
THE COLONIAL HILLS COURIER

The Friendly Community

June 2008

*"In these divine pleasures permitted to me of walks in the June night under moon and stars,
I can put my life as a fact before me and stand aloof from its honor and shame."*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

29th Annual Run through the Hills - July 4, 2008

The Colonial Hills Civic Association invites you to participate in the 29th annual 5-kilometer "Run through the Hills." The race will be held Friday, July 4, 2008, starting at 8:30 a.m. The course will weave through beautiful tree-lined streets of Colonial Hills and offers a great way to start the 4th of July.

The race will start and finish at Selby Park, and will begin at 8:30 a.m. sharp! Cost to register is \$12.00 prior to July 3, 2008; and \$15.00 the day of the race (participants may register an hour before). Proceeds benefit the Colonial Hills Scholarship Fund.

Be sure to stay for the **KIDDIE PARADE** which will start at 10:00 a.m., followed by carnival games and a ticket raffle for great prizes. Prizes this year will include **2 bikes (adult and child), 2 Marshmallow Shooters, 2 Webkinz animals, various gift certificates, and others to be determined.**

Play Café opens for fourth year; includes youth Tae Kwon Do lessons

The Play Café opened for its fourth season on May 10th. Rocky Stoeckel, Shelley Beard, and Andy Pasquinilli will once again be Saturday morning hosts. We have at least one additional host this year, Josiah Royse. If you haven't come out for Saturday morning coffee with us, make a point of joining us some morning. Schedule a play date and meet with your friends—we'll supply the doughnuts, cereal bars, COFFEE, juice, and milk at cost (Play Café is self-supporting but not meant to raise money). The Café is open every Saturday during the park play season, except when it rains.

As a special treat this year, Andy will offer youth Tae Kwon Do lessons from 9:30-10:30 am for 6 weeks (July 12 through August 16). Lessons will be held rain or shine, at Selby Park field or in the Selby Park shelter house. Students aged 4-7 are welcome, and should wear loose-fitting clothes (shorts and T-shirts). Parents are encouraged to stay and enjoy the Café during class.

Restaurant Review – The 2008 Chinese Buffet Smackdown

Let's start with the obvious. Putting Chinese food on a buffet table and letting it sit for hours doesn't bring out its best traits. This is food that was meant to be eaten straight off the wok, with perfectly seared meats, crisp vegetables, and savory sauces. Nevertheless, who can resist the variety of a Chinese buffet? We have at least three near our neighborhood – on High Street, Dublin-Granville Road, and Morse Road. This week—as a public service—Max and I visited all three. Here's what we thought of them.

Super Seafood Buffet, 1662 Morse Road, \$10.95 adult, \$6.95 children.

This restaurant is a great example of the best and worst about Chinese buffets. The interior décor is exotic, the choices are vast (6 tables with 18 items per table), and the staff attentive. For the most part, though, the food was nasty. The fried scallops were cooked to the consistency of boot soles. The shrimp were sauteed shell on, making them nearly impossible to peel. Speaking of peeling, the soups had more peeling surface skin than a frat boy on spring break at Daytona. The vegetables, when you could find one, were limp and flavorless. Max couldn't resist trying a slice of pizza, to his everlasting disappointment.

That said, we didn't go hungry. The potstickers were pretty good and the peanut-crusted chicken is really good. Max approved of the sugar-crusted fried dough balls and the candied nuts (sense a trend here?). Umm, well, I think that's about it in the positive column. There were a lot of things we didn't try, maybe they were better.

Grand Oriental Buffet, Sushi Bar, 900 E. Dublin Granville Rd., \$9.99 adult, \$4.99 kids

Grand Oriental is the opposite of Super Seafood – the ambience was lacking (frankly, the place smelled like a hamster cage) and there wasn't so much selection (3 tables with 12 items per table). What they had, though, was freshly made. And

they actually had good seafood there (if you like deep-fried shrimp). There was no skin on the soups, the hot and sour soup was spicy, sautéed green beans and pepper steak were crisp and tender. Max's favorite at this restaurant was the potstickers.

The fare was pretty standard overall. Unusual choices were the deep-fried chicken-on-a-stick and Italian-style baked cheese sticks. The only negative about the food was a layer of crunchy dried-out kernels in the white rice. The new management is working hard to make this enormous space (in the Clarion Hotel) work as a Chinese buffet after the failure of other restaurants in the same space over the past few years.

China Garden, Graceland Shopping Center, \$8.95 adult, \$4.29 kids

We have to be fair – we went to China Garden on a Sunday (the others were Tuesday and Thursday), and it was Mothers' Day, and they had a super-amped-up special offering that they were charging \$1 more for. Yes, it was a very special treat for seafood-intolerant Emily on Mothers' Day. If anybody has a spare bedroom, it's looking like we might be looking for somebody else to celebrate Mothers' Day with next year.

Emily's impression aside, Max and I didn't have any complaints (though we did get a good laugh out of the "clawfish" label). The décor is plain with Eastern accents and the food was freshly prepared. In particular, we liked their version of chicken-on-a-stick (tandoori style) better than the same offering at the other restaurants. The green beans were firm and crunchy, the pepper beef was recognizable as beef, and the deep-fried dough balls were delicious. The shrimp and other seafood were only slightly overcooked and the soups didn't have any skin on them.

The verdict? We still think that serving Chinese food is a tragedy. If you can't resist, though, don't say you haven't been warned!

JOIN US FOR THE 4th ANNUAL COLONIAL HILLS COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE!

Whether you have a little or a lot, it's that time of the year again!

We have had great participation the past two years so we thought, why not do it again! The sale will take place on **Saturday, June 28, 2008** from 9am to 2pm. Registering for the garage sale is easy, you can do it online at www.colonialhills.us or you can call 614-848-8872. This year not only will there be a map for shoppers, but it will also include a breakdown of the houses and what items are for sale, for example household items, baby clothes, toys etc. Participants in the garage sale will get a garage sale kit that includes:

- a Keller Williams garage sale sign
- 100 pricing stickers
- notepad

Thanks to our sponsor Cynthia MacKenzie and The CyMacK Group of Keller Williams Capital Partners Realty. The CyMacK Group will also run ads in the Worthington SNP and This Week papers. **Registration deadline is Tuesday, June 24, 2008.** Also, don't forget to get your \$2 garage sale permit from the city of Worthington. Let's make this a community sale shoppers can't resist. **This year we are also planning a collection of old furniture to benefit MAPS, which provides used furniture to those in need. Tentatively scheduled for the day after the garage sale (Sunday June 29), the collection point will be Selby Park. Please check our website for details.**

Register by filling out the form below and sending it to P.O. Box 676 Worthington 43085, or call 614-848-8872.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Items for sale (e.g. children's clothes, small appliances, furniture, household items, toys): _____

