create a space for neighbors to meet and work together.

Fulfillment comes from service, and as an OB MVP, you'll have the opportunity to beautify Old Brooklyn, disperse critical information about local services, improve the quality of life of your neighbors, increase housing stock values, and earn SWAG!

SWAG is earned by hours served. Hours are automatically counted via our online volunteer portal when you sign up and show up to volunteer opportunities. And don't worry, we can manually add in your hours if you aren't online!

- 1st time volunteering OBCDC koozie
- 25 hours: Water bottle
- 50 hours: Volunteer t-shirt
- 75 hours: Option of 4 SWAG items
- 100 hours: highlighted on our social media and website + a surprise gift!
- The top 5 volunteers each year will be recognized with a certificate at our Annual Meeting in October

We have many different opportunities for you to volunteer!

The *Old Brooklyn Farmers Market* allows community vendors to engage with residents, sell homemade goods, and demonstrate cooking skills and recipe ideas. It also provides Old Brooklyn access to fresh produce. MVPs may set up, take down, table, or tend to vendors and guests to ensure a welcoming, streamline experience for patrons.

OBCDC has a variety of **events** throughout the year including the Takeover Old Brooklyn Series, the Young Professional Series, Home



On Saturday April 29th, a volunteer group cleaned up Pearl Rd.

Education Series, and the OBCDC Annual Meeting. MVPs may set up, take down, table, or welcome guests.

MVPs help ensure public spaces are welcoming and walkable for residents and patrons by volunteering *in neighborhood beautification* projects on the Brighton Corridor. MVPs may clean up litter, remove graffiti, or landscape.

OBCDC and our MVPs complete small and large **home rehab** projects for Old Brooklyn homeowners who need a helping hand. Our goal is to improve the quality of life for residents and our neighborhood's housing stock. MVPs may clean up litter, landscape, paint, scrape, repair steps or porch railings.

Whatever your skill level or ability we can find a spot for you! If you would like to become a real MVP of Old Brooklyn or you have a group interested in volunteering, please visit our website https://www.oldbrooklyn.com/volunteer. All groups can fill out a form online!













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New Lead Safe Program OBTAIN LEAD SAFE CERTIFICATION

by: OBCDC Staff

OBCDC launched a Lead Safe Program on April 1st! Cleveland City Ordinance requires every rental home built before January 1, 1978 to get a Lead safe certification. This new program will help rental homeowners obtain their Lead Safe Certification.

What does "lead safe" mean? you might ask. "Lead Safe" is a proactive approach to make sure homes do not pose a lead risk. A home is Lead Safe when lead hazards have been controlled and lead dust remains below the threshold set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This means a Lead Safe home is no longer hazardous but may still contain lead.

Lead exposure can cause severe health issues, including high blood pressure as well as brain, kidney, and reproductive complications. Children under 6 are most at risk for health issues stemming from lead poisoning. Most adults with lead poisoning do not look or feel sick. To prevent lead poisoning, residents must live in Lead Safe homes.

OBCDC is offering Lead Safe Clearance testing to help landlords get their homes Lead Safe Certified. All clearances are performed by our Healthy Neighborhood Development Specialist, Alex Deliz, who is also a licensed clearance technician. The price for testing is \$350 per unit. Old Brooklyn residences will receive a \$50 discount!



Healthy Neighborhood Development Specialist, Alex Deliz, tests for lead to help homeowners obtain their Lead Safe Certification.

En Español

OBCDC lanzó un programa Lead Safe el 1 de abril. Este nuevo programa ayudará a los propietarios de viviendas de alquiler a obtener su certificación de lead safe. La ordenanza de la ciudad de Cleveland exige que todas las viviendas de alquiler construidas antes del 1 de enero del 1978 obtengan una certificación lead safe.

¿Qué significa "lead safe"? Lead safe es un enfoque proactivo para asegurarse de que los hogares no representen un riesgo de plomo. Una casa es Lead safe cuando se han controlado los peligros del plomo y el polvo de plomo permanece por debajo del nivel establecido por la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de EE. UU. Esto significa que un hogar Lead safe ya no es peligroso, pero aún puede contener plomo.

OBCDC siente que este es un asunto importante porque la exposición al plomo puede causar graves problemas de salud, como presión alta y complicaciones cerebrales, renales y reproductivas. Los niños menores de los 6 años corren mayor riesgo de sufrir problemas de la salud derivados por el envenenamiento de plomo. La mayoría de los adultos

con envenenamiento de plomo no se ven ni se sienten enfermos. Para prevenir el envenenamiento de plomo, los residentes deben vivir en hogares Lead safe

OBCDC ofrece pruebas de aprobación de lead safe para ayudar a los propietarios a obtener la certificación de lead safe para sus hogares. Todas las autorizaciones son realizadas por nuestro Especialista en Desarrollo de Vecindarios Saludables, Alex Deliz, quien también es un técnico de aclarasiones de plomo licensiado. El precio de la prueba es de \$350 por unidad. iLas residencias de Old Brooklyn recibirán un descuento de \$50!

Contact: Alex Deliz at 216-459-1000 x215 alexd@oldbrooklyn.com oldbrooklyn.com/lead-safe

Comuníquese con: Alex Deliz al 216-459-1000 x215 AlexD@oldbrooklyn.com oldbrooklyn.com/lead-safe





FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PLACE AN ORDER:

SANDY WITH OBCDC AT 216-459-1000

RET3 AT 216-361-9991

WWW.RET3.ORG





Old Brooklyn Community Development **HOME EDUCATION SERIES**



On Wednesday, April 19 hosted a first time home buyer panel at Six Shooter Coffee.

Many of OBCDC's goals revolve around the homeowners in our community. We recently launched our Home Education Series, which includes our first time Home Buyer Panels and Home Repair Workshops! The Education series will provide our current and future residents with knowledge of the housing industry as well as how to better care for their home.

Our First Time Home Buyer Panel educates those looking to buy a home by connecting them with resources to help buyers feel comfortable and knowledgeable about one of the biggest purchases many of us will ever make.

On April 19th, we hosted our first panel discussion at the new Six Shooter Coffee and boosted a great turnout! Our panelists included a real estate agent, lenders, title, and home insurance. They shared an overview of the buying process, how real estate agents operate, what PMI is, how long the process should take, and how to get financed with low to moderate credit. Attendees were able to have their questions answered and enjoyed a free beverage with us.

One of our key points of discussion for the event was how much money is actually needed in addition to a downpayment. Panelist DaQuri Mays laid out an excellent outline of what costs a buyer would and would not be responsible for (costs related to inspections, appraisals, title search, agent fees, and so on). One of our attendees was in the early stages of

trying to buy a home and said that this event gave him the confidence he needed to move forward in the process of homeownership. If you are looking to buy or sell and have questions about how to do so, look for our next event coming in the fall!

In addition to the First Time Home Buyer Panel, OB-CDC is partnering with the Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) to host our Home Repair Workshops this September! Our workshops will provide homeowners a safe space to learn DIY skills and knowledge by trained and certified instructors, so homeowners can complete common housing issues around the house.

This may even help attendees save a few bucks in the future! Each workshop will focus on a specific topic, such as power tools, carpentry, dry wall, and plumbing or tuckpointing, every Thursday of the month from 6-8pm! Seats are limited to 20 adults (18+) per workshop. Tickets are \$10 and include food and beverage.

September 7: Power ToolsSeptember 14: CarpentrySeptember 21: Dry Wall

September 28: Plumbing or Tuckpointing

For more information and to buy tickets, please visit https://obcdchomerepairworkshop.eventbrite.com. See you there!



Dandelion salad with roasted peppers & goat cheese

Recipe Submitted by: Resident Renata Jelito

Servings: 6



Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons minced shallots
- 1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 large red bell pepper
- 2 bunches dandelion greens, stems trimmed, leaves torn
- 5 ounces Capra honey goat cheese or 5 ounces plain soft fresh goat cheese mixed with 2 tsp. honey, crumbled

Instructions:

- Step 1. Combine lemon juice and shallots in small bowl. Gradually whisk in oil. Season dressing to taste with salt and pepper.
- Step 2. Char bell pepper directly over gas flame or in broiler until blackened on all sides. Enclose in paper bag 10 minutes. Peel, seed, and cut pepper into thin strips.
- Step 3. Toss greens and roasted peppers in large bowl with enough dressing to coat. Sprinkle with salt, pepper, and goat cheese.
- Step 4. INGREDIENT TIP: Capra goat cheese is a rich, creamy Belgian cheese that's aged only a few weeks and is sometimes flavored with honey.

Farmer's Market Recipe

Creamy cucumber & tomato

salad

Recipe Submitted by: Chef Lloyd Foust

Serves: 2 - 4



I know the feeling when you walk into a farmer's market in the middle of summer. You see and smell the fresh produce. There are so many options and it is tempting to want to buy them all. I think it is a good idea to have a plan before you arrive. I like to take a quick peek in the cupboard and the fridge to see what needs to be used up.

I wanted to keep this recipe simple and allow the summer produce to be the star. Tomatoes and cucumbers are some of my favorite summer treats.

Ingredients:

- 2 English cucumbers, sliced
- 4 large tomatoes, diced
- 1 white or red onion, thinly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup plain yogurt
- Zest and juice of 1 lemon
- 1 tbsp fresh dill, chopped
- 1/4 cup green onions, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions:

- Stir together sour cream, yogurt, garlic, lemon zest and juice in a bowl. Add salt and pepper taste. Set aside.
- 2. Cut cucumbers, tomatoes, onions and dill and place in a bowl.
- Add the dressing and mix slowly. Adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. If you have any dill leftover it can be used a garish with the green onions before serving.

If you don't want the creaminess then omit the sour cream and yogurt. Replace with a 1/4 cup of Extra Virgin Olive Oil and the zest and juice of another lemon.

The summer music series returns to

Ben Franklin Commnity Garden June 3rd



Visit a true Old Brooklyn gem this summer and discover a welcoming community space while listening to an array of local musicians as they elevate the sounds of the nature!

Every year the Ben Franklin Community Garden brings together a variety of artists to perform in its serene greenspace. The largest garden in the county, Ben Franklin is home to over 200 gardeners, Ben Franklin student gardeners, and the OSU extension's master gardener program. The Ben Franklin committee, comprised of all volunteers, have created a space where you can relax amongst the trees with friends old and new as local musicians entertain you. The party in the garden is a wonderful way to spend a summer evening.

The 2023 music series features local artists, including several Ben Franklin gardeners:

June 3rd: Small Craft Advisory, featuring, "precision picking and gale-force vocals sound the eight-score years and more!" This band will truly delight bluegrass listeners!

June 17th: Sororii, featuring Afro-Colombian cellist Carolina Borja, and bassoonist Arleigh Savage. Carolina and Arleigh's melodic instrumentals, combined with transcendence vocals create a hauntingw array of world music; combining latin, world, and afro grooves.

July 1st: Oleg Kruglyakov, a Russian balalaika soloist who has played with several Folk Russian groups, touring extensively throughout Europe. Through studying the balalaika, Oleg learned to combine classical, ethnic, folk and world music.

July 15th: Morgan MeCaskey, a true embodiment of classic folk, combining superior guitar skills with deep, earnest lyrics. Morgan has the kind of voice that pulls you in and grabs hold, leaving you wanting more

Aug 5th: John Orsini Big Band, featuring the exciting and sweet sounds of John and his saxophone along with 8 other talented musicians.

Aug 19th: Kalamos Trio, a windwood trio whose harmonious melodies transfer us to the worlds of Bach to Babbitt. Soothing sounds and cool beats will get you humming along.

Sept 2nd: Tim McDonald Quartet, led by saxophonist Tim McDonald, the quartet explores jazz with a mix of original music fused with Global folk and Black American music.

Sept 16th: Red Campion, a piano accompanied vocal quartet you will be tapping your toes to. A mixture of show tunes and opera, Lara Troyer, lyric coloratura soprano; Denise Milner Howell, mezzo-soprano; tenor Timothy Culver; baritone Brian Johnson, and pianist, Judith Ryder deliver a unique performance you won't forget.

Music brings people together, and fosters a community of artists and listeners. The enchanting green space within the center of Old Brooklyn will delight you and maybe inspire you to become a gardener yourself!

So grab a chair, grab a friend, and come down to the garden this summer for a unique concert experience in the heart of Cleveland!

The Ben Franklin Community Garden is located behind Ben Franklin School, 1905 Spring Rd.





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Ken Weidus Old Brooklyn Ward 13 Senior of the Year

by Cleveland Department of Aging

Come rain, sleet or snow, count on Ken Weidus! A home delivery volunteer with Senior Citizen Resources since 2017, Ken doesn't let any weather get in the way of getting meals to those in need. Driving his own vehicle, he currently has three routes and delivers five days a week, Monday through Friday.

His mission began six years ago when his pastor asked if wanted something to keep him busy one day a week, and Ken has now become the organization's most reliable and efficient volunteer. He loves getting lots of exercise as well as meeting and visiting the folks on his routes.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Mr. Weidus has lived most of his life in Old Brooklyn where he has always enjoyed walking in the neighborhood. He has one brother and two sisters, plus nine nieces and nephews and 15 great nieces and nephews, so needless to say, his family keeps him very busy!

Ken had a long career as a quality control engineer; first at Teledyne Republic Manufacturing and then Curtiss-Wright, where he retired after 41 years. In his retirement he coached for a little league team in West Park for a time and is still an active volunteer at St. James Lutheran Church.

A pancreatic cancer survivor for more than 20 years, Ken has a great attitude and appreciation for life.



Ken Weidus, Ward 13 Senior of the Year

Mr. Weidus is an avid Cleveland Browns fan and season ticket holder. Ken's father originally bought season tickets in 1950, and when the team was reactivated and began playing in 1999, he handed down the tickets to Ken. With the exception of 2020, when Covid stole the season, the Weidus family has attended every home game for more than 70 years. Now that is a true Cleveland Browns fan legacy!





Mark you calendar:

SUMMER FUN AWAITS

Takeover Old Brooklyn

Back for its 3rd year, Takeover Old Brooklyn is a fun summer event series held at various parks in Old Brooklyn hosted by Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC). Each year the event gets bigger and better! Last year, there were over 400 attendees each month who gathered for delicious food from Old Brooklyn vendors like KCC Carryout, resources from across the region, and activities such as dancing or yoga! This year, Takeover Old Brooklyn (OB) is once a month, from May through August, where everyone is welcome to explore our neighborhood, meet new friends, and enjoy our local parks!

New this year, each event will be geared towards various age groups who call Old Brooklyn home! The focus of the event will change each month, ranging from teens, to young professionals, and to the youngest residents of Old Brooklyn, children. Even though these events will focus on a specific age group, there will be something for everyone who attends. Each Takeover OB throughout the summer will showcase local BIPOC-owned businesses that are in our neighborhood. Our goal is to support, promote, and help the businesses in our community grow! All are welcome at these events, and we hope to create a space for the community to grow together.

May 16th was our kickoff event at Harmody Park! If you didn't get a chance to explore this gem during Takeover OB, take some time to head that way. It's a main connector to the Towpath Trail via the Treadway Creek Trail. The kick-off event had Zumba from Island Beats and Yoga from Little Zen Yoga. Island Beats hosts pop-up classes in Old Brooklyn at Old Brooklyn Nutrition, and Little Zen Yoga is owned by a new resident of Old Brooklyn, Dianne Williams.





Takeover Old Brooklyn

The **June 20th** Takeover Old Brooklyn event will be focused on children and families. As the summer progresses, we will also roam the neighborhood! Hosted at Estabrook Recreation Center and park the month, everyone is able to explore this part of Old Brooklyn. Since this night is for kids and families, we've made sure to include organizations specifically for children such as the Kids Book Bank and the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo! Little Zen Yoga will be back for children's yoga, so make sure to stretch, and we'll also be featuring the Tutti Music Program – bilingual story time and an interactive children's concert.

On **July 18th**, in combination with OBCDC's new Young Professional event series, our third event in the series this summer is a Young Professional Takeover. Make sure to schedule this in your calendar because this will be the first Takeover OB with a beer garden! In partnership with local organizations, there will also be various food options and will feature local band, Ropa Vieja, for entertainment. Feeling sporty? We'll be hosting yard games like cornhole, and other games. Several non-profit partners will also be on site to share opportunities for volunteering and getting civically engaged in Cleveland!

We round out the summer with our Back-to-School event on **August 15th** for Teens in the neighborhood! The last Takeover OB will be at Loew Park, our largest city park in Old Brooklyn. We're excited to get our teenagers ready for school with free haircuts and bike tune ups! JP Hernandez, a local DJ and active community member, also known as BarrioBoy, will be DJing the event. Hernandez is a recent recipient of a Cuyahoga Arts and Culture grant that funds a program to teach teenagers about the history of Hip-Hop. He brings his students with him to DJ gigs to learn about entrepreneurship.

Takeover Old Brooklyn brings together residents, local businesses, and community resources to create a space for community members to learn about one another, support small businesses, and encourage attendees to explore their neighborhood together. We hope to see you for the rest of the Takeover series! To learn more visit, www.oldbrooklyn.com/takeover.

Photos from past Takeover Old Brooklyn events.



YP Social Hour

This year, we are introducing a Young Professional event series, YP Social Hour! We all know it's difficult to meet people as a young adult, after high school or college. Many of us have felt this way and so the idea of a YP Social Hour to connect with other young professionals in the neighborhood emerged! YP Social Hour(s) will occur once a month through the end of 2023!



OBCDC saw the need to help foster third spaces in Old Brooklyn: a place to meet and connect with people outside of home and work. By activating spaces throughout the neighborhood, young professionals (YPs) like you can more easily meet your neighbors in your own neighborhood! A calendar of events is on the Old Brooklyn website. These events will range from happy hours to volunteer opportunities to social activities and outdoor fun.

We kicked off YP Social Hour in May with Carey-oke Night at Pearl Road Tavern! Carey the carrot, Old Brooklyn's mascot, was on site to get the show started. Held on a Friday night, there was a range of karaoke prowess and silliness throughout the evening. If you missed this event, you definitely don't want to miss the next one! We're excited about the event schedule we have for the rest of the summer and year. We'll be gathering at various community hubs, volunteering, and most importantly, building a new community

in Old Brooklyn. YP Social Hour provides an opportunity to stay close to home to connect with friends and build a tighter knit community at the same time.

Old Brooklyn is home to a growing number of residents from ages 25-34 who want to get involved in the community! Old Brooklyn is a great place to live as a first-time homeowner or renter because it's affordable; close to highways, other neighborhoods, and downtown; and our beautiful parks make it easy to get outside. We're grateful to Berkshire Hathaway, Cleveland Home Title, and First Federal of Lakewood for helping make this series possible.

On June 2nd, we're excited to partner with Snowflake Comedy Club! SCC hosts "Spokes & Jokes" monthly at Sixth City Cycles. Snowflake Comedy Club was created by Old Brooklyn resident, Leah Addison to create a space in Northeast Ohio's local comedy scene that is empathetically welcoming and striving to be inclusive as possible. Details on where to purchase tickets can be found on our website at oldbrooklyn.com/ypsocialhour.

To learn more and see future events, visit www.oldbrooklyn.com/ypsocialhour.

Additional events happening in Old Brooklyn

Old Brooklyn Farmers Market: June 24 - September 30. See page 22 for more details!

Volunteer Opportunities:

All summer and fall!

See page 3 for opportunities and fun!

Home Repair Workshops:
Happening in September
See ad on page 16 to reserve your spot!

Old Brooklyn Nite: Save the Date for September 8!

Old Brooklyn Day: Saturday, October 14 all day long! www.oldbrooklyn.com/events

Helping small businesses WITH WHITE BOX GRANTS

As a Middle Neighborhood, Old Brooklyn faces many challenges in attracting private investment. Our real estate market hurts from lack of confidence from investors who prefer projects in "safer" suburban or hotter, market-rate urban areas. Our neighborhood also has enough stability and vibrancy to not qualify for government or philanthropic investments that are designed to support distressed neighborhoods. As a result, Old Brooklyn is challenged by a sluggish real estate market causing a slow decline in the health of our main street commercial districts. That is until last fall!

Old Brooklyn CDC and Cleveland Neighborhood Progress (CNP) collaborated to tackle this issue with the Whitebox Pilot Program. The term "whitebox" means to renovate a rentable space to be a blank slate for a potential commercial tenant to customize to their specific needs.

The pilot program involved an up to \$50,000 matching grant provided by CNP to a local real estate developer to whitebox two long vacant storefronts located at 4298 Pearl Road in the heart of Old Brooklyn. The grant gave the developer critical funds to cover their first costs of buying the building and to quickly renovate the two storefronts to be marketable space.

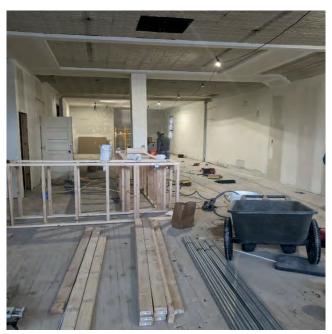
This effort worked! Within a few months, the two storefronts at 4298 Pearl had leases signed for two new tenants. The larger storefront will be home to an existing neighborhood entrepreneur's online store that specializes in "pop culture merchandise, collectibles, toys, games, and cool vintage finds."

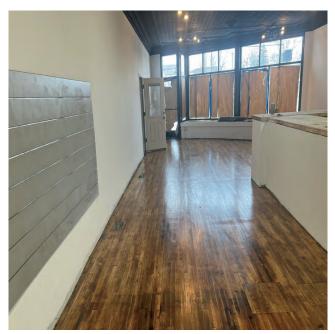
This "clicks-to-bricks" concept will bring the business to a brick-and-mortar storefront for the first time, allowing for an expansion of their customer base and offerings. It is also intended to be a gathering place for the community who are interested in these collections and hobbies.

The second storefront will feature a coffee shop and café concept of an existing Cleveland-based small business that will be expanding their concept into the Old Brooklyn market. Both entrepreneurs are interested in collaborating and jointly programing their individual spaces. In fact, they share a door and can walk in between the storefronts without going outside!

A blank canvas space that was created by this grant pilot program was a key to help the local entrepreneurs to vision their ideas and commit to leasing the storefront. Be sure to watch OBCDC social media and other communication channels this summer for updates and information about the grand openings of both new small businesses in our neighborhood!

Due to the success of this program, OBCDC, with its partners at CNP, will be pursuing new funds to replenish this program. Investment in this storefront shows a proof-of-concept to other potential investors and helps attract other new small businesses in the same way. If you currently or would like to own property or run a small business in Old Brooklyn, please contact Charles at charlesk@oldbrooklyn.com or (216) 459-1000 x 203.





The Whitebox Pilot Program is helping two new bussinesses renovate at 4298 Pearl Rd.



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Celebrating Moses Cleaveland trees in 2021 **DELAYED TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC, part II**

by Lynette Filips

Have you noticed the emphasis on trees in recent years? Judging from the communications which Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) has been emailing and posting online, there's lots of interest in planting and tending to trees in "The Forest City" these days. OBCDC recently added five tree stewards to its staff and has been advertising for more. They've also been promoting a "Get a tree planted in your yard for free" program for months.

OBCDC also collaborated on a project with Holden Arboretum to propagate descendants of the Jesse Owens white oak tree at James Ford Rhodes High School through grafting and they are proud to publicize our neighborhood's Yoshino Cherry trees along a section of John Nagy Blvd. (Metroparks Brookside Reservation) when the trees are blooming.

My contribution to our continuing interest in trees is that the topic of my history article in the Spring issue of the *Old Brooklyn News* was how Moses Cleaveland Trees came to be. In case you missed it, here's a brief summary –

Moses Cleaveland Trees were first recognized during Cleaveland's sesquicentennial (the 150th anniversary of its founding) in 1946. The number of trees -- 150-was symbolic of the number of years since Cleveland was founded. Arthur B. Williams, the curator of education at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and the City of Cleveland Sesquicentennial Committee came up with the idea.

To be designated as a Moses Cleaveland Tree, a tree had to be growing in the forest which would become Greater Cleveland when Moses Cleaveland's surveyors were dividing the Western Reserve into townships. The trees also had to be beautiful, in good health and located where the public would be able to see them.

Since the trees had to be living, counting the rings in their trunks wasn't a possibility. A. B. Williams used an existing formula for measuring the circumference of a tree at a certain height and using a chart with the annual growth factor for each species.

Mr. A.B. Williams also wanted as many species of trees as possible to be represented. In all 23 different species were designated as Moses Cleaveland trees, but when I wrote the article in our Spring issue, I only knew the following 10 species -- Ameri-

can beech, American sycamore, American elm, black oak, cottonwood, pin oak, red oak, sour gum, tupelo/tulip and white oak.

With more research I've learned the remaining 13 species - bur oak, catalpa, chestnut oak, cucumber magnolia, hickory, sassafras, shellback hickory, silver maple, sugar maple, swamp white oak, sycamore, white ash and willow oak.

Unfortunately, not all of the original Moses Cleaveland Trees were photographed, but many of them were. And they were each identified with an aluminum plaque containing the tree's common and botanical name and a statement about what a Moses Cleaveland Tree is. (See the photo below.)



In the last issue I also mentioned that between 1971 and 1986, the Early Settlers Association of the Western Reserve had gotten involved with the Moses Cleaveland Tree project They located the original trees (or lack thereof) and determined that 92 of the original 150 were still alive. They also found additional trees which met the criterion to be a Moses Cleaveland Tree and added them to the list.

Old Brooklyn's Lutheran Cemetery, 4566 Pearl Rd., has one -- a white oak, the most common species of Moses Cleaveland Trees. It has the distinction of being the Moses Cleaveland Tree with the widest branching; its crown spreads more than 100 feet in diameter.

I also referenced the Early Settlers' website, www. earlysettlers.org. At that time, however, I had not extensively explored their webpages as I already had more than enough information for my first article.

Three months later, I have seriously looked at the Early Setters Association's website and I could not



be more impressed with their coverage of Moses Cleaveland Trees. The trees are one of the major subdivisions on the group's homepage. Then click on Moses Cleaveland Trees yesterday; Moses Cleaveland Trees today; Moses Cleaveland Trees tomorrow; The Moses Cleaveland White Oaks; and/or The Moses Cleaveland Trees at Lake View Cemetery.

In addition to a map and pages of data about the trees, each segment has a picture and the address and additional notes about the trees in that category. If anyone reading this article is feeling a desire to visit some (or all) of the living trees, a visit to the Early Settlers' website should be the first stop.

The online presence is largely the work of Roy Larick, Ph.D., because he's Chairman of the Moses Cleaveland Tree Committee of the Early Settlers Association. Roy is an archeologist by degree, but local geology and the world of nature are also his passions. He was known to William C. "Bill" Barrow, the president of the Early Settlers Association, because of their mutual interest in local history. Before retiring, Bill had been the Special Collections librarian at Cleveland State University's Michael Schwartz Library.

Roy's name may be familiar to some readers because in his other capacity as founder of Bluestone Conservation in Euclid, he has done programs in our neighborhood within the last few years. OBCDC hired him two summers ago to (1) lead a walk through Brookmere Cemetery and the nearby old section of Old Brooklyn; and (2) lead a hike down the Treadway Creek Trail at one of the "takeovers" at Harmody Park.

Roy has also worked with Big Creek Connects, and he gave a PowerPoint presentation about Moses Cleaveland Trees at the Brooklyn Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library last year.

The Forest City Working Group of Sustainable Cleveland also worked on inventorying Moses Cleaveland Trees for the 225th anniversary of Cleveland's founding. At a ceromony on Public Square on July 21st, 2023, Roy announced the results of their combined effort.

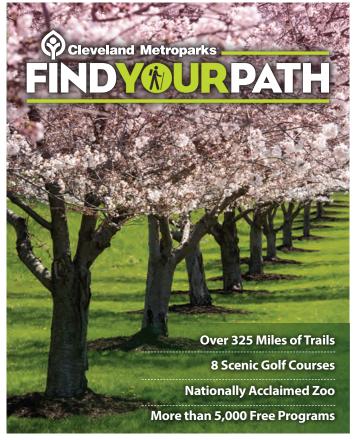


All photos from the internet

There is still so much to share about Moses Cleaveland Trees that I will write about them again in the next issue. More trees will definatley be added to the original three lists of Moses Cleaveland Trees.



Lynette has lived over 53 years of her life in Old Brooklyn and written for the Old Brooklyn News for 33 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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WHO ARE THE PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Q: Tell us a little about yourselves!

A: I'm Rachel Ventura. I live with my family and run my business, FrankieLynn Hot Dogs in Old Brooklyn. My husband is chef Lloyd Foust and our kids are Lukas (9) and Lloyd (3). We also have a dog named Olive and cat named Eby

Q: How long have you both lived in the neighborhood?

A: We have lived in Old Brooklyn together for the past 7 years. I was here off and on before that.

Q: Where can we find you out and about in OB & Cleveland?

A: Dina's is our family favorite to sit down and have something to eat in the neighborhood. We love going to Honey Hut. Irie is some of my favorite food in the city. The Old Brooklyn Cheese Co for some awesome cheese and locally made foods. Sixth city cycles for a new plant or bike part. We go to Estabrook and Loew park for swimming and playing. Lloyd and Lukas frequent the South Brooklyn branch of the library very often. This summer the FrankieLynn hot dog cart will be at the Old Brooklyn Farmers Market As well as the last 3 Old Brooklyn Take Overs. Chances are you'll see the whole family, maybe in their hot dog costumes!

Q: How did you both get involved in the food scene?

A: I got involved in restaurant industry on accident when I worked in bars to get through college. After I graduated I moved to NYC with no real plans and continued in the industry. When I was there I worked in a few restaurants and went out to many and really developed a liking for food, drink and customer interaction. I got my degree in social work and while I still feel strongly about social justice and caring for people, office life didn't stand a chance against the spontaneity, incredible people and fun in the restaurant industry.



Photo courtesy of Rachel Ventura



Rachel Ventura, FrankieLynn Hot Dogs

Lloyd and the boys surprised Rachel in their hot dog costumes at the Old Brooklyn Farmers Market last summer.

Q: What cooking show would you love to be on?

A: I would absolutely never compete in a cooking show but I would love to judge iron chef. I've been watching that show since food network was showing the old Japanese versions late night.

Q: What else would you like people to know about you both?

A: I put together the FrankieLynn Hot Dog cart menu with the help of my chef husband and an emphasis on Cleveland. Everything on the menu is made right here in Cleveland, OH. Our hot dogs, buns, and condiments are all made or sourced by local Cleveland businesses. We also want to make sure as many people as possible can enjoy FrankieLynn hot dogs so we carry vegan hot dogs, gluten-free buns, lil frankies, and you'll even see doggy dogs sometimes. As we always say, HOT DOGS FOR EVERYONE!

Q: Where can we find you this summer?

A: Follow FrankieLynn Hot Dogs on social here: Facebook: @frankielynnhotdogs

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Old Brooklyn Farmers Market returns June 24 2023 season brings new market manager, programming and vision

by Andrew Holmes

With all threat of frost behind us and the long warm days of summer officially here, it's almost time to kick off the 2023 season for the Old Brooklyn Farmers Market.

Building on a Strong History

As the new farmer market manager tasked with planning the 2023 season, an early priority was to make sure we brought back the people and goods we've grown to love from seasons past. Visitors to this year's market will see plenty they recognize – Donald and Mary Anne of Don Anna Farms are returning with their produce for all those fresh summer recipes we love to make, and Emily Sinclair of Buttery Bee Bakery is back with a whole host of sweet baked goods we love to indulge in. For those shopping hungry, Rachel Ventura of FrankieLynn Hot Dogs will again be serving delicious gourmet hotdogs from her mobile cart. OBFM will continue to focus on proudly serving users of SNAP, WIC, and Produce Perks. It's my hope that many of our shoppers finish the season on a first name basis with us.

New year. New vendors and programs.

The upcoming year also brings with it plenty of new and exciting details. OBFM shoppers will learn about a loyalty punch card program where they can earn free perks. We've added new and exciting vendors like The Doodlebug Bakery and The Merchant Room – talented local food vendors that we think the community will fall in love with. Thursday evening markets make their debut this year and with it comes the opportunity for OBFM to design a fun summer night out with programming aimed at families, young professionals, and couples in search of a creative date night. And make sure to keep an eye on our calendar for upcoming details about a new OBFM event that's all about bringing your dog to the market!

Planning for the Future

The entire team working on OBFM has reams of new ideas for our community's farmers market and our expectations for the future are high. It's my hope that you'll pen our schedule on your calendar and come down to join us in building upon an annual tradition that has an incredible amount of potential for



Andrew Holmes, Old Brooklyn Farmers Market Manager

our neighborhood. It's my intention to speak to as many visitors as time allows this season – if you see me at the market but we miss the chance to connect, feel welcome to reach out to me via email obfm@oldbrooklyn.com or by phone, 216-217-9962.

Can't wait to see you there!

For up-to-date activity and event information go to www.oldbrooklyn.com/market



Summer 2023

THE TOWN CRIER

The calendar still says April as I write this column for the June issue of the Old Brooklyn News, but "Spring is busting out all over." This annual rebirth in nature makes winter bearable and spring my favorite season of the year; working in my flower gardens is where I want to be.

Fortunately for me and other like-minded individuals, our city's glorious free weekend for flow-



er-holics, *GardenWalk Cleveland; Buds, Blooms and Bees,* will be returning this summer. on the weekend of Saturday, July 8th, and Sunday, July 9th, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Old Brooklyn** will again be one of the featured neighborhoods on Saturday.

In addition to Old Brooklyn, gardeners in Fairfax, Glenville, Ohio City, Tremont and West Park will be welcoming visitors to their yards on Saturday. On Sunday, Broadway-Slavic Village, Clifton-Baltic, Collinwood, Detroit Shoreway and Little Italy will be the host neighborhoods.

Visit GardenwalkCleveland.org closer to that weekend for the addresses and map of the gardens on each neighborhood's self-guided tour routes. Or pick up the addresses and map at each neighborhood's Information Station. Old Brooklyn's will be at 5608 Stickney Ave. Volunteer **Casey Hill** is Old Brooklyn's official "Garden Finder"; contact him at (440) 487-4365.

Last year, fifty Old Brooklyn residents opened their gardens for the tour. Depending on when you are reading this article, there may still be time for you to showcase your garden this year. Visit www.gardenwalkcleveland ASAP to see if you can still sign up.

Each stop in *GardenWalk* has its own charm, but my favorite backyard among the ones I viewed last year was on West Clinton Ave. in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood of Cleveland. By thoughtful placement of trees, bushes, other plantings and a large man-made pond inside a fenced backyard, the owner completely changed an ordinary city property into a woodland garden escape. I am really hoping that it will be on the Sunday tour again this year.

It's not just about the flowers, though; it's also about the trees. Unfortunately, trees can be vulnerable pieces of creation, especially when a month was as windy as April

was. Thanks to the person in the *Living in Old Brooklyn* Facebook group who posted pictures of the massive fallen white pine in **Brookmere Cemetery**, I was able to visit the remains, mourn its passing and also mourn the demise of the very old headstones which were destroyed when it fell. I don't know how to estimate the tree's height at the point at which it snapped, but it was clearly rotted on the inside.

If you've never visited Brookmere Cemetery at the end of "Short" Broadview Rd., do plan to stop by (on a day which isn't windy!) to experience it. I think that it's the most serene place in all of Old Brooklyn.

"Tree-Hugger" that I am, I was pleased to be able to attend **West Creek Conservancy's** annual meeting on Wednesday, April 19th, at **Stillwater Place** in the **Cleveland Metroparks Zoo**. In addition to snacks, sweets and libations and a presentation from the organization's executive director, **Derek Schafer**, there were also mini-talks from Cleveland Metroparks CEO Brian Zimmerman, and the directors of some of West Creek's partners – Portage Park District, Summit Metro Parks, Medina Park District and Ohio Public Works Commission.

West Creek Conservancy was founded in 1997; one of the co-founders was Old Brooklyn resident and environmentalist **Jeff Lennartz**. Jeff had been on the Board since its inception, and just stepped down as volunteer Chairman within the past year. It is remarkable to look at the maps and see just how much land in Parma the Conservancy has been able to preserve as greenspace during those years due to the vision of the organization's founders, subsequent executive directors and members of the Board.

Visit www.westcreek.org, and check out the Spring, 2023 edition of their newsletter to read about recent land acquisitions from Padua Franciscan High School (the soccer fields) and the former Catholic Camp Corde' and Parmadale as well as their "beyond Parma" projects which include the **Stickney Creek floodplain restoration** in the City of Brooklyn and the gardens at **Art House** in the **Brooklyn Centre** neighborhood of Cleveland.

I am looking forward to the sixth season of *Cleveland History Days* which will run from Friday, June 23rd through Sunday, July 2nd. Last year almost 40 programs were offered, one of which was in Old Brooklyn -- at **Metropolitan Coffee** on Broadview Rd. at the corner of Portman Ave. The dates and details of this year's tours, lectures and events weren't available at press time but search online for the schedule closer to the 10-day event at www.canalwaypartners.com.

For another Cleveland history experience, join a *Take-A-Hike* tour this summer. The free annual program of in-person tours started June 1st and will run until September 30th. The free self-guided tours are available year-round via a mobile device. The self-guided tour topics change quarterly. From its downtown origins in 2009, *Take-A-Hike* has expanded to the University Circle and Tremont neighborhoods. See the 16-tour schedule at www.takeahikecle.com.

The Catholic Diocese of Cleveland's *The Fest* was held at Brookside Reservation in 2021, but it returned to its original location on the Seminary grounds in Wickliffe last year. And that's where this popular free celebration will take place again this year, too. The date will be Sunday, August 6th. Visit www.thefest.us for details about the bands and activities. And thank you to Marc's and the many other businesses, companies and organizations which supply the funds to make it happen,

A change has taken place with the **Barbara Spaan Crime Watch** group which had been meeting in the **Parish Center at Mary Queen of Peace Church**. Because of that building having stairs, some people requested a location which would be accessible to the handicapped. The decision was made at the April meeting to move to **St. James Lutheran Church,** Broadview Rd. at Oak Park Ave. The time remains the same – 7 p.m. – but the day has changed to the third MONDAY of the month. This month's meeting will be on June 19th and the guest

speaker's presentation will be about the proposed revitalization of the Lakefront, specifically the downtown portion of the Shoreway.

By now you've probably heard or seen that (1) part of **Pearlbrook Shopping Center** at Pearl Rd. and Brookpark Rd. has been fenced off and a Sheetz gas station plaza will be built on the site; and (2) the **CVS drugstore** on the corner of **Memphis Ave. and Pearl Rd.** closed on May 23rd. I've heard that the reason for the closing is the landlord increasing the rent, but I haven't been able to find out if it's the building owner or the land owner who did that.

So now Old Brooklyn will have another gas station plaza in the immediate vicinity of two existing stations and two vacant drug stores and parking lots within close proximity to each other. Some of us wish that the Glenn Restaurant and the charming storefronts on the southwest corner of Pearl Rd. and Memphis Ave. corner had never been torn down. The same preservation-minded people are probably wishing the same thing about the Pearlbrook Shopping Centre. But if there's one thing certain in life it is change.

That's all for this month. If you have contributions or ideas for this column, please email them to Lynette Filips c/o Sandy Worona, at the *Old Brooklyn News*, Sandyw@oldbrooklyn.com and she will be sure that I get them.



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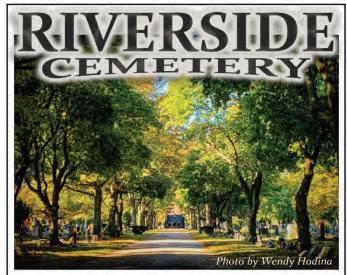




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Fri., May 12, 7 pm. Jamie Owens, & Maria Moldovan, Riverside Cemetery, gives a presentation on the "Symbols & Stories of Riverside Cemetery". A deep dive into the meaning behind headstone symbolism & the history behind the people who chose these symbols to represent them after they have passed. Pearl Road UMC, 4200 Pearl Rd. Enter the driveway off Memphis Ave. Memorial Day Observance - Mon., May 29, 12 noon. Brookmere Cemetery. Bring your own lawnchairs, Keybank employees have volunteered to place flags on all veterans graves. Rev. Carol Leahy will officiate & Tim Leahey will accompany. Trunk to Treasure" - Sun., June 4, 1 - 4 pm. Pearl Road UMC parking lot. Space rental \$10. in advance. Contact the museum to reserve your spot. Spring Clean" for Savers - Bring donations to the museum, Tues., Thurs. or Sat., 1 - 5 pm. Potluck Picnic -Fri., July 14, 5 pm. Memorial Park in Brooklyn, on Memphis Ave

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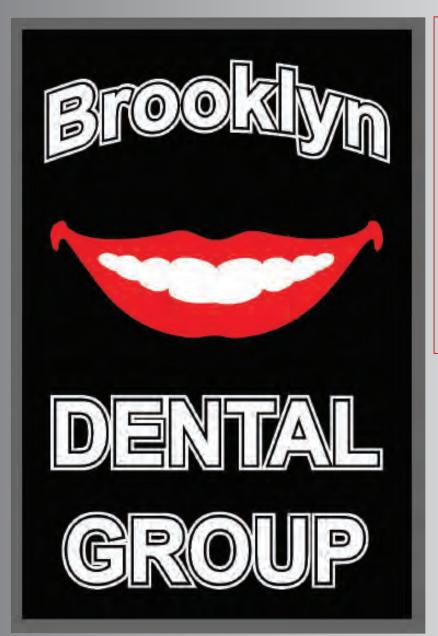
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