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Eaton Family CU Leader is NOACC Bright Star 2010

By Fred Siegel

The Chamber Bright Stars for 2010 were recognized Oct. 28 at the semi-annual board meeting and 15th anniversary celebration of the Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce (NOACC), held at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's Primate, Cat and Aquatic Building.

Mike Losneck, Eaton Family Credit Union, was awarded a Bright Star on behalf of his work with the Western Lake County Chamber Commerce. He remarked, "We take our community involvement seriously at Eaton Family Credit Union. The WLCCC board and volunteers work hard. We had fun this year and raised a lot of money. I enjoyed working on the golf outing and the Oktoberfest was a blast."

Almost 50 chambers of commerce across northern Ohio nominated a person from their chamber as their "Bright Star," to recognize a chamber member who has made a significant impact on the chamber through membership, retention, sponsorship, economic development, operations and/or education. Each Bright Star is an active chamber member for no less than two years and is likely to be an unsung hero or a dedicated behind-the-scenes volunteer.

These volunteers represent a wide range of involvement with their respective chambers, some having been a member and or officer or committee chairman for 20 or more years, and some are newly involved. But each has given freely of his or her time, working hard for their chambers without any expectations.

This is the third year for the Bright Star Awards, and again has given an opportunity to recognize these volunteers among their peer groups, as chamber representatives, board members.

The Chamber Bright Stars will receive a plaque and trophy in addition to this public recognition. Wayne Lawrence, NOACC chairman was pleased that this opportunity allowed the chambers and their communities to give these Bright Stars the thanks they deserve for everything they do to help their chambers succeed.

ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT: Wayne Lawrence, Executive Director, Beachwood Chamber of Commerce & Chairman of the Board, NOACC; Karen Tercek, President, Western Lake County Chamber of Commerce; Bright Star recipient Mike Losneck, President, Eaton Family Credit Union; and Maureen Kyle, WKYC, Channel 3

Library Director Receives Community Service Award

Euclid Public Library Director Donna Perdzock was honored with a Community Service Award on November 11 by the Cleveland Clinic Hospital System. This award was presented to Perdzock in appreciation for her contributions in making the community of Euclid one of the "best places to live." In her nearly 40 years of service to Euclid's library, she has had one goal in mind: to "provide the community with a good library they see as a resource for information, for entertainment and for education."

In this, the library's 75th year of service to Euclid, the library has been recognized as one of the "Top Ten Libraries in the Nation" by the Hennen Awards and as a "Four Star Library" from *Library Journal*.

Perdzock is shown above at the awards ceremony with Euclid Fire Chief Tom Cosgriff, Euclid Police Chief Jim Repicky, Mayor Bill Cervenik and former Mayor Paul Oyaski.

Cleveland Clinic honors Euclid Firefighters for skill and expertise

By Captain Will Anderson

Eleven Euclid firefighters were recognized and honored by the Cleveland Clinic last month for their actions while rendering patient care on two separate incidents that occurred in 2009.

Lieutenant David Rowell, Fire Fighter-EMT Randy Potts, Fire Fighter-Paramedics Eric Patterson, Jim Retallick, and Nathan Barry were recognized and honored for their treatment and expert care of a 32-year old pregnant woman who was complaining of tightness and discomfort in her chest. This patient was 37 weeks into a healthy pregnancy and had no prior medical problems. The chest discomfort had progressed to include shortness of breath. Following their protocols, the members found an abnormal EKG. Because she was pregnant and exhibiting signs of an impending heart attack, she was transported to Hillcrest Hospital. While transporting to Hillcrest, these men continued emergency treatment to stabilize the patient's cardiac condition while preparing for the possibility of cardiac arrest and impending delivery of a baby.

Upon arrival at Hillcrest Hospital, clinicians determined the patient was suffering from a dissecting aortic aneurysm, a rare and often fatal cardiac condition. From Hillcrest, she was flown to University Hospital where she received an emergency C-section and open-heart surgery to repair her life-threatening dissecting aortic aneurysm. She fortunately delivered a healthy baby and she survived both surgeries. In discussions with the surgical team, this specific case was unheard of and the care provided in stabilizing this patient was paramount to her survival. Their care, both medically and emotionally, for the pregnant patient was the determining factor in the survival of not one, but two patients.

During an afternoon in July 2009, Captain Jay Womack, Fire Fighter-EMT Ron Brickman and Kevin Padden, and Fire Fighter-Paramedics Scott Svonovec, John Reidy and Noah Carney were dispatched to the Euclid Metroparks for a 38-year old male who was unresponsive. These men found bystanders attempting to perform CPR on the patient, assessed the situation and determined the patient was not breathing and had no pulse. Following their protocols, these men inserted an airway device into the patient, continued CPR, and administered life-saving medications. He was taken to Euclid Hospital. Upon arrival at the hospital, the patient was fully responsive and breathing on his own. The Cleveland Clinic wanted to also recognize these six individuals for their life-saving actions.

Personally, I'd like to say thank you, not only to these 11 members, but to all the firefighter/medics and front-line supervisors who are always out in the streets performing their duties to the best of their abilities. Keep up the good work!

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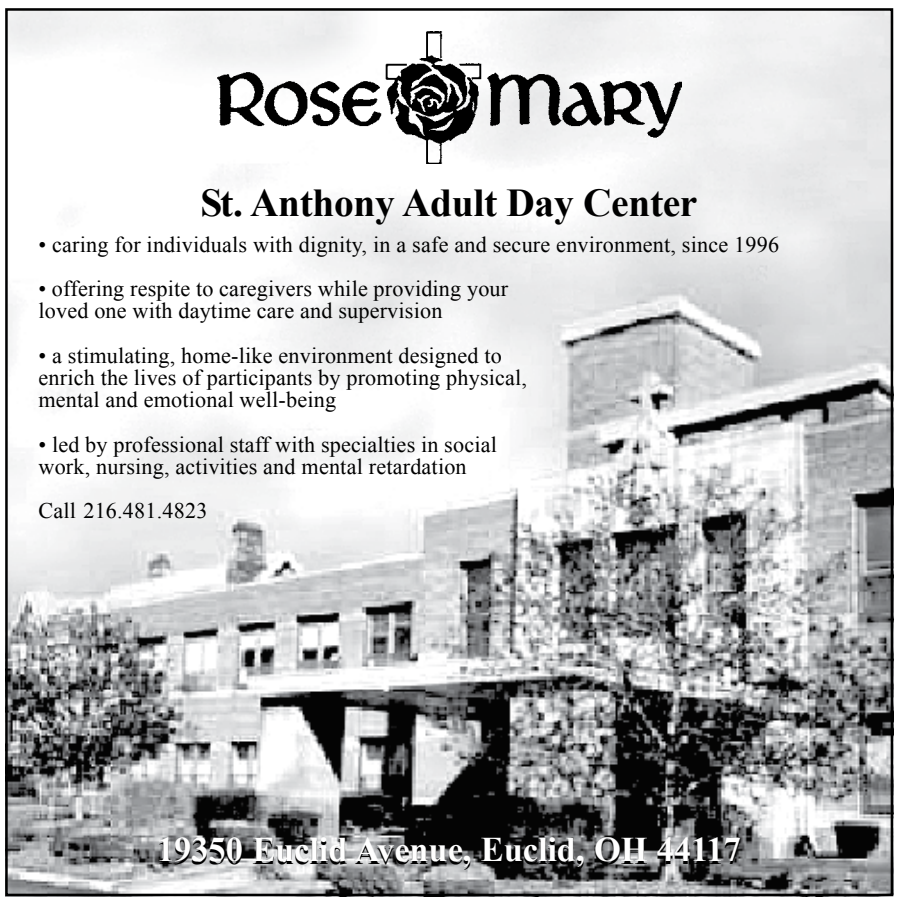

Euclid Observer

Update from the mayor

Remember neighbors, others during this season

For many of us, we are approaching a special time of the year where family and friends gather together and celebrate the holidays and the good food and fun that go along with them. As we are enjoying the season, please remember neighbors and other acquaintances that may be less fortunate. Check in on elderly neighbors that may need to see a friendly face and reassurance that help is near by. Many elderly need extra assistance during the winter in taking their trash can to the curb or back to the house. Some may need snow shoveled off their steps or drive or their newspaper brought to their door.

Euclid Senior Programs offers a variety of services to residents 60 years of age and over including transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping and to their lunch program. Home-delivered meals are also available to shut-ins. Euclid Senior Programs also has many other programs and activities such as exercise and educational classes, craft clubs, book discussions, support groups and more. Call Euclid Senior Programs at (216) 289-2985 for details on their offerings.

This year the Euclid YMCA, located at 631 Babbitt Road will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages. The toys will distributed as part of the Toys for Tots campaign. There are a variety of worthwhile organizations that are in need of volunteers. Please consider helping out now and/or throughout the upcoming year.

Bill Cervenik

Mayor Bill Cervenik

Power in numbers

By Tyler Paine

I am a lifelong resident of the city of Euclid. In my decades here, I have, like many of you, watched the city go from an idyllic inner-ring suburb to a community searching for its soul. Mayors and council members have come and gone, but the slide has proceeded nearly unabated. Yes, there are things to celebrate such as the renovation of downtown Euclid and other beautification projects. However, residents are still fleeing to the east for an assortment of reasons, not the least of which is hope for a better tomorrow. Well, not all of us want to abandon our hometown, or the community we've joined in order to move up in life. That is why I am putting ink on the sheets; I want to be a part of the solution and I want you to join me.

This is the first article I have ever written, but I hope it will not be my only. Will my time be spent for naught, or will my desire for unity and improvement be heard and embraced? I have no way of knowing, but I am certain I cannot sit idly by. I know many of you out there feel the same, but may not know what you can do. This article is for you.

In the 2009 General Election, just under 13,000 people voted for the bond issue, close to 12,000 people voted on the charter amendments, and just over 9,000 people voted for council president. The number of registered voters, according to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, was 35,570 (figures per BOE web site). That means approximately 36 percent of eligible voters chose to exercise their right and have their voice heard in the most engaged area. That number drops off to only 25 percent for council president. Why is that? Why are so few people interested in the politics of the city in which they reside?

I won't pretend to have the answers, but I do hope to find out before our next election, and I am optimistic you will help me. We need to come together and get things done. Everyone who is ready, willing and able to be active, this is your call. I suffer from no delusions that people are going to start suddenly going to council or school board meetings, or that the gatherings of neighborhood associations will overflow with new members. That said, this is the beginning of my effort to make strides in those directions.

My goals are simple: engage the community in active dialogue about the ups and downs thereof, bring awareness and new participants to the various tables offering paths to betterment for the city, and generally improve the quality of life for all residents. With a bit of effort, and a dash of luck, we can do just that by bringing residents together and coordinating our power. Therefore, I ask two simple things of everyone reading this:

• Pass this article along to everyone you know, whether physically or digitally (www.euclidobserver.com).

• E-mail me at HotDogsAndPeanuts@hushmail.com with whatever is on your mind related to Euclid. Be it praise, a complaint, a suggestion, or a story, I want to hear it so I can see where the collective consciousness of our city currently rests. It is from this we can prioritize and plan, so don't be shy.

Health News

Winter weather brings danger of carbon monoxide

By Captain Will Anderson
Euclid Fire Department

Every year when the weather turns colder the Euclid Fire Department (EFD) responds to hundreds of calls relating to odors, smoke scares, illnesses, fires and carbon monoxide (CO) detector activations. Most of these CO alarms turn out to be false. However, a small percentage will reveal high levels of CO within a structure. This article will help make you aware of the following:

- What is CO?
- Where does CO come from?
- Why CO is dangerous
- Signs and symptoms of CO exposure
- How to protect your family

What is CO?

CO is the short name for carbon monoxide, an invisible gas found in polluted air, car exhaust, and near a leak or problem in certain machines, such as furnaces, water heaters, and even chimneys.

Where does CO come from?

Carbon monoxide is a by-product of combustion, present whenever fuel is burned. It is produced by common home appliances, such as gas or oil furnaces, gas refrigerators, gas clothes dryers, gas ranges, gas water heaters or space heaters, fireplaces, charcoal grills and wood burning stoves. Fumes from automobiles and gas-powered lawn mowers also contain carbon monoxide and can enter a home through walls or doorways if an engine is left running in an attached garage. Never leave an automobile or portable generator running in an attached garage!

All of these sources can contribute to a CO problem in the home. If a home is vented properly and is free from appliance malfunctions, air pressure fluctuations or airway blockages, carbon monoxide will most likely be safely vented to the outside. But in today's "energy efficient" homes this is frequently not the case.

Why CO is dangerous

The great danger of carbon monoxide is its attraction to hemoglobin in the bloodstream. When breathed in, carbon monoxide replaces the oxygen which cells need to function. After prolonged exposure, people will begin to exhibit signs and symptoms of CO poisoning.

Signs and symptoms of CO exposure

When CO is present in the air, it rapidly accumulates in the blood, causing symptoms similar to the flu, such as headaches, fatigue, nausea, dizzy spells, confusion, and irritability. As levels increase, vomiting, loss of consciousness, and eventually brain damage or death can result.

How to protect yourself and your family

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends installing at least one carbon monoxide detector per household, near the sleeping area. Additional detectors on every level of a home and in every bedroom provide extra protection. Choose an Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) listed detector that sounds an audible alarm. You can choose a model that is wired to your home's electrical system, a model which plugs into a standard electrical outlet, or a battery-operated model. Battery-operated carbon monoxide detectors continue to protect even in the event of a power outage. Hardwired AC models, although more costly and difficult to install, reduce the expense of battery replacement but do not offer protection during power outages. Hardwired AC models with battery back-up offer double protection.

Gas appliances, especially furnaces, boilers, and water heaters should be serviced yearly by a qualified service technician. Stove burners should be cleaned and adjusted to minimize the amount of carbon monoxide produced. Before making changes to a house that might affect the ventilation of fuel-burning appliances, contact your heating contractor. When replacing heating appliances, purchase appliances designed to reduce dangers from carbon monoxide, such as sealed combustion gas furnaces, direct vent gas fireplaces, or induced draft gas water heaters. Electric-powered heating appliances do not produce carbon monoxide.

If your carbon monoxide detector sounds, first make sure it is your CO detector and not your smoke detector. The latest generation of carbon monoxide detectors listed with UL will be marked "carbon monoxide detector" in a contrasting color on the cover. Some detectors feature a warning alarm which will sound before the full (continuous) alarm. If your detector is in warning alarm, carbon monoxide is beginning to accumulate. It is important to locate and eliminate the source of CO before the condition worsens.

If your detector is in full alarm and any member of the household is experiencing symptoms of poisoning, call the fire department! Remember that infants, children, and the elderly may be affected more quickly by carbon monoxide. Be sure to see if they are exhibiting symptoms.

Lastly, a CO detector is an inexpensive life insurance policy. Please invest in one to protect yourself and your family. *Happy Thanksgiving!*

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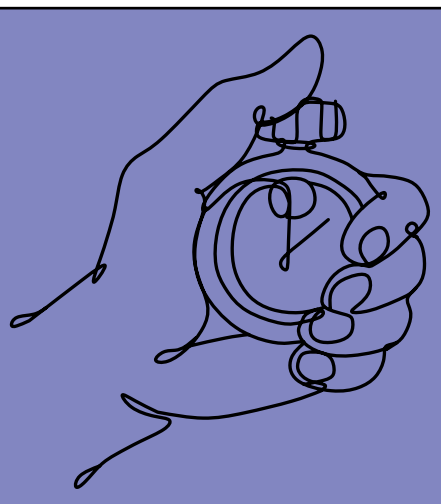

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City News

OBSERVATIONS

By Jerry Corbran

The political machine thwarts takeover

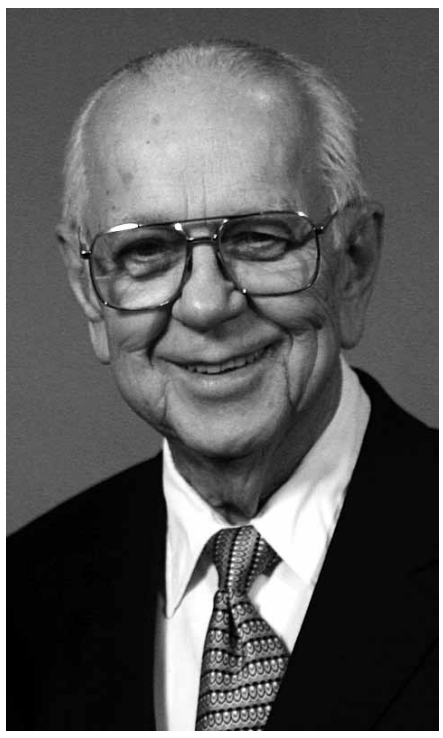
Due to the wild spending agenda of President Obama, approved by his majority Congress, there will be a mass exodus of Democrat office holders nationwide, including Ohio; however, not in Cuyahoga County. My fellow Democrat voters chose to ignore the massive corruption within our party and elevated several of our members to positions of enormous power. The new county executive will have an 8-3 Democrat council edge as the new reform government takes over. I'm sure that this is not what the civic activists, who successfully created the reform charter, had in mind. Those who opposed the change are firmly in control, elected by the huge registered Democrat voter edge in our county.

What can we expect from the new county executive? Ed Fitzgerald has a fine background as a FBI agent, prosecutor and mayor, marred only by an episode with Jimmy Dimora that seems defensible. His big problem will be dealing with the state and county Democrat machines that spent obscene amounts of money to put him in power. Will he tell them to back off if they try to tell him how to do his job? Let's hope he has the guts to perform in accordance with his oath of office. Hopefully the people who brought the change and the FBI will be looking over his shoulder.

Columnist Philip Morris, editorial writer for The Plain Dealer, commented in the Nov.5, 2010 Metro section that he was outraged by the number who voted for Common Pleas Judge Bridget McCafferty, who has been suspended from her seat due to her indictment in the FBI corruption investigation. She lost her race to continue to serve, but drew over 125,000 votes. That's more than Republican Matt Dolan got in his challenge to Ed Fitzgerald in the county executive race. Morris knows that "Cuyahoga County will never become a Republican bastion." But the blind allegiance to one party rule sure has him upset.

Euclid council's wonder woman

Feisty Ward 4 Councilwoman Mary Jo Minarik is setting the standards on



how to be an effective council member. She possesses a scholarly fondness for the wisdom of the founding fathers and the Constitution. The former editor and businesswoman is an expert researcher who takes nothing for granted. For example, she is currently examining homeowner water costs. She suggests that residents are being overcharged. She posts her detailed findings and opinion on her blog www.4euclid.blogspot.com . I suggest that you the reader get copies of her careful research on water issues.

She posts other useful information like available city services, community events, recycling tips, gas supplier aggregate updates, HUD Home demolition and rehab schedules and neighborhood association contacts. She also holds ward meetings and conducts polls on city issues.

Down the drain?

A big surprise was the defeat of the sewer levy renewal for the first time in my long memory. The vote was close and my guess is there will be a recount, including provisional ballots. A supporter pointed out that one of the valuable services this levy has provided is the clearing of homeowner's clogged sewer free of charge. A call to a commercial service provider will mean big bucks.

It's baaack!

For some reason four members of Euclid city council want to require innocent homeowner victims of graffiti to remove it from their property within 72 hours. If victims fail to do this, the city will see that it is done and send you the bill. This outrageous legislation was debated in the Council Housing Committee last spring, but failed on the vote to move it to full council consideration. Recently, they changed the removal time to 10 days and trotted it out again. Needing three votes and only two of the sponsors sit on the Housing Committee, it once again failed to reach the council floor for passage.

Census woes

A problem lurking for the city in the near future is the 2010 census count. In 2000 the city had over 52,000 residents. If the city population drops below 50,000, there will be a dramatic drop in federal funding. Census estimates in 2009 were about 47,000. We are aware that many have moved from the city in recent years. Foreclosures have pushed many from their homes too, but we still have a heavy influx from Cleveland to make up for some of the losses. Apartment units make up somewhere in the mid-40 percent of the housing in our city. I have been told that this gives census takers a problem in contacting residents there. In order for a resident to be counted, a family questionnaire like that mailed to most residents must be filled out. The official census figures will be revealed in March 2011. At that time the cities can dispute the count. I spoke with Mayor Cervenik about this and he stands ready to meet the challenge. He has longtime housing expert Bob Gliha, who handled this issue in the year 2000 census, ready to locate the evasive apartment dwellers.

GOP takes charge

The Republicans takeover of the House of Representatives, plus the sizable increase won in Senate seats along with thirty governorships, puts the GOP in a commanding position for many years to come. They will be in charge of re-drawing the new congressional boundaries, based on the census count every ten years. That will make it easier to elect their candidates and weaken the opposition. In 2012, twenty three of the thirty three Senators that must stand for election are Democrats. The odds are the GOP will take over the Senate in that presidential election year .It is expected that the newly empowered House leadership will attempt to repeal or revise Obama's health care and keep the Bush era tax cuts due to expire at the end of this year. Another issue under fire is earmark pork spending tied to passed legislation. Ohio's John Boehner, the probable incoming Speaker of the House, is opposed to the earmark practice, having never asked for one for his district in all his years in Congress. That should cut some of federal spending, as promised.

The complete takeover of the Ohio government, led by Governor–elect John Kasich, will give the GOP another big advantage. In the 2012 presidential election, Ohio, as usual, will be one of the battleground states. With the government machinery in the hands of Republicans, things look grim for the Democrats.

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City News

Crime and safety tips

By Kristal Skovira

A current reminder of why it's SO important to call in suspicious activity:

In late August, a resident on Ball Avenue called in a suspicious auto that was parked on the street and not recognized as belonging to any neighbor. The driver of the vehicle went to the trunk and put on dark clothing and walked away.

This could have been dismissed by the observer, however it was called in. Turns out the license plate did not belong to the car and the VIN number also came back to someone other than the license plate holder. It also turns out that this knucklehead unlawfully entered a home on a neighboring street.

He was caught and arrested. The early tip off had the officers in the vicinity which made for a slam dunk.

This is an example of a great decision to call Euclid Police Department.

Attention Block Watch captains (and other good neighbors)! Please share the following with neighbors on your phone or e-mail tree!

Visit the seniors in your neighborhood this month! Take good care of your elderly neighbors by making them aware about the following: There have been some burglaries and attempted burglaries taking place when someone knocks on the door to a senior's home and introduces himself as a new neighbor and luring the senior to the backyard where this new neighbor is going to "put a fence" or "trim a tree." While distracted a second individual goes into the home and to help himself.

Remind your neighbor it's never a good idea to open your door to anyone unexpected—no matter how official they look. Call the EPD at 731-1234 if you see suspicious activity or a suspicious vehicle!

Security reminder

Whether for a birthday, Christmas or other special occasion, don't leave boxes from a new TV, stereo, computer or other high value item on the curb for garbage pickup. This can encourage a burglary. Break down the box so its former contents aren't obvious. If possible, take the broken-down box to a recycling center.

Euclid Foreclosure Prevention Committee News

By Cindy Munz and Barb Pistillo, Committee Members

The Euclid Foreclosure Prevention Committee, developed by Councilman Greg Van Ho back in the summer of 2008, a citizens' action committee dedicated to the prevention, education and assistance of those facing economic hardship and possible loss of their home through foreclosure. The mission of the committee is to develop strategies to inform, educate and assist residents in dealing with the challenges related to foreclosure, and explore approaches to reduce the number and impact of the foreclosed homes in Euclid.

What has the committee done to help with this problem? In March 2009, the Euclid City Council accepted the proposal to deem the month of March Foreclosure Prevention Month. A series of free workshops were held for anyone facing economic hardship and who were unsure of where to turn for help. In keeping with the theme, city council deemed last March 2010 Foreclosure Prevention Month as well. Another workshop was held hosting guest speakers of banks, housing counselors and a financial planner to assist residents who may be facing hard times. Additionally, the committee worked with the city recreation department to sponsor the "Spring Fling" and showcase the best housing buys in Euclid, and all the new improvements happening in the city. In September, the committee hosted a free workshop on financial awareness, budgeting and credit.

The committee meets monthly to discuss trends, new programs and what help is currently available. Recently, the committee met with Mayor Bill Cervenik and Paul Bellamy, director of the Cuyahoga County Foreclosure Prevention Program, to discuss the funds available from the Hardest Hit Fund. The committee welcomes any residents interested in participating. For further information, contact Marty Castelletti at Euclid City Hall, (216) 289-8141.

Insights on insurance

By David Carlson

How's this for an amazing statistic – do you know that Ohio residents have among the lowest annual average auto insurance premium in the entire nation? According to a study by insure.com and Quadrant Information Services, only two states (Maine and Vermont) have a lower average premium. Ohio's average for 2010 is $1,000 per year. The highest states include Louisiana ($2,511), Michigan ($2,098) and Oklahoma ($1,869). Other low-cost states include New Hampshire, Wisconsin and Iowa.

Reasons include the extremely competitive marketplace in Ohio, the 'home' state for a number of automobile insurance carriers, including Progressive, Nationwide, Grange, American Financial, Cincinnati, Ohio Casualty and Motorists Mutual, along with reductions in the frequency and severity of accidents with bodily injury. Vehicles manufactured today are considerably safer as well. Also, automobile thefts have declined in recent years. A number of years ago, several states enacted no-fault auto insurance laws that were designed to reduce insurance costs by reducing costly litigation and promoting quicker claim settlements. The State of Ohio resisted this legislation. As a result, we are reaping the benefits of significantly below-average costs for this very important component of our overall financial security.

YMCA encourages involvement

By Gary Washington

Princess Mariya at the Y for Halloween!

Hello Euclid Observer readers! My name is Gary Washington and I am the Youth Sports coordinator at the Euclid Family YMCA, and I will be writing about the Y's activities. To give you a little of my background, I have a journalism/communications degree from Central State University. I started as a volunteer for the Y back in 1994. The Y's mission is definitely a part of me and I am a firm believer that everyone has a part to play in mentoring, as well as giving back to the community! Through branch promotions as well as community outreach, we as the Euclid Y staff encourage everyone to support the YMCA!

Membership news

Save 100 percent off joiner-fee During Amnesty Weekend! The YMCA is encouraging all former, as well as potential new members, to visit during Amnesty Weekend at our local branch. Former Y members save 100 percent off the joiner fee and new members save 50 percent when signing up Nov. 19-21. For details contact Brian Merkich, membership coordinator at (216)731-7454. This is an excellent opportunity join the Y and save!

Youth sports news

The YMCA is currently collaborating with selected Euclid schools on a youth basketball league. For a low cost of $25, children will compete in a six to eight week game schedule (playoffs included), which is scheduled to get under way after Thanksgiving. Registration deadline is near so contact Euclid Y for more details. The Y also offers martial arts, hip hop dance and ballet as a part of our youth sports programs. Here is your chance to get kids involved with the Y today.

Aquatics news

To all members, our pool and class times have changed. Please call or stop in to the branch for more aquatics scheduling info.

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Faith & More

A "New" Attitude towards Praise

By Judith Dillard

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, church and ministries are predominately listed as nouns. Not to dispute a publication that has been in existence since 1806, but in the case of New Praise Ministries these listings are not entirely correct. New Praise Ministries is also a verb: New Praise Ministries is an action, a movement!

Established six years ago, with humble beginnings in the living room of Pastor Roscoe J. Heath and First Lady Tina Heath, New Praise is on the move and has created a "movement." Through years of dedicated work and "seed-sowing," New Praise has established itself as a truthful, enlightening, community-involved, bible-based, contemporary church.

Located at 436 Euclid Square, New Praise was one of the first churches to occupy the former Euclid Square Mall after the city of Euclid approved the requisite zoning. After taking occupancy of their current location in the middle of October 2007, the space was transformed by several members and friends and, ready for their first Sunday service the first week of November in the same year.

New Praise formally held their services and bible studies in the Shore Cultural Center. Enduring several relocations within the Cultural Center, New Praise was blessed from the start. Despite each relocation, the membership continued to grow, to the point that New Praise outgrew their space. With this growth in membership, it was time to search for a new place of worship. Members desired to purchase a building of their own, but a purchase did not come to fruition (it was evidently not in God's plan at that time); ultimately they found the unoccupied space in the former mall.

If you were to visit New Praise Ministries, you would be pleasantly surprised to find, not an ordinary place of worship. The teachings are truthful, relevant and vibrant. The décor, atmosphere and attitude are very contemporary. Your pre-conceived notions of a church will be quickly dispelled after entering the front door of the Sanctuary.

During a time in our society where mega-churches are in vogue, New Praise is a breath of fresh air. Imagine a church where the pastor is accessible, engaged and personable; where bible studies are held twice a week, and are open for discussion and questions; a place of worship where the members greet you as they would family on your initial visit; and where the music is inspirational and moving injected with a contemporary flair.

New Praise Ministries offers all of this and more; take a chance, a chance to experience biblical truth, to have your questions answered, to feel like a member of a family, to worship freely, to come with your baggage which, you will drop after being transformed by truth!

I encourage you to take advantage of what New Praise Ministries has to offer by attending any one of their services. Bible studies are held each Tuesday and Wednesday evening at 7 p.m., Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., and Sunday service starts promptly at 11 a.m. You can also get a taste of the New Praise Ministries' movement by visiting their website at www.newpraiseministries.com or on YouTube; their direct link is: rel7145.

An ending and a beginning...

By Jeffrey A. Beck

The Department of Justice discontinued the national Weed & Seed initiative last June. Started in 1991, Weed & Seed grants have funded more than 300 successful Weed & Seed sites throughout the country including Euclid. Their mission has been to "weed" out criminal activity and "seed" in social services.

From 1996 through June 2010, the south side of Euclid has been a Weed & Seed site receiving approximately $2 million in DOJ grant funds. These funds provided the police department with new equipment and training used in surveillance, apprehension and prosecution. Gun and drug reduction teams, community policing efforts, and targeting troublesome areas greatly reduced criminal activity. Police will continue to use these methods, equipment and training to benefit the entire city of Euclid for years to come.

Grant funds also brought needed services and information to south side residents. Some of the programs included youth activities at the Southwest Police Mini Station, foreclosure prevention assistance, new resident information packages, employment search training, neighborhood association support, expanded juvenile diversion programs, GED and youth tutoring. These specific programs will be able to continue through the support of Euclid community policing, Fred's Club youth tutoring, Euclid A.B.L.E. adult education, Euclid Police Athletic/Activities League, and many dedicated volunteers.

The Euclid Weed & Seed steering committee will continue to be involved in the community as the Euclid Youth First committee, focusing our efforts on helping local youth. We will continue with our youth programs, including the brochure of activities and social services for Euclid kids; the Mayor's Youth Roundtable to bring young people and the city together; the Generation Gap diversity presentations; the annual Youth Explosion! resource fair; and the Express Yourself youth talent show. Jeff Beck, former Euclid Weed & Seed vice chair, will now chair Euclid Youth First.

Our Weed & Seed philosophy remains unchanged. We believe that safe and vibrant neighborhoods, financially stable families, positive youth activities, and available social services can help grow healthy, strong youth. We will continue to form partnerships and collaborations with others who have the same passion and we look forward to this new beginning.

FFEWF: Here for those in need

By Yvette Giles

Visionary Yvette Giles, a fitness and wellness expert, founded Faith & Fitness Exercise and Wellness Foundation (FFEWF) in 2006. The sole purpose of FFEWF is to provide education, awareness and exercise classes to those that have been afflicted by auto-immune diseases such as multiple sclerosis or lupus. The integration of traditional and non-traditional practices will empower the population of men, women and children who are otherwise unable to afford top-of-the-line treatment of non-medical care. Additionally, they will be able to participate in their own well-being on another level for healthy living.

The beauty of FFEWF in the fight against auto-immune diseases is that it provides outstanding programs that help build strength and endurance in the promotion of healthy lifestyle choices for those afflicted by those diseases. There are plans to move from the current location the Emeritus House in Indian Hills to a center with state-of-the-art equipment encompassing physical, occupational and massage therapy by April 2013.

FFEWF's financial support is provided by those whose mission focuses on non-traditional practices and research aimed at finding a cure for the thousands of people who are under-insured or in need of grant support, apart from traditional medical care. For more information on FFEWF, please visit www.ffewf.org.

Community

Ss. Robert & William Catholic School and Gateway team up with a new intergenerational program

By Ellen Ivory

Ss. Robert & William Catholic parish and school and Gateway Retirement Community are proud to announce their Intergenerational Partnership Program. This program will provide opportunities for the school children and the residents of Gateway Retirement Community to come together to share experiences, knowledge, and skills that are mutually beneficial and foster positive long-term relationships.

"We are excited about our partnership with Gateway", school principle Sue Pohly said. "It is a wonderful opportunity for our children to interact and learn from another generation. It also provides them with the gift of learning how important it is to be of service to others".

For instance, last month a number of the junior high students joined the residents of Gateway in Operation Write Home. The mission of Operation Write Home is to support our nation's armed forces by sending blank greeting cards for them to use to write home, as well as cards of gratitude to encourage them. Carol Geyer, director of marketing and manager of Gateway Manor reported that "the students and tenants at Gateway Manor made 225 cards that will be sent to our troops overseas. Additionally, Gateway Manor will be celebrating their annual Thanksgiving luncheon in November. Eighth grade students from the school will be the "wait staff." No tipping is required; however, they will have the pleasure of dining with the tenants. Future activities include crafts, interviews, concerts, an art exhibit and much more. We are so happy to be involved with Ss. Robert & William parish and school."

An expected outcome for Ss. Robert & William students working in collaboration with Gateway residents on a variety of projects is an exchange of ideas and learning. Organizers hope this concept will trickle down to the students' family life and then practiced between their own generations.

Gateway residents and Ss. Robert and William students make cards together.

Shelter offers half-price cat and kitten "sale"

For a limited time, the Euclid Animal Shelter will be conducting a half-price "sale" to help reduce its "inventory" of homeless cats and kittens. Presently, there are more than 20 cats "in stock," including some in foster care. The shelter has space for just 12 cats.

During the sale, both cats and kittens will be offered to adoptive families for just $35, half of the normal $70 fee. The charge covers shots, de-worming, testing for feline leukemia, and spaying or neutering. Adopters must be at least 18 years old; renters must show proof of landlord approval.

More Pet Notes:

Patti Burlingham, treasurer of Euclid Pet Pals, the volunteer group that supports the animal shelter, reports that the two dogs featured in the October Euclid Observer — Kobe and Trixie —have been adopted.

Another dog, Lucy, has been tested for hip dysplasia. The shelter is hoping to raise the $700 to $1,000 needed to cover the cost of corrective surgery. "Lucy has been adopted," Burlingham notes, "but the new owner cannot afford the surgery."

Anyone wishing to contribute toward the cost of Lucy's surgery should contact the shelter at phone number listed below.

The Euclid Animal Shelter is located at 25100 Lakeland Boulevard, between Babbitt Road and East 260th Street. It is open to the public from noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and on Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, call the shelter at (216) 289-2057.

Talented youth express themselves at Mall

By Kelly Butauski and Jeffrey Beck

More than 30 young people rocked Euclid Square Mall Oct. 23, as they sang, danced and recited poetry for family and friends. The audience had so much fun they formed a chorus line and danced along. The Express Yourself youth talent show was developed by Councilwoman Kandace Jones and friends as a way to provide a positive forum for area youth.

Euclid High's, Kevon Smith served as master of ceremonies. Euclid City Council recently recognized Kevon for his commitment to youth violence education. The Quicken Arena Gladiator Goddesses dance team made a special appearance. Euclid Central Middle School's drill team participated in the line-up and the school's art class projects were on display.

Representatives from local artistic organizations discussed ways to develop talent and plan future careers. Eye of Solomon Productions, based in the mall, demonstrated computer art and animation, while Edward "Phatty" Banks discussed his R.A.M.M. (recording, arts, music and media) youth program. The Screen Actors Guild talked about

See "*Express Yourself,*" page 11

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Health News

Define this time of the year for you

By Desiree James

This time of the year can have different meanings for each one of us. Traditionally, this is categorized as a time for family gatherings and finding the perfect gift. For others this may be a time of sorrow and may mean a period of unresolved pain, loneliness, family friction, reminders of loss, or not being able to provide during this difficult financial period.

Count your blessings and give thanks for being able to enjoy the company of loved ones and feast on a good meal. If your family gatherings are drama-free and a source of joy and fulfillment, experience and appreciate them fully.

If the holiday season has meant sorrow and not-so-happy feelings, acknowledge the feeling, feel the feeling, but do not become the feeling; realize this too shall pass. Reflect on why you feel this way and know that each of us choose how we respond to people, situations, and events. As difficult as this can be, we do have the option of turning lemons into lemonade.

Are you ready to have a positive experience this year? Honestly, ask yourself what it is that you did not like about previous holiday seasons. Then slow down, close your eyes, relax, and use your imagination to dream about how would you like this season to look. Imagination is free. Do not pay attention to any obstacles that may pop up in your mind. Out of this dream, pick one or two things that you can reasonably change. Do not try to change your whole life in one instant; you will become overwhelmed, which can sabotage your goals. Next, start thinking of what you need to fulfill your dream, or come as close as possible to your desires and take the first step, even if it is just a small step. Make a daily commitment to move toward your goals.

If family gatherings are difficult for you, or you are dreading the drama that comes with your family gatherings, try spending less time with your family and spend time with another family. Don't have any family left or close by? This may be a good time to start establishing an extended family or form new friendships. Someone who is sick or shut-in at home, a nursing home or hospital would be very grateful to spend time with someone. You may find it rewarding to be around other people and helping others. The most precious gift we can give is of ourselves.

There is no need to feel lonely or isolated. Many organizations are looking for volunteers. If you are homebound it may be possible to accomplish activities at your home, via the telephone or internet. Helping out may make you feel valued and help occupy your time, instead of spending the day alone.

Make this a period of reflection and evaluation. Make every effort to go into the new year fresh with a different perspective on life. Set some reasonable new goals with deadlines for accomplishments. Write those goals down so you will be less likely to abandon them. Start planning on how you will leave sickness, depression, anger, anxiety, addictions, grudges, bad relationships, complaints and other negative toxic ideas and thoughts in 2010.

Start working to free yourself right now. Will it be easy? Probably not. Will it take work? Yes! Will you have setbacks? Maybe. Change and renewal have never been easy work. Don't try to go at it alone. Seek assistance from a higher power, a good friend, a minister or mental health professional. If you want something different in your life, you have to do something different. Say to yourself another year addicted -- not me. Another year lonely and depressed -- I don't think so. Another year feeling sorry for myself -- hell no! Another year complaining about what someone did to me -- not in 2011.

Reinvent what this time means for you. You cannot stop the season or new year from coming, but you can decide how you will experience it. You are the author of your life, if the previous chapters have been great, keep doing what you have been doing. If the previous chapters have been disappointing, pick up your pen and start rewriting the plot now.

Tobacco Shop closing after 10 years in Euclid

By John Sheridan

For more than 10 years, Gary Peters' I-Deal Tobacco shop has been a fairly busy place, attracting cigar and cigarette fanciers as well as the lottery-playing crowd. One of its claims to fame these days is that it may be the only retail business in Euclid where patrons are allowed to smoke. In fact, Gary typically has several ashtrays sitting on the counter.

But now that the exterior of his building has undergone a welcome facelift as part of the Downtown Euclid renovation, Gary is closing the shop at 199 East 228th Street, just around the bend where Shore Center Drive meanders toward Lakeshore Boulevard. The amiable proprietor has decided that it's time to retire and devote more time to his golf game and also do a bit of traveling.

Peters, who grew up in Euclid and attended Euclid High School before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps at age 17, said he'll probably lock his door for the last time during Thanksgiving week. He had hoped to find someone to keep the tobacco business going but, as of the Observer deadline for this issue, he hadn't found a suitable buyer.

"Several people expressed interest," Gary says, "but no one wanted to pay [an acceptable] price."

As a result, in recent weeks he has been conducting a liquidation sale, offering cigars at half price and even wooden cigar boxes for $1.He said he has a potential buyer for the cabinetry.

Over the years, the business has done fairly well, with about one-third of its receipts coming from the sale of lottery tickets and scratch-off lottery cards. On any given day, you'll find a steady stream of customers coming through the door.

"I've had a good time here," Gary says. "I'm going to miss the people."

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Community

An Interview with Lisa Fleming, new owner of One Tree Yoga at Shore Center

By Alisa Boles

Lisa Fleming, director of OneTree Yoga, shares her thoughts on yoga, and why here and why now.

OneTree Yoga is a small, yet enveloping studio space that just feels warm and inviting all year long. We offer hatha and vinyasa style classes, along with meditation and special workshops. Our schedule has something for everyone from basic beginners to more advanced practitioners, yet the schedule is simplistic. There's nothing fancy; we're there to teach and practice yoga, traditional styles of yoga, and meditation. We use a sign-in sheet and cards, and open the 10-foot windows for a fresh natural breeze off Lake Erie.

There are countless benefits from yoga, but most often noted would be a change in stress levels and your reaction to stress. The nervous system calms down, the body gets more toned, your digestive system also becomes more regular and calm. Your appetite may change because you are becoming more aware of when you are actually hungry versus just stress eating or thirsty. You learn to shut off the chatter in your head and find more peace and calmness in an otherwise chaotic day. You learn to live in the present moment, and if nothing else, you gain one hour of time for you when you're in a yoga class. No kids, no spouse, no boss…just you and yourself on your mat.

How did I become involved in yoga? I had just left my husband and was in a desperate state – I would go to work and to bed to cry, and occasionally to a friend's house. I weighed 79 pounds and saw no way out without medication. I also have Lupus, so this was an extremely dangerous way for me to be living. I knew that, but I didn't know how to get out of it. I prayed to God every night that I wouldn't wake up, and in the mornings, disappointed when I did, I'd go though my day just enough to get back into my bed and cry. One day, my good friend, Beka, picked me up and took me to the yoga studio with her. I didn't really care what we were doing, but by the end of that class I had felt something I had never felt before. It was a connection to spirit – inside of me but also apart. I can't describe it, but I can tell you that I was instantly addicted. The instructor came up to me after class and told me that this was something I needed to continue, that I was a natural and she knew I needed yoga in my life. Within three months, I had come off of my anti-depressants, anti-anxiety, sleeping pills and even the Lupus went into remission. Yoga saved my life then, and continues to do just that every day since. I signed up for teacher training, and within 18 months of my first class, I was a 200-hour registered yoga teacher and teaching at OneTree.

Lisa with 9 yr. old Harley from Blankets Fur Beasties. OneTree's mural was done by Euclid artist, Meg Garbincus.

Awaken Yoga is actually the school I received my certification from. It is owned by Jennifer Langsdale, a Euclid resident, and has been such an inspiration not only to me, but to those who have followed her from one studio to the next. Awaken Yoga offers classes three days a week and different levels of teacher training certifications. You can find more info on Awaken at www.awakentoyoga.com

Honestly, coming from Lake County, I was nervous to teach at OneTree when I started. I didn't know much about Euclid or the area that OneTree is located in before I started. Once I got to know the people and the community, I felt that we need to keep this beautiful building alive; not just for the businesses inside of Shore, but for the city of Euclid and the surrounding cities. This is a place that doesn't exist anywhere else I'm familiar with. There's a reason to drive out to Euclid and experience the classes and the support at Shore, and I am so glad to be a part of it with OneTree.

You can find information about classes and events at www.onetreeyoga.org. OneTree took part in Shore Center's Goddess Fest in October and will be joining with Awaken Yoga to offer an Intro to Yoga Workshop on Nov. 20 and Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Dining

Perkins — "Where Everybody Knows Your Name"

By Bernadette Walsh

Going to a local establishment and being greeted by your name is not the norm. Today's fast food service and quick take outs have made personalization rare, that is until you become a Perkins regular and find a new method of old fashioned service. For those who've not been there, Perkins is located at 22780 Shore Center Drive in Downtown Euclid.

Adding to the comfort food is the ambiance created by owner and servers who know your name and your favorite choice from the menu; personal service for customers is an added treat.

Perkins Family Restaurant has been a local go-to spot for nearly 46 years. Home to various groups and social events, it is indeed a well known destination on Euclid's map. Families, individuals and friends dine in or take out all knowing they are part of the tradition.

Owner, Joe Foster Sr., works the front of the restaurant, greeting customers as they arrive. Though he can still create a mean omelet, he now mingles with the guests and assures their comfort is guaranteed during the visit. Joe took the reins of the restaurant in the eighties and has not let up. His cheerful, watchful attitude assures that the customer is royalty while dining.

The menu is a full one and is geared for an all day breakfast or choices for lunch and dinner. Supportive salads are available for those watching their waistline. What is the favorite dessert? Without hesitation Joe answered, "the muffins of course." Tempting to eat there, but more tempting to take home for later.

Countless groups hold their meetings at Perkins. The Euclid firefighters Buddy Line Auxiliary, according to Margaret and Hugh Phillips, has met at Perkins since 1979. On a recent Monday morning the retirees from the group held their monthly meeting, with hot coffee, good food and robust conversation creating a fun filled meal. The Buddy Line found their meeting spot where local retirees could enjoy both conversation and food. Marylyn Richlik, a member from Cleveland Heights, has enjoyed being a part of this group.

During the mid-sixties, young adults from the Cleveland East Deanery of Catholic churches came to Perkins after dances and bowling, and even held their Communion breakfasts there on a regular basis. The Euclid members came from St. Robert, St. Paul, St. Christine, St. William and Holy Cross parishes. For this group, one of the favorite menu items was the potato pancakes. While still on the menu today the recipe has been slightly tweaked and today's pancakes contain no trans fats. They are, however, still as tempting as ever.

Restaurants do not receive fan letters often, but Joe was quick to share one letter from loyal customer Debbie Pierce. Debbie enjoys the pace of the restaurant and likes that she can take time to read her morning newspaper, even to checking the Obituaries making sure "she is not there." The servers know her favorite spot and, if available, always make sure to seat her there. This is customized service in a hectic world.

Perkins receives a ****Brown Bag Award for service, menu, price and above all service. Make sure you stop in and enjoy.

Kulinars: dependable & good food!

By Rose Hunter

I have been visiting Kulinars restaurant, located at 823 East 222 Street, for many years. The new ownership took over in February 2005, and they've been cooking ever since.

There are daily specials, ethnic specialties such as wiener schnitzel, roast pork, fried chicken and also good old fashioned spaghetti. The servings are huge and as tasty as my mother used to make. The price is right too.

There are no booths for eating in; Kulinars is take out. I recommend everyone check it out on a cold evening for a filling and delicious meal.

They also have desserts, sides (the potato pancakes are the best deal as four large ones are only $3.00), and a catering menu.

If you are new to Euclid, go get your next hot meal here. If you've been in Euclid a while and haven't tried this place, you've miss out! Stop by for a great meal deal.

Rent a restaurant and party!

By Vanessa Abston

How would you like to rent a restaurant?

You can. Abston's Place Family Restaurant is available for you and your party, with complete access to the restaurant for up to three hours, and an all-you-can-eat menu, consisting of a hot buffet, a salad buffet, soup, breads and a drink. You can't beat it. We provide the atmosphere and the food, and all you have to do is show up and have a good time. Parking is in the rear of the building. There are two flat screen televisions, for football games or other themed viewing, and a CD player for music. Consider a holiday or a birthday party, shower, reunion, reception; you tell us.

Take advantage of our jazz set on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. You can enjoy the jazz whether you have a party or not! Come on out to Abston's Place Family Restaurant, 317 East 200 Street in Euclid, and relax. Call us at (216) 481-3100.

COPIC CRAVINGS

One of the things Papa and I crave, and have to have at least once a month is the simply amazing Circleshore Pizza from the Beachclub Pizza Bistro on Lakeshore blvd. in Euclid.

It's made of garlic mashed potatoes on top of pizza dough, which is covered with cheddar cheese, bacon bits and chives before baking, and is served with a side of sour cream. We both recommend it as an appetizer, or with a salad as a full meal; with a couple of canolis for dessert of course.

- Lil Liz & Papa John

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Events

Gun show "triggers" excitement

By John Zigman

Just as October brings the turning leaves and crisp air, it also brings the time of year that bonds man with nature and survival. Hunting season is fast approaching, whether it be ducks, squirrels, deer or turkey. And with these events comes the need for supplies to achieve the final (hopefully) result -- a FULL freezer. Although not a hunter myself, it was great to see a gun show held at the Great Lakes Expo Center, formerly the old Kmart, on Babbitt Rd. last month.

A large crowd viewed a wide selection of firearms, ammunition, survival gear, hunting gear, camping gear and other outdoor items. From .22 caliber rifles to .45 caliber handguns, from duck hunting shotguns, to ladies revolvers, it was all there. Pretty amazing that with all those guns, all that ammunition, no one got hurt. I guess that "shoots" down the way some people portray honest sportsmen.

No one was shot, no one was robbed, and it was definitely a family outing. I saw many families shopping for the upcoming father and son hunting experience; a father showing his son about nature, life and the purposeful use of an animal in the never ending quest of survival. There were husbands and their wives shopping for self defense items, such as pepper spray, or tasers. I saw girlfriend and boyfriend, mother and daughter, relatives and neighbors, telling stories, buying, trading, selling and conversing. Seated at my table, I met many Veterans, their eyes filled with past wars and adventures that taught me more about history than any teacher could. They lived it, some good, some bad, all for God and country.

The general comments from all I met were the same. Our forefathers (and foremothers) fought to keep us free, to have the choice of owning firearms and freedom of speech, amongst others, and that to keep the nation strong; we need to keep these freedoms, and repel those that would limit these rights.

The owner of the Great Lakes Expo Center should be commended and supported for having the intestinal fortitude to allow this sort of show at his establishment. The next gun show is scheduled Nov. 20 and 21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Grab the wife and kids, and come support the owner, and local citizens such as myself, and the local economy. The gas stations, restaurant, hotels, and stores benefit from the vendors, and out of town visitors.

If you do come, stop by my table and "shoot" the breeze for awhile, or just say hello to another proud citizen of America.

Compassion from Fashion returns

By Jessie Wilson

Beachwood Place is offering a great way to get a jump-start on holiday shopping by supporting a local charitable organization.

The mall will hold its second annual Compassion from Fashion event Nov. 20 to benefit The Gathering Place, a community-based cancer support center with facilities in Beachwood and Westlake.

Those purchasing tickets for the special event will enjoy a bevy of special offers, freebies, free food and giveaways. Special offers include:

$10 Beachwood Place Gift Card (first 500 ticket purchasers; while supplies last); $10 McCormick & Schmick's Dining Certificate (first 500 ticket purchasers; while supplies last); $10 Next Gift Card, a men's and women's fashion store (first 500 ticket purchasers; while supplies last); Free food from Maggiano's Little Italy courtesy of five special food stations positioned across the mall, including make-your-own pasta, salad and fruit bar stations; a carving station; an antipasto bar; and a dessert bar, along with passed hors d'oeuvres and cash bars; Exclusive retailer discounts.

A 7 p.m. fashion show will feature Coleen Skeabeck (a fan-favorite from Biggest Loser: Families), Maureen Kyle (WKYC anchor/reporter), Carrie Young (host of WKYC's new show Flash Mob), Kathleen Cochrane (former Fox 8 Reporter), Tim Richards (DJ at Q104) and Desiray McCray (DJ at WDOK). They will be joined by cancer survivors in showcasing the mall's hottest fashions.

The special event runs from 4 to 9:00 p.m. and tickets can be purchased in advance online at http://www.touchedbycancer.org, or the evening of the event at the door. Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 at the door. For additional information, call (216) 464-9460 or visit www.BeachwoodPlace.com.

"Home for the Holidays" Pub Crawl & Poker Run

By Ronald Emser

The holidays are indeed here again; there is never a better time to get together with friends and family. The third annual Home for the Holidays Pub Crawl & Poker Run is just the venue you need. Not only can you get together with the gang and do a bit of socializing, but you will also help the community via the Euclid Hunger Center.

Ron Emser, who has organized the event since its inception, is also a board member of the Euclid Hunger Center. Ten percent of the pub crawl proceeds will be donated to the local hunger center at Shore Cultural Centre. Ron is also challenging business and corporate neighbors to match the donation to the Hunger Center.

So, here's how it works. Stop into one of the participating Euclid establishments, anytime between Dec. 6 and Jan. 9. Pick up a ticket and a T-shirt for $20 dollars That's right, you get your T-Shirt right away! No waiting till the finish! You visit all nine locations by Jan. 9, getting your ticket stamped at each tavern. We'll be having a Drawing Party Jan. 14 at Sticks Pub & Grille, located at Briardale Greens. This is where you'll pick your cards. Beer, pop, wings and pizza will be provided and there will be cash prizes for best hand, as well as a consolation drawing for all finishers.

Ready to get started? Run, don't walk to one of these fine establishments to get your ticket and T-Shirt.

The participating establishments are:

- 2nd Chance Lounge, East 200th St.
- Cebars Tavern, East 185th St.
- Erie Waters, Shore Center Dr.
- Pacers, East 260th Dr.
- Paradise Restaurant & Pub, Babbitt Rd.
- Scoreboard Tavern, East 222nd St.
- Stevenson's, Lakeshore Blvd.
- Sticks Pub & Grille, Briardale Greens
- Tradewinds Lounge, East 200th St.

What better way to celebrate the holidays by getting the old gang together and also helping those less fortunate neighbors in our community? I hope to run into some of you folks on the Crawl Trail.

"Express Yourself" at Euclid Mall

Continued from page 9:

movies filmed in the Cleveland area. KAZ Radio, also headquartered in Euclid Square Mall, broadcast and video streamed the show live on kazradio.org. Other organizations were on hand to let youth and families know about services in our area including the Euclid Collaborative, the YMCA, YMARI youth mentoring, and Golden Ciphers youth development.

Several local businesses donated movie tickets and food and gift certificates for the performers. The grand prize was a Nintendo Wii donated by Jeff Beck. The young girl who won the Wii promptly gave it to another family because she already had one: a great example of a terrific Euclid kid!

Express Yourself will continue as a Euclid Youth First program. Euclid Youth First is an offshoot of the former Euclid Weed & Seed organization and is dedicated to strengthening area youth as they grow into productive adults.

Thanksgiving Dinner

The Boulevard Presbyterian Church would like to invite you for a free community meal Nov. 21, served at 1 p.m. This Thanksgiving holiday meal will be served at the church, located at 24600 Lake Shore Boulevard. The building is handicap accessible and parking is available behind the church.

Boulevard Presbyterian Church's regular Sunday worship is at 10 a.m. and they serve a free community meal on the third Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. They also have an affordable thrift shop, which is open on the first Saturday of each month between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. For more information, call (216) 731-8147.

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Perspective/Sports

Meet our football players of the year

The staff of the Euclid Observer is pleased to introduce its local football Players of the Year for 2010 — one outstanding athlete from the Euclid Panther squad and one from the Villa Angela-St. Joseph Vikings' team. The selections were made in consultation with the schools' head coaches, Tom Gibbons at Euclid and John Storey at VASJ.

In addition, we are honoring the top offensive and defensive standouts on each team, as well as other local players deserving of All-Star recognition. Finally, our 2010 list includes a special salute to Jim Grinstead, who has been tracking football statistics for the Panthers for the past 48 years. Now, that's real dedication!

Our Euclid Panther Player of the Year is Chuck Bradford, who handled quarterback and running back duties, as well as playing wide receiver in some formations.

"Chuck did a lot of things for us," says third-year Euclid Coach Tom Gibbons. "He is a very versatile athlete who did just about everything but drive the bus. And he met almost every challenge that he faced."

A 6-foot, 160-pound senior, Bradford amassed 559 yards and 11 touchdowns rushing—averaging 4.1 yards per carry—and passed for 523 yards and two touchdowns through the air. He completed 33 of 74 attempts and averaged 15.8 yards per completion.

Now that Euclid's football season is over, he'll be making the transition to basketball as a guard for the Panther cagers. He is the lone returning starter on Coach Andy Suttell's squad, which begins its season Dec. 3 with a road game at Lorain. (The next night, Dec.4, the Panthers will host VASJ in their home opener.)

The VASJ Player of the Year is Clinton James, who starred at tailback and defensive back for the Vikings.

"Clinton is an outstanding kid who was one of our two-way players," says Vikings' Coach John Storey. "He has great speed and really developed as a player during the course of the season."

James accounted for 11 touchdowns for the Vikings—eight rushing, two on kick returns, and one passing. He also scored twice on conversion runs, contributing a total of 70 points to the St. Joe cause.

A 5-10, 164-pound senior, who also plays basketball and runs track, James chalked up 804 yards rushing, averaging 4.9 yards per carry. He returned nine kickoffs, averaging 36.2 yards per return. In the Vikings' final game against Elyria Catholic, he also had an 85-yard kick return touchdown that was nullified by a holding penalty.

The Observer's other selections for its 2010 Football All-Star team are:

Offensive Players of the Year—EUCLID: Javon Johnson, 5-8, 160-pound senior wide receiver. Had 20 catches for 334 yards (16.7 average) and one touchdown. VASJ: Darryl Jones, 6-2, 200-pound senior quarterback. Completed 52 of 159 passing attempts, averaging 14.8 yards per completion, for a total of 770 passing yards and seven TDs. Rushed for 481 yards (5.2 average) and three touchdowns. Also returned 11 punts for 173 yards and one TD.

Defensive Players of the Year—EUCLID: Jamaal Henry, 5-9, 190-pound senior defensive end. Had 51 "first hits," 13 tackles for loss (including seven sacks), and 20 assists on tackles. VASJ: Ryan Gallagher, 5-10, 160-pound junior linebacker. Recorded 91 tackles for the Vikings and picked off four interceptions.

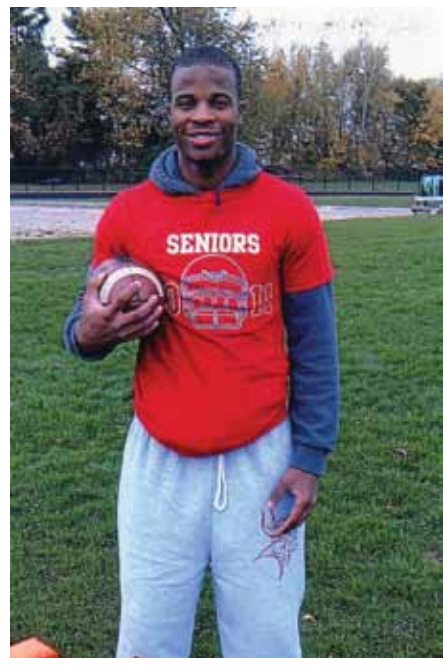
Also chosen for Observer All-Star honors were the following players:

EUCLID: De'Andre Rollins, 6-0, 210-pound junior running back. Had 42 carries for 345 yards (8.2 average) and one touchdown. Demetrius Ivory, 5-9, 188-pound senior fullback. Rushed 42 times for 239 yards (5.7 average) and four TDs. Benny Walker, 5-11, 175-pound junior quarterback. Completed 32 of 66 pass attempts (48.5 percent) for 485 yards (15.2 average) and one TD. John Jackson, 5-8, 150-pound senior wide receiver. Had 12 catches for 220 yards (18.3 average). Josh Kitchen, 5-8, 155-pound senior defensive back. Led the Panthers with four interceptions.

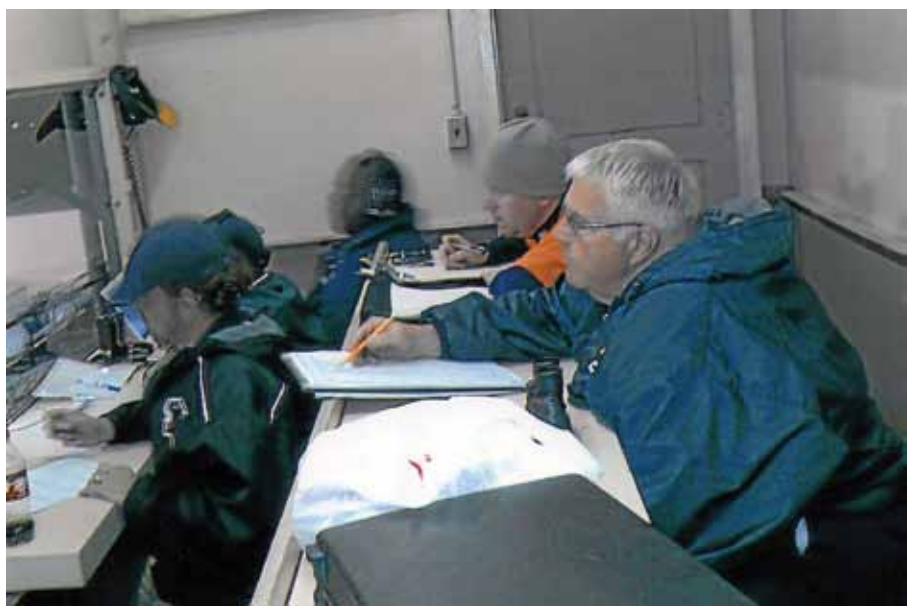
VASJ: Tim Harrison, 5-8, 205-pound junior running back. Gained 369 yards on 52 carries (7.1 average) and scored five touchdowns. Devon Bolden, 5-6, 140-pound sophomore running back. Rushed 54 times for 327 yards (6.1 average) and three TDs. Kawmae Sawyer, 5-11, 180-pound senior wide receiver. Caught 31 passes for 360 yards (11.6 average) and one TD. Kevin Koehl, 6-3, 230-pound senior offensive and defensive tackle. Team captain. Mike Brately, 6-3, 195-pound senior tight end and defensive end.

Statistician of the Year: Jim Grinstead, who has been keeping football statistics for the Euclid Panthers for the past 48 years. A former professional Putt-Putt golfer, Jim has also kept statistics for VASJ for the last eight seasons. He provided most of the statistical data used in compiling the Observer's 2010 All-Star selections.

Chuck Bradford, Euclid Panthers 2010 Euclid Observer Player of the Year



Clinton James, VASJ Vikings 2010 Euclid Observer Player of the Year



Jim Grinstead in the press box, proving why he's the Euclid Observer's Statistician of the Year

VASJ Vikings Coach John Storey

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Sports

Hockey is for girls, too

By Alisa Boles

Young ladies out there – pay attention. Of the 75 players registered in the Euclid Youth Hockey program, 12 are girls. That's one player out of seven. How do all those girls impact the program? You be the judge; Euclid teams had the best win-loss record in the Cleveland Suburban Hockey League for the 2009-2010 regular season.

EYHA President Frank Vidmar (favidmar@yahoo.com) knows first-hand how well the girls play. Five years ago, hockey was new to him. His daughter wished to play after watching her older brother play hockey. He and his wife found that hockey is a good sport for girls after watching Sarah Speroff play for her Euclid Squirt team a few years back. "Sarah could skate with the best and she made it look easy," said Vidmar. When Lucy started the Learn-to-Play Hockey program in 2007, they were pleasantly surprised to have a few other girls her age on the ice as well.

"An ice rink is an asset to its community. It gives a destination for people in months of cold and dark days. The people who utilize it actually look forward to winter. Imagine spending your winter months in front of a television instead of a bustling ice arena. Unfortunately, the later is too common," said Vidmar.

Mike Mramor has two daughters involved in hockey. The whole family enjoyed hockey and the girls grew up wanting to play. As typical girls, they want to take dance classes as well, and he said he always manage to find a dance class each year he can schedule around hockey. The ice arena has become a second home for them and their busy lives. They look forward to being at the arena because they've made so many friends through the program. Hockey families become close-knit. Four years ago when Mramor's wife died of breast cancer, he was touched when the arena was filled with pink for the Halloween Hockey Tournament that year. Now a single dad, Mramor says, "Yeah, hockey's a commitment, but that's what we do. Wouldn't want it any other way."

It's not too late for your son or daughter to play hockey this year. Your kids can begin the Learn-to-Play Hockey program at any time - the sooner, the better, and rates are prorated. EYHA welcomes boys and girls, ages 3 to 14, from any area city; it's especially convenient for Euclid, Collinwood, Bratenahl, Wickliffe and Willoughby. For information about EYHA visit http://www.euclidyouthhockey.com/.

Lucy and Luke on the move. (Photo courtesy Barb Tingley Parker)

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Eriks A. Usis, MD, FAAP
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Board Certified in Pediatrics, Dr. Usis received his medical degree from the Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He completed his residency in pediatrics at UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital. Dr. Usis has been practicing in the community for over 10 years.

Dr. Usis has special interests in asthma, allergies, care of infants/toddlers and general pediatrics. He is currently welcoming new patients.

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Sports

Railroaders' Trivisonno featured in Coughlin book

By John Sheridan

Editor's Note: The excerpts included in this report are published in the Observer with the permission of Dan Coughlin, who has been making many appearances—including a recent stop at Muldoon's Saloon on East 185th Street, to promote his book, "Crazy, With the Papers to Prove It." He has also scheduled a book-signing event at Jack Murphy's Tradewinds Lounge on East 200th Street for Nov. 23, at 7:30 p.m. Accompanying Dan will be Plain Dealer writer Michael Heaton who also has a new book out.

Author Dan Coughlin (photo (c) Danny Vega)

Many older area residents, or former residents, may remember the days when Joe Trivisonno starred on the gridiron for the Collinwood High Railroaders. As veteran sportswriter Dan Coughlin recounts in his new book, "Crazy, With the Papers to Prove It." Trivisonno played on Collinwood's 1951 East Senate championship team and scored both Railroader touchdowns in the 21-14 loss to Rhodes in the Charity Game at old Cleveland Stadium.

"He was a genuine hometown hero," Coughlin points out.

In college, Trivisonno played for Ohio State in the Rose Bowl. Later on, he returned to Collinwood as head football coach and, in 1967, led the Railroaders to nine straight victories, including an 18-14 triumph over Euclid and a 6-0 win against Cathedral Latin.

That was the year that The Plain Dealer Sports Editor Hal Lebovitz decided to conduct a Favorite Coach contest to help boost circulation, Coughlin notes, with ballots printed in the PD sports section several times a week. The winning coach was to get an all-expenses paid trip with his wife to the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

"All the forces converged," Coughlin writes. "The Collinwood neighborhood was in a frenzy to send its coach, Joe Trivisonno, to Pasadena."

The ballots began rolling in and, at one point, the PD circulation department "reported the disappearance of entire bundles of papers from Collinwood street corners, discovered later blocks away with the ballots ripped out of them. Trivisonno supporters were working a second shift," Coughlin recalls. "The owner of the LaSalle Theatre on East 185th Street was a huge Trivisonno fan. Anyone who brought a ballot for Joe to the theatre got into the movies for free."

"That might have won it for me," Trivisonno told the author some years later. "The LaSalle was right up the street from St. Joe's and St. Joe Coach Bill Gutbrod finished second, as I recall."

Although Collinwood lost to St. Ignatius in the city championship game, Trivisonno won the Favorite Coach contest and The Plain Dealer flew Joe and his wife Sally out to Pasadena to see the Rose Bowl. However, on New Year's Eve, the coach called the paper's sports department. "We're having a good time," he said. "Everything is fine. Nice hotel. But I have a question. Where are our tickets to the game?"

Coughlin explains: "A travel agent arranged every phase of the trip, including the game tickets. [But] where are you likely to find a travel agent on New Year's Eve? Probably on a cruise…. [So] The Plain Dealer sent Mr. and Mrs. Joe Trivisonno to the Rose Bowl game and they ended up watching it on television in their hotel room.

"The travel agent had included Joe and Sally with a group who rode together to the game on New Year's Day morning in a bus, expecting tickets to be waiting for them at the stadium. The driver went to Will Call and came back to report that there were no tickets for anybody on the bus."

"Hal Lebovitz wanted to make it up to me," Trivisonno told Dan afterward. "He wanted to take me to the Super Bowl with him, but I didn't want to go. Instead The Plain Dealer sent our entire family to New York. Everything turned out great."

"The Coach of the Year," Coughlin sums up, "actually got two trips—one to each coast. Plus, he got into the movies free."

Cyclocross in Euclid!

by Alisa Boles

Bill Gibson of Blue Sky Bike Shop on E. 185th St. recently sponsored Race #8 in the 2010 Northeast Ohio Cyclocross (NEOCX) series, "Blue Sky (or Not!) CycloCross" at Coulter Avenue Park in Euclid. A portion of the proceeds went to the Euclid Police Athletic League.

Cyclocross is not just for pros. According to Gibson, "It's a grass roots kind of sport. People who would never think of racing bikes do this." Gibson is a self-proclaimed middle of the pack average racer.

"It's a great sport for the average person who wants to do something athletic, the kind of person who would do something like a 10K or tri-athlon," Gibson said. "Everyone has their own reasons. Maybe we're sick, but we love it."

The event held on November 14 was family friendly. Prizes ranged from trophies to the first five Juniors (under 12, youngest usually being 6 or 7) to cash for the experts. It's not what people typically think when they think bike racing. It's fast and fun. It's like steeplechase on wheels. Bring your cow bells. Beginners are always welcome to come give it a try. People take it seriously and want to do well, but it's a light-hearted and upbeat atmosphere.

Don't let Gibson's modesty about his racing make you doubt his abilities as a mechanic. Neighborhood bikes have been in his skilled, thorough and honest care for years now. Gibson's goal is to get people on bikes. He is a trusted businessman and notable community initiator as he regularly organizes biking events from cyclocross to bike rides from 185th to downtown Cleveland. For more information, check out blueskybicycles.net. Or just stop in the store and check it out.

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Schools and More

Sports Shorts: Panther cagers host Vikings Dec. 4 in home opener

By John Sheridan

Although it has been a while since the Euclid Panthers and the VASJ Vikings have faced each other in football, the neighborhood rivalry is alive and well on the basketball court. In fact, Euclid will be hosting the Vikings in its home opener Dec. 4. This year, both squads will feature players who were standouts on their school's respective football teams—Euclid's Chuck Bradford and the Vikings' Clinton James.

Coach Andy Suttell's Panthers open their season the night before, Dec. 3, with a road game at Lorain. Other Euclid home games in the early part of the season include: Mentor on Dec. 10, Cleveland Heights Jan. 7, East Tech Jan. 15, and Willoughby South Jan. 18.

♦♦♦♦

Wrestler Phil Wellington

Bob Mullin, head wrestling coach at VASJ, is optimistic about the prospects for his matmen this winter. "We have a really solid lineup coming back," he said, although he was unsure when Phil Wellington would be ready to compete. Wellington qualified for state at 171 pounds last year. This year he might move up to the 189-pound slot.

Currently rehabbing a knee injury incurred during a summer "open mat" match, Wellington should be ready for action by mid-season, Mullin expects. "By then he should be in great shape."

The Vikings have six returning Division III district qualifiers, several of whom are products of the CYO wrestling program begun several years ago at Holy Cross (now Our Lady of the Lake). In addition to Wellington, the "Super Six" include: Mato Vunak (119 pounds), Ryan Gallagher (145), Kawmae Sawyer (171), and a pair of 215-pounders: Di'Ante Jackson and Tim Harrison. Also among the returning starters are Chris Pokorny (125), Paul Rini (160), and heavyweight Ed Basemore.

Coach Mullin anticipates scheduling a February meet with Euclid.

♦♦♦♦

Euclid Athletic Director Steve Hardaway reports that Panther volleyball coach Tamika Drake has been named the Lake Erie League's "Coach of the Year," chosen by her fellow coaches. This season, Coach Drake notched her first-ever volleyball triumph over Mentor, the defending league champion.

Also, the Panthers' Marissa Wilson was named Lake Erie League Player of the Year, while three of her teammates — Shaniqua Chisholm, Allegra Johnson and Rebecca Maxwell – also earned spots on the All-LEL team.

By the way, Hardaway collected a nice honor himself recently. Now in his second year in the A.D. post, he was inducted into the Hiram College Hall of Fame in September. He was a standout basketball player for the Terriers.

♦♦♦♦

Emily Sweet, the Panthers' cross-country ace who was featured in last month's Euclid Observer, achieved her goal of winning the LEL championship at Forest Hills Park and followed that by winning the Division I district meet at Lakeland Community College on Oct. 23. However, an illness foiled her hopes of qualifying for the state meet, forcing her to pull out of the regional race at Youngstown Boardman. But since she's a junior, she should get another shot next season.

Last month's paper noted that Emily's racing talent may have a genetic component, since her mother and grandmother were top-notch distance runners. However, the story neglected to mention that Clifford Sweet, her great-grandfather on her father's side, also was an outstanding runner. He starred in track at Painesville Harvey High back in the 1920s.

Read the rest of these *Sports Shorts* at www.euclidobserver.com.

Teeing it up with the big boys

By John Sheridan

For the last 23 years, Dr. Steve Szabo has been competing each year with the top golf pros in the PGA's season-ending Disney tournament in Orlando, FL. The former Euclid resident, who starred on the St. Joseph High golf team in the late 1950s, is now a psychiatrist with a Tampa Bay area practice.

He was planning to tee it up with the big boys again this year in the Disney pro-am, in which the amateur competitors play alongside the pros for the first two days of the event, scheduled for Nov. 11-14. It is one of the few PGA events in which the amateurs are permitted to play with their professional "partners" during the actual tournament—rather than in a Wednesday "warm-up" pro-am that doesn't affect the final results.

In past years, Dr. Szabo has played alongside such pros as Tiger Woods, Justin Rose, Davis Love III and Corey Pavin, who captained this year's U.S. Ryder Cup team.

Contacted by the Observer prior to the pairings party where the amateurs learn who they'll be teamed up with, Dr. Szabo said he'd prefer to play with "a major champion or the people near the top of the money list."

Steve, who was the No. 2 man on the St. Joe Vikings' golf team in 1958, also played golf for Western Reserve University and was recently inducted into the CWRU Sports Hall of Fame. He frequently returns to the Cleveland area with wife Jan for visits and typically squeezes in a few rounds of golf with old friends from the Euclid area, as well as family members. His local friendships date back to his days as a student at Holy Cross School in Euclid.

He reports that the best round of golf that he ever shot in the Disney pro-am was a 31-39--70 in 1994, during which he carded five birdies on the first eight holes. (And, yes, he beat his pro partner that day.)

After playing golf for more than 50 years, Steve says: "I love golf more now than ever, because it is the only sport where you can get close to the big guys and play with them on their turf—inside the yellow ropes."

At age 70, he still takes golf lessons on occasion and practices whenever he gets a chance. As far as his psychiatry practice is concerned, Steve likes to amuse people with this line: "I'm not practicing anymore—I've finally got it down pat. I can do it with one hand tied behind my back."

But he doesn't say that about his golf game.

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Fun Page

NOVEMBER HOROSCOPES by the *Observer* Staff

AQUARIUS *****
(Jan 20 – Feb 18) Beware odd numbers. Wear colorful clothes. This month will be a month of mystery. Lucky Number: 12

PISCES *****
(Feb 19 – Mar 20) Spend time near the lake. Enjoy family. This month call that person you've been meaning to call. Lucky Number: 24

ARIES *****
(Mar 21 – Apr 19) Embrace literature. Be careful what you post on the web. This month plan a getaway weekend. Lucky Number: 36

TAURUS *****
(Apr 20 – May 20) Plow ahead without checking the details. It could be your best month this year. This month cook a fabulous meal at home. Lucky Number: 48

GEMINI *****
(May 21 – June 20) Live life on the edge. Plan carefully to be spontaneous. This month take the plunge. Lucky Number: 60

CANCER *****
(June 21 – July 22) The weather may be getting cold, but your life is getting hot. Expect success in all areas. This month you are unstoppable. Lucky Number: 72

LEO *****
(July 23 – Aug 22) Act wild. Throw caution to the wind. This month make music a big part of your daily life. Lucky Number: 84

VIRGO *****
(Aug 23 – Sept 22) Obstacles fade like mist. You have the power. This month great things will happen. Lucky Number: 96

LIBRA *****
(Sept 23 – Oct 22) You thought money was running short. You were wrong. This will be a month of huge financial reward. Lucky Number: 108

SCORPIO *****
(Oct 23 – Nov 21) Enjoy life. Spend your time with the people who appreciate how special you are. This month a video will make you cry (in a good way). Lucky Number: 120

SAGITTARIUS *****
(Nov 22 – Dec 21) Things are not as they seem. They are much better. This month complete the project that is dear to your heart. Lucky Number: 132

CAPRICORN *****
(Dec 22 – Jan 18) Don't lend money. Beware the brunette with blue eyes. This month be all that you can be. Lucky Number: 144

**** Hide, ** Could be better, *** So close, **** Average, ***** Yahoo !!,***** Not gonna happen***

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(216) 738-1177 Happy Hour 12—8 Everyday
Mon -Fri open Noon to 10:00pm
Sat open 2:00pm -9:00pm Sun open for Browns Games
Special Menu for Browns Games!
Donna (best bartender ever)