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Georgine Welo

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Editor

Keith Ari Benjamin
Director of Community Services

South Euclid Magazine is a quarterly publication of the City of South Euclid. We are looking for interesting South Euclid people and places to profile in upcoming issues.

If you have any story ideas, please share them with us by contacting Keith Benjamin at 216.691.4234 or kbenjamin@seuclid.com.

Special thanks to resident Jean Nadeau for her editing and proofreading expertise!

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DEAR FRIENDS:



Mayor Georgine Welo
216.381.0400

2020 has been a year like no other in our lifetime as we have all faced unprecedented challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. After a year like this, words seem so inadequate in terms of thanking all those who have kept us safe during these challenging times. However, here are a few notes of thanks and gratitude:

- Thank you to our **non-profit and charitable organizations** like One South Euclid Community Development Corporation, the Community Partnership on Aging, South Euclid Commission on Aging, Heights Emergency Food Center, Kosher Food Pantry and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank for providing care and services to residents in need.
- Gratitude to our **faith-based organizations**, especially Garfield Memorial Church, St. John's Lutheran Church, South Euclid United Church of Christ and First Baptist Church who have stepped up to serve the greater South Euclid community with support during these trying times.
- Thank you to our **First Responders**, including our paramedics, firefighters, police officers, health care providers, teachers, social workers and our many health care advocates working to keep our residents and community safe.
- My appreciation to the **South Euclid MyCom Youth Network**, including the South Euclid-Lyndhurst Schools, Garfield Memorial Church, Cuyahoga County Public Library, One South Euclid, Hillcrest YMCA, Team Couture Youth Center and Mercury Theatre Company who have worked to provide our youth with support and alternative programming throughout the pandemic shutdown.
- Gratitude to the **One South Euclid Community Development Corporation and our City employees** for their innovative implementation of Covid-19 grant programs, which have distributed over \$60,000 so far this

- year to residents and businesses in need of assistance.
- Thanks to **our businesses**, who in the hardest of times, have been charitable to their employees and residents. A special thanks to our essential workers at our grocery stores and other important service providers who have faced so many challenges this year.
- Gratitude to **our healthcare providers**, especially the leadership at Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, MetroHealth and our own Senders Pediatrics, who have provided steady support and guidance to our community and residents during these unprecedented times.
- My admiration to **City Council and all of our hardworking city employees** who have worked tirelessly, proactively and creatively to safeguard South Euclid and initiate positive change in our community for all residents.
- And to **our residents**, many thanks and appreciation for:
 - your continuing support of our community with the passage of the Road Levy;
 - taking care of our older adults, our youth and the greater community.
 - caring for each other in the face of the Covid-19 health crisis; and
 - coming together as a diverse community of all ages, races, cultures and religions to end systemic racism and discrimination in our society.
- Finally, to all those who have become sick because of Covid-19 or lost loved ones to the virus, we offer our deepest sympathies and prayers of support.

To all of you, thank you for your commitment, dedication, compassion, collaboration and courage. You are the reason why South Euclid remains a place where we can all "Come Together & Thrive"! On behalf of City Council and all of our hardworking public servants, our best wishes to you and your family for a safe and healthy New Year!

*Very truly yours,
Georgine*

Quick Notes from the Mayor...

Holiday Trash & Recycling Schedule: A reminder that Rubbish & Recycling are delayed one day, on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Sign-up for our E-Newsletter: The City regularly publishes an e-newsletter with important information and community updates. Sign-up to receive the newsletter on our home page at www.cityofsoutheuclid.com.

Sensible Salting and Snow Removal: Over 10 years ago City Council passed legislation adopting sensible salting practices to reduce salt usage, help keep our environment

clean and keep our roadways in safe and passable condition during the winter months. This includes limited salting on secondary roadways, except during ice storms. As always, during snowstorms, all roadways will be plowed with priority given first to primary roadways, then secondary roadways, followed by neighborhood streets. A reminder to please help pedestrians travel safely by shoveling your sidewalks.

Spring Yard Waste Clean-up: In the spring, please remember to bag all yard waste in a brown paper bag and bundle and tie trimmings in sections weighing no more than 40 pounds.

A MESSAGE FOR THE SOUTH EUCLID COMMUNITY...

From Dr. Richard D. Parker, President of Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest Hospital & East Region

As we look with hope to the start of a new year, let's not forget that COVID-19 cases are on the rise in our communities and across the country. We are very concerned about the increase in cases because hospital volumes are consistently going up and nearing capacity. That puts a strain on the healthcare system and all caregivers who are dedicated to patient care.

To understand the gravity of the situation, we can look at one recent 24-hour period when 3,100 Americans died from COVID-19. (That's more than the number of lives lost from the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.)

To help address the increasing number of patients, Cleveland Clinic, including Hillcrest Hospital and all Ohio locations, has postponed nonessential surgeries requiring a hospital bed or an intensive care unit bed. That began on Dec. 7, 2020 and will likely continue until Jan. 3, 2021. Our goal is to make more beds available to accommodate COVID-19 patients who need to be hospitalized.

In addition to beds, we need healthy caregivers – doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, support staff and many others behind the scenes – to care for our patients. The more medical personnel who contract the virus, the fewer people we have to take care of patients. This is an issue across the state and country. All evidence shows that the vast majority of caregiver cases are from community spread, not from the hospital setting.

The good news is that FDA-approved vaccines are now here in our region, but they may not be widely available for the public until several months into 2021. In the meantime, each of us can focus on prevention by taking steps to help slow the spread of the virus. Those steps remain the same and include wearing a mask, washing hands frequently, social distancing, limiting gatherings and getting the flu shot.

The power to do what is right to slow the spread of the virus is in the hands of each of us. I urge everyone to follow the public health guidelines. They will help keep you safe and help to keep your family, friends and neighbors safe.

As a physician and the president of Hillcrest Hospital, I get many questions about masking and its effectiveness. It has been proven that wearing a mask is a key way to slow the pandemic, but masks must be worn correctly – covering both your mouth and your nose.

Much of the spread of the virus is happening at private gatherings of families and friends, and in social settings like



weddings, funerals, baby showers and birthday parties. In those settings, attendees may let their guard down and remove their masks.

Simply said – if you are around people who don't live in your home, you should always wear a mask. Making sacrifices today will help ensure a healthier tomorrow – for each of us, our families and friends, and our communities. ✍

Richard D. Parker, MD, is president of Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest Hospital and Cleveland Clinic's East Region. An orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Parker joined Cleveland Clinic in 1993. He served as chairman of orthopedic surgery from 2008 to 2015. He was the head team physician for the Cleveland Cavaliers from 2000 through 2017, and now serves as an assistant team physician.

Abby Vandiver or Abby Colette?

YOU CAN JUST CALL HER ABBY!

By Carlo Wolff

Abbey L. Vandiver makes writing sound easy. She has close to 30 books available in stores, on Amazon and through her website, authorabby.com. An agent sought her out, not the conventional vice versa. She has a contract with one of the biggest publishing houses and she continues to self-publish, turns out novels quickly, and has a finger on the market's pulse.

Vandiver's latest novel, *A Deadly Inside Scoop*, is her first for Berkley Books, a division of Penguin Random House. The launch of a projected trilogy, it's a "cozy mystery" centered around an ice cream shop in Chagrin Falls. Vandiver has already finished the second book, which she expects to publish in March.

Things look to be going swimmingly. That wasn't always so. One could say writing saved Vandiver's life.

In a recent Zoom conversation, Vandiver, whose full name is Shondra Collette Vandiver Longino, spoke of life's challenges, her recent good fortune, and the roots of her work. She publishes books under both Abby Vandiver and Abby Colette. The separate identities give Vandiver flexibility.

"When I got the deal with Penguin, they didn't want any competition; they didn't want me to write any more books," she says. "But it's what I do, so I didn't want to say yes, so they said that if I changed my name, I could continue to write under Abby Vandiver. So I changed my name to Abby Collette. Vandiver is my maiden name and Collette is my middle name. I changed it to keep writing because I'm a hybrid author; I still like to self-publish even though I'm traditionally published.

"I write a lot," she says. "I've actually written about 25 books and short stories, and I can write a book in about three weeks if I sit down and put my mind to it."

"You have a very active imagination," I say.

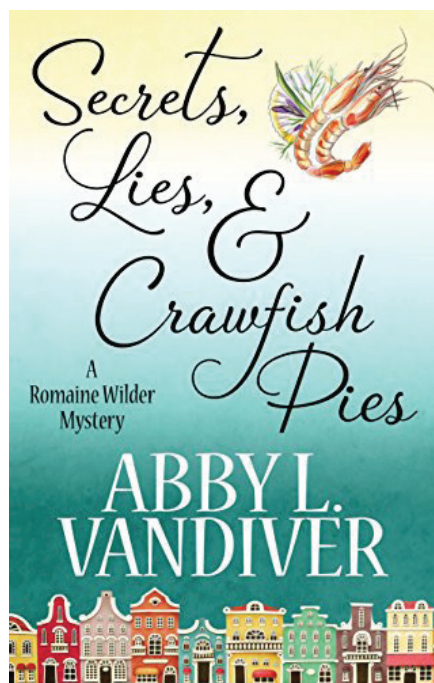
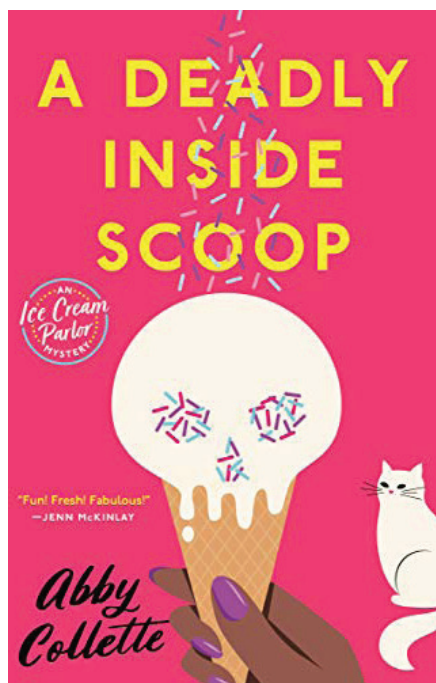
"I used to be a lawyer. I needed one."

Born and raised in Cleveland to parents who left Jim Crow Alabama in 1943 during the Great Migration, Vandiver is the youngest of four sisters and the first person in her family in a long time to go through college. She has a bachelor's degree in economics



from Otterbein University, a master's in public administration from Cleveland State University, and a law degree from Ohio Northern University.

Her mother's parents died when her mother was 2, sending the siblings to live with relatives; Vandiver often writes "about kinship, adoption and extended family." *A Deadly Inside Scoop* focuses on an enterprise her main character's grandparents launched in 1965 "when they came up from the South and purchased an ice cream shop in Chagrin Falls." Vandiver's father, diagnosed with "shrinkage of the brain" (a primitive way to describe early onset Alzheimer's) in his early 40s, was placed in a non-locked ward at what used to be called the Cleveland Mental Institute on Turney Road. He died in 1959. He was 49.



Her mother took in family members from all over when she lived in Cleveland, says Vandiver, who has lived in South Euclid since 2011. “All of that comes into my stories: family dynamics.”

In 2012, she was working as an attorney, handling “whatever knocked on my door,” when she fell gravely ill. “Doctors took three years to get to where they thought it might be a tumor, but they ruled that out because they said it was too rare,” she recalls. Turns out it was indeed a “very rare malignant tumor, and it secreted testosterone, a lot of it ... I just was real sick—couldn’t breathe, couldn’t walk around. I was worried.”

To pass the time, Vandiver launched an online magazine. She also connected with her writing self. Call it a rediscovery. Call it the dawn of a new career.

Vandiver had forgotten that she’d written a book years earlier: Her daughter came across it in her garage. “I thought, this is something for me to do,” Vandiver says. “I didn’t know there were rules to writing, and I had kind of poured my heart out to this story that I had made up. So I felt this was something I could do in bed, make an electronic form of it. And then I posted it.”

Available on a website created by HarperCollins Publisher, Vandiver’s initial foray into novel writing drew praise. She then began self-publishing on Amazon, learning more about how to write in the process. She teaches herself.

Abby L. Vandiver is proof there’s another way: acceptance, encouragement, and a smooth pathway to novelistic success. Not only does Vandiver seem to write with ease, she knows exactly what her market is—and enjoys writing for and to it.

In 2017, following her first publication through Amazon, Henery Press, a mystery book publisher, signed her to a three-year contract. The next year, the agent who would get her the Berkley deal reached out to her. Vandiver credits Laurie Kincer, writing specialist at the South Euclid branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, for encouraging her: It was Kincer who told Vandiver to take heart and

call that agent back. Kincer runs the William N. Skirball Writers’ Center at the library. It offers workshops in various types of writing, access to private writing rooms and laptops, and good counsel.

Vandiver has written all kinds of books, from sci-fi to historical to mystery. The foundation of her first series, the self-published Mars Origin ‘I’ Series, is alternative history predicated on the notion that the ancient Egyptians possessed all the modern knowledge that we have lost; they knew how to do brain surgery, they used batteries. The series suggests that human life began on Mars, moved to Earth as the “next available planet, and humans played God and ruined where they lived.”

For now, Vandiver writes about the present, crafting mysteries that forgo gratuitous sex, swearing and gratuitous violence (except for a murder or two). She’s also exploring the possibilities of women’s fiction.

“My ex-husband called my books fluff,” Vandiver says, “and basically, that’s what they are. That didn’t hurt my feelings; I would like to write something, you know, more ... but I really enjoy this. My books are humorous; they’re feel-good, except for the murder part of it. People, especially nowadays, read a book for entertainment. Sometimes you just need to laugh, pick out a comedy to watch instead of some dystopian kind of thing. Because you need to feel better: ‘Cozies’ are always there to make you feel better.

“A cozy read is filled with family and friends and people sticking together, and in the end justice prevails.”

South Euclid suits a woman comfortable with her creativity.

“I love South Euclid,” Vandiver says. “You can do everything you want to do in South Euclid except for going to the movies. I can dress up and go out to eat or I can just hang out. One time my niece and I went shopping. We shopped for three hours and we never left South Euclid.” ✍



Living History:

At 98, Albert Pollack Pens Memoir

By Carlo Wolff

Not only has Albert Pollack been wanting to communicate his stories for decades, he's actually been telling them, if only to a select group. His relatives know them well, none better than Madelyn, his wife of 39 years. A year or so ago, the Pollacks decided to set down Albert's tales. Time accelerates: Albert is 98. Many interviews and transcriptions later, the couple has delivered Albert's long look back: *Determination Through the Holocaust, War, and Beyond—a Memoir*.

While Albert gets sole credit, Madelyn, his loving amanuensis, deserves her due, too. Written in resolutely vernacular style, *Determination* reads like reminiscences overheard. Unfiltered, personal, and engaging, it's an unusual book. Where many Holocaust memoirs probe lives spent in hiding or, worse yet, deaths in the camps, Albert's book attests to a life fully led, a life of victories rather than defeats.

"If you were Jewish in Europe from 1933 to 1945, you're a Holocaust survivor," says Madelyn. "There are many people who talk about the Holocaust, and most of them were in concentration camps or were hidden as children," she says. "Albert killed Nazis."

Born July 16, 1922 in Chorostkov, Poland (now Ukraine), Albert lost his father at a year and a half; an older sister died before he was born, so he was in effect an only child. His schooling was fitful and limited, but he was a particularly curious and ambitious autodidact, teaching himself bookbinding and woodworking.

By 1941, Albert was painfully aware of the Nazi danger. Also, by then, he had become proficient in bookbinding and carpentry; he'd done some of the latter for the Russians, demonstrating the adaptability and flexibility that mark his career.



By that summer, the Russians had taken over half of his hometown, the Germans the other half. Although Albert had done some carpentry for the Russians, he sensed that wouldn't protect him; the arrangement between the powers was crumbling, making life for a

Jew increasingly dangerous there. Albert couldn't persuade his mother to leave Chorostkov, but knew he had to.

"When the Russians pulled back out of Chorostkov because of the advancing Nazis, I knew it was time to leave," he writes. "Beryl (a friend) and I left on

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Tuesday, July 1, 1941. I had nothing but a small package with a change of clothes and a loaf of bread. I still had some rubles from my work for the Russians. It was heart wrenching to say goodbye to my mother, and there were tears flowing like rivers. As we left, my mother said, 'Gott mit ihr,' meaning 'God be with you.'" (page 19)

He never saw his mother again.

"I escaped to Russia and when I got there I knew that I saved my life," he says today. "I knew there was something I had to do. Fight back." His mother taught him "to be nice and talk nice and you'll be all right. I set my system—my thinking, my feeling—in a way that would work." Albert seems born into knowing how to go along to get along.

After the war, he wound up in Feldafing, a displaced persons camp some 40 miles south of Munich. Armed with his faith in God and his unswerving self-confidence, Albert bought himself a Leica in 1945 and discovered he enjoyed photography, particularly taking photos of children.

Because an aunt lived here, he immigrated to Cleveland. His book goes into great detail about the career he established, his first marriage, and the stability he forged in marrying Madelyn and building the decidedly modern house the two have lived in since they became a couple.

Albert opened Pollack Photography in 1975 at Cedar and Warrensville roads, moving the business to its current site at Cedar and Green roads in 1976. His son, Joey, has run the operation, which also offers custom framing, since 1984, when Albert retired; the transition from analog to digital photography took the wind out of Albert's entrepreneurial sails. Retouching, a specialty of his in analog film, no longer applied to digital. "My son took over the business and he's doing a great job," Albert says.

Albert was inspired to tell his story in 2004, when a book of Chorostkov memories he'd acquired 15 years earlier led him to reconnect with a man in Montreal whom he'd known as a boy in Chorostkov. Morton Lang encouraged Albert to write his own book. In 2010, prodded by Madelyn, Albert recorded his story at Yad Vashem, the memory repository for Holocaust survivors in Jerusalem. Subsequent appearances at a candle-lighting ceremony at Green Road Synagogue and at the historical society of a tiny town southeast of Cleveland convinced the Pollacks it was time for Albert to dictate his life story to his patient wife.

In 2015, when a woman from the Shalersville Historical Society asked him whether he would address her group, Albert said she had to talk to Madelyn. "A few days later she called, and Madelyn asked how long she wanted me to speak," Albert writes. "She asked, 'Would an hour be too much?' and Madelyn answered, 'You'll have a hard time shutting him up after only an hour!'"

Madelyn has been listening to Albert's story for 45 years. "I could tell it as well as he can," says the retired computer programmer, who took notes by hand, then processed this tale on computer. "Sometimes better."

Albert's story is indeed one of survival. It also is one of entrepreneurship and inventiveness: Albert devotes a late chapter in *Determination* to his love for the garden he and Madelyn built in front of their home. Their lovingly tended plot, where Albert built 14 raised beds for vegetables, medicinal and culinary herbs,



currants, raspberries and blackberries, sustains them both nutritionally and spiritually. It also speaks eloquently to the life they have led in South Euclid for the past 38 years. They have been involved with the city's recycling committee for more than 25 years; Madelyn formed its Freecycle! branch, an operation at Bexley Park where people bring useful items they no longer want, to give away for free. The Pollacks also worked on the Playground of Possibilities, a playground for children up to 12 years old.

Albert seems to be an incurable optimist. Where does that come from? His sunny outlook stems from his belief in God. "I'm an optimist, I have talent, and I have skill," he asserts. "I get the optimism from the life that I lead."

What does he think of America in these challenging times?

"I still love it, but I'd like to see a little more order," Albert says. "When I came here, I enjoyed it. I found everything I dreamed of. But I'm still an optimist, and hopefully the country will get back on track to be the kind and caring America that I came to." ✍

Determination Through the Holocaust, War, and Beyond— a Memoir is available at Frank's Hebrew Book Store in South Euclid, Loganberry Books in Cleveland, Appletree Books and Mac's Backs in Cleveland Heights, The Learned Owl in Hudson, through the publisher at streamlinecle.com, and from Madelyn herself at msbgp43@gmail.com.

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SELTA wishes everyone a wonderful holiday season and hopes that 2021 will bring greater health and happiness for all!





Step into Wonder at

Sanctuary on Green

By Carlo Wolff

Adults step into childhood and children step into wonder at Sanctuary on Green, especially during the winter holiday season when the magical gift shop Victoria and Norbert Koehn run is transformed into a spectacular holiday oasis.

Sanctuary on Green has supported the Koehns for three decades. Their three-acre property overlooking Nine Mile Creek is a source of pleasure and comfort for Victoria, Norbert, their sons Aaron and Sasha, and the customers they serve. Looking for a giant nutcracker? Want to buy a Swedish pyramid, an intricate, candle-powered wooden house with animated “occupants”? Jewelry, toys, Norbert’s carvings, spiritual objects such as Nepalese singing bowls, teas, scarves, angels, Polish hats, Peruvian blankets, and a remarkable collection of Christmas tree ornaments pack the 11 rooms of the Sanctuary, a unique world with a distinctly German flavor.

The Koehns have occupied their South Green Road property since 1990, when they relocated their business and household from a studio and apartment at Beaumont School. Victoria went to high school at Beaumont School in Cleveland Heights. Then came Germany—and the loves of their lives.

The Koehns met the first day of sculpture school in Oberammergau, a city in Norbert’s native Bavaria. Armed with German she learned at the University of Vienna, Victoria was studying for her journeyman’s certificate; Norbert was going for his master’s. “It was love at first sight,” Victoria says. Talk about affinity.

“My father was a German teacher, and ever since I was a little girl,



I used to look at his German books, his little Berlitz books,” she says. “I used to draw on them, and I always used to try to learn German as a tiny girl.” Her father taught high school at St. Joseph’s, Benedictine and Garfield. Her parents also live in South Euclid.

After five years in Germany, Victoria felt the tug of home and told Norbert she “wanted to give the U.S. a chance and see what it was like. We knew what we could do in Germany, but we didn’t know what would be ahead for us in the U.S. It was an adventure. A tough adventure.”

Becoming established was challenging for this sculptor couple. Their art of wood and stone is “a luxury, not a necessity-although it really is a necessity,” Victoria says. “But today, most people look at it as a luxury.”

The Koehns’ first American home was an apartment, which came with a studio, at Beaumont. They lived, created and ran their business there from 1978 to 1990. Like the day they met, the first time Victoria saw their current property, with its 110-year-old residence and 145-year-old barn, she felt love.

They had been looking “for a home we could use for our sculpture business that wouldn’t bother neighbors, that would have enough land to raise children. We were looking at Chesterland and beyond. It was just a little bit far out, but my realtor found this house and called me one morning when I was bringing the kids to school. After dropping them off at Gesu, my heart raced; I drove home fast.”

Buying the property was a financial stretch, but Victoria’s determination to live on the former farm site prevailed once the realtor got the keys and she got a look out a second-floor window. “It was full of snow and it looked like a scene out of *Doctor Zhivago*,” she recalls. “My stomach cringed, and I said, I’ve got to have this place. So we communicated with the owner.” The communication was positive.

Once settled, the Koehns built an addition and created a Bavarian-style kitchen that was the heart of a small restaurant they ran until they closed it two years ago. It’s the family home, and Victoria prefers customers view-and treat-it as such. Their 41st annual open house and Christkindlmarkt runs Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., until Dec. 27.

Besides their work at the Sanctuary, the Koehns are liturgical consultants. Their art graces 20 to 30 parishes in Northeast Ohio, and they also designed and created the worship space at the Temple-Tifereth Israel in Beachwood.

“In our studies of sculpture in Germany, art history was a huge influence on all of our work,” Victoria says. “And in art history, most of the sculptural work was religious. So we had to learn why certain sculptures were created, and my husband’s proficiency is art history; that has helped us. And then we’re religious, we’re Catholic.” They attend Community of St. Peter in downtown Cleveland.

She and Norbert sculpt individually, “but we sign both names to everything because we are one. It’s Norbert and Victoria Koehn. There’s never a Norbert without Victoria, never a Victoria without a Norbert.

“He’s more academic and I’m more folksy, more primitive,” Victoria says, “but I can replicate academic. I can replicate anything, but to create, I’m more folksy.” Her favorite medium is wood, she says; Norbert favors stone.

For now, however, her focus is the store and making sure customers feel safe. The pandemic has affected business “big-



Public Art designed by Norbert Koehn at the Colony/Halsey Pocket Park.

time. On a typical day around this time of year, we would have 200 to 400 people visit,” she says. “The most we have had in one day during the pandemic was 46. We let up to 12 people in at a time. We have had no wait times as people come and go throughout the day.

“We lost a lot of our commissions because people re-evaluated what they were purchasing amid the uncertainty of the pandemic and canceled contracts.”

Despite COVID-19, the Koehns were able to acquire all their German imports this year, and they’ve put pandemic guidelines like social distancing in place. “We have masks and gloves,” Victoria says. “Everybody has to sanitize their hands and put our gloves on. For shoppers, there’s no way that I could sanitize every item in here.”

Her “assistant elves,” the “ladies and gent” who work for her during Christkindlmarkt, spend their time keeping the thousands of items clean unless they’re dealing with customers. The Koehns also have installed air purifiers and sanitizers and, weather permitting, keep doors open for air circulation.

“Everything’s handmade,” she says of her wildly varied merchandise. “I don’t know of any store like ours that’s so inclusive.” How many items does the store carry? “Thousands,” Victoria says, laughing.

“Everybody is so grateful that we’re open,” she says. “Everybody says that we’re their continuing tradition for Christmas, because their parents brought them as children because we’ve been doing it for 41 years. We did 11 years at Beaumont. Over there, we had lines to the parking lot.” For the past 30 years, they’ve benefited from a much larger space. “It’s amazing. It’s a wonderful life.”

Sanctuary on Green is located at 1936 South Green Road, adjacent to the City’s beautiful Langerdale Nature Preserve! Find out more about South Euclid’s own Sanctuary on Green at www.sanctuaryongreen.com.



VAUGHN JOHNSON:

Planting Seeds for Community Service

By Carlo Wolff

Vaughn Johnson is fuzzy about the date, but the mental picture lasts. It's the image of Johnson as a boy, asking Dennis Kucinich a question way beyond a boy's years.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Johnson grew up around East 145th Street and St. Clair Avenue. He and his family (he's one of eight kids) moved to Cleveland Heights when Johnson was in ninth grade. His own family has lived in South Euclid going on eight years. Johnson is director of the Minority Business Assistance Center at the Urban League of Cleveland and vice president of the board of the One South Euclid Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation.

Johnson's exchange with Kucinich may have presaged his whole career.

"When I was a little kid—and I'm sharing the story because this was one of the first catalysts in my life as it relates to community organizing, in taking pride in ownership of where you live—Dennis Kucinich was giving a speech," he recalls.

"I didn't even know who he was. I was a child. I saw this gathering and I remember thinking, Wow, why are all these people here? Maybe I was 7 years old, maybe 8. I remember crossing the street, and he was standing on the stairs talking about whatever, and I raised my hand and said, I have a question.

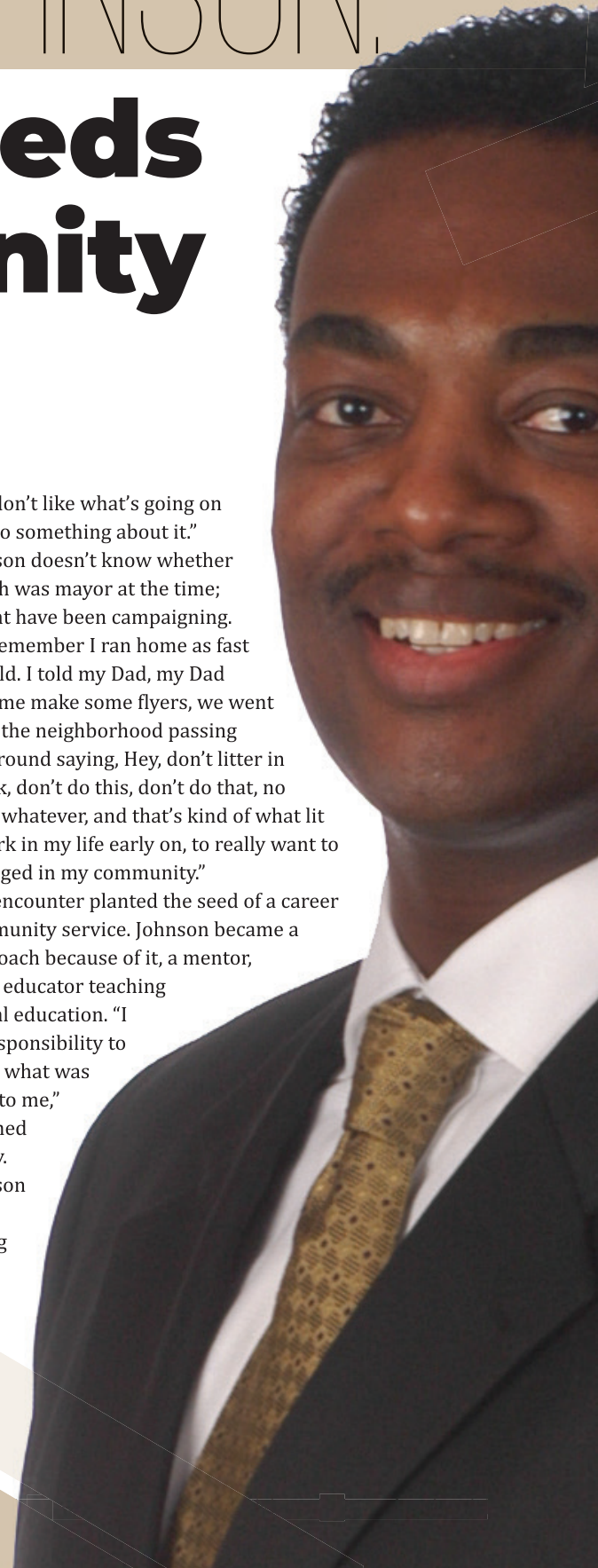
"I said, Why is it that the playground on the other side of Collinwood is immaculate, with a swimming pool and so on and so forth, and our playground is full of broken glass and graffiti and wire fences and all this trash and garbage? And he got down on one knee, looked me right in my eyes, and said, Young man, I'm proud of you for asking that question, but that park belongs to you. Tell your friends and your families and your parents and everybody not to litter, not to trash, and take ownership of that park. It's in your neighborhood, it's in your community, and you're responsible for it just as much as we are responsible for

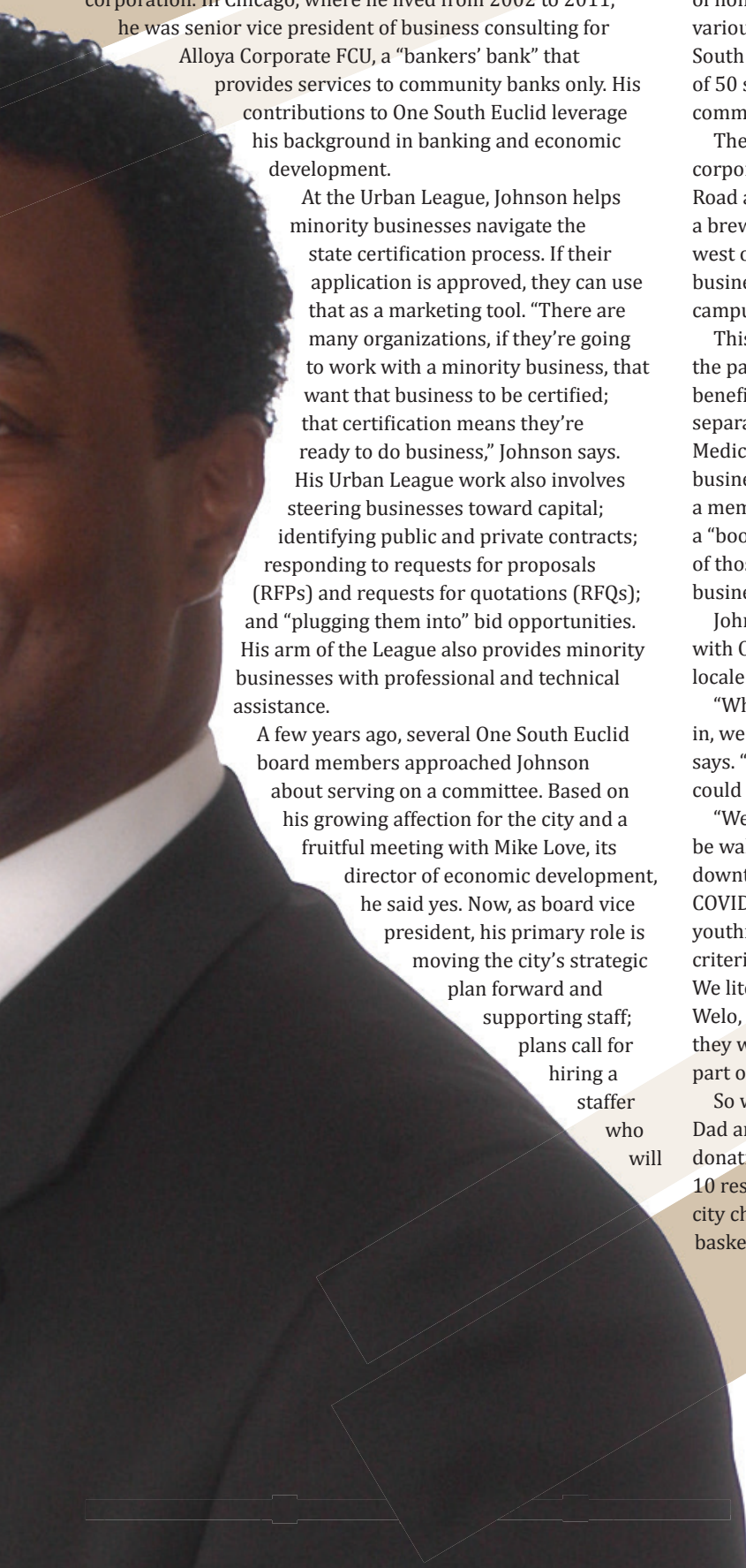
it. You don't like what's going on here? Do something about it."

Johnson doesn't know whether Kucinich was mayor at the time; he might have been campaigning. "I just remember I ran home as fast as I could. I told my Dad, my Dad helped me make some flyers, we went around the neighborhood passing flyers around saying, Hey, don't litter in the park, don't do this, don't do that, no graffiti, whatever, and that's kind of what lit the spark in my life early on, to really want to be engaged in my community."

The encounter planted the seed of a career of community service. Johnson became a youth coach because of it, a mentor, a youth educator teaching financial education. "I have responsibility to pass on what was passed to me," he learned that day.

Johnson is still cleaning up the





playground.

He has served as chief executive officer of several credit unions and as chief operating officer of another development corporation. In Chicago, where he lived from 2002 to 2011,

he was senior vice president of business consulting for Alloya Corporate FCU, a “bankers’ bank” that provides services to community banks only. His contributions to One South Euclid leverage his background in banking and economic development.

At the Urban League, Johnson helps minority businesses navigate the state certification process. If their application is approved, they can use that as a marketing tool. “There are many organizations, if they’re going to work with a minority business, that want that business to be certified; that certification means they’re ready to do business,” Johnson says.

His Urban League work also involves steering businesses toward capital; identifying public and private contracts; responding to requests for proposals (RFPs) and requests for quotations (RFQs); and “plugging them into” bid opportunities. His arm of the League also provides minority businesses with professional and technical assistance.

A few years ago, several One South Euclid board members approached Johnson about serving on a committee. Based on his growing affection for the city and a fruitful meeting with Mike Love, its director of economic development, he said yes. Now, as board vice president, his primary role is moving the city’s strategic plan forward and supporting staff; plans call for hiring a staffer who will

act as executive director, One South Euclid’s analogue to Love’s position with the city.

One South Euclid derives its operating capital from the sale of homes that have been foreclosed, along with grants from various organizations including foundations. Since 2013, One South Euclid has earned the city nearly \$750,000 from the sale of 50 such residences, according to Daniel Subwick, the city’s community development coordinator.

The key focus of the resident-driven community development corporation is redevelopment of parts of the Mayfield-Green Road area: conversion of the Key Bank building to, perhaps, a brewery; repurposing residentially oriented Garden Drive, west of Green and off Mayfield, for city activities and unusual businesses; and redevelopment of the Sacred Heart of Jesus campus.

This year, One South Euclid partnered with the city to battle the pandemic with an Emergency Business Relief Program benefiting 58 businesses with grants of \$1,000 to \$2,500. A separate \$5,000 donation from the UH University Suburban Medical Center on South Green Road helped another 11 businesses with grants of \$250 to \$750. Johnson, who was not a member of the grants committee, called the disbursements a “boost” to these companies, adding, “the substantial part of those grant dollars went to minority- and women-owned businesses.”

Johnson’s work for the Urban League and his volunteer hours with One South Euclid dovetail, and South Euclid seems to be a locale to which he was born.

“When my wife and I were looking for neighborhoods to live in, we were debating about where we wanted to live,” Johnson says. “Our kids were older, we both wanted to downsize, and we could have lived in any neighborhood that we wanted to.

“We were looking for a neighborhood that was going to be walkable, bikable, friendly, diverse, with easy access to downtown, where we spent a lot of time on activities—before COVID. A city that was very progressive and also had a more youthful spirit. Every time we would check the boxes off for our criteria it was, like, Look at what they’re doing in South Euclid. We literally moved to South Euclid because of Mayor (Georgine) Welo, Mike Love and his team, and all of the wonderful things they were already doing in South Euclid. And we wanted to be a part of that.”

So what happened to Johnson’s boyhood playground? “My Dad and I went door-to-door passing out flyers and collecting donations to clean up the park at Coit Road and St. Clair. About 10 residents helped us and the park was cleaned up. The city chipped in with new trash receptacles and nets for the basketball hoops.” So nice when stories have happy endings. ✍





A Poem from South Euclid Poet Laureate Doc Janning

Immersed in fathoms unknown
of dark lake waters
of memory and metaphor
we live
change
then emerge
from cracks between
the secret and the seen
from the schism of loneliness
black river of loss
and desolation of night
on the other side of time
into bright clean ocean
of aching blue sky
compound vivid canvas of inchoate future
and sunrise of forever



© Doc Janning
20 May 2020



Hey Neighbor!

Want to know when there's an emergency happening in your neighborhood like evacuations, weather alerts, boil alerts and road closures?

Don't delay! Sign up for ReadyNotify today at
www.ready.cuyahogacounty.us

(click ReadyNotify at the top of the page)

In an emergency, there are never too many ways to receive a possibly life-saving alert. That's why the City of South Euclid will use multiple ways to reach you if there is a threat to your life or property. The best way to ensure you receive alerts is by signing up for Cuyahoga County's ReadyNotify through Cuyahoga County at www.ready.cuyahoga.us.

What is ReadyNotify?

The City of South Euclid has partnered with Cuyahoga County to implement a mass notification system to issue emergency notifications to the public. It is similar to the communications systems schools use to notify parents of closures or other time-sensitive information. ReadyNotify is primarily used for emergency notifications, when rapid and accurate information is essential for your immediate safety.

How will I receive alerts?

The system delivers messages to residents and businesses by telephone, cellular phone, text message, or electronic mail. The system is capable of sending messages to specific communities or the entire county.





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Implementing Flood Control Measures Can Stem the Tide of Basement Flooding

There are few things that strike horror in the hearts of homeowners more than going into the basement to find water or sewage backup. The damage to property, the messy clean-up, and trying to sort out what happened in order to make repairs can be a very costly and sometimes confusing proposition. While the City is continually working to update and maintain the system of complex underground pipes, sewers and catch basins throughout the community, there are several steps you can take to prevent your basement from flooding.

What causes flooded basements and what can be done?

Basements can end up flooded with storm water or backed up sewage. With changing weather patterns and more severe storm events, basement flooding is becoming more common in South Euclid and everywhere in the region. However, there are some simple things you can do to prevent these backups, along with additional remedies.

Do some preventative maintenance

Having your sanitary and storm sewer lines, sometimes known as laterals, snaked out is your first line of defense. These are the pipes that run from your home to the street and they are often made of clay tile that can become compromised from tree roots. Periodically having them snaked can prevent backup problems.

The City's Service Department can snake the sanitary lateral for a cost of \$100, which is often less expensive than many private plumbers charge. To schedule this service, contact the Service Department at 216-381-0402.

The City does not offer this service for storm sewer laterals; you will have to contact a plumber for this work. Although it may be somewhat more expensive, it is a highly recommended preventative measure.

Make sure your gutters and downspouts are cleaned in the fall and spring

Debris in the gutters and downspouts can cause them to malfunction and overflow, allowing storm water to end up around your foundation and get into your basement.

Correct negative grading near the foundation

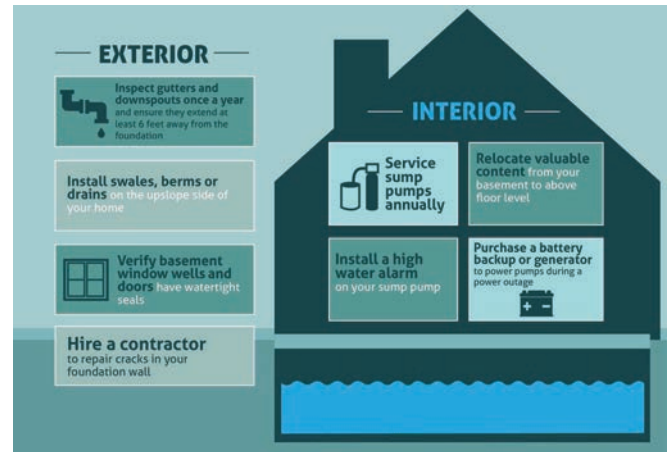
Sometimes due to erosion, the soil around your home can begin to create a negative grade that funnels water toward your foundation. Soil should be mounded to divert water away from your home, not toward it.

Be Careful What You Flush!

Only flush human waste and toilet tissue – nothing else. Feminine hygiene products, “flushable wipes” and other items can wreak havoc on your plumbing – even if those items are touted as being flushable. Don't believe it, and be careful about what gets flushed. If you don't, expensive repairs may be in your future.

Use your kitchen disposal prudently

Scrape as much food waste as possible into a bin for composting or into your kitchen trash and only use the disposal for the small bits remaining. Avoid putting stringy or fibrous foods, grease and oil, eggshells, coffee grounds, and starchy foods into a disposal. These



can build up over time and cause sewer clogs. Run cold water while using the disposal.

Be careful about overloading your plumbing during storms

During large storm events, main sewers are overloaded from storm overflows, so this is not a good time to run loads of laundry, do loads of dishes and take a shower all at the same time. Making sure that water draining from your home is minimized during large storm events will go a long way toward preventing backups into your basement!

Back flow devices can help – but only in certain cases

In certain areas of the city with older sewer mains, overloads can occur, causing basement sewer backups. A back flow device can be installed that closes when the main is under pressure to prevent a backup from entering the service lateral. A drawback of these devices is that when they close they will also slow or stop the flow of sanitary sewer discharges from the house to the street. Therefore toilet flushing, showers, clothes and dish washing, and other water use activities should be avoided when the back flow device is likely to be in operation. These devices typically cost around \$3,000 to install and the City can provide a grant to homeowners to help defray some of the cost. If you have frequent sewer backups, contact the South Euclid Service Department at 216.381.0402 to determine if a back flow device will help in your case.

Consider purchasing a generator if your home has a sump pump

Homes with interior waterproofing systems utilize a sump pump to move water away from the foundation. During a power outage, the sump pump will stop working and basement flooding can quickly result. Purchasing a generator to supply backup power to the sump pump is wise. Be sure that the pump discharge line is connected to the storm lateral as a connection to the sanitary lateral is prohibited by law.

Beware of cross connections

Some older homes in the City have a combined sanitary and storm sewer discharge, due to either previous plumbing work or the age

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

Keeping up with the Community Partnership on Aging

At the Community Partnership on Aging (CPA) we learned many things during 2020. We learned to be flexible by pivoting quickly from in-person to virtual programs, then to outdoor programs, then back to virtual as the most recent spike caused us to temporarily shut. We learned how many good people are out there, ready to volunteer, donate, deliver, sew, call, or do whatever else was needed to keep serving you, our valued residents. We learned how many wonderful community partners we could rely on including City staff and local churches.

And we learned the importance of using and understanding technology to connect us to each other, our families and friends. How is your relationship with technology? Are you a regular Zoomer, You Tube subscriber or email correspondent? Or are there things you wish you could do on your computer, tablet or smartphone but don't know how? Or are you a non-user but ready to learn? CPA is launching CPAConnects, a program designed to increase the use of technology by residents aged 60 or above.

It is a layered approach, consisting of one-on-one instruction by phone, then small group learning by videoconference followed by ongoing coaching which will continue as long as needed. If you are interested in becoming more knowledgeable about using your computer, tablet or smartphone, please call the office at 216-291-3902 and we will match you with a technology trainer to help you get the most out of your technology.

Lunches for Seniors

Please remember that lunches are available for pickup at the South Euclid Community Center on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. Frozen entrees, bread, fruit and milk (a five day supply) will be put in your trunk for contactless distribution. Call 216-650-4029 to reserve your meals by the Tuesday of the week before you would like to receive the food. Our monthly produce distribution is always the third Thursday of the month, beginning on January 21, 2021. Check our website (www.communitypartnershiponaging.org) for menus and dates of our specialty meals, LunchBox and Café Dinner.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

of the pipes, allowing runoff from roof downspouts and yard drains to enter the sanitary lateral. This is detrimental to the environment and contributes to overloading the sewer mains. Having a cross connection is also considered a code violation that will need to be corrected. This can be an expensive proposition that will require excavating your yard.

Consider purchasing insurance

Coverage for water and sewer line replacement can be purchased for a small amount of money from local utility companies. If you choose to purchase this coverage, be sure to read the fine print about what will be covered, under what circumstances, and how restoration of the site is handled.

By taking many of these simple preventative steps, homeowners can help prevent their basements from flooding and stop heavy rainfall, melting snow and runoff from ending up in your basement. Please don't hesitate to contact the Service Department at 216-381-0402 if you have any questions.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ON AGING

Staying Safe At Home

And finally, our Safe At Home program, supported by the Rusty Seech Fund, is available to you if you need minor home safety modifications, like grab bars or additional railings, and meet eligibility requirements. Please reach out to our social workers at 440-442-2626 extension 244 for information. Availability of contractors is dependent on current COVID-19 protocols.

Best wishes from the staff of Community Partnership on Aging for a happy, healthy and safe 2021.



THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY BUSINESS RELIEF FUND & VITAL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAMS

As of December 1st, the City has helped 68 businesses stay in business and reopen safely.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have worked hard to find innovative ways to help our residents and businesses in need.

The COVID-19 Emergency Business Relief Fund

Earlier this year, under the leadership of Mayor Welo, the “COVID-19 Emergency Business Relief Fund” was created. Funded equally by the One South Euclid Community Development Corporation and the City, the fund provided grants of up to \$2,500 to local neighborhood businesses to help them stay in business during the COVID-19 shutdown.

As of December 1 we have awarded funds to 58 South Euclid businesses. For many neighborhood businesses, these funds allowed them to survive the stay-at-home order and begin to reopen. Businesses were able to use the funds for rent, mortgage payments, payroll, utilities, supplies, and more. The success of the program also led to additional funding assistance from the Ohio CDC Association and the University Suburban Health Center Foundation.

The South Euclid Vital Business Grant Program

Of course, as businesses reopened, the pandemic did not go away. In order to operate safely and in compliance with all “Responsible Restart Ohio” Guidelines, our businesses have seen operating expenses increase dramatically. This includes the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), cleaning supplies, and social distancing equipment, in addition to all their usual expenses such as rent, utilities, and employees.

The City received an allocation of dollars from the federal “CARES Act” passed earlier this year and a total of \$50,000 of this allocation was used to create the “South Euclid Vital Business Grant Program.” This grant program was designed to award 10 grants of \$5,000 to those vital businesses in the city which made the most compelling cases for funding.

The application process was very competitive, so in order to make the difficult decisions of determining which businesses would receive funds, a committee of volunteer residents and One South Euclid Board Members was convened to review all of the applications. Following review, the volunteer committee awarded funds to the following South Euclid businesses:

- Buckeye Medical
- Kalie’s Restaurant (soon to be Chelo’s)
- Culinary Occasions
- Koehn Sculptors Sanctuary on Green
- Eat at Joe’s
- Krishna-Ram Grocery
- Hillcrest Academy of Goshin Jujitsu
- Legacy 5 Lounge
- Issi’s Place
- LT Squared



Black Forest



Boiler 65

Photo taken pre-pandemic

The businesses selected represent all areas of the city. Many of the businesses have been long-term anchors of our community, and many owners are South Euclid residents. The volunteer committee also had a special focus on ensuring

that the businesses selected were representative of our diverse and inclusive community.

“Many of these businesses have supported our community for years, and in these unprecedented times we must do what we can to help ensure that when the pandemic is over, they are able to continue serving our community,” said Mayor Georgine Welo. “I’m grateful to all members of City Council, my administration and our non-profit One South Euclid Community Development Corporation for their outstanding leadership and support during these challenging times.”

Additional Help for Businesses

While not all businesses that applied were awarded grants, the Economic Development Department communicates regularly with the business community. Businesses receive weekly newsletters from Economic Development Director Michael Love with the latest information on available federal, state, and county grant and loan opportunities. The City also continues to work closely with business owners to help them apply for federal, state and county aid programs, and as a result, many of our businesses have been successful over the past few months in obtaining funding.

We continue to explore innovative ways in partnership with One South Euclid to help our business owners through this difficult time and we have high hopes that future federal and state stimulus bills will contain additional aid provisions for small businesses.

For more information about these and other Economic Development Programs visit our website at www.cityofsoutheuclid.com and One South Euclid at www.onesoutheuclid.org.



LT Squared



Kalie’s/Chelo’s Restaurant



Culinary Occasions



Krishna-Ram Asian Grocery



One South Euclid Community Development Corporation Update



Help One South Euclid Raise Funds for COVID Relief

One South Euclid (OSE), a nonprofit community development corporation, is continuing to raise funds to provide emergency relief to residents and small businesses that have been impacted by COVID-19. You can join the effort by buying OSE custom-designed T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, or tank tops. In addition, 100% of the profits will go to COVID Relief in South Euclid. You can access OSE's store at bonfire.com/store/one-south-euclid.

The nonprofit's main goal since 2009 has been to ensure the stability and growth of South Euclid's neighborhoods and small businesses, but the pandemic has swiftly impacted the community, as it has others. So, OSE and its volunteers worked quickly to meet the need. This year, grants helped more than 40 families facing food insecurity, gave funds to four food pantries, and provided grants to nearly 60 small businesses, the majority of which were minority and/or women owned. "In the midst of COVID, once we shut down, it cut all income," says Donna Pollard, owner of Team Couture Youth Center at 4145 Mayfield Road. "They were able to assist us by providing us a grant that allowed us to pay our first month's rent. What they're doing for our community is beyond awesome because all communities don't have that kind of support. We're doing so well now, that our rent is paid up through January."

As COVID cases grow, however, so does the need. Please help us continue making a difference in the lives of those in our community who are struggling, while showing your pride in South Euclid by purchasing OSE merchandise. Orders will arrive between December 29, 2020 and January 8, 2021.



Neighborhood Grant Program for Residents & Businesses

The city is proud to partner with One South Euclid again in 2021 to offer the Neighborhood Grant Program for our residents and businesses. Since 2016, nearly \$500,000 has been invested in the Neighborhood Grant Program which has provided funding to residents, neighborhood groups, and commercial property owners to improve their homes, increase community outreach, and renovate building facades.

Categories include the successful Exterior Home Repair Program, Storefront Renovation Program, Senior Landscape Services, as well as grants for community events and beautification projects. Supported by Cuyahoga County's Community Development Supplemental Grant (CDSG), the Exterior Home Repair Program provides owner-occupied residents assistance for select exterior home improvement projects such as roof, siding, and driveway replacement. The program allows One South Euclid to fund up to 50% of an eligible repair which helps homeowners complete larger and more complex improvements.

The Senior Landscape Services program continued to provide essential care for our most vulnerable residents. Interested seniors should contact the Community Partnership on Aging at 216-291-3902 to learn more about receiving services. Applications for the Exterior Home Repair Program as well as other grants are expected to launch early next year on One South Euclid's website. Visit www.onesoutheuclid.org/grants to learn more or email grants@onesoutheuclid.org to speak with a program coordinator. Also follow the city and One South Euclid's social media accounts for up-to-date information. ✍



IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES FOR CONTROLLING DEER POPULATIONS

Following many years of discussion and input from residents, City Council approved a multi-faceted approach to managing and maintaining the deer population in South Euclid. While there are many opinions about our region’s growing deer population, what’s clear is that many of our neighborhoods are approaching thresholds for the amount of damage and danger (mainly collisions with vehicles) caused by whitetail deer.

Like many communities, ours has struggled with competing feelings and values surrounding urban deer and our community survey showed that virtually everyone has a strongly held opinion on “the deer problem.” Some think the deer were here first, and we need to learn to live with them, while others view deer as pests, or as opportunities for sport hunting or food. As a result, City Council and the Administration have worked for several years to develop an implementation plan for deer population control.

USDA Wildlife Service Program

As a result, the City has contracted with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services (USDA) to cull deer as part of a regional program with several neighbor communities. Based on a white-tailed deer count conducted by the USDA, on March 4, 2020, two observers with handheld thermal imagers observed a total of 130 deer. It is estimated that 78% of the area in the City of South Euclid was included in the count. The USDA concluded that this count yields a range estimate of 130-167 deer within the City of South Euclid, as a whole. Our goal is to maintain a healthy deer population and reduce the number of deer that are injured, killed, or euthanized due to an accident.

The program will be administered by the USDA, between January 1 and March 31 starting at dusk, on City owned property and some private property with advance written permission from the property owner. South Euclid police will be available during removal operations and in direct communication with the USDA.

Residents that are interested can acquire a deer that is culled by the USDA to butcher for themselves, but must be available to pick it up immediately. If interested please call 216-691-4252. All other deer culled will be butchered and the meat donated to the Cleveland Food Bank.

Alternative Deer Control Management Program

The City is actively collaborating with County Councilwoman Sunny Simon to access funding for the implementation of a pilot sterilization program in 2021. The program would provide for the surgical sterilization of deer to help control population growth (similar to the sterilization techniques used for domestic animals like dogs and cats). The program has had success in the Village of Clifton near Cincinnati and South Euclid would be the second Ohio community to launch this pilot program.

Continuing Education and Learning to Live with Deer

Another approach will be working with residents to more effectively implement techniques that minimize destruction of property by deer and better communicate how we can more successfully balance the needs of humans with wildlife populations. Sometimes the solution requires humans to change their behavior and other times, the solution is to change the animal’s behavior by utilizing behavior modification, repellents, habitat modification, etc.

We understand that residents have differing views on the implementation of deer management programs, and taking these steps often comes down to managing residents’ heartfelt views on animal rights, while also working to protect public safety. Our goal is to maintain a healthy deer population and reduce the number of deer that are injured, killed, or euthanized due to an accident.

Wildlife management is an activity that tries to balance the needs of humans with the needs of wildlife, to the enhancement of both. Our goal is to work to employ various tools and strategies to reduce negative conflicts between our human-animal populations.

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Schools: 216-691-2000



Unprecedented Circumstances Prompt Unusual, but Successful Start, to the 2020-2021 School Year

The South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools began the 2020-2021 school year in a fully remote learning environment, due to the unprecedented circumstances that we all know have been prompted by the coronavirus pandemic. Students, staff, parents and families were prepared to educationally engage in a virtual environment, delivering and obtaining the best education possible while remaining safe. Without question, a new normal of constant change has emerged, and will likely remain, into the foreseeable future. A number of important safety and building cleaning measures have taken place to prepare for the return to in-person learning, when that moment arrives.



Linda N. Reid

As of this publication, *the South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools will continue remote learning through Friday, January 8th, 2021 to ensure the safety and security of our building staff and our students.* As previously mentioned, the SEL Schools review national, state, county and local COVID-19 trend data on a weekly basis. In addition, district officials are in contact with medical experts, healthcare professionals and board

of health officials regarding interpretation of the trend data. We also analyze other data points including staff and student attendance. Every data point is important in informing our decisions. My participation in virtual calls with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health officials has been extremely important to understanding this ongoing pandemic as well as the issues related to COVID-19, especially as they relate to schools in our county. During conversations with the health officials, it continues to be reinforced that the increase in COVID-19 spread is not because students are in school, but rather, the spread is being caused by congregate activities in the community. Even though we believe the mitigation strategies we have implemented in our schools work very well, we cannot control what is happening outside of school, and that has started to affect us.

The SEL Schools is also in the midst of several significant permanent improvements at various buildings on our campus, which will positively impact our school family for generations. Most notably is the construction of a Transportation Center in front of Brush High School on Mayfield Road. This new facility effectively centralizes the transportation operations of the district in the heart, or center, of our campus, while eliminating the need for renting garage space, as had been done in the past. This Transportation Center should be operational by the end of 2020. Additionally, the construction of a new entryway and vestibule is underway at Brush High School in an effort to enhance security upon entering the building. The glass enclosure vestibule includes a new security office with contemporary features such as a screening/buzzing system so that visitors can be properly screened. Similar security vestibules have also been installed at Sunview and Adrian Elementary schools. Finally, Brush High School is undergoing major internal renovations as well, enhancing the student experience with 21st Century amenities. One example is the repurposing of the old industrial arts space into a state-of-the-art Innovation Lab. Featuring all aspects of a Maker Space, students will have access to 3D printers, laser engravers and eSports computers equipped with innovative technology to have hands on learning experiences and to develop their critical thinking skills.

Though the 2020-2021 school year will require the flexibility to pivot and change at a moment's notice, the SEL Schools continues forward with maximizing its remote learning experience, completing capital improvements for generations to come, and remaining grateful for the community's strong support. Thank you for your continued support and have a safe, and enjoyable holiday season.

GO ARCS!

Sincerely,
Dr. Linda N. Reid
Superintendent of Schools

Councilwoman-at-Large Susan Hardy

One of my favorite books to read with my children is called The Retirement Kid, by Jon Agee. It's about an eight-year-old named Brian who is exhausted by life as a kid. He decides to retire and moves to a retirement community in Florida. After three weeks he is frustrated by life in the retirement community. Brian's new friend Harvey says, "When retirement gets you down, think back to the good old days. It never fails." In doing so, Brian realizes that life as a kid wasn't so bad after all.



Susan Hardy

As this holiday season is going to look very different for us, I suggest you take time to think back on the good old days. Share your happy memories in a safe, socially distant way – a phone call, a text, an email, or even a hand-written note. Also, think of ways to create new memories. What can you do in your own home to make your neighborhood a better place? In late summer, I was inspired by neighbors who painted angels on rocks that they placed around the neighborhood, on many residents' front steps. These painted rocks brought joy to my children and to many others throughout the neighborhood. In fact, I still see rocks displaced on door steps as I walk. I wish everyone a happy holiday season. May your time at home with your family and the memories you share make this season one of the best.

Council-At-Large, Susan Hardy: 216-780-0238

Councilwoman-at-Large Chanell Elston

Thanksgiving dinner around a virtual table, FaceTime caroling and exchanging gifts by mail. These are just some examples of the impact of COVID-19 on how we normally enjoy the holidays. As we enter into what is traditionally known



Chanell Elston

as the season of giving, one thing that has not changed is the urgency to help those in need. The Community Partnership on Aging (CPA) serves our older adults (as well as families and caregivers) and provides services and programs for residents of South Euclid, Lyndhurst, Highland Heights, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, and Richmond Heights.

As a member of the board of directors for the Community Partnership on Aging's foundation, I am entrusted to care for the foundation's philanthropic resources to the best of my ability. This season I urge you to consider making a gift to the CPA. The benefits of generosity, no matter how small, will have a huge impact, effecting the agency's ability to provide services

such as meals and health and wellness to residents within our community. You can find out more about the Community Partnership on Aging by visiting: www.communitypartnershiponaging.org or call them at 216-291-3902. You are always welcome to contact me. If you are interested in being a part of my email list, please email me at celstonseuclid.com or call me at 216-502-2037.

Council-At-Large, Chanell Elston: 216-502-2037

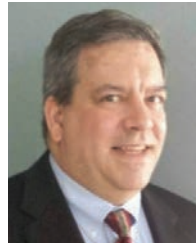
Advertising Opportunities Available in South Euclid Magazine

2021 Schedule
3 issues – Dates To Be Determined

Call Sherry Tilson, Project Coordinator at 216-342-5204 or email stilson@cjn.org to book your ad space.

Councilman Joe Frank: Ward 2 and President of Council

Wow, what a year this has been! This year started out with promise and potential and then turned to a year unprecedented in our time. The City was impacted significantly as well. Uncertain revenues due to the pandemic made budgeting and managing our City's finances as difficult as any year in recent history. However, we have come through this as best as could be expected.



Joe Frank

Our residents' support for our City through the passage of both the Road Levy and the Safety Levy allowed us to continue to serve the residents and keep them safe. We were able to complete a record number of street projects in 2020 and continue to invest in our infrastructure next year with several large projects to go along with our Road Repair program.

This year we passed legislation to begin the long overdue upgrades and repairs to City Hall, the Community Center and our Service Garage in a creative

way. We are using improvements in efficiency to lighten the debt service on the project to create a minimum 70% coverage for debt payment service from the increase in efficiency.

Communities like South Euclid must find creative ways to pay for infrastructure repairs in these trying times. We were able to take advantage of historically low interest rates, and the reissuing of existing bonds to a lower interest rate in the first Quarter of this year to find the way to invest in our infrastructure.

2021 is still unknown with the continuing pandemic, families isolated and the economy in a state that truly is unpredictable. However, we pledge to look at our 2021 Budget conservatively while still providing the services our community needs and deserves. Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Ward 2 Council Joe Frank: 216-246-5614

Councilman-at-Large Justin Tisdale

As the election dust settles and all the votes are counted, we have to ask ourselves: what is next? As Americans, we will have choices to make. Will we continue to divide ourselves from our neighbors because they may vote



Justin Tisdale

a different way than we do? Will we continue to fight and debate the simple idea of wearing masks to stop the spread of COVID-19? Will we continue to deny the issues in our justice system, where not everyone is given fair treatment?

As a proud African American man, father, husband, son, brother, and educator, I cannot accept this division, denial, or inequalities as a path moving forward. I believe we need to come together and remember that we are more than a political party. We are human beings, and even though we have a difference of opinion, we must still be there for one another.

As Americans, in this time of COVID-19, we need to do everything possible to stop the spread of this vicious virus. Whether you view it as helpful or not, wearing a mask will help control the spread of this virus, and you will be doing your part in helping save the lives of your fellow neighbors.

As Americans, we need to listen and understand the reality that, for some, the justice system is not equal. We need to work together to find solutions so that our justice system works for everyone, instead of just a select group. Now is the time to come together as neighbors, as communities, and most importantly, as Americans.

Council-At-Large, Justin Tisdale: 216-965-4242

Councilwoman Ruth Gray: Ward 1

Thank you to those that exercised their right to vote on November 3rd and a big thank you for once again supporting the renewal of the City's five-year Road Levy. Your support will allow us to continue our efforts to repave and maintain our roadways, improving safety and beautifying our neighborhoods.



Ruth Gray

I want to thank you all for doing your absolute best to comply with the Stay at Home Order. As COVID-19 infection rates continue to rise, please make every effort to follow CDC and Board of Health guidelines to protect you and your loved ones from this once in a generation pandemic. While a vaccine is on the way, we still have several more months before it will be widely available. Until then, please do what you can to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

This has been a difficult year for all of us, but we have persevered by working together and confronting our many challenges. If you or a member of your family face any financial, health, emotional challenge, please don't hesitate to call United Way's 2-1-1 for Help by dialing 211. There is help available and know that you are not alone.

If you need additional information, please contact me at ruthgray50@gmail.com or 216-926-4960. Have a safe holiday season and my best to you and your family in the new year.

Ward 1 Council Ruth Gray: 216-926-4960

Councilwoman Jane Goodman: Ward 4

As we approach the end of 2020 and bid goodbye to an incredibly challenging year, we'll mourn the passing of friends, relatives, and loved ones. We'll see how we did with last year's resolutions and forgive ourselves if we didn't rise to the occasion. In trying times, we can say we tried.



Jane Goodman

I hope that, as we note what we lost, we'll also take note of what we gained. We learned how to Zoom and Facetime. We fixed things around the house and the yard. Some of us baked, and some collected a whole new wardrobe of masks. We voted.

In the midst of it all, the city moved forward, and I'd like to thank Mayor Welo, her administrative staff, all the department staffers, and my Council colleagues for making many good things happen. To name just a few: We've embarked on a major energy efficiency initiative for our municipal facilities and committed to a clean energy future. Our finance department is upgrading to a super-efficient system. Councilwoman Continenza is changing the face of Bexley Park, and Councilwoman Gray and her team have designed a whole new Victory Park. We have a new urban forest inventory and management plan. Roads got paved and utility lines got replaced. We have new safety force personnel. Our housing values rose. New businesses came to town. Children got fed.

If we just stay out of large gatherings, mask up, and distance diligently through the holidays, we'll be around to make new resolutions for next year and many healthier years to come. And next New Year's Eve we might be able to share the hugs we've held onto for so long.

Ward 4 Council Jane Goodman: 216-291-0442

Councilwoman Sara Continenza: Ward 3

Hello Neighbors,

I hope your holidays have been safe and enjoyable. While we have many restraints upon our lives that we are not used to, we do have so many blessings still to count. As the weather continues to get colder, please check on your loved ones and neighbors.



Sara Continenza

We are all facing our own difficulties and, together, we can get through these challenging days. If you are in need of resources or support, make sure to call 2-1-1 First Call For Help (United Way) to get directed to the resources you need.

I am pleased to be working on a local initiative, under the leadership of a local young poet, Raja Freeman, and the new Bexley Community Group Intern K'larissa Denson. We are raising money to revitalize the Bexley pump track to allow for skateboarding and other activities. Please support our fundraising campaign at: <https://ioby.org/project/pave-bexley-pump-track>. I am honored to help guide these two amazing young ladies as they lead improvements in our park and throughout our community. We could always use involvement in our Bexley Community Group - please reach out to get on our mailing list. We offer Zoom meetings now! Thanks for your support!

If you would like to be a part of my email list, please email me at FriendsOfSaraC@gmail.com, or call me at 216-816-1577. I send out regular updates about events, legislation, resources and news. Also, don't forget that NextDoor.com is a wonderful social network for neighborhoods, and is totally free to join!

Ward 3 Council Sara Continenza: 216-816-1577

Municipal Court Judge Gayle Williams-Byers

South Euclid Municipal Court COVID-19 Pandemic Update

As we continue to deal with the difficulties presented by the now raging COVID-19 pandemic, the South Euclid Municipal Court would like to remind everyone to remain diligent in order to stay safe and healthy this holiday season.



Judge Gayle Williams-Byers

While continuing to work toward keeping those with business before the Court safe, did you know that even with South Euclid City Hall being closed to the public, you still have the ability to request a virtual hearing? Virtual hearings via telephone or Cisco Webex can be scheduled on a limited basis for litigants with or without representation. To make a request, you must provide your name, case type, and contact information. All inquiries for virtual hearings must be e-mailed to info@secourt.org, made by phone at 216-381-2880 ext. 298, or sent by fax at 216-381-1195.

The Ohio Supreme Court continues to provide guidance and assistance to all Ohio Courts and South Euclid Municipal Court continues to keep its thumb on the pulse of the directives coming from our highest

court in the State.

The South Euclid Municipal Court's website posts regular updates on pandemic response measures and maintains a full list of the Court's Administrative Orders. Please check our website regularly at www.southeuclidcourt.com

Finally, once again, as we head into the holiday season and reflect on a year of unexpected challenges like no other, the Court urges everyone to stay safe and stay healthy.

Judge Gayle Williams-Byers: 216-381-2880

COVID-19 RESOURCES: KEEPING SAFE DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

As we plan for the winter months, the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) offers the following considerations to help protect individuals, their families, friends, and communities from COVID-19.

There are several factors that contribute to the risk of getting infected or infecting others with the virus that causes COVID-19 at a gathering or holiday celebration. In combination, these factors will create various amounts of risk, so it is important to consider them individually and together:

- **Community levels of COVID-19:**

Higher levels of COVID-19 cases and community spread in the gathering location, as well as where attendees are coming from, increase the risk of infection and spread among attendees. Family and friends should consider the number and rate of COVID-19 cases in their community and in the community where they plan to celebrate when considering whether to host or attend a celebration. Information on community levels of infection in Cuyahoga County can be found at www.ccbh.net.

- **The location of the gathering:**

Indoor gatherings generally pose more risk than outdoor gatherings. Indoor gatherings with poor ventilation pose more risk than those with good ventilation, such as those with open windows or doors. If weather permits, please consider outdoor gatherings, such as holding your gathering in a sunroom area of your home, porch (even your garage), where ventilation will be better.

- **The duration of the gathering:**

Gatherings that last longer pose more risk than shorter gatherings.

- **The number of people at the gathering:**

Gatherings with more people pose more risk than gatherings with fewer people. In Ohio, gatherings at a household or family residence should be limited to close friends/family and are recommended to be 10 visitors or less.



- **The locations attendees are traveling from:**

Gatherings with attendees who are traveling from different places pose a higher risk than gatherings with attendees who live in the same area. Higher levels of COVID-19 cases and community spread in the gathering location, or where attendees are coming from, increase the risk of infection and spread among attendees.

- **The behaviors of attendees prior to the gathering:**

Gatherings with attendees who are not adhering to social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart), mask wearing, hand washing, and other prevention behaviors pose more risk than gatherings with attendees who are engaging in these preventative behaviors.

- **The behaviors of attendees during the gathering:**

Gatherings with more preventive measures, such as mask wearing, social distancing, and hand washing, in place pose less risk than gatherings where fewer or no preventive measures are being implemented.

Keys to Staying Safe

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wear masks in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

- Use social distancing (stay at least 6 feet away from others).
- Practice good hygiene (wash hands often and before eating) and wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when you get home.
- Limit the number of people handling or serving food.
- Limit contact with commonly touched surfaces or shared items.
- If attending a gathering, bring supplies to help you and others stay healthy—for example, masks (bring extra), hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, and drinking water.
- Outdoor areas with ventilation are better than indoor areas.

For more information, visit the following resources:

- Cuyahoga County: www.ccbh.net
- Ohio: www.Coronavirus.Ohio.gov
- Federal: www.cdc.gov

If you or a loved one are facing financial difficulties or physical and/or emotional duress and you don't know where to turn, please do not hesitate to call United Way's 211-for-Help by dialing 211 from any phone.

In an emergency, do not hesitate to dial 911.



The Destination School Community

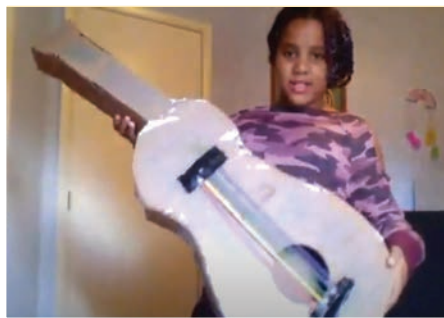
Big Accomplishments in the South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools

Remote Learning Period Still Prompts Creative and Successful Learning

The South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools began the 2020-2021 School Year in a remote learning period, and despite such virtual education, our students continue to learn, succeed and grow. See some of these exciting new learning experiences below, along with some successes. In addition, you'll see pictures of some major capital improvements underway in the District. Thank you for your continued support!



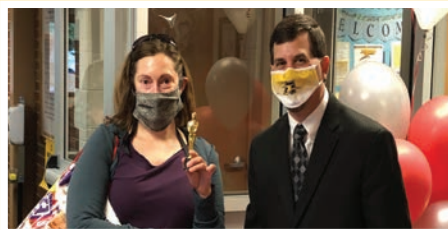
Brush Senior Gianni Fitch became a National Merit Semi-Finalist, making him one of only 16,000 nationwide Semi-finalists, and one of the top scorers in the State of Ohio. Congratulations Gianni!



Students in Mrs. Erin Macsurak's Science class at Greenview Middle School recently applied their creativity and STEM-knowledge by creating music videos featuring instruments made from objects found in their homes!



Keenan Barnes, a senior at Brush High School, is a published author of not one... not two, but three stories that have made their way into publication. Two of the published books are entitled, Pale One and Resurged One, and his third story is nearing production! Way to go Keenan!



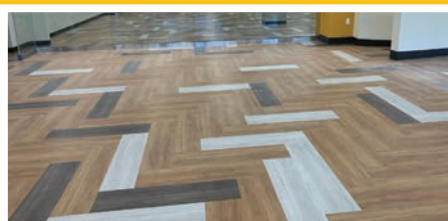
Despite Remote Learning during the first quarter, Teachers were recognized at Adrian Elementary for their hard work, diligence and patience during the new normal era of school during the coronavirus pandemic. Teacher Appreciation Day took place in October at Adrian to honor our teachers!



5th Grade Science teachers at Greenview, Riley Parke and Annemarie Newhouse are helping their students engage in classroom concepts in new and meaningful ways during remote learning this fall by taping video mini-lessons at Ms. Newhouse's family farm! Students have learned about the farm's ecosystem, animal habitats, food chains, biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) factors.



In light of the approaching cold and flu season, the SEL Schools proudly partnered with University Hospitals to provide a free, onsite flu shot clinic for all district staff on Thursday, October 22, 2020



Major renovations with Permanent Improvements dollars have taken place throughout the District, particularly at Charles F. Brush High School. Here, major new upgrades to the cafeteria flooring are visible



The old East Gym has been relocated to the second floor, requiring the ceiling/roof to be bumped up. Very exciting!



A new Transportation Facility has been constructed to centralize the logistics of the bus operations, and is housed at Charles F. Brush High School