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“New Year’s Day: Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual,” – Mark Twain

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 10, Issue 1, January 8, 2014

Lakewood Congregational And St. Peter’s Youth Celebrate 10 Years Of Homeless Awareness Sleep-Out Efforts On January 18

by Robin Suttell

Snow, rain, wind or calm, no matter what the day brings weather-wise, it won’t stop youth from Lakewood Congregational Church and St. Peter’s

Episcopal Church from “pan-handling” for a good cause at the intersection of West Clifton Boulevard and Detroit Avenue on Saturday, January 18. And they’ve been doing it

for the past 10 years.

That evening, nearly 30 members of the two churches youth fellowship programs sleep outside all night in front of their respective churches in makeshift cardboard shelters as part of the 10th Annual Homeless Awareness Sleep Out. The two churches do this so their youth can better understand what it’s like to be homeless during an Ohio winter night, while raising money for local homeless support agencies.

“Each January, for the past 10 years, our youth devote 18 hours, no matter the weather, to experiencing firsthand what is like to be without true shelter or even a hot meal on a winter night,” says LCC’s Rev. Mark Thomas. “Some years, it has rained. Others, it has snowed or has been bitterly cold. Last year, they even faced gusty winds. But no matter the weather, this event has given each group of kids a true reality check and also has widened community awareness to the cause.”

Funds raised by the LCC Youth Fellowship will support the YMCA of Cleveland’s Y-Haven Program, HandsOn Northeast Ohio and the 2014 Homeless Stand Down, as well as Family Promise, an organization that aids & empowers homeless families to become more self-sufficient. LCC serves as one of Family Promise’s west-side host churches.

At LCC, participating youth, ranging in age from 11 years old to 18 years old (grades 6-12), will gather at the church, 1375 West Clifton, around 3 p.m. on January 18 to start constructing their box shelters – the only source of shelter they will have until late Sunday morning. Youth at St. Peter’s, 18001 Detroit Ave., will do the same that afternoon.

Around 6 p.m., the youth from both churches, along with adult chaperones, will head outside to spend the evening canvassing the block,

continued on page 15

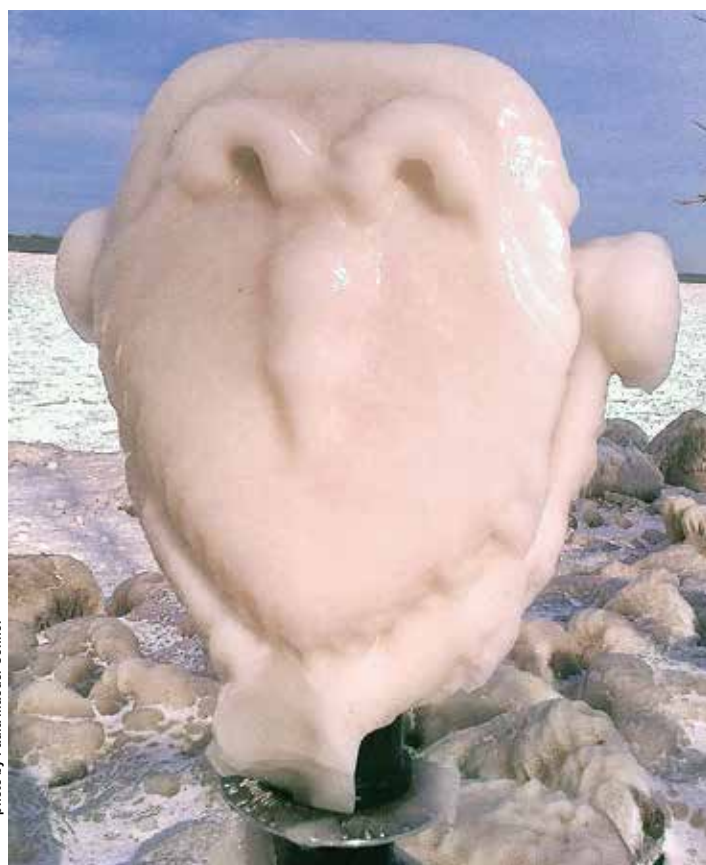


Photo by Paula Maeder Connor

“The Ice Man Cometh.” Pastor Paula Maeder Connor from Trinity Lutheran Church in Lakewood, took this photo down at Lakewood Park. Check out Lakewood Park anytime, and Pastor Paula every Sunday at 16400 Detroit Avenue.

Cold But Busy Night At Council

by Jim O’Bryan

With a wind chill approaching -30 degrees Lakewood City Council met to swear in three, elect two, and make the list of 12 applicants to the vacated Ward 2 Council position.

Ward 4 Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan was elected Council President, with Ryan Nowlin being elected Vice President. **The List of applicants is: Beegan, Paul R.**, 1239 Summit Avenue, **Bellamy, Bob**, 2173 Northland Ave., **Bindel, Christopher R.**, 15611 Delaware Avenue, **Call, Bill**, 14713 Lake Avenue, **Calleri, Gregory (Woody) J.**, 2154 Arthur Avenue, **Evans, Bryan J.**, 1560 Arthur Avenue, **Mackay, Grant. W.**, 1535 Woodward Avenue, **Monroe, Edward T.**, 15600 Clifton Blvd., **O’Leary, Sam**, 1517

Lakewood’s Municipal Court Judge Patrick Carroll swore them in, spouses held the bible.



Cindy Marx



Tom Bullock



Ryan Nowlin

Clarence Avenue, **O’Malia, Daniel**, 1261 Virginia Avenue, **Trentel, William (Bill)**, 1562 Mars Avenue, **Shields, Daniel E.**, 1501 Westwood Avenue.

Kiwanis Pizza Bake Off Returns 3rd Year

by David Norton

Step aside, Sochi. A pizza competition of Olympic proportion will occur as Lakewood Kiwanis Club hosts its third annual Pizza Bake-Off on Thursday, January 16.

The Pizza Bake-Off will take place in Lakewood High

School’s East Cafeteria from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets, available from LHS Key Club members or at the door, are priced at \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children age 6 to 12, and ages 5 and under are free. As always, all proceeds will stay in the

continued on page 13



A look at the 2013 LCC Homeless Awareness Sleep Out. Expect to see a similar “box city” in front of both LCC and St. Peter’s on Jan. 18. Photo Credit: Sean Swatsky Photography.



Each year, hardy LCC youth come in from a night out in the wind and cold to share their sleep-out experiences with the congregation during 10 a.m. worship. The 2013 group, pictured here was no exception.

PTA Holiday Lighting Winners



photo by Jim O’Bryan

The Lakewood PTA had their first home holiday lighting contest, and the winners were spectacular! We thank them for making the effort, and thank the PTA for the contest! Above is 1st Place located at 2066 Lakeland Ave. See all the winners on page 9!

Lakewood Observer

THANK YOU!



A big warm thank-you goes out to the city workers who are braving sub-zero temperatures to pick up grabage, keep streets clean, and let’s not forget fire and police! These folks show up every day to make Lakewood better for all. Thank you!

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LAKEWOOD DISCUSSION

Topics	Author	Replies	Member Views	Last Post
Dominion East Ohio urges...	Scott Meeson	0	39	Mon Jan 06
City snow plows	Ryan Salo	49	2519	Mon Jan 06
City council votes in new President, Vice President	Peter Grossetti	0	50	Mon Jan 03
Warming Center?	Michael Deneen	1	80	Mon Jan 06
New Parking System in	stephen davis	8	752	Mon Jan 06
“Big Brother” City Hall Now Has Drones!	Matthew Markling	7	835	Mon Jan 06
Lakewood city schools closed Monday!	Ryan Salo	1	439	Sun Jan 05
Best Taco Bell - Step Away From The Smart Phone!	Jim O’Bryan	20	1844	Fri Jan 03
IMAGE-IN LAKEWOOD	Jim O’Bryan	197	15476	Fri Jan 03
Lakewood’s Burning Monkey Festival!	Matthew Markling	4	306	Wed Jan 01



Sana and Euna Tadesse of Horace Mann Elementary in front of the Lakewood Garden Club's Tree Trimming submission.



2013 Burning Monkey Festival.

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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The mission of the Lakewood Observer is to attract, articulate, and amplify civic intelligence and community good will in the city of Lakewood and beyond.

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As a product of citizen journalism, The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 3-100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers, and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process.

Register to our website Member Center where you can submit stories, press releases, letters to the editor, photos. No need to register to post online calendar or classified ads.

Upcoming Submission Deadline

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Wednesday, January 22, 2014

Wednesday, February, 2014

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Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

City News

Powers Says Goodbye To Council But Sets Stage For Discussion On Recreation Department And Council Replacement

by Christopher Bindel

Council President Brian Powers called the final meeting of Council for the year to order at 7:40 P.M. on December 16, 2013.

First up was a report from the Committee of the Whole regarding the new contracts for the City’s collective bargaining units. Councilman Powers (At-Large) said that Council only approves or disapproves contracts, they cannot alter them. He thanked the Mayor and the administration for conducting negotiations without outside help, saving the city money, as well as the collective bargaining units for their good faith negotiations.

Powers said that there were two over-arching themes. First, the employees will get a 2% raise for 2014-2016. Second, the employees will take on more responsibilities for their health care cost.

Council proceeded to pass a resolution approving of the negotiated contracts for Lakewood’s fire fighters, paramedics, and correction officers.

Next Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan (Ward IV) read a Finance Committee report regarding a change to city employee domestic partner benefits. Last year the Mayor made an administrative change adjusting benefits for city employees to include domestic and same sex partners. This change only existed as long as current or future administrations decided to keep it that way. Councilwoman Monique Smith introduced an ordinance guaranteeing that domestic partners of city employees would always be covered under city sponsored benefits. After a brief discussion in the Finance Committee the ordinance was passed on its third reading.

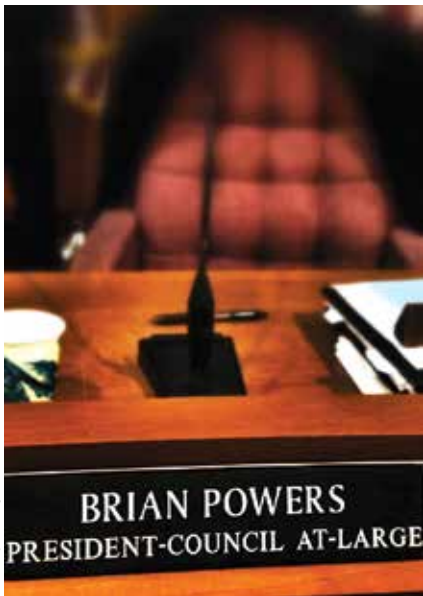
Before the vote, members of the public Kyle Weigand and Steve Bennett of Cleveland Stonewall Democrats applauded the city and thanked them for taking this step.

State Representative Nicki Antonio was also present to express her appreciation. She shared that 10 years ago when Council was considering the same issue, people didn’t understand the LGBT community and what a presence they had in the community. It was the decision in Lakewood, and shortly after the constitutional amendment at the State level that convinced Representative Antonio to first run for office. She said she is very proud of Lakewood, and that the State has some catching up to do.

Council passed the ordinance unanimously.

Councilwoman Madigan, Finance Committee Chair, then delivered a report on the budgeting process. The Committee recommended passage of all 18 ordinances that made up the budget. Councilwoman Madigan noted that the Lakewood Municipal Court, under the leadership of Judge Carroll, anticipates returning \$40-50,000 to the City. This is in addition to \$150,000 transferred to the general fund last year.

The Finance Committee also approved of an agreement with U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur for the



Brian Powers, thank you for your service.



Monique Smith, thank you for your service.

lease of space in the Lawther Center for her regional office.

Council passed all items considered by the Finance Committee.

Councilman Powers then asked Council to consider a resolution to create a Lakewood Recreation Task Force. He said he and the Mayor have engaged in discussions with School Superintendent Jeff Patterson, the past part-time Interim Recreation Director, Council Vice-President Madigan, and the President and Vice-President of the School Board regarding the need for better coordination between the City and the schools.

Currently responsibilities are divided between the City, schools and various independent groups. Powers said that less than 1% of Ohio cities have recreation departments managed and funded by their public school system. He said “the financial burden of managing the Recreation Department should no longer be borne by the School District alone.” He believes a task force of Lakewood citizens should be put together to consider alternate arrangements between the City, Schools, and Recreation Department. He asked Council to refer the resolution to the Committee of the Whole, and to invite the School Board to participate. It is his hope that a joint resolution will be

passed by both Council and the School Board so that they both might appoint members to the Task Force.

Councilwoman Smith thanked Councilman Powers for his leadership saying that, where Lakewood has gotten attention for being progressive in certain areas, she feels that in recreation the city lags behind. She thinks this is a prime time for improvement.

Powers said that he wanted to make it very clear that this was not an attempt at a power-grab by the City, and that he, along with Council and the Administration, have worked hard to improve ties between the City and the School Board. He said that there is good communication between the two, which has not always been the case, and was a goal he had when he became Council President. He has no intent on fast-tracking an ordinance through Council, but was introducing this resolution to help foster discussion and prevent it from falling through the cracks.

Powers continued said the city as a whole needs to figure out a better way to manage recreation without having to take a half million dollars a year out of the classroom. He said, “I have a dollar, should I spend it on education or recreation; and for a School Board there can only be one good answer to

that choice.” He continued, “As a community we need to find new ways to manage and fund, fund most importantly, recreation, going forward.”

Council referred the resolution to the Committee of the Whole.

The last items were resolutions thanking Councilwoman Smith and Councilman Powers for their time on Council introduced by Councilwoman Madigan, who said that it was with mixed emotions she says thank you and farewell. She said that she is confident they will continue to serve Lakewood.

Next, Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II) said that he has had the pleasure to work with both Smith and Powers during their time on Council and before. He thanked Powers for the efficacy, clear analysis, drive, focus and professionalism he brought to Council. He said he appreciated the courtesy Powers showed him as they often disagreed on points, calling Councilman Powers a “straight- shooting arbiter on how we conduct ourselves.”

To Smith, Bullock said he always appreciated the very high standards she set for the community and that he enjoyed working with her on the Lakewood Saturday Farmers market, of which she was an instrumental part. In closing he said he hoped it was just the first chapter in more to come.

Councilman Ryan Nowlin (At-Large) told Smith that he admired the fact that she was never afraid to question why things are the way they are and that she always stuck to her convictions. To Powers he said he admired his strong leadership and excellent stewardship and that Powers was a protector of the independence of this branch of government. He said that Powers leaves a very high bar for how Councilmembers should serve the city.

Mayor Summers thanked Powers for his service and for the discussions they’ve had which he said have helped shape the way he views his role as mayor.

Smith then thanked Powers for the work he had done and for helping mentor her along the way. She also thanked him for his selfless service and hard work.

Powers said that his last meeting was happy and sad and that he would miss working with everyone. He said, “It has been a great, great ride,” and that he knows Council will continue to be successful with those who are left and those great people that the city has elected, and he has every confidence in Council’s ability to select a great person for the vacancy that is about to be created.

On that note, Powers said he has been trying to walk a fine line regarding the procedure to fill the soon to be vacant Ward II Council spot. He did not want to start the process and create the perception that he was trying to have an influence over the selection, however he didn’t want to leave Council in a lurch in the new year. He waited until his final meeting to ask the

Lakewood City Council Passes Balanced 2014 Budget

by Colin McEwen

The City of Lakewood has finalized its 2014 general fund budget. Lakewood City Council approved the \$34.7 million appropriations budget on Monday, December 16 after a few minor adjustments.

“This is a big step forward,” said Jenn Pae, the city’s finance director, pointing out the successful development and incorporation of the city’s Strategic Plan. “It’s important to have a sustainable budget. Our expenditures won’t exceed our revenues.”

That means the city isn’t expected to make any cuts to services, programs or staff in 2014. The city’s Strategic Plan

includes both operations and capital improvements. “It’s an aggressive capital improvements plan that includes the Madison Avenue overhaul,” Pae said.

That project — complete with new pavement, bike lanes, traffic signals, and improvements to Madison Park — will begin in 2014.

“We’re going to continue to provide quality service with fewer employees than we’ve had in the past.”

To see more of the 2014 budget, visit http://www.onelakewood.com/pdf/Finance%20Reports/2014_Lakewood_Comprehensive_Budget.pdf.

Colin McEwen
City of Lakewood’s Multi-Media PR Manager

continued on page 17

Lakewood Public Library

compiled by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

Wednesday, January 8

CPH Script Club: “Yentl” by Leah Napolin and Isaac Bashevis Singer

Based on Singer’s short story “Yentl the Yeshiva Boy,” the play is significantly different from the film. Defying convention and the laws of her people to fulfill her dream, a young woman disguises herself as a man and becomes a brilliant student — as well as the most wanted bachelor in town. Yentl is a startlingly modern love story, and a smart, witty comedy that will win your heart. Rabbi Enid Lader of Beth Israel the West Temple (and last season’s Taste of Judaism) joins CPH staff for the conversation.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, January 11

Learning Lab Classes: Internet Skills

Learn the skills you need to teach yourself. We begin with PC basics, navigate through the Internet and finish with web searching. We recommend that all students practice using a mouse before class. Ask the Technology Center staff to show you how.

3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

Western Films: The Golden Age Part 2: “The Tall T” (1957)

Directed by Budd Boetticher

A trio of outlaws led by Richard Boone is holding rancher Randolph Scott and newly-weds Maureen O’Sullivan and John Hubbard hostage at a stagecoach station. As they wait for the next stage to arrive, Scott realizes that when Boone robs it, he will no longer need any hostages. He tries to bargain for his fellow captives, but Boone finds their predicament increasingly amusing. As the story unfolds, it becomes apparent that the hero and the villain

are more alike than either would like to admit.

6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, January 14

Every Apron Has a Story

If you think an apron is just a piece of fabric meant to keep your clothes clean, then you haven’t met Caroline Urban. Her apron collection contains more than eighty specimens, some store bought, some received as gifts and some homemade—each with their own special story. Learn about the materials and workmanship that went into her favorites and the adventures they’ve had together. Everyone is invited to bring an apron of their own and share cherished memories.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Wednesday, January 15

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Book Club: “One Piece of Paper: The Simple Approach to Powerful, Personal Leadership” by Mike Figliuolo

Columbus-based business expert Mike Figliuolo presents a robust, authentic model for creating and clearly articulating a personal leadership philosophy. Based on his popular training course, the book teaches decisive, effective leadership by taking a holistic approach to defining one’s personal leadership philosophy. Through a series of simple questions, readers will create a living document that communicates their values, passions, goals and standards to others, maximizing their leadership potential. Join the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce for a panel discussion of its lessons with local business leaders and other readers.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Thursday, January 16

Meet the Author: “She Who is Like a Mare: Poems of Mary Breckinridge and the Frontier Nursing Service” by Karen Kotrba

The skillfully rendered dramatic monologues of Karen Kotrba’s *She Who is Like a Mare* document the remarkable history of the Frontier Nursing Service in eastern Kentucky in the early twentieth century. Through the imagined voices of the founder, Mary Breckinridge, and the nurse-midwives she trained to travel the back roads of Kentucky on horseback, Kotrba brings a whole community to life. With a sure command of the multiple tones and mixed dictions of the region, she gives voice to a wide range of characters: the local citizens who are protective of their mountain women who have always “birthed the babies”, the physicians who want to replace any kind of midwifery with the new medical field of obstetrics, the fathers who ride out in fierce storms to bring help to their wives in labor and the mothers, the children and even the horses. With this book, Karen Kotrba joins the company of our great documentary poets: Stephen Vincent Benet, Carl Sandburg, Muriel Rukeyser and West Virginia poet Louise McNeill. She has brought to light a little known piece of women’s history—a story of cunning, courage and caring—and has done so with unforgettable imagery, beautiful music and love. Poet Maggie Anderson applauded this book, saying, “This is a book I want to keep near me and reread, to remind myself of what is still possible in poetry and in our lives.” Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, January

Learning Lab Classes: Basic Software Skills

Take this simple overview of the three most popular and useful programs around. Word processing skills come in handy almost everywhere. Spreadsheets help you get organized and powerful presentations get your ideas across with style.

3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

Five Star Films: “Shadow Magic” (2000) Directed by Ann Hu

In 1902, enthusiastic Englishman Jared Harris arrives in Beijing, films in hand, intent upon opening a motion picture theater. He meets Yu Xia who has ideas on how to leverage the project. The men become friends. An invitation arrives to present a showing of the Lumiere Brothers short films to the Empress Dowager. Things are looking good. But does disaster lurk in the wings?

6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Monday, January 20

Holiday: Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Open All Day

Tuesday, January 21

Knit and Lit Bookclub: “I Remember Nothing” by Nora Ephron

Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress. For full book descriptions, visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/bookclubs.

7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

Learning Lab Classes: One-on-One Job Search

Spend thirty minutes with a staff member polishing your resume, brushing up on computer skills and exploring employment websites. Whether you need a new job or just want to explore your options, we want to get you started with personal attention.

Appointments are available between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 22

Learning Lab Classes:

Learning Lab Classes: Introduction to Ancestry: Library Edition

The Ancestry genealogy resource is free to use every day at the Library. How far back would you like to trace your family tree? Genealogist Deborah Abbott will show you how to unlock the secrets held by census reports, military records, birth certificates and death notices in this hands-on workshop. Unravel your history with professional results.

6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

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LPL Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Monday, January 20

A Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.

For school age children

Celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through stories, songs and craft. In honor of the MLK Jr. Day of Service, participants will create handmade cards to warm the hearts of nursing home residents. There is no need to register in advance.

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Saturday, January 11

Tail Waggin’ Tutors

For school-age children

Bone up on your reading skills by reading to a dog. Drop in for a one-to-one session with one of our dogs and owners that have been certified through Therapy Dogs International.

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

September 2 – May 23

Homework Help

For students in kindergarten through eighth grade

Need a little extra help with homework or just a cool place to study? Come to the Homework ER room for help and resources. No registration. Homework ER closed for school holidays and vacations.

Ongoing Monday – Friday, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Main and Madison branch Children’s and Youth Services.

Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. and Sundays at 3:30 p.m.

Family Weekend Wonders

Make the Library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts. These free programs are offered every weekend throughout the year at both the Main Library and Madison Branch. No registration is needed. Check out our website (www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth) for times and upcoming themes.

Main Library Activity Room and Madison Branch Auditorium

Weekends With Wee Ones

For families with children under 2 years old

Spend a part of your family weekend time clapping your hands, tapping your feet, singing nursery rhymes and, of course, sharing books. We will provide materials and ideas for those wishing to continue the fun at home. Programs are offered every weekend throughout the year and there is no need to register in advance.

AROUND THE

Join Us For
RAY FOGG from
Put-In-Bay
Friday, January 24
at 8 pm

Book your
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Best Brunch In Town!
Saturdays at 11am & Sunday 9:30am -
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Wednesdays - Try our \$5 Menu!

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CORNER

DRINKERY
FUNKERY

LPL

The Librainium At The
Lakewood Public Library

by Julie Strunk
Open during library
hours, Main Library and
Madison Branch

Is the Lakewood Library ready to play? Yes it is! Come play with your child in our Librainium, an interactive pre-literacy playground geared for children ages birth to 5, and help your child get ready to read.

The area features more than 40 interactive learning activities and is a wonderful tribute to the city of Lakewood. Large letters spell out “L-a-k-e-w-o-o-d”. Decoupages of articles from the Lakewood Observer are on the paper boat and play birdhouse. Birdhouses are on display representing Birdtown, and items found by residents on walks are embedded in the seating. Fish found in Lake Erie are featured in our height measuring interactive and coins from all over the world make up a map representing Lakewood’s diversity.

There are a lot of opportunities for kids to share and be social together. For example, the station called “H is for house” has a kitchen area where kids can play restaurant or cook with plastic food. A large boat allows two to steer at the same time while others may look out the port holes or read books while sitting on the boat bench. A puppet theater and puppets supports storytelling skills. A toy book return and board book shelving even suggest that they play “Librarian”! A chalk board allows children to draw or practice writing their name! Throughout the space you will find seating for parents and caregivers. A cozier space is available at the Madison Branch.

Different activities also help young kids at all levels learn and play.



Interactive panels encourage talking and manipulation. A matching panel, for example, asks kids to match items by shape, color, letter or all three. Other areas focus on counting, cause and effect, shape and size matching, making words, animal sounds, telling time, looking at a calendar, or fine motor skills. Features like mirrors at the bottom of the units and textures made for touching even provide activities for babies. How tall is your child? 36 inches tall? 2 fish tall? 5 feathers tall? 8 worms tall? How many words can you make in the Letter Factory? Go on a letter or number scavenger hunt!

The library asks that you help everyone be safe and have fun while learning. Show good behavior, like walking, cleaning up and keeping feet on the floor. Use inside voices for talking, laughing, and singing. Help protect everyone’s privacy by keeping your cell phone and cameras packed away and help us keep the library clean by waiting until you are outside of the library to eat and drink food and beverages. All children under the age of 6 years must have an adult with them at all times.

Day care and pre-school groups are welcome with a 48 hour notice! Call 216-226-8275, extension 140 to let us know that you would like to visit.

Share the Dream: A Celebration Of
Martin Luther King, Jr.

by Marge Foley

For some children, being off from school on January 20th, MLK Day, means sleeping late, playing video games, and watching television. The Lakewood Public Library is offering a meaningful alternative. Your child can still catch some extra shut eye, however from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. they can take part in a program that will celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through stories, songs, and a craft. As part of the

MLK Day of Service, participants will create cards which will be distributed to local nursing home residents. This artistic endeavor will brighten the day of a senior citizen and provide your child with a chance to serve others. The cards will be delivered to the nursing home by the library at a later date. Each child will also be given the opportunity to make a take home booklet about the life of Dr. King. There is no need to register in advance. All school-age children are invited to participate.



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Lakewood Public Library

Meet The Author Of “She Who Is Like A Mare” At LPL

by Erin Hallahan

Set in early twentieth century eastern Kentucky, nurse-midwives navigated the rugged terrain of the back country in fulfillment of their calling. Caring for pregnant women in their most desperate hours, they provided nurturing comfort door-to-door. These pioneer members of the Frontier Nursing Service (FNS) founded by Mary Breckenridge battled Mother Nature in all of her seasons in pursuit of helping their patients. The carefully and artistically structured poems of Karen Kotrba allow the reader to discover this defining period in the history of nursing.

In her debut poetry work, author

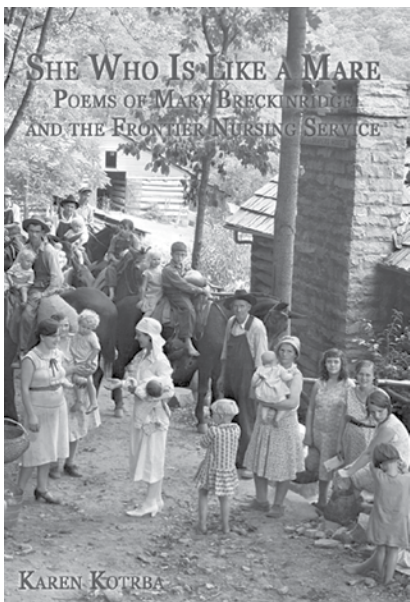
Karen Kotrba awakens the spirit of the nurse-midwives of the FNS through the imagined voices of its founder and her protégés. Join us for the winter edition of Meet the Author at the Lakewood Public Library on Thursday, January 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

Author Karen Kotrba was raised in Columbiana, Ohio. Currently a professor at Youngstown State University, she graduated from Kent State University and the Northeast Ohio MFA program in creative writing. Inspired by her mother’s career in nursing, she felt compelled to study the history of the FNS and the lives they touched. She has taught numerous writing workshops including a Cleveland

Clinic workshop for MS patients.

Christopher Barzak, author of “One for Sorrow” and “The Love We Share Without Knowing” boasts, “In Karen Kotrba’s debut collection of poetry, you will encounter a vast and wild frontier where women are the heroes of the country, not men, and where women are the saviors of the lives of those who go missing from our nation’s history. Once you begin listening to the voice of the invisible majority, you will not be able to stop. A spellbound collection.”

Books will be available for sale and signing at the event. No registration is required. This program is free and open to the public.



Every Apron Tells A Story At Lakewood Public Library

by Elaine Rosenberger

Opening the box from my cousins, I saw fabric and was dismayed. I knew my cousins were sending me something of Grandma’s, but I hadn’t expected a box of her old aprons. I had never worn an apron in my life, do not particularly enjoy cooking, and could envision no use for them. Still, since they were Grandma’s, I am reluctant to get rid of them. Some are elaborate bib aprons with pockets and ruffles. Others are simple waist aprons. There is a yellow apron with pockets trimmed in rickrack and a waist apron

embroidered with coppery thread into patterns of flowers and birds. I wonder about their workmanship and history: were any made by my great-grandmother in Italy? Which ones are handmade? When were they created? Now, thanks to Caroline Urban, some of my aprons’ mysteries may be solved.

Known as the Apron Lady, Caroline Urban has a collection of more than eighty-five aprons and recounts a fascinating story behind each one. Wearing a vintage apron can connect you with the past and can be a good way to share cherished memories with

loved ones. One of Urban’s aprons was made in the 1860s, and, although she does not have any of her mother’s aprons, Urban remembers her mother hanging up her apron each evening as a sign that her day’s work was done.

Every Apron Has a Story will take

place on Tuesday January 14 at 7:00 p.m. in Lakewood Public Library’s Main Auditorium. Everyone is welcome, and no advance reservations are required. Participants are encouraged to bring or wear their own aprons and to share their aprons’ stories.

Jungle Bob’s Traveling Zoo

by Jeffrey Siebert

Have you ever wanted to pet a Python or play with a Bearded Dragon? Well, come see Jungle Bob’s live Reptile show at the Lakewood Public Library and meet some of Bob’s incredible animals, including snakes, lizards, turtles, and tortoises. Jungle’s Bob’s show is an educational and interactive experience that will entertain kids of all ages.

Jungle Bob is a certified animal technician as well as a licensed teacher in animal care who has been entertaining and educating children for nearly three decades. He has made numerous appearances on local television shows as well as radio programs. He is also the author of the popular children’s book “BobTails.” When he isn’t performing for live audiences, Jungle Bob teaches an Animal Care program in the Cleveland Metropolitan Schools to 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. Jungle Bob is not only dedicated to entertaining audiences with his interactive



Jungle Bob and one of his many live reptiles that will be at the LPL show.

animal shows, but also teaching children about the importance of animal care, safety, and preservation.

This program for children and their families will take place on Saturday, January 25th at 7:00 p.m. All programs are free and open to the public. Generously funded by the Friends of the Lakewood Public Library, this event will be held in the Multipurpose Room, which is located in the Children’s Department. We hope to see you there!



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Lakewood Schools

West Shore Students Showcase Child Saving Invention At PLTW Fall Conference

by Lynn Foran

On November 14th, Michael Dodrill and Leaf Holland, seniors in the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) program through West-Shore Career Technical District, showcased their child-saving invention at the PLTW Fall Conference in Sandusky, Ohio. Their invention, the Alarmom Child Guardian System (CGS) addresses the second-leading cause of vehicle-related child fatalities: child endangerment. “Every nine days a child dies from being trapped in a car. When we discovered the magnitude of this occurrence from www.kidsincars.org, we wanted to see if we could help prevent this from happening again,” said Leaf of the patent-pending product.

The Alarmom CGS detects a prolonged absence of an adult in an automobile with a child still in a car seat using two weight sensors similar to the seat-belt sensor currently equipped in many cars. As Mike explains it technically, "The Alarmom CGS is powered by a Parallax micro-controller that receives and interprets



Leaf Holland and Mike Dodrill working on their patent-pending child-saving invention.

signals from the system's weight sensors. The system then sets off the vehicle's car alarm at a predetermined length of time alerting everyone within

earshot to an issue with the vehicle.”
“We thought through several different solutions, but then decided to use the weight technology already used in cars.

Now, we are working to add a heartbeat sensor for additional detection,” stated Leaf.

West Shore's PLTW teachers, Ed Holmok and Bob Sedlak, submitted the project to the PLTW conference committee for the opportunity for their students to present their invention at the conference. This is an annual meeting for approximately 320 PLTW teachers, counselors, administrators, business and industry leaders throughout Ohio. The West Shore students' invention was selected with two other projects to present during the conference luncheon. They also had the opportunity to display their invention before and after their presentation. Leaf and Mike prepared a giant display-board and set up their invention to demo their technology. After their presentation, a representative from American Honda Motors approached the students to tell them he is taking their idea back to his management at Honda. Coming from an industry professional, this was a great endorsement of their work. They are anxious to see what comes of this.

In addition to the presentations, many PLTW programs had project displays. Of particular interest to Leaf and Mike, were several displays by middle school students. "I would have loved to have started gaining my engineering knowledge in middle school. PLTW is giving me an advantage on my education before I head off to college. I just wonder how much farther ahead I would be if I had a chance to begin my engineering learning in 7th or 8th grade," noted Leaf. Regardless, Leaf and Mike have a great start to their career through the PLTW coursework, their determination, and their own imaginations.

LHS Seniors Tapped As Service Academy Hopefuls

by Christine Gordillo

Three Lakewood High School seniors were honored recently at a ceremony at Rep. Marcy Kaptur's office for earning alternate nominations to the U.S. Naval Academy. The nominations allow Andrew Gordon, Elizabeth McIlwee and Zach Moran to continue on in the process of earning an appointment to the prestigious institution.

Gordon, McIlwee and Moran were three of nine alternate nominees, along with a principal nominee, named by Rep. Kaptur out of 24 seniors seeking nominations from the 9th Congressional District representative. Rep. Kaptur can nominate 10 seniors from her district to each service academy. To have three of the 10 Naval Academy nominees be from the same school is "definitely unusual," said Karen Harris, who coordinates

the military academy nominations for Rep. Kaptur.

To be eligible for an appointment to a service academy, a student must receive a nomination from either the the President, Vice President, his or her senator or congressional representative. Nominee candidates, who are evaluated on the basis of academic performance, physical fitness, medical eligibility and leadership, go through a rigorous interview with a committee convened by Kaptur. Gordon, McIlwee and Moran are all top students who have been involved in Rangers sports throughout their high school careers.

Primary nominees are considered first for an appointment in the national pool of nominees, however alternates are also still eligible for appointment and according to Harris, it is not uncommon for some of the alternate

nominees selected by Rep. Kaptur to earn admission to one of the academies. The value of an appointment to one of the most selective colleges in the country is worth about \$450,000 over four years. Naval Academy graduates are required to serve five years active duty and three years in the Reserves in return.

Congratulations and good luck to our three seniors as they continue to pursue their goal of serving their country.



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Lakewood Cares

Season Of Giving

by Lynn Foran

West Shore’s Culinary Arts students and chef instructors helped spread holiday cheer throughout the Cleveland area at several events over the last two weeks. On Wednesday, December 4th, Chef Devan Sharosky and students delighted 70 Ronald McDonald House residents with a gourmet dinner. In its fifth year, this has become an annual event for the Junior Culinary students. The students pleased the families’ palettes with beef tenderloin, au gratin potatoes, mushroom risotto, and roasted asparagus. They topped it off with turtle cheesecake and a pumpkin roll. The Culinary department organized a fund drive to raise money to buy the ingredients. What a wonderful way to bring a moment of joy to family members who have a child in the hospital. The families enjoyed the meal so much they were asking if the West Shore students would be returning soon to cook another meal!

On Thursday, December 5th, another group of West Shore culinary students rubbed elbows with local chefs



Culinary Students Schyler Bennett, Candice Coker, Sierra Henderson, MacKenzie Moore, Katherine Renaudin, and Chef Instructor Devan Sharosky with Cleveland area chefs at CIFF’s Home for the Holidays.

from Lago, Fire, The KATZ Club Diner, The Black Pig, Toast CLE, and Good to Go Cafe. The students helped with an event for Cleveland International Film Festival’s Film Feast, a series of

fundraising events that celebrate all that is film and art in Cleveland. The students helped prepare and serve the chef-inspired treats to a standing-room only crowd at the home of Cleveland

Food Writer, Laura Taxel and husband, Barney. Debby Sample, CIFF Marketing Director commented, “This is our fourth year to work with the students and they have never been anything less than stellar.”

A group of culinary students and Chef Rob McGorray headed back down to the Ronald McDonald House with 16 gingerbread houses in tow for the families in residence to decorate on Wednesday, December 11. All the West Shore culinary classes helped to make, bake and assemble the houses so when they arrived at the Ronald McDonald House the houses were ready to decorate. The Culinary students gave the families another wonderful night of holiday memories.

The last event for the culinary students was assisting at the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce’s holiday party at Vosh Lakewood on Thursday, December 12. The students served and assisted several area restaurants and chefs with food service.

“Each event the students participate in gives them the opportunity to put their classroom and West Shore kitchen training to real-life, real-time tests. Working with accomplished chefs who have high expectations provides the opportunity for our students to see first-hand the demands of the culinary environment and to rise to the challenge,” noted Chef Sharosky.

Moving Beyond Loss

by Daniel Wenger

We are all in an ongoing process of saying “Hello” and “Good-by” to people, to events, to places and things. We all face loss, and there are all sorts and kinds of losses that people experience in life. But most of us do not know how to move beyond our losses. We also all have our well-intentioned ways of trying to be a comfort to those in grief, but most often what we say does not really help and may at times even be hurtful. We have all heard or said at one time or another, “You need to let go,” but do we really know how to do that?

That’s just what the Grief Recovery Method® teaches; how to let go, how to complete and say good-by to what or whom we have lost, in a way that allows us to move beyond the grief and the pain, and enter into life and joy again. It teaches how to be present with others in their grief so that they too may move into the future with hopefulness.

Grief is the normal and natural reaction to loss of any kind. Grief and Recovery are not often used in

the same sentence. The Grief Recovery Method® is for those who desire to address the pain in their lives, due to loss, in hopes of restoring wholeness and the ability to take joy in life, in other words to recover by completing the emotional pain associated with loss. Developed by the Grief Recovery® Institute, this program is conducted by Certified Grief Recovery Specialists®. All are current or retired chaplains from Fairview and

Lakewood Hospitals.

Next workgroup, Thursdays, January 23 – March 13. (8 sessions), 3:30 – 5:00 p.m., Lakewood Hospital Community Center, 1401 Belle Ave. Lakewood

The 8-wk series repeats Thursdays, (Morning group) April 24 – June, Rocky River United Methodist Church, Detroit Rd. Rocky River.

Call 440-899-7113 or 440-233-8024 to register or for more information.

Hospice Volunteer Education

by Laurie Henrichsen

Hospice Volunteer Education will be offered Wednesdays and Fridays, February 12, 14, 19, and 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Hospice of the Western Reserve, 300 East 185th St., Cleveland, OH 44119. Anyone 13 years of age or older interested in making a difference in the lives of others is welcome to attend this training. Volunteers interested

in working with patients attend all sessions, while volunteering in non-patient areas and teen volunteering requires only attendance at the first class. RSVP required. Call 800-707-8922 (6881) to register. Classes are also offered at other times, days, and locations throughout the year.

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Lakewood Cares

Holiday Lights Winners Announced

by Julie Derrick

The lights were twinkling all around Lakewood as the judges made the rounds to determine which participant in the Lakewood Council of PTA's Holiday Lights Contest had the grandest display of them all. Would it be the simple and elegant or the all out lights display? After much consideration, the winners of the residential and business categories of the



2nd Place, 1648 Onondaga Ave.



3rd Place, 1587 Lincoln Ave.



Honorable Mention:
1320 Bunts Ave.



Honorable Mention:
1212 Hall Ave.



Honorable Mention:
1587 Woodward Ave.

contest were determined.

The First Place Winner is the home located at 2066 Lakeland Avenue! This home has a fabulous display, and the Mehaffey Family will receive four tickets to the Annie production at the Beck Center. The Second Place Winner is the home located at 1648 Onondaga Avenue. This home is classic and elegant. The McNamara Family will receive free studio paint time at Artist for a Day. Rounding out the Third Place position, is 1517 Lincoln Avenue! This home is whimsically decorated and a real treat for those of you with young children. The Vuyancih Family will receive some of the most creative and unique T-shirts around. GV Art + Design is providing fun and original T-Shirts to this winner! Last, but definitely not least, there are three homes that received Honorable Mention. These are the homes located at 1320 Bunts Avenue, 1212 Hall Avenue and 1587 Woodward Avenue. These homes are all creatively decorated as well and will receive prizes courtesy of GV Art + Design or H&R Block!

In the business category of the competition, the winner is Roman Fountain Pizza and Subs located at 15603 Detroit Avenue! They have a very nice window display and Lakewood Council of PTAs appreciates their support of PTA and the community. Please stop by and view their window front display when you have a chance. Maybe a good time to do that would be while grabbing some pizza either before or after taking a tour of the homes that were awarded prizes in the contest. It sounds like a fun night out to me and a great way to enjoy the holidays!

Special thanks to the donors and judges of the contest. It could not have been possible without them. Please remember to patronize these businesses anytime you get a chance. They are Artist for a Day, The Beck Center, GV Art + Design and H&R Block. Start planning for next year's contest now! I can't wait to see what you come up with!

The Gift Of Warmth

by Christine Gordillo

A big thank you to Lakewood Hospital and its partners for the nearly 500 items of cold weather gear that were donated to Harrison Elementary School students to keep them warm throughout the winter. Members of the Hospital Foundation's Board of Trustees and some hospital employees brought the items along with their good cheer to the school the week before Winter Break. Groups who donated items also included the hospital's Board of Trustees, Women's Board, Children's Board and the American Baptist Women's Ministries of Lakewood Baptist Church.



Members of the Lakewood Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees and hospital employees join Harrison Principal Sabrina Crawford and Student Council members as they receive their gift of nearly 500 hats, gloves and scarves.

St. Edward And St. Ignatius High Schools Unite To Help Northeast Ohio's Poor

by Natalie Schrimpf

St. Edward and St. Ignatius High Schools will use their historic rivalry to benefit the needy at two upcoming Eagles versus Wildcats basketball games. On Saturday, January 18 at St. Edward at 7:30 p.m. – and Saturday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Ignatius – attendees will be able to make financial donations to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Cleveland, which helps the poor through its charitable programs and services. This is the first time the two rival Catholic boys high schools have joined forces to benefit SVDP Cleveland. For more information, contact SVDP Cleveland at 216-696-6525, ext. 3150.

"We are grateful that these two outstanding schools are taking their rivalry to new heights by using it to help those less fortunate," said John Litten, SVDP Cleveland executive director. "Every dollar of the donations collected at both games will be used to help over 200,000 needy people who seek our services each year. It's truly inspiring to see these schools join together in the name of something greater."

Established in 1865, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Diocese of Cleveland is a local human service and welfare organization of neighborhood volunteer groups residing in participating parishes ("Conferences") throughout the Diocese of Cleveland's eight-county service area. Volunteers ("Vincentians") provide immediate, temporary emergency direct assistance to those in need, regardless of their race, ethnicity or religious affiliation. Last year alone, some 200,000 low-income individuals received more than \$4 million in aid, which included food donations from SVDP's food pantries (Ozanam Centers), clothing, furniture, back-to-school supplies and assistance with utilities. SVDP's central office is located at 1404 East Ninth Street, Cleveland. For more information, call 216.696.6525, ext. 3150 or <http://www.svdpcle.org>.

Lakewood Is Art

Beck Center Presents The Regional Premiere Of “CARRIE The Musical”

by Kathleen Caffrey

Beck Center for the Arts is pleased to again partner with the Baldwin Wallace University Music Theatre program to present the notorious, cult classic, “CARRIE the musical,” February 7 through March 9, 2014 on the Mackey Main Stage. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are now on sale.

Adapted from the bestselling novel by Stephen King, this gripping tale is set in the small town of Chamberlain, Maine. Carrie White is a misfit. At school she’s an outcast who is bullied by the popular crowd, and virtually invisible to everyone else. At home, she’s at the mercy of her loving but cruelly over-protective mother. But Carrie has just discovered that she has a special power, and if pushed too far, is

not afraid to use it. Time Magazine said “CARRIE the musical,” “has guts...”Carrie” has real weight and emotional conviction.”

Directed by Victoria Bussert, director of Music Theatre at Baldwin-Wallace College, “CARRIE the musical” features BW alumni Katherine DeBoer as Margaret White, an extremely religious and over-protective mother, and Jodi Dominick as Mrs. Gardner, a strict yet caring physical education teacher; as well as an ensemble of twenty talented actors from BW’s nationally recognized MT program. DeBoer and Dominick appear courtesy of the Actor’s Equity Association. With musical direction by Nancy Maier and choreography by Gregory Daniels, “CARRIE the musical” features music by Michael Gore, lyrics by Dean Pitchford, and book by Lawrence D. Cohen.

“I am very excited that the third annual Beck Center collaboration with Baldwin Wallace University Music Theatre program will bring Northeast Ohio the local premiere of “CARRIE the musical,” based on the famous and infamous first novel by Stephen King,” remarked Bussert. The collaboration has also brought the highly-acclaimed productions of “Spring Awakening” and “Next to Normal” to the Beck Center stages. “This piece pulses with an amazing score ranging from high energy rock to epic melodies of nearly operatic proportion. With a cast combining professional actors and Baldwin Wallace students, it promises to be a night you’ll never forget!”

Tickets are \$29 for adults and \$26 for seniors (65 and older) with an additional \$3 service fee per ticket applied at time of purchase. Student tickets are \$15 with valid I.D. (includes service fee). Preview Night on Thursday, February 6 is \$10 with general admission seating. Group discounts are available for parties



of four or more. Purchase tickets online at beckcenter.org or call Customer Service at 216.521.2540, ext. 10. Beck Center for the Arts is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

This production of “CARRIE the musical” is presented through special arrangement with R & H Theatricals: www.rnh.com and is sponsored by the residents of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, and the Ohio Arts Council.

Bounce Off The Walls Children’s Party And Open House

by Julie Derrick

Lakewood Early Childhood PTA is once again set to host a Bounce Off the Walls Children’s Party and Open House! The party, which is free and open to the public, will be on Friday, January 17th from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Harrison Elementary School located at 2080 Quail St. in Lakewood. There will be a bounce house, balls,

hula hoops, pizza and drinks. Please bring a dish to share and join the fun!

Lakewood Early Childhood PTA is for families with children ages six years old and younger. We hope that your family will join us as we Bounce Off the Walls and let the kids burn off some of that extra winter energy! Visit www.lecpta.com or email lecpta@gmail.com for more information.



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Lakewood Is Art

Beck Center Financial Assistance Program
Increases In 2014

by Kathleen Caffrey

Beck Center for the Arts is pleased to announce that due to the generosity of its supporters, their Financial Assistance Program has twice the usual support for arts education students ages 19 and under in the coming year. Starting with the Winter/Spring Semester that begins the week of January 27, 2014, the program will cover the cost of tuition or a portion thereof for qualifying students. Applications should be submitted by January 17, 2014, as assistance opportunities decrease after the recommended date.

Beck Center provides approximately \$15,000 annually to enable students with financial need to take arts education classes. At its 80th anniversary gala, Spotlight, in October, one of the auction goals was to cover the cost of the Financial Assistance Program.

“Our attendees responded so generously, we ended up raising a total of \$33,000 which will serve approximately 120 students in 2014,” remarked Beck Center President & CEO Lucinda Einhouse. “It is a testament to how positively our community feels about the impact of arts education for our children.”

Financial assistance will be applied over the next three semesters in varying increments according to need. “We now have the largest pool of funds that will provide artistic opportunities for more of our community members,” commented Beck Center Director of Education, Edward Gallagher, MT-BC. Students ages 19 and under are eligible to apply for assistance for classes in dance, music, theater, and the visual arts. Limited assistance is available for

continued on page 14

Beck Dance Hosts Interactive Sleeping Beauty Tea Fundraiser January 26

by Kathleen Caffrey

Beck Center’s Dance Education program continues to excel with nine students participating in the Youth American Grand Prix (YAGP) February 28 through March 2, 2014. After receiving the “2013 Best of the West in Dance Instruction” Beck Center’s Dance Education program is thrilled to offer its students the opportunity to perform at YAGP. These students will take their education and training to the next level by performing at the world’s largest dance scholarship competition that awards over \$250,000 annually.

In order to compete in Chicago, students of Beck Center’s Dance Education and the Dance Alliance of Beck Center (DABC) have been tirelessly fundraising for months. The next

continued on page 14

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Wellness Watch

Battling Parkinson's - Cleveland Clinic Doctor Discovers That Intense Bicycling Can Reduce Symptoms Of This Neurological Disorder

by Deb Martinko

We could all benefit from being forced to exercise, but for those with Parkinson's disease, a new program at Lakewood Hospital is providing clear evidence of just how beneficial strenuous exercise can be.

Parkinson's, the second most common neurodegenerative disorder after Alzheimer's disease, affects about 1 million people in the U.S. It is a disorder

of the central nervous system that limits the brain's ability to produce dopamine, which helps control movement. Decreased dopamine results in symptoms that include tremor, rigidity, slowness of movement, and walking and balance problems.

In 2003, while riding a tandem bike across Iowa with a friend who had Parkinson's, Cleveland Clinic

continued on page 16



Allen Karger works with his physical therapists to reduce his Parkinson's symptoms through intense bicycling.

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Business News

Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce,
Lakewood Public Library To Co-Host 2014
Business Book Club

by Valerie Mechenbier

In partnership with the Lakewood Public Library, the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is hosting a community read for the book “One Piece of Paper,” by Mike Figliuolo. “One Piece of Paper” guides you through a simple approach for creating, articulating, and living your personal leadership philosophy—one that can be shared on a single piece of paper. Figliuolo’s model distills leadership to four easy-to-understand aspects:

Leading yourself: What are your rules of personal conduct and what does the “future you” stand for?

Leading the thinking: Where are you taking your team and how will you innovate to drive change?

Leading your people: How can you lead a team as individuals rather than faceless cogs in a machine?

Leading a balanced life: How do you achieve equilibrium between work and personal obligations?

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce will host a panel discussion of



One Piece of Paper Author Mike Figliuolo local business professionals and entrepreneurs - along with author Mike Figliuolo via Skype - at the Lakewood Public Library on Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room. This event is free and open to the public.

Earned Income Tax Credit Program-
Get Taxes Done For Free

by Kathy Augustine

Cuyahoga County and the Cuyahoga Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition will be hosting free tax preparation services as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. County VITA sites are at the County’s Westshore Neighborhood Family Service Center (NFSC) and at the Southgate NFSC. Westshore NFSC is located at 9830 Lorain Ave, Cleveland Ohio 44102; the hours of service are Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Southgate NFSC is located at 5398 ½ Northfield Rd, Maple Heights Ohio 44137; the hours of service are Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. To schedule an appointment

go online to www.211.org or call 211/United Way First Call for Help. Returns will be prepared and filed by IRS certified tax-preparers and completed while the tax-payer waits. Tax-payers should remember to bring: Current photo I.D., Social Security cards for each adult and child on the return, W2 and 1099 income statements, child care expense statement and provider’s Tax I.D. Number, Form 1099-INT for any checking or savings accounts as well as bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit. Community members who want to volunteer to prepare taxes can register online at www.refundohio.org. Free training is available to become an IRS certified tax preparer. For more information, please visit www.refundohio.org.

Kiwanis Pizza Bake Off Returns

continued from page 1

city to support Lakewood Kiwanis programs for families and children in Lakewood. The procedure will be the same as last year, but with a slight new twist. Fourteen Lakewood pizzerias will set up shop and offer slices of their products to all. The order of the day is, “All you can eat!” Customers may return for as many samples as they can eat from as many stands as they wish. In addition, free coffee will be available, and free tickets for soft drinks will be

given out at the door. This year, customers will be invited to vote for their favorites in five categories: People’s Choice Pizza (overall best), Best Pepperoni Pizza, and Best Specialty Pizza will be voted on as in previous Bake Offs, and this year, two new categories have been added: Best Franchise Pizza and Best Franchise Pepperoni. Come and support our local pizzerias, vote for your favorites, and support Lakewood Kiwanis charities!

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Letters To The Editor

Ranger 360, Upstanders And Community Conversation

by Kate Dailey

When my partner and I were deciding where our family would make our home, we were looking for a community in which two white moms with two brown boys could settle and find a supportive and embracing community. As I am from New Jersey, I was voting for a move east. She grew up in Lakewood and was certain that we could find a home here. So when we moved the fifty miles east from our home in Erie County to Lakewood in 2002, I felt a bit like she won that discussion. Now, in 2013, I can't imagine any other community in which we would feel so at home.

I have had so many moments over the past 11 years when I have felt grateful for that move to Lakewood. Our experiences in the schools, the faith community, and the civic community have shown us a city that is invested in the quality of life of all of its members. Most recently, it has been the Ranger 360 program that has caused me once

again to feel proud and thankful for this community we call home.

On Tuesday, November 19, the Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission (LCRAC) partnered with Ranger 360 for its annual Community Conversation which was held at the Lakewood Public Library. The conversation this year was about being an Upstander and included a high school coach, a guidance counselor, the director of H2O and a student leader. The term itself was coined by the Facing History and Ourselves project and speaks of a person, group, or institution that stands up to negative and biased talk and actions and speaks out for an environment in which all are valued and all are safe. It is, I think, what so many of us are busy trying to teach and model for our children all the time. What was so important for me about the LCRAC and Ranger 360 program on that Tuesday night is that this concept of living as an Upstander has found its way into a community-

wide conversation, initiated by Ranger 360 which is a program that has been active in the schools for the past year. It appears to me that Lakewood, as a community, is embracing an idea that supports, celebrates and lifts up a diverse population of people, rather than pushing them down or out.

When examples of "maleness" from our current culture are so often limited to violence, dominance and power, and images of femaleness are limited to weakness, vulnerability and passivity, Mr. Ron Lewis, Lakewood High School football coach, is challenging his players to be Upstanders. He wants them to think about themselves as young men who can perpetuate a climate of respect and creativity, and not be limited to an idea of maleness as dominance, which is so important on the football field, but not in their relationships off the field. Lakewood's Help to Others (H2O) program, under the direction of Ms. Emmie Hutchinson, uses service as a way to instill

confidence and self-acceptance, as well as a drive to serve others - precisely the qualities that enable our young people (and all of us) to reject a culture based upon dominance and judgment of others. Lakewood City Schools, via outstanding leadership, administration and staff, not only encourages the character development of their students, but expects their students to explore and grapple with social issues, as an important component of becoming a "life-long learner." And an outstanding example of just this character development is student leader, Mr. Devon Chodzin, who exemplifies the struggles and rewards of community-based and social learning, via his many accomplishments, including being Vice-President of Model UN, leadership position in the LHS Orchestra, executive for H2O, leader of Club Identify, and becoming one of four 2012 Dare2Care Leadership Scholars. In sum, all four panel members from the LCRAC November 19 event personify and provide shining examples of what it means to be an "Upstander."

What does all of this have to do with Ranger 360? Ranger 360 is a collaborative program, one of only 9 selected nationally, between the Lakewood City Schools, community organizations, the Lakewood Police Department, business groups, and faith based organizations to address and prevent power-based personal violence. When news stories are filled with events like the Steubenville assault and the kidnapping and release of three young women after a decade of unimaginable abuse, it is more important than ever to work as a community, celebrating and accepting our differences, while working together to prevent violence against and amongst our youth. We can do that when we become a community of Upstanders, who reject the idea that violence is inevitable and work to create a community in which safety and life with dignity are everyone's right. This is the Lakewood community to which I belong and that I am proud to call home.

Kate Dailey has been a resident of Lakewood since 2002 and has two sons in the Lakewood schools.

Beck Dance Hosts Interactive Sleeping Beauty Tea Fundraiser January 26

continued from page 11

opportunity to support this endeavor is the interactive Sleeping Beauty Tea, a fundraiser for children based on this classic ballet. There are two opportu-

nities to attend this event at 1 p.m. and at 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 26 in the Music & Dance Building at Beck Center for the Arts.

The Sleeping Beauty Tea is geared toward children ages 3 to 10 accompanied by an adult. Guests will be served tea, punch, and cookies while a Sleeping Beauty fashion show and performance segments from the popular ballet take place. "The Sleeping Beauty Tea will be a wonderful experience for children who are captivated by ballerinas, fairytales, and tea par-

ties," exclaimed Melanie Szucs, Beck Center's associate director of dance education. The dancers will teach the children Sleeping Beauty mime sequences and they will take home a special ballet craft.

Tickets are \$12 per person and can be purchased at beckcenter.org or by contacting Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10. Beck Center for the Arts is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

Beck Center Financial Assistance Program

continued from page 11

private music lessons and Creative Arts Therapies sessions. "As a result of the generosity of our donors and members of the Beck Center family, more kids than ever will attend classes at Beck Center where they can tell their story

and create art experiences."

The application along with rules and regulations can be found at beckcenter.org or by calling Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10. Questions regarding the Financial Assistance Program can be directed to Edward Gallagher at 216.521.2540 x12.



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Letters To The Editor

The Common Core: Part 1

by Chuck Greanoff

Dear suburban white mothers: Your opposition to the Common Core is rooted in the realization that your child is not “as brilliant as you think they are, and your school is not as good as you think.” Sincerely, Arnie Duncan, Secretary of Education.

Arnie Duncan, President Obama, hi-tech and test-prep companies, educational consultants, Bill Gates, and others have a plan for your child, and it doesn't include small class sizes, emphasis on the arts, or anything that celebrates their unique, creative talents. It doesn't include your input, either directly or through your locally elected school board. It does include privatization, more testing and more power and profits for the “reformers.”

If you oppose their plans you are either a right-wing or left-wing extremist, or you just don't get it. These guys, not you, nor your elected school board, and not your teacher, know what's best for your child. (Funny though, most of these “reformers” send their kids to schools that will never adopt the Common Core).

The latest phase of school “reform,” the increasingly controversial “Common Core” is about to be visited upon the students of Ohio. This three part series examine the motivation and rationale for the Common Core. The alleged need for this federally mandated curriculum is rooted in a set of manufactured “beliefs” about America's public schools designed to undermine public confidence and continue to lay the ground work for the monetizing of children, the privatization (for profit) of public education, and the marketing of scalable educational products that can be sold en masse to schools all over the country.

What a fabulous business model—manufacture a crisis, create a demand, and then provide the products to fill that demand. Meanwhile, usurp the power of locally elected school boards to allocate resources and establish curricular priorities.

The major players behind school “reform” and the “Common Core” coup d'état are educational technology companies, Jeb Bush, Eli Broad, David Coleman (more on them next time) and Bill Gates, who turned his attention to increasing class sizes, infusing technology into classroom, and promoting a national curriculum after the abject failure of his “small schools” initiative. Gates' next 200 million has been spent promoting the Common Core and attempting to buy school board seats. This is a power and money grab, underwritten by Gates and others--fronted by politicians of both parties—masquerading as education reform.

President Obama, the most anti-public education president in our history, is using the leverage of “No-Child Left Behind” waivers to coerce states into applying for “Race to the Top” grants, requiring states to imple-

ment the Common Core curriculum. Obama picked up the baton from George W. Bush, whose cynically crafted “No Child Left Behind” law stipulated that, by 2104, any school that had one student lacking test “proficiency” and/or failed to make Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) could be closed, turned around, turned into a charter school, etc. So, to get a waiver from punitive measures for their schools states signed up for Common Core. Given that the implementation of a federal curriculum is unconstitutional, the next best thing is to coerce states into adopting one.

The rationale for the “Common Core” has been carefully crafted to create a sense of national urgency, predicated on several false but widely held beliefs: a) that US public schools are failing and that we are lagging far behind other countries; b) that schools can be ranked based on aggregate test scores and; c) that educational outcome can be reduced to a test scores.

As parents, you are told to: 1) disregard the emotional elements of growth/education; 2) reduce your notion of “education” to measurable tested elements; and 3) most importantly—suspend your own thinking about your child's progress and turn it over to a testing company or a “foundation.” In sum, don't trust your own experience.

For a fuller understanding of the decades' long disinformation campaign, read *The Manufactured Crisis* by Biddle and Berliner, and *The Reign of Error: The Hoax of Privatization and the Danger to America's Public Schools*, by Diane Ravitch. Essentially, the public has been bombarded with so much de-contextualized “data” that it is now common “knowledge.”

Here are the leading myths: 1) students in many other countries are “out-performing” ours, and this threatens our economic viability; 2) Test scores are falling in the US and 3) there is a growing racial achievement gap. The well-funded propaganda campaign has been effective. In summary, here are some facts that the educational reform establishment and a compromised national media will rarely tell you. (For a full rendering, read Cornoy and Rothstein: *What do International Tests Really Show About US Student Performance?*)

The achievement gap between races is decreasing. In fact, on some measures, such as 4th grade math, African American achievement was higher in 2009 than white achievement in 1999. Had white student achievement stood still, the achievement gap would be closed (Ravitch). Don't expect this bit of context to escape the lips of the “reformers”, though. It contradicts a key talking point.

Overall, test scores are at their highest point ever recorded

When controlling for poverty, US test scores compare favorably with those of other nations

When controlling for poverty, US public students outperform students in private and charter schools

There may indeed be a relationship between test scores and per capita domestic product. The higher the average test score, the lower the gross per capita domestic product. While no cause and effect relationship can be drawn, sacrificing the curriculum in service of a test score makes no sense—unless you want to make money from the manufactured crisis.

It's a long standing tradition to apply methods that seem to “work” in other counties to the US, ignoring the unique economic and social dynamics of each. Sometimes, it takes a non-American to appreciate the unique value of American institutions, including Public Education. Chinese Scholar Yong Zhao, in a futile attempt to educate Arnie Duncan about his own country, puts it this way: “American education has many problems, but to paraphrase Churchill, it is the worse form of education except all the others. The decentralized system with local governance is a fundamentally sound framework that has evolved within the American context, that has led to America's Economic prosperity and scientific prominence so far, and that is being studied and copied by others.”

But there is some “prosperity” to be found in the Common Core—for the “reformers” and their investors. Significant curriculum changes will need to be made to implement Common Core—and no one stands to cash in more than the Pearson Corporation, the largest on-line book company in the world. They make no secret of this fact.

They announced in their 2012 Earnings Report that “The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)...awarded Pearson and Educational Testing Service (ETS) the contract to develop test items that will be part of the new English and Mathematics assessments to be administered from the 2014-2015 school year. We continued to produce strong growth in secure online testing, an important market for the future. We increased online testing volumes by more than 10%, delivering 6.5 million state accountability tests, 4.5 million constructed response items and 21 million spoken tests...We also launched the Online Assessment Readiness Tool for the PARCC and the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Common Core consortia to help 45 states prepare for the transition to online assessments.

Still confused about the power behind the “Common Core?” Follow the money.

Rick Hess of the American Enterprise Institute, writing in *Education Week*, revealed the Common Core end game. It's the same one that led to school “report cards”; to undermine confidence in public schools to increase demand for for-profit char-

ter schools, vouchers and other parts of the “reform” agenda. It seems that those “white suburban moms” aren't yet on board with the notion that their kids' schools are awful. They have the temerity to think for themselves. The Common Core and its' testing regimen seeks to change that.

“First, politicians will actually embrace the Common Core assessments and then will use them to set cut scores that suggest huge numbers of suburban schools are failing. Then, parents and community members who previously liked their schools are going to believe the assessment results rather than their own lying eyes. (In the case of NCLB, these same folks believed their eyes rather than the state tests, and questioned the validity of the latter--but the presumption is that things will be different this time.) Finally, newly convinced that their schools stink, parents and voters will embrace “reform.” However, most of today's proffered remedies--including test-based teacher evaluation, efforts to move “effective” teachers to low-income schools, charter schooling, and school turnarounds--don't have a lot of fans in the suburbs or speak to the things that suburban parents are most concerned about.”

In my view, the most important lessons in navigating your way through the maze of data: 1) do not accept, uncritically, the interpretation of data from those who seek to profit from low test scores and 2) do not equate test scores, aggregate or otherwise, with educational quality; 3) follow the money.

For the coup to succeed, you must stop thinking, and turn your brain over to a set of bi-partisan elites who simply know better. Sorry Mr. Duncan, I predict it will fail, but only after a long struggle. Public school students and their parents are smarter than you think they are.

Homeless Sleep Out

continued from page 1

seeking for money from passersby and being without the comforts they are used to – heat, solid shelter, food and money. The group will be roused from their box shelters by 6 a.m. on Sunday to resume seeking donations and will continue doing so until noon that day.

The LCC youth are collecting cash or check donations (made payable to Lakewood Congregational Church), as well as new socks and underwear for men, women and children.

For those who want to make cash or in-kind donations prior to the event or who would like more information, contact the LCC office at 216.221.9555

St. Peter's youth also will be raising funds for various local homeless support organizations. For more information on their fundraising efforts, call the St. Peter's office at 216.226.1772.

Letters To The Editor

Empower Local Education Leaders

by Ted Nagel

"I would just like to thank 'No Child Left Behind' for changing my life and making all of this possible!"

Does anyone remember this line from the Princeton Validictorian's speech? Me neither. You probably won't remember the same line with Common Core substituted for NCLB either. That is because education is essentially an inspirational endeavor. It requires motivated teachers that can inspire students. National-level policy does not inspire anyone. Does that mean there is no place for policy and regulation?

In my twenty years in the Army, I was often admonished not to be a "micro-manager." Micro-managing is the process by which a higher level leader gets down into the weeds to ensure every detail is up to his standards. Two things happen under micro-managers. The first is that the process fails to develop the next gener-

ation of leaders. The second thing that happens is the organization never surpasses the standards of that one leader. There is no synergistic effect of incorporating the good ideas and inspiration of all of the members between the leader and the ground-level members.

It is my observation that education right now is a stagnant enterprise. Many teachers are protected by tenure too early and settle in for the long haul. Some teachers get their lesson plans completed, develop their tests with easy grading processes and then try to use all of these things from year to year in order to save on work.

They do not allow students to keep their graded tests so that they do not have to develop a new one for the next class. This type of teacher should be able to fit in well with a system which hands them a curriculum, many of the tools to develop the lesson plans and then tests the students against the

standard at the end of the school year. But are the teachers doing this going to be the teachers that the Princeton Validictorian thanks in his or her speech?

Does local control mean that there is no place for national or state regulations? Regulations are a necessary evil. The higher one goes in an organization, the broader the controls should be. For example, at the national level, it is perfectly appropriate for the government to state in the broadest terms what is expected from students who will graduate to the next grade level. Different states might add elements to this such as requiring a state history section at different milestones. Developing tests that evaluate growth from one grade to the next based on these guidelines is also within reason. The idea is not to trap the schools, but to help them to achieve their goals. But the national or state level bureaucracy has no busi-

ness developing detailed curricula for every classroom.

There is no national or state level program that will identify inspirational teachers. That must be done at the local level. School districts must hire leaders/ principals for each school. Principals must then interview teachers. They must be able to see them and interact with them to see if they have what it takes to inspire a new generation.

They must have the guts to train them, give them feedback, and yes, honestly evaluate them with master teachers observing their classrooms. Teachers should come and go. It is hard to stay inspirational doing the same thing for thirty years without a break.

Teachers could move between administration and the classroom conducting the evaluations and developing training methods. These teachers could then return to the classroom taking advantage of what they have learned from watching their colleagues.

Many great private schools have sabbatical programs in which teachers can travel and research to get re-energized. Schools should recruit people who have had other careers and are now looking to give back. Those second careerists are looking for something inspirational to do, but the unions and the regulations keep them from getting into a classroom.

I have not looked in detail at the Common Core. But I don't see it inspiring anyone or motivating teachers to greatness. It is my opinion that anything that does not inspire students or motivate teachers is destined to be another policy with good intentions that ends up adding more administrative requirements thereby detracting from classroom effectiveness.

Creating Jobs By Investing In Ohio's Clean Energy Economy

by Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio)

Manufacturing helped make the middle class in Cuyahoga County which has the most manufacturing jobs in the state. In fact, manufacturing jobs have a larger multiplier effect than any other industry. For every \$1.00 spent in manufacturing, another \$1.48 is added to the economy.

But much more is possible because of Ohio's clean energy economy which is adding jobs at a much faster rate than the state's overall economy. Ohio has the fifth-highest number of clean energy jobs in the nation and Northern Ohio leads the state with more than

9,100 jobs in this industry.

A recent report revealed that we can create jobs and revitalize our manufacturing base by investing in the clean energy economy and increasing renewable energy standards and federal tax credits for wind and solar power. But other nations like China are taking big steps in advanced and renewable energy. China now has the world's largest renewable energy capacity. Yet with this increased capacity, we are witnessing Chinese efforts to play by their own rules and give their businesses an unfair advantage.

That's why I've urged the Obama

Administration to take stronger trade enforcement measures, to respond to the challenges of Chinese subsidies. And that's why I introduced the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act of 2013. It would create a Network for Manufacturing Innovation – to position the U.S. as the world's leader in advanced manufacturing.

Because our workers have the drive and creative thinking to out-innovate the rest of the world. We just need to make sure they also have the resources, and investing in clean energy manufacturing is a step in the right direction.

Battling Parkinson's - Cleveland Clinic Doctor

continued from page 12

researcher Jay Alberts, PhD, serendipitously discovered how intense exercise could improve the symptoms associated with Parkinson's disease. After just one day of rigorous exercise, his friend's symptoms—inability to write legibly, difficulty moving, problems with balance—improved.

Since that ride 10 years ago, Dr. Alberts has continued to research the effects of "forced" cycling on patients, and has identified positive results.

When Exercise Presents Special Challenges

Cleveland Clinic Rehabilitation and Sports Therapy at Lakewood Hospital purchased a prototype motorized stationary bicycle last winter with a gift from Lakewood Hospital's Children's Board and assistance from the Lakewood Hospital Foundation. The rehabilitation program is just one element of the multidisciplinary neurological care available at Lakewood

Hospital.

Allen Karger of Broadview Heights is one of many people putting that bike to good use. Diagnosed with Parkinson's 20 years ago, the 66-year-old actively fights the disease. When Mr. Karger was first diagnosed, medication helped. In 2004, as the disease progressed and his symptoms worsened, he underwent deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery, in which electrodes implanted in his brain send electrical impulses to the area affected by Parkinson's in order to control his symptoms. Today, a combination of medication, effects of DBS, exercise at a fast pace, (called "forced exercise") and physical therapy help keep him moving.

There's a difference between voluntary exercise—or going at your own pace—and forced exercise, in which something else sets a pace higher than your voluntary rate, says physical therapist Joyce Geib, PT.

"It's very difficult for those with Parkinson's to increase the force

needed to move at a rate higher than what they can comfortably do on their own," Ms. Geib says. "While the average person can pedal a bike comfortably at between 60 and 90 revolutions per minute, Dr. Alberts' research has shown optimum impact on brain function and movement comes from exercising at a minimum rate of 80 RPMs. This is very challenging for an individual with Parkinson's to achieve."

Working with Physical Therapists

Mr. Karger has worked up to riding the bike twice a week for 12 minutes at 80 RPMs, and is striving to do more. "It is a workout to be sure, but such a simple exercise can do so much good," he says.

Those in the forced exercise program typically have therapy two or three times each week, spending up to 45 minutes on the bicycle under the supervision of a physical therapist.

The operation of the bike is controlled by an iPad, which monitors the

effort the patient is exerting vs. what the bike is controlling to maintain the 80 RPM rate. The goal is for patients to learn, over time, how much exertion is required to reach and maintain that pace so they can do the same level of exercise at home on a standard stationary bike. This helps to improve brain circulation, increase mobility, and possibly even reduce the amount of medications needed.

Remarkable Results

"At the time Allen was diagnosed, we never thought he'd be able to walk our daughter down the aisle—but he did," says his wife, Cynthia Karger. "Thanks to the incredible support of his physicians and the therapists at Lakewood Hospital, and Allen's own determination to fight every single day to keep going, he's doing great," Mrs. Karger says. "In January, when we went to Disney World with our son, daughter-in-law and two beautiful granddaughters, he was able to walk the park with the rest of us—never once needing a wheelchair."

Notes From Afghanistan

Dispatch 3.3: Lunch With A Warlord

Eric Smith



Lieutenant-Colonel Eric Smith with Hajji Tor Ghani at the edge of Kandahar City.

The term “warlord” is thrown around a lot when it comes to Afghanistan. Media reports love it. “Regional warlords take power!” or “Warlords threaten viability of fragile government!” Think tanks support articles like “Cooption of Warlords critical to Long-Term Viability of the Afghan Government” and academics publish their thesis, “Warlordism and the Decentralized Power Sharing in Central Asia.” I’ve never met an actual “warlord” in person before, but fortunately for me, several live nearby. So I called and arranged a lunch date.

The Bagh-e Pol Bridge is a physically unremarkable two-lane concrete bridge over the Arghandab River. What makes it special is that it is the main bridge connecting Kandahar City with points west and north. Whoever controls the bridge not only has access to all trade coming in from the west, but also holds their hand over the city’s critical life-support artery. That man is Hajji Tor Ghani.

Tor Ghani is a Pashtun and ex-mujahadeen. He’s almost fifty, but he doesn’t know for sure. When he was seventeen he started fighting the Soviets and has been fighting in one way or another ever since. He’s a survivor and knows how to navigate the extremely complicated and nuanced politics that dominate Afghan society. I wanted to meet him because he controls a very key piece of terrain in my area of operations and I had heard a lot about him.

To get there, we drove our small convoy of vehicles down Highway 1 and through the Bagh-e Pol market. Traffic slowed to a few kilometers per hour as we inched past the pedestrians, livestock, market stalls, and other vehicles. Just prior to crossing the bridge we turned right and drove along the dried Arghandab riverbed. To our left a thriving livestock market with herds of sheep and goats was in progress, and on the bluffs overlooking the river, the edge of Kandahar looked down on us. We reached a treeline, parked, met some policeman and after a few handshakes, were led into his garden.

Tor Ghani is tall and slender, with a thick head of dark hair, bushy beard, and dark complexion. He dyes a portion of his hair red, giving him a wild stripe on the side. His voice is soft, almost effeminate, and he smiles a lot. Under the hair and above his beard, his eyes are hard and piercing, almost cold. I felt like I was talking to Tony Soprano while following the Grateful Dead.

“Thank you for meeting with me on such short notice,” I started.

“No problem,” he smiled, “I have not met with the ISAF commander in a long time.” He paused, “and tomorrow I have to drive to Herat. A man owes me nine-hundred thousand dollars.”

The soft voice and piercing eyes were clear - I was glad to not be that man.

We sat at a table in the center of his garden. Flowering bushes and fruit trees obscured the sounds and sights of

the urban tumult outside. Birds landed on branches, sang a quick song, and then flitted away. I felt like I was in Arabian Nights, dining in the sultan’s garden, isolated from the urban clamor of the city.

“This is a very nice garden. Very peaceful.”

“Yes, I like beautiful things.” Tor Ghani almost purred. “You see that guard? He carries the rifle I carried for thirty years. Now I don’t carry a rifle. I’m getting old. I like beautiful flowers and animals.” He gestured around him. “There’s a kitten. Would you like to see my fighting dogs?”

“Sure.”

Tor Ghani whispered to an assistant and the man dodged around a

building, returning with a dog that looked like a St. Bernard bred with a stallion. “Isn’t he magnificent? I have twelve.”

We ate sheep and chicken, cucumbers and peppers, and the ever-present (and sloppy) pomegranates for dessert.

Our conversation ranged over a broad set of subjects. We talked about fighting the Soviets, what the Taliban’s goals were now, the improvement in Afghanistan over the last ten years, and what Afghanistan would look like five years from now. We talked about trips to Pakistan, camel-treks over the Registan Desert to the south, and weeks spent hiding in tunnels. We talked about the bridge and how important it was and how it needed to be protected

and kept open for all of Kandahar’s benefit. We looked at the photos on the wall of Tor Ghani standing next to famous politicians, generals, and mujahadeen. I wondered if he had other pictures inside he brought out for other guests.

He was a conglomeration of contradictions, wrapped up in an intoxicating charisma, confusing and endearing at times. He was eager to work with us and convinced that Afghanistan would not last long without American patronage. Fighting and war were a lifestyle choice that was inevitable for his sons. Who will they fight? I asked. “Probably Pakistan, maybe Iran, maybe Russia,” he shrugged. The adversary was less critical than the action.

“Say the word and I will have fifty men. We will go and fight the Taliban in the mountains together.”

“I look forward to that,” I answered, “You and I will certainly clear them all out.”

When it came time to leave, I thanked him for his hospitality; we took some photos, and promised to come back soon. I have no doubt he will keep the bridge secure and continue to work with the Afghan government and ISAF forces.

And I’m glad I’m not that guy in Herat who owes him money.

Eric Smith is a Lieutenant-Colonel in the US Army, currently stationed in Afghanistan. A lifelong resident of Lakewood, he went to Grant Elementary, Harding Middle, and graduated from Lakewood High School in 1990. He is convinced that sailing on Lake Erie, with all that water, would be the best thing ever.

Powers Says Goodbye To Council ...

continued from page 3

Council Clerk to start the replacement process by posting the vacancy. That way, he said, when the new Council convenes, they will have a head start.

In closing, Powers said that he never intended to serve on Council and certainly never intended to serve as Council President. However, after much service to the community he found himself on the Grow Lakewood Task Force where it became clear to him that Lakewood was headed for severe financial times with three days of cash in the bank, when standard is at least 60; Lakewood once had over 70. This was in 2008 when the country was hit with the hardest financial times since the Great Depression. After being sworn in, Powers and his colleagues on Council had to get very serious about the issues facing the city, and he said, “It caused us some hard times. Some cuts had to be made and none of it was easy to do.” It was hardest on the hard-working city employees that had to be laid off, he said.

In the last six years, he said one of the important priorities was passing structurally balanced budgets each year. During this time they have been able to

build up the City’s reserves while maintaining core services to residents. He is very happy they have been successful.

He went on to say that you need three things to be successful: First: The pure luck of being born in the right family; he said we often discount the fact we were born in a free country and he thanked his parents. Second, being able to spend your life with the right person; pointing out his wife Maureen in the audience, he said he is glad we live in a country that is getting closer to everyone being able to marry the person they love, and that he certainly married the right person.

Finally, he said the third key is to surround yourself with people smarter than you are. He said he has had the privilege to do that with those sitting with him on Council, and in serv-

ing under people he believes to be the two greatest Mayors of Lakewood, Ed FitzGerald and Mike Summers.

He also wanted to thank the three Council Presidents he served under, Mike Dever, Kevin Butler and Mary Louise Madigan, for their leadership, and for the service and guidance of all the directors in the administration. He thanked Amy Antel, the former legislative liaison for Council who moved to the law department, and her replacement Maureen Bach for their hard work. He said he gives most of the credit for the full functioning of Council to Mary Hagan, the Council Clerk. As his last act of Council President, he asked that everyone give her a standing ovation.

Coming to the end of the meeting, Council President Powers adjourned his final meeting at 8:38 P.M.

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Pulse Of The City

I Do Here Highly Resolve... Those New Year's Resolutions, And The Time That Tries Men's Souls

With apologies to both President Lincoln and Mr. Paine, let's face it, the time that tries men's (and women's) souls is indeed here again.

Yes indeed, here it is. New Year's Eve has passed, and you know what that means. New Year's Day followed in extraordinarily quick succession, and then, there's that time-honored tradition of making New Year's resolutions- going way back to who-knows-when. Whether due to religious remorse for past sins, or suffering from some horrible hangover, it's probably likely that more than a few people have promised to change at least some of their low-down ways on New Year's Day. Some actually will do so, but for others, that change will be temporary, at best.

In a way, I guess that making resolutions can be cathartic. Every so often, even the most down-and-out among us probably have this deeply ingrained-internal hunger to clean up, whether that would be spiritually, physically, or emotionally. Then too, people have their habits, some formed in childhood, and many of those not reflecting the best behaviors. Some drink, some smoke, some eat (way) too much of the wrong thing. Some cuss, some backbite and tell tales, you name it....yet on New Year's Day, so many of us dare to hope that, even for a moment, maybe,

just maybe, if we could quit whatever bad habits we have, what a better world it would be, both for ourselves, and for those around us. There are even a few who perhaps, can even break those bad habits cold turkey. Some, on the other hand, will need to seek help, and help is, of course, readily available.

Then there are others who, particularly over the holidays, wrestle with depression, guilt, sorrow, regrets, and again, some will resolve to change those feelings in the new year. A few may be able to change on their own, while again, many more will need professional help in order to do so.

These points being made, there's Lauzi's wise thought about a journey of a thousand miles beginning with that first step. I've often kept that expression in mind when I wanted to change something negative in my own life. Having the courage and the determination to take that first step can be very difficult to think about, but at the same time, it is far often easier to do something, than it is to just think about it, or even worse--to do nothing.

Sometimes, big decisions do require a bit of thought beforehand, keeping in mind that decisions are one thing, and commitment's quite

Gary Rice

another. I think that we actually have to get to a point where we absolutely realize that everything negative that we do carries equally negative consequences, both for ourselves, and for others. If we could only look ahead to some of those potential consequences, we might better understand why we need to change that direction in our lives.

I suppose that some of this has really hit me hard in the last few years with the loss of some of my friends who were actively engaged in bad habits that may have contributed to their serious health problems. So many people who were around my age are dead and gone now, and that causes me to pause and reflect on the consequences of potentially self-destructive habits. Others whom I've known have experienced bankruptcy, homelessness, divorce, and the loss of their good names, either due in part, to bad habits, or poor choices. Far too many people realize, all too late, that they should have changed their lives sooner. Too few seem to realize that it's never too late to do so.

Let's face it, we human beings

are simply not very good at making, or keeping, our promises. That's why some groups mention enlisting a Higher Power in their efforts to help people change their lives. Without that Higher Power, many people feel that it would be impossible to change. There is admittedly a debate about whether we have enough will power to change on our own, or how much we need that Higher Power, but there is truly very little debate about the need for so many of us to change for the better in our lives.

Should we then be making those grand resolutions to change things on New Years Day? For some, that may well be the pathway that they choose. Others will offer humble prayers asking for daily strength to face down those bad habits. Either option, I believe, can start the journey to help people begin to build a better world for themselves, and for those around them.

None of us can go back in time and start our lives over again. We can always however, develop new directions for our lives. Doing something to improve ourselves, ANYTHING...is so much better than doing nothing at all, and that can be done on New Year's Day, or any day that follows.

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Lakewood Living

Report: Westshore Council Of Governments (WCOG) Meeting, December 11, 2013

by Conda Boyd

This report, which contains observations and selected highlights of a meeting of the WCOG, is not an official statement of the LWV. Official minutes are prepared by Mayor Summers' office.

Present: Mayors Bobst (Rocky River, arrived 9:47), Clough (Westlake), Patton (Fairview Park), Summers (Lakewood), Sutherland (Bay Village)

Absent: Mayor Kennedy (North Olmsted)

Also in attendance: Dave Greenspan, District 1 Representative, Cuyahoga County Council; Steve Presley

Meeting called to order 9:34; convened to executive session 10:45 to consider WEB personnel wages.

Guest: Jeff Capretto, Special Agent in Charge (SAIC), Westshore Enforcement Bureau (WEB) Narcotics Task Force

SAIC Capretto presented copies of the WEB Narcotics Task Force's most recent (2012) annual report, detailing prosecuted cases, drug and prescription medication seizures, other activities of the WEB drug unit, and activities of the Westshore Young Leaders, a WEB-sponsored network dedicated to preventing substance abuse "through collaborative problem solving and leadership development."

WEB is attacking the growth of prescription drug abuse on several fronts. Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) helps identify patients who "doctor shop" to obtain multiple prescriptions. Prescription drug dropboxes have been installed in all WEB police department lobbies, with 1,100 pounds of all types of drugs collected year to date. Pharmacies are alerted when prescription pads are reported stolen. Finally, doctors

suspected of pill trafficking are investigated and prosecuted.

Active street drug complaints currently number 35. Heroin use is at an all-time high. Meth Check helps identify sales of over-the-counter medications that contain precursors to methamphetamine.

Prevention education for staff, the public, and the Westshore Young Leaders group receives high priority.

Other Topics

WCOG's 2014 budget and dues allocation formula will be finalized in February. In the meantime, the mayors voted a temporary appropriation of 25% of the 2013 budget.

Discussion of November's Westshore Fire Investigation Unit proposal was carried over to January. Open questions include when it is appropriate to call in state investigators, how the Unit would interface with the state, overtime impli-

cations, an inventory of trained staff, and continuing education and credential requirements. It was noted that the Fairview Park fire chief is retiring.

Mayor Summers will contact November's guest, William Denihan, CEO, Alcohol, Drug Addiction, & Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County, to request a proposal for crisis intervention training for westshore mayors, directors, and social workers.

Councilman Greenspan announced that the county's reverse 911 system is being tested and will be made available at the local level upon successful completion of the tests.

Future Topics

Topics for January include the WEB budget and cost allocation, Fire Investigation Unit, Human Resources consulting, and changes due to the Affordable Care Act.

The Westshore Council of Governments was founded in 1971 "to foster cooperation between municipalities in all areas of municipal service." All meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will be January 8, 9:30-11:30 a.m., in the Fairview Park Gemini Center's Birch Room.

Straight From The Heart Raffle Features \$100,000 Grand Prize

by Margaret Brinich

Would you like to win \$100,000? How about a two-year lease on a Volvo or a Mazda? A Harley Davidson motorcycle? Or a Mediterranean Cruise for two! These are just a few of the 40 incredible prizes offered through the 10th Annual Straight from the Heart Raffle to benefit the cardiovascular needs of our community.

Since beginning in 2004, the Straight from the Heart Raffle and Gala have raised more than \$2 mil-

lion to benefit heart care in our community, including cardiovascular services, technology and community outreach programs at Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran Hospitals.

With such a great cause and so many incredible prizes, why not purchase a raffle ticket for a chance to win \$100,000, or 39 other great items? The raffle takes place February 15, 2014, at the Straight from the Heart gala at LaCentre Conference

and Banquet Facility in Westlake. In addition, early raffle ticket purchasers are entered into an early bird raffle for a \$1,000 cash prize on January 17, 2014.

Raffle tickets are \$100 each or three tickets for \$200. To see a complete list of prizes, or to purchase raffle tickets online, visit <http://www.straightfromtheheartevent.org> or contact the Community West Foundation at 216.476.7061.



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"WE'RE TAUGHT TO COUNT CANDLES AND WHICH BODY PARTS DROOP; WE'RE TAUGHT TO COUNT WRINKLES AND THE TIMES THAT WE POOP. I SAY COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS NOT THE THINGS THAT YOU DREAD. GIVE THANKS ON YOUR DAY THAT YOU STILL ARE NOT DEAD."

ROB MASEK

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The Root Cafe

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Our menu is completely vegetarian, and our ingredients are local and organic when available.

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OPEN:

Monday - Saturday 4pm - 3:30am

Deliveries until 3:30am

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Deliveries until 1:30am

PIZZA

	Small 6 cut - 9"	Medium 8 cut - 12"	Large 12 cut - 16"	Party Tray Half Sheet
Plain	\$6.50	\$8.00	\$10.50	\$11.50
1 Item	\$7.00	\$8.75	\$11.50	\$13.00
2 Items	\$7.50	\$9.50	\$12.50	\$14.50
3 Items	\$8.00	\$10.25	\$13.50	\$16.00
4 Items	\$8.50	\$11.00	\$14.50	\$17.50
Deluxe	\$9.00	\$11.75	\$15.50	\$19.00
Extra Items	\$0.50	\$0.75	\$1.00	\$1.50
Extra Cheese	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$2.50

Available Items: Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushrooms, Onions, Green Peppers, Anchovies, Ham, Bacon, Fresh Garlic, Black Olives, Hot Peppers, Ground Meat & Artichoke Hearts

17615 Detroit Ave. • 216-228-2900

www.nunziospizza.net