



BRECKSVILLE TOWNSHIP  
B I C E N T E N N I A L

# HOME & GARDEN TOUR

Self-Guided  
Tour Book

Sunday,  
June 12, 2011

Noon to 6 pm

Sponsored by the  
Brecksville Beautification Committee



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**The tour lasts from Noon-6pm on Sunday, June 12**  
**No charge for admission**

- ❧ Please turn to the map on the back cover for reference before starting your tour. Homes and gardens in the tour book are listed in a sequence that creates a driving loop. Feel free to visit the locations in whatever order you choose. You may find locations listed at the back of the book are less crowded at the beginning of the tour. If your time is limited, you may want to read through the descriptions and choose just the ones you'll be able to fit in, keeping in mind that home tours will be more time consuming than open gardens.
- ❧ The two century homes on Barr and Cedar will be open for interior tours. The Avery property is a garden only tour and on Skyline the garden, conservatory and greenhouse will be open to visitors, not the home.
- ❧ The tour will go on regardless of weather, so plan your clothing and footwear accordingly. Booties will be furnished at the entrance to the open homes. Please slip them over your shoes for the tour and leave them at the exit for other visitors.
- ❧ Once inside a home, do not open any closed doors or enter any rooms that are blocked off with stanchions. Be respectful of the owners who have graciously opened their homes to us and do not sit on furniture, handle any of their possessions or use their bathrooms.
- ❧ Please do not bring pets or uncontrollable children.
- ❧ Be careful how you park your car so you're not obstructing traffic or causing damage to property. Please pay attention to special parking instructions listed for some of the locations and be courteous to parking attendants.
- ❧ Do not move any plant markers in gardens. Do not pick any flowers or seeds. Ask questions of the garden owners if you aren't sure what you're looking at. Owners and volunteers will be wearing name badges.



# ABOUT BRECKSVILLE TOWNSHIP BICENTENNIAL

This year's tour is part of the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of Brecksville Township and includes homes and gardens in both Brecksville and Broadview Hts., the geographic area included in the original settlement. When Colonel Breck commissioned Seth Paine to survey Brecksville Township, he rewarded him with 200 acres of land at the northeast corner of Boston and Broadview Roads. In 1811, the Paine family became the first settlers of the Brecksville Township. More settlers arrived to make their homes in the growing Township. In 1922, voters approved forming a village government, and the village of Brecksville was created. In 1927 a group of residents succeeded in separating themselves from the Village and created the new town of Broadview Hts. Although the two communities are governed separately, they are still joined in a shared school district. Residents from both Brecksville and Broadview Hts. have been working together to plan a year's worth of events to celebrate the founding of the Township in 1811, including this tour.

## OPEN GARDEN DAY 2012

Next summer, Brecksville's annual Open Garden Day Tour will return in its previous format. If you would like to participate by opening your garden to visitors for one designated afternoon, please contact either Donna Shirer (440-832-9555 or [dshirer@adelphia.net](mailto:dshirer@adelphia.net)) or JoAnn Bartsch (440-740-0034 or [jabartsch@att.net](mailto:jabartsch@att.net)).



## 1 OLD TOWN HALL 49 PUBLIC SQUARE, BRECKSVILLE



Shirley Elish, the great, great granddaughter of Emily Moses Wallace will greet you as you begin your tour this afternoon. Mrs. Wallace was the widow of Samuel, who was a Captain and owner of a canal boat, a farmer, and a Brecksville Township Trustee. He died at the age of 45, leaving Emily with five children and a

sizable fortune. It was Emily who in 1872 made it possible to build this Italian Revival style building by loaning \$3,000 to the Brecksville Township. Julius White built the Town Hall with the final cost of \$4,522. The building was dedicated in 1874. Chippewa Creek Quarry provided the stone for the foundation and the bricks were made at a brickyard on Fitzwater Road.

Originally the Town Hall was just a hall, but a stage was added in 1876. The building was heated with a pot-bellied stove, and oil provided the light until installation of electricity in 1921. The building became the center of city government and social life including plays, poetry readings, debates as well as a school when needed.

The building has experienced two fires, one in the 1940's and again in 1976. Each time it was repaired and reopened.

In 1973 the U.S. Department of Interior honored Old Town Hall as it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In August 1998, after a major renovation and restoration, a grand rededication ceremony and day long celebration took place. It marked the beginning of a new history as a home for the performing arts, including Brecksville Little Theatre and Theater on the Square.





## 2 DAVID & JODI VANDERWIEL

### COLSON HOUSE

8970 CEDAR STREET, BRECKSVILLE

**C**olson House was built around 1840 by Bolter and Harriet (Waite) Colson, one of the early Brecksville settler families. They helped establish the First Congregational Church, where Bolter was a deacon. Captain Colson was a veteran of the War of 1812, and was a Township Trustee. Their son Newton



served during the Civil War and was a town constable. His wife Lydia stayed in the house until 1932 when it was sold to the Carroll family. The house was then located on Brecksville Road near the current Shell station, where it once housed the telephone exchange. Walter Zimlich bought the house in 1957 and had it moved to its current location and placed it on a block foundation. Emil and Wilma Kocar lived in the house from 1966 to 2000.

Colson House exhibits many elements of rural Gothic Revival architecture, such as a steeply-pitched cross gable roof, an asymmetric floor plan, tall narrow windows, decorative verge board, a single story entry porch, an octagonal porch column, pointed drip molds over the windows (no longer visible) and decorative roof brackets around a bay window (now used as window planter supports). The house was constructed with oak lumber and finished with walnut trim throughout.

Today the house is fully renovated with modern plumbing, heating and electrical systems, new windows and roof, a large kitchen and contemporary finishes that compliment and respect the original architecture.

\* Park on Cedar Street or in Central School parking lot.



### 3 SQUIRE RICH HOUSE MUSEUM AND HERB GARDEN 9367 BRECKSVILLE ROAD, BRECKSVILLE



Squire Charles Rich came to Brecksville from Massachusetts in 1835 and purchased 160 acres of land on Route 21. His house cost \$600.00 to build with lumber brought from a farm on Parkview, then known as

Whiskey Lane. Squire Rich was a Justice of the Peace who was called upon to settle disputes of the countryside, to answer questions of law, and to perform marriage ceremonies. His family home was also his place of business.

The Brecksville Historical Association has maintained this historic house as a Museum since 1961. In March of 1996 a water pipe burst causing extensive damage which took \$32,000.00 in insurance money as well as \$4,500.00 in donations to repair. A rededication ceremony was held a year later after all the repairs were completed.

The Squire Rich House Museum is listed on The National Register of Historic Places. The Museum will be open for the tour and Historical Association members will be on hand to answer questions.

The Chippewa Garden Club has maintained an herb garden at the Squire Rich Museum since 1982. The garden was renovated in 2005. It contains over 40 kinds of medicinal, culinary, fragrance, and tea herbs that were used by the pioneers in the mid-1800's. There will be a volunteer at the garden to tell you all about the herbs planted there.





4 **KIERAN & MARIANNE REPKO**  
**A.O. RICE HOUSE**  
**9878 BARR ROAD, BRECKSVILLE**

The A.O. Rice House at 9878 Barr Road is a Western Reserve Greek Revival style built by Aaron Rice, Jr. in the 1840's. He used a post and beam construction with trees from his 66-acre



property. Wooden nails hold the beams together and bark can be seen on the undersides of the hand-hewn supports.

The 1830 U.S. Census shows 8 various Rice families in Brecksville. Rice School (1838-1874) was located south of the house near Highland Road and the Rice Neighborhood Cemetery is located north.

The Repkos are the seventh family to reside in the home. They have attempted to safeguard the house's simple historical architectural value.

Entering the house through the kitchen, one may notice the random width floor recovered from a pre-bellum Maryland home and ceiling beams, 2 original and 3 recovered from a past Ohio structure. The cherry wood counter tops are accented by locally handmade (Bryan Kelly) replicated New England cabinetry. The children's loft sits above what once was an infant bedroom. This kitchen was featured on November 10, 2002 in the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The parlor features "the funeral door" that was used in the 1850's when A.O. Rice, Sr. died in the house. An 1800's style mural painted



## REPKO CONTINUED

by Rebecca Smith features many local historic Brecksville structures as well as homes from Hale Farm Museum.

The back of the house features the buttery, family room, and exit to the yard. The buttery was originally the bedroom for the youngest children. The cabinets (built by Rich Wehrenberg) display canned goods from the orchard.

The family room is a 1940's addition. The Repkos have attempted to recreate an 1840's feel to this area.

The outside yard has a simple herb garden, a 20+ tree orchard, and various flowerbeds.

\* The home is on the corner of Barr and Sentinel, park either on Sentinel (around the corner) or on E. Pointe Circle just east side of Barr Rd.





**5 NICHOLAS AND BARBARA ROMITO**  
**8829 AVERY ROAD, BROADVIEW HEIGHTS**  
**(GARDEN ONLY)**

**N**estled in the woods, on the edge of a ravine, at the end of a long, curving driveway, sits a magnificent English Tudor home surrounded by extensive shade gardens. These owners have spent years adding more hosta, ferns and wildflowers to their expanding garden beds and battling the deer that love this foliage as much



as they do. Be sure to see the waterfall pond in front of the house, then look for the small water garden tucked in between the back decks. The upper deck is packed with railing planters and potted plants that were wintered over inside, now thriving outdoors.

Only the garden is open for this tour; the house is not included.



\*Parking attendants will direct traffic into and out of the looped driveway. Look for the PARKING directional sign at the driveway entrance. There is no street parking on Avery Road.



**6 KIM AND EDGAR STEHLI**  
**8066 SKYLINE DRIVE, BROADVIEW HEIGHTS**  
**(GARDEN, CONSERVATORY, GREENHOUSE ONLY)**

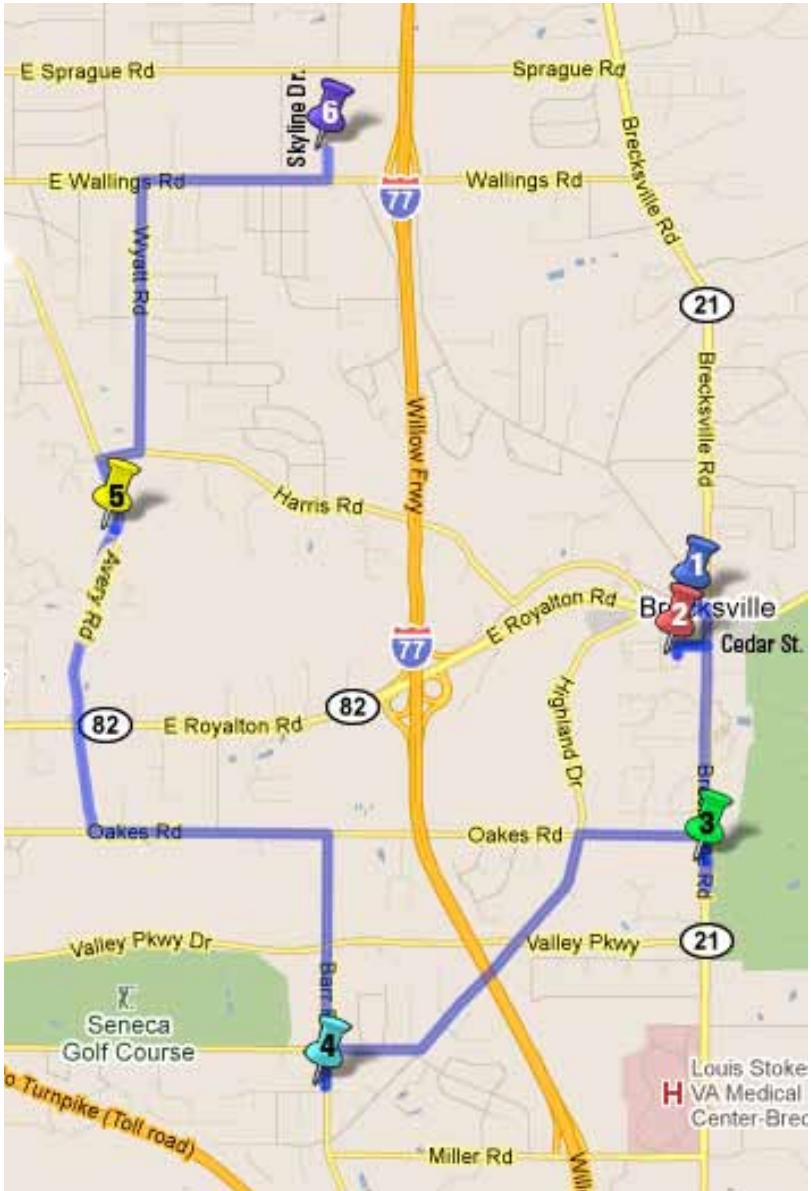


**Y**ou'll find Kim inside the two-story conservatory and Edgar in his greenhouse when you arrive to tour this property. And each of them will be surrounded by orchids. Edgar's passion for growing orchids began in his childhood and is now a full-blown obsession, which he has instilled in Kim. You will be amazed by the number of different orchids to be seen. You'll be able to ask the Stehlis any question you may have about caring for and growing these fabulous plants. (Hint: don't mention watering with ice cubes.) Connecting the conservatory and the greenhouse is a serene and colorful pergola with its own cast of perennials, as well as orchids enjoying the short Cleveland summer. Don't forget to walk over to the pond and see if anything is blooming there.

There will be plants available for sale at this location.

\*Please park on the street and enter from the south side of the yard.





SEE BACK PAGE FOR DIRECTIONS



## DIRECTIONS

- 1 Old Town Hall**  
**49 Public Square, Brecksville**  
Rt. 21 & Rt. 82, on Stadium Dr.  
Pick up tour booklets starting at  
11:30 a.m. on June 12, 2011.
- 2 VanderWiel Home**  
**8970 Cedar Street, Brecksville**  
Starting from Stadium Dr  
1 Head east on Stadium Dr toward  
Brecksville Rd  
2 Turn right onto Brecksville Rd  
3 Take the 2nd right onto Arlington St  
4 Take the 1st left onto Cedar St  
Destination will be on the right  
Arriving at Cedar St  
Total: 0.4 mi - about 2 mins
- 3 Squire Rich House Museum  
and Herb Garden,**  
**9367 Brecksville Road,  
Brecksville**  
Starting from Cedar St  
1 Head north on Cedar St toward  
Arlington St  
2 Turn right onto Arlington St  
3 Turn right onto Brecksville Rd  
4 Destination will be on the left  
Arriving at Brecksville Rd  
Total: 1.2 mi - about 4 mins
- 4 Repko Home**  
**9878 Barr Road, Brecksville**  
Starting from Squire Rich Parking lot  
1 Carefully cross all lanes of  
Brecksville Rd on to Oakes Rd  
2 Turn left on Barr Rd  
4 Turn right on Sentinel and park  
Arriving at Barr Rd  
Total: 2.2 mi - about 6 mins
- Romito Gardens**  
**8829 Avery Road,  
Broadview Heights**  
Starting from Barr Rd  
1 Head north on Barr Rd to Oakes  
2 Turn left onto Oakes Rd  
3 Take the 3rd right onto Avery Rd  
Arriving at Avery Rd  
Total: 3.1 mi - about 9 mins
- 5 Stehli Gardens**  
**8066 Skyline Drive,  
Broadview Heights**  
Starting from Avery Rd  
1 Head north on Avery Rd  
2 Take the 1st right onto Harris Rd  
3 Take the 1st left onto Wyatt Rd  
4 Turn right onto E Wallings Rd  
5 Take the 3rd left onto Skyline Dr  
Arriving at Skyline Dr  
Total: 2.4 mi - about 6 mins
- 6**