
THE COLONIAL HILLS COURIER

The Friendly Community

April 2008

*In the door-yard fronting an old farm-house, near the white-wash'd palings,
Stands the lilac bush, tall-growing, with heart-shaped leaves of rich green,
With many a pointed blossom, rising, delicate, with the perfume strong I love,
With every leaf a miracle.....*

A Note from Cindy Molnar, CHCA President:

Happy Spring Colonial Hills! Our Egg Hunt was a blast this year and got me thinking about gardening, planting flowers, playing baseball and all the fun outdoor activities our community has to offer. Last year some residents expressed interest in holding group activities such as scrapbooking and candle-making. The Candle Lab is now offering a POUR YOUR OWN CANDLE AT HOME. The cost for the candle is \$13.00, \$4.00 of which would go to the Association. I'd like to organize a candle-making gathering at the Shelter House in May--a great opportunity for the kids to make a Mother's Day gift and a fun way to spend time together! The proposed date is May 6 at 6:30 pm – if you are interested please contact me @ 832-7704 or cindymolnar@columbus.rr.com.

Thanks to Ryan Hughes, Sara Abele, Trina Williams, Christine Hoersten, Gretchen Pasquinilli and Rocky Stoeckel for making this year's Egg Hunt a triumph! We shared coffee, doughnuts and plenty of candy and laughter! Congratulations to all the winners: Kim Dykstra, Maria Ramirez, Hannah Rogee, Jacob Rogee, Katrise Deleon, Louis Dykstra, Justin Harrison, Patricia Munhall, Manny Wickiser, Alaina Kidder, Jack Morma, Callista Popp, Mary Munhall, Reese Dykstra, Cami Henry, Harry Pasquinilli, Reagan Jolley, Anna Lagergren, Danny Bogue, Lucia Cassel Ramirez, Gwentyth Miroslaw, Rowan Fleming, Seth Mortman and Lila Maynard. Thanks also to Larry Hunt, Cynthia McKenzie and the Candle Lab for making our events fun for the whole family.

Farewell to the Selby Park Eagles! The city of Worthington is going to remove the eagles sometime during the week of April 7. The one on the right is rotting and will probably fall apart as the tree is cut; the one on the left seems to be in good condition and will be left intact for one week. If you want the eagle and have the means to transport it to your home (it may weigh as much as 400 pounds), feel free to do so. If not the city will remove it and it will be destroyed. Videotape and photos of the removal will be posted on YouTube.com, our website and on George Campbell's site. We will miss these neighborhood sentinels!

The Play Café will start up sometime in May so stay tuned for more information. The Play Café is a volunteer-organized and -staffed community service intended to encourage Colonial Hills residents to use Selby Park while relaxing over continental breakfast. For more information or to help out on Saturday mornings contact Rocky Stoeckel at dstoeckel@columbus.rr.com.

I look forward to seeing you as the weather warms up and wish you a wonderful spring!

Broadmeadows Bridge to be Finished Soon

Good news for Colonial Hills cyclists who use the Olentangy bike path! The pedestrian and bikeway bridge over the Olentangy river near Broadmeadows Blvd is almost done. It's that brown thing you see on the east side of Rt 315 just south of Antrim park. According to Columbus Department of Recreation and Parks Greenway Planner Bradley Westall, the bridge is scheduled to be complete on May 1, 2008.

Presently, the closest access points to the path from Colonial Hills are located at the intersection of Rt 161 and Rt 315 and by the bridge over the Olentangy on West Henderson Rd. So any southbound bikers have to either head north first to pick up the trail or mix it up with the car traffic for a pretty long stretch on High St.

The new bridge will allow riders to access the path with an easy ride down Selby to High St. Cross High St. and another short neighborhood ride to Broadmeadows will take you to the new bridge and the bike path. The new bridge will cut about 1.5 miles off a southbound ride on the path, so for anyone considering battling high gas prices by commuting on bike it just got a little easier.

--Dan Pappalardo

Honeysuckle – Friend and Foe

By Rocky Stoeckel

There are a lot of different honeysuckles out there. Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), a vine with trumpet-shaped yellow and white flowers, is planted for deer forage on hunting land. Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), another vine, has attractive red flowers and is used in landscaping. Many other honeysuckles also have

value for birds – their red berries can be an important source of food in the fall.



On the negative side, some ornamental bush honeysuckles escaped domestication and crowd the forest understory. Do an internet search for “honeysuckle removal” and you’ll uncover what looks like an all-out assault on this. Why do so many people want to get rid of a plant known for its foliage, flowers, and fruit? Take a look

along the railroad tracks, or the ravine behind Colonial Hills Elementary School, and you’ll understand. The dense tangles of branches block access, crowd trails, and reduce visibility through these areas. They also create privacy, which contributes to the flotsam of teenage and vagrant life (beer cans and bottles along with less savory items). In addition to these social concerns, bush honeysuckle is an ecological disaster—its aggressive nature and dense growth crowds out other species, including wildflowers and saplings.

Help control this invasive pest in your neighborhood. Open spaces and accessible natural areas are prized in the Colonial Hills neighborhood. Bush honeysuckle is easy to recognize, especially in early spring and late fall. It is one of the earliest shrubs to leaf out in spring. Leaves are opposite (directly across from each other on the stem) unlike similar-sized shrubs like forsythia that have alternate leaves (staggered along the stem). The bark of invasive bush honeysuckle tends to be rough and peeling. Because bush honeysuckle has a very shallow root system, it is easy to pull up in early spring while the soil is still loose. Along hillsides and near streams, it is better to cut off the stems near

ground level and dab the cut end with a 3% solution of Roundup to prevent erosion.

Last year, FLOW (Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed), Worthington Parks and Recreation, and the Sierra Club, with volunteers from the Colonial Hills community, cleared invasive plants—mostly bush honeysuckle—from Rush Creek through Park Boulevard Park. The clean-up was done in April and May, 2007 (see Colonial Hills Courier, April 2007). As you use or drive by the park, notice how much more accessible and attractive restored areas of the park are without honeysuckle.

By the time this edition of the Courier reaches your house, bush honeysuckle likely will be leafing out in our neighborhood. On April 26th, some of your neighbors and Sierra Club volunteers plan a honeysuckle removal in the ravine behind Colonial Hills Elementary School. To volunteer for this effort, contact Rocky Stoeckel (dstoeckel@columbus.rr.com) or Tracie Conner. If we've already done it by press time, contact us anyway because we may have lessons to share with you in your efforts to control this pest.

For more information on bush honeysuckle and other invasive species, see the National Park Service's Plant Conservation Alliance web page (<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/loni1.htm>).

See Food, Eat Food: A Restaurant Review

If you grew up thinking that the only good seafood in Ohio is at expensive restaurants, think again. There's a new dive in town (and I use the term affectionately) called Captain's Seafood at Huntley and 161. It's in the style of a crab shack, meaning that you'll sit at picnic tables, eat with a plastic fork, and could probably get newspaper to spread if you wanted. Max and I had broiled scallops, broiled shrimp, and fried shrimp along with sides of mac'n'cheese and red beans and rice. The seafood was fresh (you could taste the ocean in it) and cooked to perfection. The sides were nice, though the red beans needed more than a splash of the hot sauce (available at each table).

Service is a la carte and the menu is inexpensive. You'll order seafood by the half-dozen or dozen and sides, well, on the side. There was also an array of fish offerings and lunch specials. There's a cooler of beverages next to the counter, but for adult beverages you'll have to go around the corner to Monkey's Bar and Grill (which, incidentally, features neither monkeys nor a grill). Highly recommended.

--Rocky Stoeckel

Seen on a bumper sticker: "Be a better neighbor and you'll have a better neighborhood."



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