



**COLLINWOOD NOTTINGHAM  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

# *ReCollections*

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**Daffodil Hill at Lake View Cemetery**

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Mary Louise Jesek Daley

It has been a while and I cannot blame the effects of the pandemic for this. I had planned to put a newsletter together for the end of February and our anniversary but lo and behold, it's the middle of April already. HAPPY SPRING!!

There is so much going on with CNHS, the community and personally so bear with me. By the end of this letter, you should be brought up to date on everything. On subsequent pages there are flyers, as well, for the upcoming events.

So, let me sum up what we can tell you about 1) Longfellow Senior Housing Program, 2) East 185<sup>th</sup> Street beautification project, 3) LaSalle Theatre project, 4) the "999" Train and the Painesville RR Museum (PRRM), 5) EB Mobile Home Park (EBMHP), 6) Early Settlers Association (ESA), 7) Partnerships, 8) The Euclid Beach Arch, and 9) the CSF Garden.

The Longfellow Senior Housing Complex at the former Longfellow School on East 140 Street and Darley Avenue is moving along quite well. They began the project in January of this year after several years of planning. Already, they have rooms framed out in the school building. The chalkboards and cabinets, floors, doors, and windows remain in the rooms adding to their charm. The first floor of the new building is also framed out and it is quite the site. A few pictures are included in this newsletter. The two pin oaks in front of the school building will also be protected and designated as "Legacy" trees thanks to Mr. Roy Larick of Bluestone Heights and his tree canopy work.

We cannot wait to be able to share the history of this site and, with the Councilman's office, we look forward to working with the community to welcome new residents, help set up a community / residential association and share the wisdom of Longfellow's oaks. I will continue to share with you the developments on this project. This Longfellow project is a great development plan for the reuse of a landmarked property which we were able involved with thanks the Councilman's office and the Cleveland Restoration Society.

East 185<sup>th</sup> Street is set for a total streetscape beginning in May and will go into next year. At the end of the project we will have a new streetscape including new sidewalks, street furniture and a newly repaved roadway. More information will be shared as the year goes on. Pay attention and stay safe while supporting our businesses on the street.

On June 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at Noon there will be an Open House “One Collinwood” at the LaSalle Theatre to showcase the property and the ongoing restoration work being done at this historic site. CNHS will have a table at this Open House to share all the latest information.

You may recall the history of the “999” train which was created by Collinwood Alum at the Collinwood Railyard. Well, that was 90 years ago. Thanks to the enthusiastic members at the Painesville Railroad Museum (PRRM) who were able to literally put the “999” train back on the road. On May 2 they will break ground for their new Engine House which will house the “999” as well as a work room to repair and renovate other train cars. The wall behind the “999” will showcase copies of the digitized train mural from Collinwood High School, a video screen as well as panels regarding the history of Collinwood, the history of Collinwood High School, the “999 train” and the Collinwood Alumni. We look forward to continuing to work with the PRRM and the Collinwood Alumni to showcase and promote this piece of Collinwood history and look forward to making that connection between Collinwood and Painesville through our mutual history of the railroad. The PRRM will have their open house, see flyer, and celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the “999” train on 23 and 24 of September. For your information, Remembering Euclid Beach Days is that Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.

You might have heard that the Western Reserve Land Conservancy purchased the old Euclid Beach Mobile Home Park (EBMHP). Currently, they have hired a consultant, OHM, to conduct a land use study of the 28 acres of the EBMHP to see what the future of this historic might be. They have agreed to include the whole of the Lakeshore Boulevard neighborhood and all adjacent properties ie the Metroparks and Euclid Beach/Villa Angela including the senior apartments and the park, the Euclid Bach Arch, the Library property and Wildwood as well as the Recreation Center and the former Dave’s Market area. The reason for this is to see what the area might be able to support in future development. There is a lot

of potential in this neighborhood and this will help tremendously to plan the development of that potential.

Last year we created new categories of associates and board members. We will be working more this year on increasing the potential in these. One of the Associate Board Members we added was Mr. Bill Barrow of Cleveland State University associated with the Cleveland Memories project and Cleveland history. Bill is also President of the Early Settlers Association of the Western Reserve. I, too, have been vetted to become a part of this organization; in fact, I started working with the ESA last July. The ESA originally started in 1879, created by relatives of the early settlers of the Connecticut Western Reserve as created by Moses Cleaveland and his survey team in 1796. These were some of the same who settled the Collinwood and Nottingham village communities. I will be able to make that connection between Collinwood and the ESA, as we share a history, even though, I, myself, do not have ancestors connected to our early settlers. I will endeavor to keep our members apprised of any ESA event – for they are open to the public - like their Flag Day event at the Federal Building at the Washington statue, Cleveland’s Birthday in July and the commemoration of the Battle of Lake Erie in September.

Over the last few years we have been able to create some partnerships we are hoping provide dividend in the future like our collaboration with author James Badal. I have mentioned the PRRM which we will be working with on the write up of the Collinwood History portion of their history wall in connection with the “999” train as well as the Early Settlers Association. We have a relationship also with the Western Reserve Fire Museum, especially after participating with their exhibit a year or so ago that included the Collinwood School Fire. Then there are the relationships with Memorial School, Oliver Hazard Perry School and Collinwood High School which need to be worked on to a greater degree; it is difficult, Pandemic notwithstanding, to keep those relationships with the principals, etc. On that note, though, we are a part of the Team working on the re-imagination of Collinwood high school which still has momentum even though it seems to have temporarily stalled. The latest partnership is with the WRLC on their Team to help re-imagine the Euclid Beach community.

Speaking of Euclid Beach. The City just announced to the Councilman and I that they are looking at the Euclid Beach Arch to be able to repair and restore this local landmark. It was damaged about two years ago and remains damaged. We all feel that there is a serious need to repair the arch before we lose it as it continues to deteriorate. They are also considering lighting the arch and we will continue to work with them to see that the arch is therefore, repaired, restored and lit as soon as is possible. Stay tuned for their may be more to this story.

The Memorial Garden is still a very important part of the Collinwood community. However, even though the Cleveland Metropolitan School District maintains the garden as it sits on the property of Memorial School still located at 410 East 152 Street as the original school, Lakeview School, once sat. Being only just maintained is not enough.

We need to look at this garden with new eyes and see what the possibility might be of upgrading the tired looking memorial. For example, without volunteers or a garden to showcase, although important to the history of the community, we cannot participate in the Cleveland Garden Walk, which would help get the garden recognized and the Collinwood School Fire story told. To say the least, we will not be able to participate again this year. On another note, however, we are looking to possibly engage the Western Reserve Land Conservancy to help us seek proposals on how to improve or recreate the Memorial. Any ideas, please feel free to contact us. Once ideas and feasibility are ascertained, we can fundraise and make a long-term plan come to fruition.

As always, we are open to other ideas, sharing time, collection of artifacts and field trips. Come join us on our adventures. Keep in touch with us and we promise to keep you informed. Hope to see you around.

THANK YOU

**Mary Louise Jesek Daley**

## FROM OUR FRIENDS AT THE PAINESVILLE RAILROAD MUSEUM



### Painesville Railroad Museum

475 Railroad Street  
Painesville, Ohio 44077  
Email: prrm@att.net  
www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org



#### Press Release – Collinwood Alumni Engine #999

##### Collinwood Alumni Train has a new Home!

It is with great pleasure and pride that we announce that the Collinwood Alumni Engine #999 has a new home at the Painesville Railroad Museum. This historic replica of the New York Central Empire Express Engine #999, which was the first train to exceed 112 miles per hour on May 10, 1893, was built in 1930's at the NYC Collinwood Yard.

Under the leadership of Peter P. Ducosky, the American Legion's Collinwood Post #999 members, many whom worked at the New York Central Collinwood Yard, started to build this replica after work hours. The engine was built on a 1930 Hudson truck frame, with rubber tires, so it could be used on roads, for parades and to be used to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the original #999's record setting performance. Soon NYC management learned of the project and supported it 100% and moved the project to first shift.



The #999, in its early years was supported by the New York Central Rail Road and toured the United States. Parade locations included Cleveland, OH, Pittsburgh, PA, New York City, NY, Washington, DC and the Rose Bowl in Los Angeles, CA. Our plans are to once again have her support CHS Reunions & events and will be seen in local parades, such as, the Fairport Harbor Mardi-Gras Parade, Last Stop Willoughby Parade, and the Lake County Fair Parade, just to name a few.

In conjunction with this, we will be building an Engine Barn, which will have the flavor of design, of the first wood frame station that was built at the Painesville Depot in 1850. Our current sandstone station with slate roof replaced the original station in 1893, the same year #999 set its record.

With the addition of this building, the #999 Engine will be on permanent display along with its history and other Collinwood High School memorabilia, and other railroad displays and artifacts.

Micheal F. Cavotta, President of the Collinwood High School Alumni Association (CHASS) stated, *"We are very optimistic of our relationship with the Painesville Railroad Museum. They have shown great interest in helping with the preservation, maintenance & operation of the beloved #999 and have the talent within their group to succeed"*.

James A. Wendorf, President of Painesville Railroad Museum stated, *"We are proud to be working together with CHASS to preserve the #999 Engine and Railroading now and for the future generation to come"*

Tom Pescha, Vice President of Painesville Railroad Museum stated *"We are very excited with adding the Engine Barn and being able to have the #999 Engine here for all to see and appreciate it for many years to come."*

The Western Reserve Railroad Association  
Doing Business as  
The Painesville Railroad Museum  
A 501(c)3 Non-profit



# Painesville Railroad Museum

475 Railroad Street  
Painesville, Ohio 44077  
Email: prrm@att.net  
www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org



Present day at the Painesville Railroad Museum.



Syracuse Centennial Parade 1948



Chicago Parade June 1949



Peter at the controls in front of his Collinwood home, 1932

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Taken every 10 years since 1790, the United States census provides a snapshot of the nation's population. Because of a 72-year restriction on access to the records, the most recent census year currently available is **1950**.

On April 1, 2022, the 1950 Census was released, and

users can access it for free through a dedicated website at [1950census.archives.gov](https://1950census.archives.gov).

NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
**1950**  
CENSUS  
EXPLORE & COLLABORATE

This population census is the 17th decennial census of the United States. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has digitized and is providing free online access to the 1950 Census population schedules for U.S. states and territories, enumeration district maps, and enumeration district descriptions.

In addition, researchers can [download](#) the full 1950 Census dataset.

You can search the 1950 Census website by name and location. You can also search by Indian Reservation for form P8 Indian Reservation Schedules.

Because the initial name index is built on optical character recognition (OCR) technology, it is not 100-percent accurate. The National Archives is asking for your help in submitting name updates to the index using a transcription tool that is available on the [1950 Census website](#). You can help us improve the accuracy of the name index and make the records more accessible for everyone. More information will be forthcoming.

On April 1, 2022, the 1950 Census records were released and are available free of charge. Search the 1950 Census at [1950Census.Archives.gov](https://1950Census.Archives.gov)

## Around Collinwood

### June 12: Open House at the LaSalle Theater

Remember going to movies at the LaSalle?

Come & see how the LaSalle's doing now.

CNHS will be there too. Look forward to seeing you!



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**ONE COLLINWOOD, ONE COMMUNITY!**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD EVENT & LASALLE THEATRE OPEN HOUSE**

Keep in touch with events, improvements, resources, & neighbors

SPONSORED BY COUNCILMAN MICHAEL POLENSEK,  
GREATER COLLINWOOD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,  
& CLEVELAND NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRESS

**Sunday, June 12th, 12:00-3:00pm**  
**@ LaSalle Theatre - 823 East 185th**

IF YOUR ORGANIZATION WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE BY HOSTING A BOOTH AT THIS EVENT, PLEASE CONTACT: [CJPEAK@YAHOO.COM](mailto:CJPEAK@YAHOO.COM) | 216-346-2371

# Collinwood Nottingham Historical Society

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