

Free - Take One!
Please Patronize Our Advertisers!



THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

“Everything’s fine today, that is our illusion.”
Voltaire

Proud Member Of The Observer Media Family Of Community Written And Owned Newspapers & Websites

Volume 11, Issue 2, January 20, 2015

Bob Rice, Musician, Composer And Retired Lakewood Schools Music Teacher Passes On

by Gary Rice

Dear Lakewood Observer family:

On January 14th, after having a nice lunch at a restaurant, and a visit with another

retired band director, Dad (Robert Rice) and I came home, and I sent him upstairs for his afternoon nap. He appeared to be doing quite well at that point, but he passed

away very suddenly, before even getting into bed.

Dad would want you all to remember him for his smile and encouragement to others, for his music, (he actually played his trumpet on the morning of his passing) and for his great love for all of you,

and for Lakewood. With my help, Dad wrote band marches for Lakewood’s schools, as well as a band march for America’s veterans. He was a Lakewood Schools music educator from 1958-1983, and a member of the Lakewood Schools Staff Hall of Fame. Dad was 94 years

young.

Arrangements are private. No visitations or memorials are scheduled. I know that Dad would only wish that each of you smile and reach out and help each other, all the days of your lives.

Gary Rice



Bob Rice conducting LHS Band.



Military Honor Guard plays taps as Bob is laid to rest.

LHA, LHF And CCF Announce Partnership To Transform Healthcare In Lakewood

by Colin McEwen

Lakewood City Hall

\$120 Million Investment To Be Made In Lakewood; New Health & Wellness Campus to Include Family Health Center with Emergency Department

Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015, Lakewood: In light of the tremendous changes in healthcare today and in keeping with the City of Lakewood’s goal to become the healthiest city in America, the Lakewood Hospital Association (LHA) and the Lakewood Hospital Foundation (LHF) signed a Letter of Intent last night with Cleveland Clinic. This plan includes a \$120 million investment in Lakewood to transition from the current model to a future one which will modernize healthcare and deliver a more sustainable way to meet the long-term needs of the Lakewood community.

Under the proposed plan, which will require approval by Lakewood City Council, a health and wellness campus will be created. As part of this, Cleveland Clinic will construct, own and

operate an estimated \$34 million, 62,000-square-foot family health center, which will include a full-service emergency department, to replace Lakewood Hospital in the future. The new facility will include primary care and specialty programs concentrated on diabetes, geriatrics and cardiac care, among others, in addition to radiology and lab services. Additional services will be determined based on the needs of the community and a public discussion that will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

It is the intent to keep Lakewood Hospital open and running until Avon Hospital opens in September 2016. Lakewood Hospital’s emergency department will remain open and many outpatient services will continue to be provided until the new family health center with its own emergency department opens in Lakewood. Assurance of safety and quality of care for patients will drive every decision and will determine the

continued on page 2

2015 Lakewood Kiwanis Pizza Bake Off

by Matthew Rawlings

The Fifth Annual Lakewood Pizza Bake-Off will take place again at Lakewood High School on Thursday, January 22, 2015. This is a chance for all Lakewood residents to try all the pizza shops in Lakewood in one place. After having the chance to sample the different purveyors from around town, Lakewood Kiwanis is asking you to vote for the best pizza. There will

be several different categories including: People’s Choice, Best Pepperoni Pizza, Best Specialty Pizza, Best Franchise Pizza and Best Franchise Pepperoni Pizza.

Tickets are available at the door, \$10 for those 13 and up, \$5 for children 6-12 years old (under 5 = FREE). Begins at 5 p.m. and concludes at 8 p.m., so come early and come hungry because it is ALL YOU CAN EAT!

Proceeds from the Bake-Off support Lakewood Kiwanis and the children of Lakewood. Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time. Since 1921, Lakewood Kiwanis has been active in the Lakewood community and schools through Key Club, Builder’s Club and K Kids. The Kiwanis Club has

continued on page 4

Kindergarten Parent Info Night February 11

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools will be hosting a Kindergarten Parent Information Night for parents of preschoolers interested in learning about the district’s kindergarten program. The event will take place on Wednesday, February 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the Emerson Elementary Cafetorium. Emerson is located at 13439 Clifton Blvd.

Pam Griebel, the district’s Director of Teaching & Learning K-12, will host the evening and review what is addressed in the curriculum, how a typical kindergartener’s day unfolds, what resources are available

to Lakewood City Schools students and what the kindergarten registration process is.

Following the formal presentation, parents will be welcome to ask questions about this important milestone

in a child and parent’s life. Although the event is geared to parents who are unfamiliar with the district’s kindergarten program, anyone is welcome to attend. For more information, call 216-529-4203.

Notice Of Public Meeting January 28th, 7 p.m.

There will be a public forum to discuss the recent announcement related to the future of Lakewood Hospital on Wednesday, January 28, 2015, at 7 p.m. in the Mackey Main Stage auditorium at the Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Avenue.



Mayor Summers starts the conference, Tom Gable, Director of the Lakewood Hospital Association on left. Dr. Toby Cosgrove, President & CEO Cleveland Clinic center.

LO Calendar

Wednesday, January 21

3 Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating Classes

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

1. Boating Skills & Seamanship
2. Sailing Skills & Seamanship
3. Basic Coastal Navigation

All 3 classes will run from Wed., January 21-Wed., March 25, 2015 from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM. Register through Lakewood Rec Dept. 216-529-4081 or contact V. Suda 216-226-7221 for more details.

Location:
Garfield Middle School
13114 Detroit Ave.
Lakewood, OH 44107

Thursday, January 22

Lakewood Collaborative Monthly Meeting features Dr. Ned Hill

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

The January Lakewood Collaborative Meeting's speaker is Dr. Ned Hill, Dean of the College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. Dr. Hill will speak on Employment/Jobs/Labor Market in Northeast Ohio. The meeting is on January 22nd at 12:30 pm, at the Lakewood Park Women's Club Pavilion, at 14532 Lake Ave, Lakewood Ohio 44107.

Location:
Lakewood Park Women's Pavilion,
14532 Lake Ave, 44107

Lakewood Collaborative Monthly Meeting

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

The January Lakewood Collaborative Meeting's speaker is Dr. Ned Hill, Dean of the College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. Dr. Hill will speak on "The Economy, the Region, Work and Opportunity". The meeting is on Thursday, January 22nd at 12:30 pm, at the Lakewood Park Women's Club Pavilion, at 14532 Lake Ave, Lakewood Ohio 44107.

Location:
Lakewood Park Women's Pavilion
14532 Lake Ave
Lakewood OH 44107
2015 Kiwanis Pizza Bake-Off

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

5th Annual Pizza Bake-off featuring 16 Pizza shops from Lakewood all in one place at one time.. \$10 for 13 & up, \$ 5 for ages 6-12, under 5 free. Voting for Best Pizza in 5 different categories. All proceeds support Lakewood Kiwanis.

Location:
Lakewood High School
14100 Franklin Blvd.

The 2015 Annual Diversity Potluck: Change Begins with You! Get Involved! Sponsored by The City of Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission

6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Come join your neighbors young and old as we celebrate living, working, and playing in Lakewood! Bring a dish to share (enough for 6-8 people) which highlights your culture. We will also have activities for the kids, and food from local Lakewood restaurants. This event is free.

Location:
The potluck will be held at the
Lakewood Women's Club Pavilion in
Lakewood Park, 14532 Lake Ave.

Time Management for the Modern Parent PTA Wellness Series: It's All About You

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

This workshop is designed to provide practical tools of time management support in helping manage the complexities and demands of parenting and family life. The class takes a holistic approach to examining the relationship between life balance, mental focus and personal organization systems. We will also examine how 'boundaries and beliefs' play an important role in creating optimum harmony in daily life management. In addition to lecture presentation, we will explore self-care practices that enable balance; including deep breathing, mental centering, emotional release and hands on scheduling improvement strategies.

Registration is required. To register email lakewoodcouncil@gmail.com. Include name, phone, and local PTA. Free to PTA members and \$5.00 per

session for non-members. New members can join anytime during the series. For more information on PTA membership visit http://www.lakewoodcityschools.org/content_page.aspx?cid=786

Location:
Garfield Middle School, LRC

Tuesday, January 27

Lakewood Collaborative Job Club Meeting

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

The Lakewood Collaborative is hosting a monthly Job Club at the Lakewood Public Library. The January meeting topic will be Interviewing Skills. Also, the Job Club meeting provides information and resources to assist people with finding a job in today's market. The Job Club is free and open to the public.

For information contact Becky Carlton at R.Carlton@csuohio.edu or 216-421-6685.

Location:
Lakewood Public Library at 15425
Detroit Ave.

Lakewood Collaborative Job Club Meeting

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

The Lakewood Collaborative is hosting a monthly Job Club at the Lakewood Public Library. The next Job Club meeting will be held on Tuesday January 27th, from 6-8 p.m. at the Lakewood Library. The speaker will give a presentation on "Interviewing Skills". Also, we will provide information and resources to assist people with finding a job in today's market. The Job Club is free and open to the public.

For information contact Becky Carlton at R.Carlton@csuohio.edu or 216-421-6685

Location:

Lakewood Public Library
15425 Detroit Ave
Lakewood Ohio 44107

Parkview Playschool Open House

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Families looking for a preschool for the 2015-2016 school year are invited to attend this event. It will be an opportunity to learn more about what a co-operative preschool can offer and a chance to explore the classrooms. Our teachers and parent board members will be available for questions. Registrations will be accepted the night of the open house. Children must be three years old by September 30th and potty trained to enroll in classes. Please contact the school if you are looking for more information.

Location:
Inside Faith Lutheran Church
16511 Hilliard Road
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

Friday, January 30

Rx:Create!

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Beat those winter blues and support North Coast Health by joining us for a one-of-a-kind art auction. There will be heavy finger food, soda, coffee and cash bar in the exclusive funky Warehouse Room.

Proceeds from Rx:Create! make possible the life-saving health care North Coast Health is able to provide to our neighbors in need.

NCH is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Location:
Warehouse Room at Around the Corner
18616-20 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood

Hot Off The Deck

<http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum>

Join the discussion online – visit the OBSERVATION DECK

LAKEWOOD DISCUSSION			
Topics	Author	Member	
		Replies	Views
Robert Rice,	Gary Rice	19	1472
Another WWII Veteran Passes On...			
Just "One Shovel Wide"?	Gary Rice	52	2262
This is What A Real	Bill Call	4	341
Wellness Center/ ER looks like			
The New Lakewood	Bill Call	8	733
Minute Clinc - Questions			
Public Meeting About	Bill Call	6	329
Lakewood Wellness Center 1/28/15			
Those That Are Upset	Jim O'Bryan	7	673
With The Clinic			
2013 Community Health	Scott Meeson	1	132
Needs Assessment-Lakewood Hospital			
2015 Lakewood	Michael Deneen	0	156
Election News			
Businesses that ignore	Ryan Salo	5	357
request to shovel sidewalk & more			
Matt Markling,	Bill Call	13	793
Nostradamus of Lakewood?			
Signs, Signs, Everywhere	Jim O'Bryan	115	13732
Lakewood Hospital to close,	Betsy Voinovich	19	1887
new facility built			



THE
LAKEWOOD
OBSERVER



Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

Published biweekly with a current circulation of 10,000+ copies. The paper is made available free of charge and can be found at over 130 business locations within the City of Lakewood and on our website. The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the publisher and staff. Copyright 2015 • The Lakewood Observer, Inc. All rights reserved. Any reproduction is forbidden without written permission.

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.

Become an Observer!

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

Publish Date

Sunday, January 25, 2015

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Sunday, February 8, 2015

Tuesday, February 17, 2015

www.lakewoodobserver.com – 216.712.7070

14900 Detroit Avenue, Suite 205, Lakewood, OH 44107

The Lakewood Observer
is powered by AGS's:



Winth Estate
Software

PUBLISHER

EDITOR IN CHIEF

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

ADVERTISING

Jim O'Bryan

Margaret Brinich

Betsy Voinovich

Maggie Fraley

LO.adsales@gmail.com

ADVISORY BOARD - Kenneth Warren, Steve Davis, Heidi Hilty, Dan Ott, Jeff Endress, Lauren Fine, Steve Ott, Vince Frantz, Margaret Brinich, Betsy Voinovich

EDITORIAL BOARD - Thealexia Becker, Nicole Boose, Margaret Brinich, Vincent O'Keefe, Heather Ramsey, Casey Ryan, Betsy Voinovich, Kenneth Warren

WEBMASTERS - Jim DeVito, Dan Ott

PHOTOGRAPHY - Christine Gordillo, James MacMillan, Valerie Mechenbier, Pat Miller, Jim O'Bryan, and Gary Rice..

ILLUSTRATIONS - Rob Masek

PRODUCTION - A Graphic Solution, Inc.

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS - Kathy Augustine, Chris Bergin, Christopher Bindel, Kathleen Caffrey, Mike Deneen, Ingrid Dickson, Tricia Ganfors, Christine Gordillo, Trudy Hutchinson, Genevieve Jaskulski, Irene Joyce, Terence E. Kilroy, Sonja Kreps, Micheal Lauer, Marty Mace, Valerie Mechenbier, Pat Miller, Susan Murname, Ted Nagel, Melissa Page, Kristine Pagsuyoin, Roxanne Ramsey, Matthew Rawlings, gary Rice, Sarah Rohland, Elaine Rosenberger, Michele Mehaffey Taylor, Allison Urbanek, Daniel Wenger and Monica Zayd.

Celebrating Over 10 Years of Community Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

City News

Council Starts A New Year

The first Council meeting of the New Year, on January 5, 2015, was called to order at 7:40 P.M. by Council President and Ward IV Council Woman Mary Louise Madigan.

To start the meeting off, Councilwoman Cindy Marx (At-Large) asked Council to consider passing a resolution recognizing the Lakewood Public Library for attaining a five-star rating from America's Star Libraries. The library rating is a composite of scores based on the library's performance in a number of areas, including circulation, library visits, program attendance, and internet use. Lakewood Public Library is one of only six libraries in the State of Ohio to receive a five-star rating.

Council passed the resolution unanimously. Library Director James Crawford and President of the Board of Trustees Scott Kermode were present to receive the signed resolution.

Next Mayor Summers read a letter from Planning and Development Director, Dru Siley who was presenting at the School Board meeting the same night. The letter was asking Council to submit an ordinance to the Planning Commission which is seeking to change the zoning of four residential properties to commercial C4 (Public Schools). The four properties are 1600 & 1604 Robinwood Avenue, which will

be where the new academic West Wing will be added to the high school, and 1207 Summit Avenue and 1206 Lakeland Avenue which are needed for the new Lincoln Elementary School.

Council referred the ordinance to the Planning Commission for consideration.

Police Chief Malley then asked Council to consider a resolution that would grant police officers appointed by the Cleveland Clinic Police Department the authority to exercise police powers at Lakewood Hospital. The resolution is necessary to allow Cleveland Clinic police officers to make arrests and issue citations on and surrounding the Lakewood Hospital property.

Council referred the resolution to the Public Safety Committee.

Coming to the end of the regular agenda items, there were two men from the Northland Avenue neighborhood present to ask Council about the old Hilliard Theater. They wanted to know when the demolition was going to take place, as it is currently sitting decrepit and is quite the eyesore for the people in the area. Council deferred response to the Mayor.

The mayor informed the two gentleman that the demolition has currently been put on hold due to excessive

cost. The estimated cost of demolition for the two adjoining buildings would be in the range of \$800,000, and that does not include the cost of asbestos abatement which could run around \$300,000. That is \$1.1 million of unexpected cost for the city to accrue for a property that isn't even theirs. The Hilliard Theater property is still privately owned and has been designated a nuisance property, however the City and the owner are stuck in a position where neither of them has the financial means to do anything with the property. The City is, however, looking into alternative means to finance abatement and demolition.

The Cuyahoga County Council has recently approved a \$50 million demolition fund which cities can apply for if they need demolition assistance. The

two adjoining buildings would each be eligible for up to \$100,000, this could cover at least a quarter of the demolition costs if approved. The City has submitted its application and is waiting to hear. The City is also seeing if they can apply for some brownfield funds from the State to help as well. Unfortunately there is not much available from the federal government programs for these types of problems.

The men, who were hoping to hear a timeline on the project, did not seem to be pleased, but stayed after the meeting to discuss the issue further.

With no further business, Council President Madigan adjourned the meeting at 8:19. P.M.

Chris Bindel has been a Lakewood resident his entire life and has been covering the Council meetings for the LO since March of 2009.

LHA, LHF And CCF Announce Partnership To Transform Healthcare In Lakewood

continued from page 1

length of time the hospital will remain open.

Employees at Lakewood Hospital will be needed and hiring will continue to occur at Lakewood Hospital. In addition, Cleveland Clinic has capacity throughout its enterprise and it is the leadership's goal to provide every Lakewood Hospital employee who wants a job with an opportunity in its health system or one of its partner organizations. Cleveland Clinic will work closely with its employees and help them transition into jobs throughout its health system at the appropriate time.

"This is good news for our community and a great first step in transforming the healthcare services available in our

city," said Mayor Mike Summers. "The Lakewood Hospital Association trustees have been very proactive about addressing this issue, working with consultants and healthcare providers to find a solution that will keep quality healthcare in Lakewood. We are delighted to maintain this important hub in our downtown and know it will be an important asset to the city's continued revitalization."

Under the terms proposed in the Letter of Intent, the city maintains ownership of approximately four acres of property on the hospital site, along with the parking garage and office buildings.

The plan to create a new health

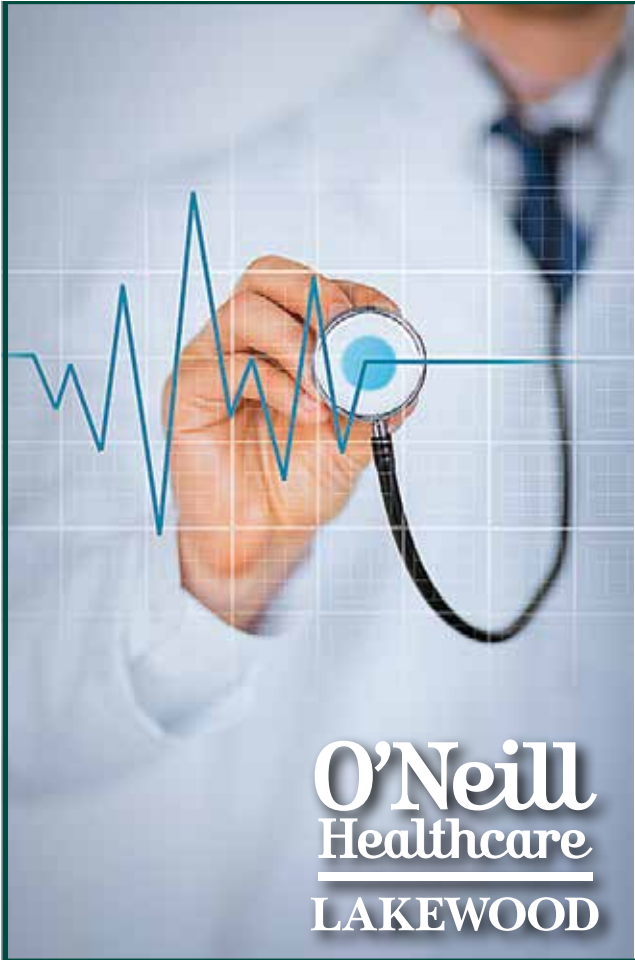
continued from page 5

THE
LAKEWOOD
OBSERVER

FAQ: LO Calendar

Q: How can I help promote my event by getting it published in the LO Calendar, both online and in print?

A: Visit the LO homepage: www.lakewoodobserver.com and click the "Submit New Event" button on the right hand side of the page under "Upcoming Events." Once your event is approved for our online calendar listing, it will be considered for publication in the print version of the paper as well.



O'Neill
Healthcare
LAKEWOOD


Come join us and learn about

Heart Health Tips
for Seniors

Friday, February 6 | 11:30 a.m.

Complimentary lunch provided

RSVP by February 4th to 216-912-0800.




Do you know what you should be doing to live a heart healthy life in order to prevent heart disease as you age? Join us as MetroHealth physician, **Christopher Suntala**, discusses important questions every senior should know the answers to including: What should my cholesterol numbers be? Do I need to take a daily aspirin? Are statin drugs safe? Do I need a stress test? Plus, you'll learn tips for a heart healthy lifestyle.

O'Neill Healthcare | Lakewood

Assisted Living Building

1381 Bunts Road, Lakewood

(216) 228-7650 | ONeillHC.com



City News

(WCOG) Meeting, January 14, 2015

by LWV observers Marty Mace and Susan Murnane (Bay Village)

This report is not an official LWV statement. Mayor Sutherland's office prepares official minutes, which are posted on Bay Village's website.

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

Absent: Mayor Kennedy (North Olmsted)

2015 Lakewood Kiwanis Pizza Bake Off

continued from page 1

made an impact throughout the city during the past 94 years. The club, through it's foundation, is currently accepting applications for college scholarships. To date over \$1.7 million has been awarded to college-bound high school seniors since 1954.

The establishments participating in this year's event are:

- Peppers Italian Restaurant (12401 Detroit Ave.)
- Angelo's Pizza (13715 Madison Ave.)
- Grab-N-Go Pizza Express (13619 Detroit Ave.)
- Papa John's (18400 Detroit Ave.)
- Roman Fountain (15603 Detroit Ave.)
- Papa Nick's Pizza & Pasta (11534 Clifton Blvd.)
- Dewey's Pizza (18516 Detroit Ave.)
- Tomori's Pizza & Subs (15621 Madison Ave.)
- Italian Creations (16104 Madison Ave.)
- Hungry Howie's (16210 Detroit Ave.)
- Nunzio's Pizzeria (17615 Detroit Ave.)
- Mama Lola's (16813 Madison Ave.)
- Danny Boy's (20251 Lake Road)
- Donato's (1810 Detroit Ave.)
- Pizza Hut (1407 W. 117th Street)
- Pizza BOGO (15320 Detroit Ave.)

Also present: Fiscal Officer Renee Mahoney; District 1 County Councilman Dave Greenspan; Legal Advisor Gary Ebert; Jason Phillips (Clean Fuels Ohio), Christine Volka and Mr. Sanders (Clean Cities Coalition); and Fire Chiefs Lyons (Bay Village), Hughes (Westlake), Hernen (Avon Lake), Raffin (Fairview Park) and Leonard (Rocky River)

Start: 9:40 a.m.; 11:15 a.m. Executive Session (personnel)

RTA: Increased sales tax collections are improving RTA's budget outlook. Bay Village's Lake Road bus shelters have been replaced.

NOACA: Cuyahoga County is 86th of 88 counties in license plate fee retention. NOACA is considering hiring a lobbyist to increase funding from these fees and ODOT.

Land Bank: Mayors Bobst and Sutherland are working to resolve vacant property issues.

County Planning Commission: Lakewood is using the Commission on active living facilitation. The Commission is helping Rocky River and Fairview Park update their Master Plans. Bay Village is seeking a grant to update its Master Plan.

Cuyahoga County Mayors & City Managers Association: CCMCMA is consulting with ODNr on controlling urban deer. North Olmsted is plan-

ning a helicopter survey, which must be completed during winter.

Clean Fuels Ohio: This nonprofit promotes cleaner domestic fuels and efficient vehicles. Jason Phillips gave a presentation on alternative fuels. The recent drop in gasoline prices has reduced the immediate advantage of converting many vehicles. However, savings can still be realized by converting large diesel trucks to compressed natural gas.

Clean Fuels Ohio leverages DOE, EPA, and State funding by writing grants and helping with feasibility studies. The mayors expressed interest in a feasibility study, which requires a 10% match. WCOG is unlikely to meet this quarter's March 8 application deadline.

WeShare: This collaboration among Fire Departments, the Cleveland Clinic, and University Hospitals provides medical oversight by defining protocols and training paramedics. Lakewood and Fairview Park Fire Departments requested better support for SWAT medics. These two cities have decided to leave WeShare and obtain medical oversight from Metro Hospital. Mayor Bobst expressed concern about deterioration of a 40-year collaboration. Fairview Park Chief Raffin stated there would be no effect on the cities working together. Bay

Village Chief Lyons urged the cities to maintain "associate" status within WeShare.

Westshore Enforcement Bureau: Ms. Mahoney proposed a 2% pay increase for WEB's six employees. They have received 0% over the past couple years. The workload has increased with area heroin abuse. Mayors Patton and Bobst stated they could not support 2% when their law enforcement employees received 1.75% and 1.5% respectively. The measure passed 3-2 with Mayors Patton and Bobst voting against.

Mr. Greenspan: Bay Village and North Olmsted received funding from the County Road Reimbursement Program. Mayor Clough said improvements should continue to an intersection rather than stopping at the city line (as done on Bradley Road). Mr. Greenspan will look into the policy.

McGOWN | MARKLING

www.mcgownmarkling.com

Best Lawyers®

BEST LAW FIRMS

U.S. News & World Report

2015

McGown | Markling remains among the select few law firms to receive a Tier 1 Ranking by U.S. News & World Report - Best Lawyers® "Best Law Firms" in "Education Law" for every year since the ranking began.

Matt Markling, Tom Giffels, and Sean Koran are proud Lakewood residents and attorneys with McGown | Markling.

Serving the legal needs of governmental and private organizations, public and private officials, and employers and employees.

the Root cafe

15118 detroit ave

lakewood, ohio

216.226.4401

www.theroot-cafe.com

organic espresso bar

bakery

vegan

vegetarian

kitchen

local

AROUND THE CORNER

Book your fundraisers and special events in our Warehouse Party Room



Lakewood's Best Patio To Party On!

Best Brunch In Town!

Saturdays at 11am & Sunday 9:30am -

Mondays - Buy One, Get One - Black Angus Burgers

Wednesdays - Try our \$5 Menu!

18616 Detroit Avenue

216.521.4413 • www.atccafe.com

DRINKERY FURNERY

Vosh LAKWOOD

BRING YOUR VALENTINE TO VOSH!

The Musical Theater Project presents

A Fine Romance: The Love Song Cabaret

Sunday, February 15th

Doors Open at 5:30

Dinner available before or during the show.

Purchase your tickets here:

www.brownpapertickets.com/event/841810

www.musicaltheaterproject.org/a-fine-romance/

VOSHCLUB.COM

1414 RIVERSIDE | LAKWOOD, OHIO

BOOK YOUR EVENT WITH US!

City News

LHA, LHF And CCF

Announce Partnership To Transform Healthcare In Lakewood

continued from page 3

and wellness campus was reached after an extensive evaluation process. Lakewood Hospital Association trustees worked with consultants and conducted a Request for Proposal (RFP) from healthcare providers both nationally and locally. In addition, the plantook into consideration the 2013 Community Health Needs Assessment, a review of the hospital’s aging facilities, some of which are nearly 100 years old, the decrease in patient volumes and the dramatic shift in the way healthcare is delivered.

In Lakewood’s 2013 Community Health Needs Assessment, stakeholders asked for: access to preventive care; an environment that is supportive of healthy habits; physicians that are readily available to residents; and services to promote residents’ awareness about healthy living. This plan is designed to promote healthy living and address the community’s specific health needs.

Based on these findings, the plan proposes a new way to deliver healthcare that would give Lakewood residents better access to care and serve more people in the future.

“We spent a great deal of time studying various alternatives and are very pleased with this agreement,” said Tom Gable, president of the Lakewood Hospital Association. “The old model is no longer sustainable in this changing healthcare environment. This investment demonstrates a significant commitment by Cleveland Clinic to ensure that our residents will receive the care they deserve.”

As part of the Letter of Intent, more than \$32 million will be invested to fund a community-based foundation to oversee and support community health and wellness activities in the City of Lakewood and throughout the primary and secondary service markets.

“Enhancing health and wellness through philanthropy has been the sole focus of Lakewood Hospital Foundation since its inception,” said Ken Haber, president of the Lakewood Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees. “With this announcement, our intent remains the same and we look forward to being part of the potential transformation into a community-based health

foundation that will expand the benefits for residents of Lakewood and our neighboring communities.”

In addition to building a new family health center with an emergency department and investing in the plan, there are several other initiatives Cleveland Clinic is committed to doing as part of the Letter of Intent, including:

- Purchasing the medical facility located at 850 Columbia Road in Westlake and continuing to operate services currently located in the facility, including a broad range of medical and surgical specialties.
- Relocating its Family Medicine Residency and Center for Family Medicine program from Fairview Hospital to Lakewood, which will expand access to primary care and help to address the need for chronic disease management and wellness.

“Healthcare in America is in the midst of an unprecedented transformation and the way care is delivered to patients is rapidly shifting from inpatient hospital care to outpatient and home care,” said Toby Cosgrove, M.D., President and CEO of Cleveland Clinic. “Our goal is to best meet the medical needs of the Lakewood community for today and the future. Cleveland Clinic is committed to providing access to the extensive healthcare resources needed most and we are very proud to be the city’s healthcare partner for the long-term.”

For 18 years, Cleveland Clinic has partnered with the City of Lakewood and the Lakewood Hospital Association, which own and operate Lakewood Hospital. Cleveland Clinic’s role has been to manage Lakewood Hospital under the direction of the LHA Board and provide the healthcare services within the hospital through the end of 2026. In addition, Cleveland Clinic also provides other outpatient services in Lakewood.

After the outpatient family health center opens, Lakewood residents will continue to have convenient access to multiple nationally ranked Cleveland Clinic inpatient hospitals, including Fairview Hospital (3.3 miles away), Lutheran Hospital (5.7 miles away), and, for their most complex healthcare needs, Cleveland Clinic’s main campus (13.3 miles away).

About Lakewood Hospital Association

The Lakewood Hospital Association, a not-for-profit tax-exempt corporation, was established in 1986 as the operating entity for Lakewood Hospital. The governing board is comprised of 23 trustees, who are appointed by the City of Lakewood, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, or by the Board of Trustees itself, or who serve by virtue of their office, including the Mayor of Lakewood, two members of Lakewood City Council and the immediate past president of the medical staff at Lakewood Hospital.

About Lakewood Hospital Foundation

Established in 1956, Lakewood Hospital Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) organization that raises funds exclusively for Lakewood Hospital. Lakewood Hospital Foundation, a supporting organization of Lakewood Hospital Association, provides the channel for interested individuals, businesses and foundations to directly support the life-changing patient programs and services offered through Lakewood Hospital, a part of the world-class Cleveland Clinic health system. Visit lakewoodhospitalfoundation.org or call 216.529.7009.

About Cleveland Clinic

Cleveland Clinic is a nonprofit multispecialty academic medical center that integrates clinical and hospital care with research and education. Located in Cleveland, Ohio, it was founded in 1921 by four renowned physicians with a vision of providing outstanding patient care based upon the principles of cooperation, compassion and innovation. Cleveland Clinic has pioneered many medical breakthroughs, including coronary artery bypass surgery and the first face transplant in the United States. U.S. News & World Report consistently names Cleveland Clinic as one of the nation’s best hospitals in its annual “America’s Best Hospitals” survey. More than 3,000 full-time salaried physicians and researchers and 11,000 nurses represent 120 medical specialties and subspecialties. The Cleveland Clinic health system includes a main campus near downtown Cleveland, eight community hospitals, more than 75 Northern Ohio outpatient locations, including 16 full-service Family Health Centers, Cleveland Clinic Florida, the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas, Cleveland Clinic Canada, and, scheduled to begin seeing patients in 2015, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi. In 2012, there were 5.1 million outpatient visits throughout the Cleveland Clinic health system and 157,000 hospital admissions. Patients came for treatment from every state and from more than 130 countries. Visit us at www.clevelandclinic.org. Follow us at www.twitter.com/ClevelandClinic.



Complete Roof Restoration (All Types)

- Slate
- Tile
- Shingle
- Flat

Attic Insulation

All Exterior Repairs

Gutter Cleaning

Gutter Guard

Gutter Replace

\$500 Off Roof Replace

hriroofing.com

216 376 2404

HIRE LOCAL AND SAVE

HRI Story

Lakewood based company that has a track record of offering affordable roof solutions for large Lakewood roof projects. HRI has replaced more roofs in Lakewood in the past three years than any other company. Offering best combination of quality of work and fair market pricing. Success in the simple concept of hiring the guys who do the work themselves (NO SUBCONTRACTING). All roof replacements come standard with 15 year Warranty on workmanship. List of over 100 Lakewood References upon request.

Licensed Bonded Insured

AS YOUR BUSINESS EVOLVES, SO SHOULD YOUR PHONE SYSTEM.

Call 216-535-3323 or visit coxbusiness.com/ipcentrex

IP Centrex



©2014 Cox Communications, Inc. All rights reserved.

Celebrating Over 10 Years of Community Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Public Library

LPL Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Tuesday, January 20

Knit and Lit Book Club: “Blessings”: A Novel by Anna Quindlen

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

Thursday, January 22

Meet the Author: “Uncommon Bonds: My Years As A Marianist” by David Pfriem

It was summer in Cleveland, 1961. Most eighteen year old boys were out cruising with their buddies and meeting girls. Not David Pfriem. He was en route to Marcy, New York, where he was about to join a sacred society of monks known as The Marianists. There, he and his fellow novices would vow to live in poverty, chastity and obedience, and dedicate their lives to God. What events lead David to take this path? Did he ultimately keep his vows? This coming-of age memoir recalls David’s childhood, his recruitment to a religious order and what everyday life in a monastery is really like. The author will be discussing his book and will be glad to offer helpful advice for anyone interested in writing a personal memoir. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Saturday, January 24

Lakewood Public Cinema: “Real Genius” (1985) Directed by Martha Coolidge

Fifteen year old Mitch is a genius, but is he too young to go to college? Professor Hathaway doesn’t think so. He’s under serious pressure from the CIA to develop a laser weapon, and he doesn’t care if his students suffer in the process. Thank goodness that Mitch’s roommate and lab partner is Val Kilmer, a science legend who’s learned that having fun and being creative is just as important as burying your nose in books. Together, they solve the mystery of the man who lives in their closet and perfect the laser. But once they learn that they’ve been used, they have no choice but to concoct an epic, world-saving prank that will leave you smiling. Kilmer has never been more charming than in this rare 80s comedy of wit and substance that was based, believe it or not, very loosely on a true story.

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

Sunday, January 25

Sunday with the Friends: Mike Jacobs: Former Child Actor

Straight out of North Ridgeville, Mike Jacobs has played guitar, bass, drums, theremin and bassoon in groups like Colorado Biosphere, Up All Night Alien Scum, The Jotnar, Tracy Marie Band, and currently Smiley Baldazar, The Brittany Reilly Band and Haight Street Revue. This concert will be his first proper solo effort in twenty years, featuring the debut of a suite of original songs written for the occasion. Jacobs has an unbridled imagination and the skill to match his vision—think Syd Barrett matched with Jimi Hendrix and just the right amount of John Denver. The title comes from former bandmates who used to convince hangers-on that Jacobs had starred in a short-lived Canadian sitcom called The Boy Who Hated Raccoons.

2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, January 25

Meet the Author: “A Map of Everything” by Elizabeth Earley, Illustrated by Christina Donner

For this debut novel, Jaded Ibis Productions pulled out all the stops with a reader-friendly black-and-white edition, a gorgeous and immersive color edition, illustrations by Christa Donner and even a soundtrack album featuring songs and poems inspired by the book by musicians like Diana Chittester and Sister Lip. For this one-time-only event, the author will be joined by poets Dasha Kelley and William Evans who are featured on the soundtrack. The story begins when a bright and lovely teenager sustains a traumatic brain injury in a car accident that throws her siblings and parents into a decades-long struggle for belonging, deliverance and redemption. A Map of Everything explores the fragile nature of family dynamics, revealing what is salvaged, what is lost and what is gained after a tragedy hits home.

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

Hands-On Help with eReaders

Do you own a shiny, new eReader, but don’t know how to download any of the thousands of free titles that are available through the Library? Make an appointment with a knowledgeable staff member who can show you around the bells and whistles of your device, whether it’s a Kindle, Nook, iPad, iPhone or something else entirely. Let’s talk.

Thursday Nights at the Madison Branch—Call (216) 228-7428

Sunday Nights at the Main Library—Call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127

Tuesdays, January 27 and February 17

Ancestry Online: Library Edition

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

Saturday, January 31

Lakewood Public Cinema: “Kiss Kiss Bang Bang” (2005) Directed by Shane Black

The title of this funny film noir thriller, starring Robert Downey Jr. and Val Kilmer, was borrowed from the legendary film critic Pauline Kael who described these four words as, “perhaps the briefest statement imaginable of the basic appeal of movies.” With that as their starting point, the filmmakers break every rule and hit every cliché of the buddy action picture in order to deliver something remarkably sublime—and lots of fun, too. Downey plays a thief who poses as an actor and somehow ends up in Hollywood with a big screen test. For research purposes, he’s paired up with a private detective played by Kilmer. (Who, incidentally, is the first gay character to star in a big studio action picture). It doesn’t take long for this mismatched pair to get involved in multiple murders, Hollywood parties, trashy clubs and a girl so beautiful she ought to be advertising shampoo. Did we mention that this is a Christmas movie? Downey and Kilmer share an onscreen chemistry that will leave you begging for more.

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

Sunday, February 1

Sunday with the Friends: “Duck Soup”

It’s been called the funniest of the Marx Brothers films, a mad surrealistic masterpiece and the boldest anti-war statement to ever come out of Hollywood, but Groucho himself characterized it as, “four Jews telling jokes.” Groucho plays Rufus T.

Firefly, the president and dictator of the bankrupt republic of Freedonia who declares war on neighboring Sylvania for some quick cash. Chico and Harpo arrive on the scene as enemy spies, Chicolini and Pinky, but soon find themselves becoming trusted members of Firefly’s cabinet—though Chicolini holds onto his day job selling peanuts. Whatever the plot is, it manages to stay well out of the way of the endless parade of puns, one-liners, pratfalls, sight gags, songs, slapstick, court martials and other bits of comedy that make us want to watch this movie again and again. The final battle—wherein the Marx brothers make a mockery of love, war, time and film itself—is a must-see corker!

2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, February 3 & Thursday, February 5

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 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Tuesday, February 3 between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 5 between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

LPL Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Sunday, February 1

Lakewood Lego® League

For youth in kindergarten through fifth grade (caregivers welcome)

Use LPL’s collection of Lego®Bricks and your own imagination to create fabulous new structures and designs each month. No registration, but numbered tickets will be given out first-come, first-served.

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

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

Saturdays & Sundays

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.

Madison Branch Children’s and Youth Services

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



18514 Detroit Avenue,
Lakewood, OH 44107
phone: 216-521-7684
fax: 216-521-9518

West End Tavern presents:

“Saturday Bloody Mary Bar”

Create Your Own - 11 a.m.

Serving Breakfast/Lunch

featuring our famous
Gourmet Meatloaf Stack and
Savory Pot Roast
Voted Best Hamburger
On The Northcoast!

“Sunday Brunch”

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

A 20-Year Lakewood Tradition

Eggs Benedict • Eggs Sardoux •
Stuffed French Toast • Pot Roast Hash
Omelets • Fritatas • and more!
featuring our famous
"Mega Mimosas"

Lakewood Public Library

Science And Religion: Enemies Or Teammates?

by Elaine Rosenberger

Are science and religion in opposition? What do biology and neuroscience reveal about the human soul? Is there empirical evidence for the existence of God? Explore these and other issues when Michael Miller, Ph.D. from the Laura and Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program at Case Western Reserve University brings the series “Religion and Science” to Lakewood Public Library beginning on Thursday, February 5 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

Held on Thursdays in February,

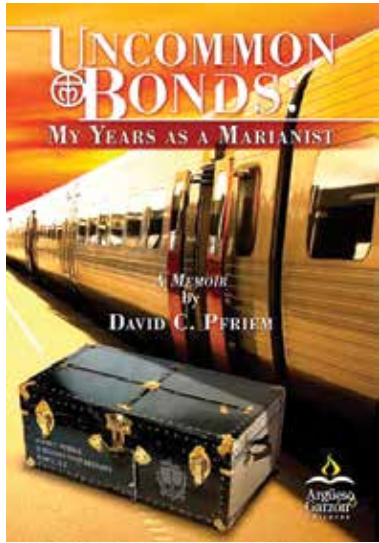
Faith, Family And The Search For Truth: Authors At The Library

by Genevieve Jaskulski

Faith, belief, religion and discipline; there are those who would say if you were looking for the meaning behind our existence you need look no farther than these four words. There are even some who would go so far as to devote their lives to the manifestation of those concepts, and the cultivation of the ideals behind each one.

On Thursday, January 22nd at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium, meet the author who will invite you to follow his own personal journey to find his calling. David Pfriem is an eighteen year old traveling to New York, with the intention of taking his vows and beginning his life as a monk. Pfriem’s book, “Uncommon Bonds,” is set in Cleveland in 1961 and gives the reader much to think about as it delves into the life of young David, explaining his passions and the experiences that lead to the choice of living a life of ultimate servitude. It is a story that will keep you on the edge of your seat and have you wondering if he will truly end up taking the plunge. We hope you will join the Author as he talks about his book, and signs copies that will be available for purchase at the end of his presentation.

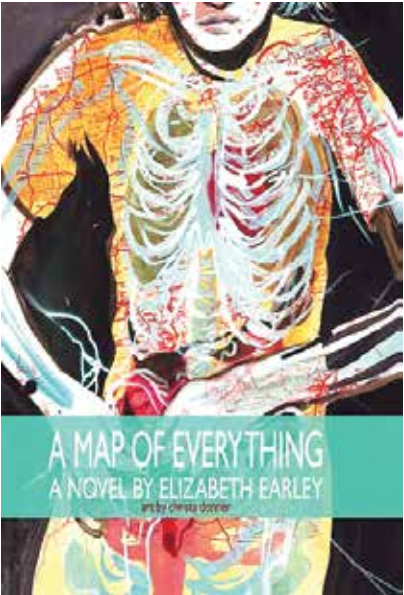
The following Sunday, we will be playing host for an equally compelling author, whom has had her work published in magazines such as The Chicago Reader, Greek Magazine, Outside Magazine, Gnome Magazine and



Hyper text magazine. On Sunday January 25th at 6 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium we will be featuring Elizabeth Earley, the author of, “A Map of Everything.”

Sometimes we happen upon stories which will leave a beautiful impression on us, humans doing the unthinkable, surviving the unimaginable and conquering even themselves when they prove to be their own biggest obstacle. Earley produces just such a story for her readers, and she will be available for book signing and to answer questions about her inspirational and intriguing novel. You will experience a variety of emotions while reading, “A Map of Everything,” as you join a family after one of its young members by the name of June, is injured horribly in a car accident just shortly after her sixteenth birthday. The story line follows each member in their journey of acceptance and growth while they cope with this tragedy.

Earley has had a passion for writing since the early age of ten, and even at such a young age had an unorthodox way of transcending her youth by spending her recesses reciting aloud some of her written prose to anyone willing to listen. Elizabeth will be joined by the poets Dasha Kelly and William Evans who are both featured on the accompanying soundtrack to the book, “A Map of Everything.” If you have any further questions about these two authors, or our other programs please visit our website at lakewoodpubliclibrary.org.



the four-part series will explore the tension between science and religion in “A Fundamental Opposition?” on February 5th. The series continues with “God’s Existence: Arguments For and Against” on February 12th, “The Intelligent Design Controversy” on February 19th, and “Science and the Soul” on February 26th.

Michael Miller received his Ph.D. in philosophy from the Ohio State University and is particularly interested in the philosophy of language. Before the series begins, he takes the time to answer a few questions:

LPL: Did you always want to study philosophy?

MM: I have always been fascinated by philosophical questions. I grew up obsessed with sci-fi and fantasy books, films, and video games, many of which explored philosophical themes—for example the nature of personhood or the question of whether we can know what reality is really like. When I enrolled in my first philosophy class, I was a sophomore and an English major. By the end of the semester, I had changed my major to philosophy. Upon graduation, the inertial force of my intellectual curiosity compelled me to pursue a Ph.D.

LPL: How does your interest in language inform your interest in science and religion?

MM: One of the things I’ll be discussing in the February series is the question of whether science and religion stand in some kind of fundamental opposition to one another. One interesting way to approach this issue is by comparing and contrasting religious discourse with scientific discourse. Do religious assertions purport to describe truths about the world in the same sense that scientific assertions do? Traditional theology presupposes an affirmative answer, and this implies that when religious doctrine and scientific theory give incompatible explanations of some phenomenon, at most one of

them can be right. On the other hand, perhaps the conflict is merely apparent because religious discourse is not actually in the same business as scientific discourse at all. Maybe religious assertions (e.g., “God exists”) don’t really describe the world but rather do something else like express our feelings, promote communal solidarity, or help us to cope emotionally with the world. I leave it as an exercise for the faithful to contemplate whether such an explanation of religious discourse, if accepted, would be compatible with a genuine commitment to theism.

LPL: Tell us a little about the Laura and Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program at Case Western Reserve University.

MM: It is a fantastic community resource for continuing education in northeast Ohio, offering a wide variety of high-quality courses, lectures, workshops, and educational travel opportunities. For the latest information about upcoming programming, visit www.cwru.edu/lifelonglearning.

LPL: What do you hope program participants take away from this series?

MM: We will cover some classic philosophical themes, questions, and arguments on a topic that every reflective person comes to wonder about at some point. Participants will come away with a sharper set of tools and concepts for thinking critically not only about their own personal beliefs, but also about the place of religion and science, respectively, in human life more generally.

The Library’s Religion and Science series is co-sponsored by the Laura & Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program of Case Western Reserve University, which seeks to provide connections between the academic world and the general community. Admission to the series is free and open to all. No registration is required. For more information, visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/more.

NUNZIO'S Pizzeria

Visit Sicily Without Leaving Home

SINCE 1990 • 23 YEARS IN BUSINESS!

U.S. COMMERCE ASSOCIATION
BEST OF CLEVELAND FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE YEARS
2009 & 2010

Fresh Authentic Italian Cuisine

Pizza • Pasta • Sandwiches • Salads • Wings

NOW SERVING 4 LOCATIONS!

Lakewood • Fairview Park
Cleveland • Akron Campus

OPEN:
Monday - Saturday
4pm - 3:30am
Deliveries until 3:30am

Sunday
2pm - 1:30am
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

Lakewood Schools

LHS, West Shore Artists Earn Top Regional Awards

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood High School Art Department and the West Shore Career-Tech Interactive Media program combined have earned the most number of Gold Key awards of any area school in the annual Scholastic Art & Writing Awards regional competition.

Winners of a Gold Key, the highest honor given, were led by senior Jacob Corder, who captured five top awards for his work. In total, seven LHS and West Shore students won 13 Gold Keys. Seniors Alex Marek and Grace Roberson were also multiple winners with two Gold Keys. Gold Key winners move on to be judged at the national level of the 91-year-old competition.

Lakewood students were also well-presented at the Silver Key and Honorable Mention levels. Five students won six Silver Keys, with Corder winning two Silvers. Eleven students earned Honorable Mention designations for their art.

Corder, who began entering the contest in 8th grade, over the years has earned one national Gold Key, seven regional Gold Keys, two regional Silver Keys and numerous Honorable Mentions. He said, “This year the stars kind of aligned for me where the judges

liked my work and I was really proud of the work I did.” He also attributes the quintet of Gold Keys to the artistic growth he’s experienced while at LHS.

“My growth as an artist had advanced exponentially since coming to LHS,” Corder said. He credits the expansive range of art options at the

Nina Scavone’s “Young and Old” earned the senior her Gold Key.



school and his ability to take advantage of them.

The Cleveland Institute of Art hosts the regional competition that recognizes creative achievement in area 7-12 grade students. The young artists compete for cash prizes, medals, and scholarship awards. A panel of local professional artists, art educators, writers, and writing educators jury the exhibit and select the awarded pieces from nearly 3,000 entries. Students who receive Portfolio Awards and Gold Key Awards continue to the national competition held in the spring in New York City.

This year’s Regional winners will be on display in the Art Gallery at the Cleveland Institute of Art from Jan. 15-30. Congratulations to all the winners and art teachers Anne McQuay, Sandy Norris, Arline Olear and Amy Sedlak and English teacher Barbara Comiensi.

Gold Key Winners: (approximately 7-10% of regional entries)

Jacob Corder, senior – Mixed Media (2), Digital Art, Photography, Painting

Alex Marek, senior– Film & Animation, Photography

Grace Roberson, senior – Poetry, Portfolio

Nathaly Rodriguez, senior – Ceramics & Glass

Isabel Romeo, senior – Drawing & Illustration



Kaitlin Stanaitis’ self-portrait, “Kaitlin,” earned her a Gold Key.

Nina Scavone, senior – Drawing & Illustration

Kaitlin Stanaitis, senior - Printmaking

Silver Key Winners: (approximately 10-15% of regional entries)

Madeline Baker, senior - Photography

Jacob Corder, senior – Printmaking, Portfolio

Hannah Randall, junior – Photography

Kaitlin Stanaitis, senior – Mixed Media, Printmaking

Andrea Thompson, senior – Mixed Media

Honorable Mentions: (approximately 15-20% of regional entries)

Jacob Corder, senior – Printmaking

Katherine Kunze, senior – Comic Art

Madeline Listkowski, senior – Film & Animation

Hannah Randall, senior – Photography

Cooper Robar, senior – Printmaking

Grace Roberson, senior - Poetry

Willy Rodriguez, senior – Ceramics & Glass

Robert Searles, senior – Photography

Owen Smith, junior – Photography

Kaitlin Stanaitis, senior – Printmaking, Drawing & Illustration

Gregory Stropki, senior – Photography

Clare Toole, junior – Ceramics & Glass

LHS Girls Hoops Fundraiser

by Mike Deneen

The Lakewood Girls basketball team is having a very solid season, off to a 9-4 start. The team is looking to defend its West Shore Conference title, and has only one league loss so far. Local basketball fans can help out this hard working bunch of kids by attending their upcoming fundraiser on January 31. The event will

raise money for uniforms, equipment and camps.

Here are the details:

DATE: Saturday, January 31

TIME: 7-9 p.m.

LOCATION: Around the Corner, 18616 Detroit Avenue

COST: \$20, which includes food and drink

TICKETS: Available at the door

A Golden Opportunity



LHS musicians (from left) Taylor Wohlfeil, Stephen Moncol and Tess Marjanovic were part of a music ensemble that played for the inauguration of Governor John Kasich on January 12. The trio were part of the All Ohio State Fair Band’s Gold Band, an elite group of the larger AOSFB. Last summer, the three were part of AOSFB, which performs throughout the run of the State Fair.



One of Jacob Corder’s five Gold Key-winning pieces of art: “Contusion.”

Student Services’ Parent Council Meeting January 27

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools Student Services Department invites parents of students with disabilities to join its Parent Council for quarterly meetings throughout the year. The meetings are held at Harding Middle School, 16601 Madison Ave., and last approximately one hour.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, January 27 at 11 a.m. The topics of discussion will be Common Core & Revised Standards and Assessment: Pre-K & School Age.

If you wish to attend, please RSVP to christine.palumbo@lakewood-cityschools.org or to be added to the council’s email list.

Lakewood Schools

Ask Roxann Ramsey

by Roxann Ramsey, Assistant Superintendent Lakewood City Schools

LO: If the state of Ohio requires something from our school district, like using the CORE, or like trying to meet the State Report Card requirements, even the ones that seem absurd, like asking students who are already getting the equivalent of an A+ to do better each year or risk getting an F in the Value Added category, does Lakewood HAVE TO COMPLY? We have heard of other Districts, and other school systems who have rejected following the CORE. The State Report Cards seem not well thought out, confusing, and unfair. The requirements are so new that it's clear that the schools are guinea pigs having these new formulas tested out on them.

Do we have to follow these guidelines or is there a way to appeal to our representatives on the State School Board and let them know that we find these things harmful to a good and reasonable education. We know that we can act independently, or as a group, as parents, the corollary to the "Do we have to comply?" question is, "Can Lakewood, as a District, appeal some of these requirements, rather than blindly accepting and following them, even if they know that some of them make very little sense?"

RR: Common Core State Standards: Not the Enemy

A short time ago, I wrote about homework and how Lakewood City Schools is striving to have students actively engaged in challenging, rigorous and relevant work that interests them, where they can persevere and complete the work in a meaningful way for their understanding and use in life. After extensive discussion as a school district, we have committed ourselves to this mission as part of the Common Core, as evaluated on the revised State Report Card, which includes value added. Our Lakewood City Schools Board of Education, the Superintendent and administrative team, the Department of Teaching and Learning and of course, our teaching staff have committed to fulfilling this mission. Use of the Common Core Standards and compliance with the requirements of the new State Report Card are not a choice. This is State law in Ohio. As a District, we agree with the increased expectations, so rather than fighting these changes we have chosen to embrace them.

In August of 2014, Superintendent Patterson gave testimony at the State House of Representatives regarding House Bill 597. Below are some excerpts from that testimony.

"During my forty year career, I have often reflected on education in the United States compared to the rest of the world. I know that our students in Ohio rank right up there with the very best students in the world, and yet the PISA (Program for Interna-



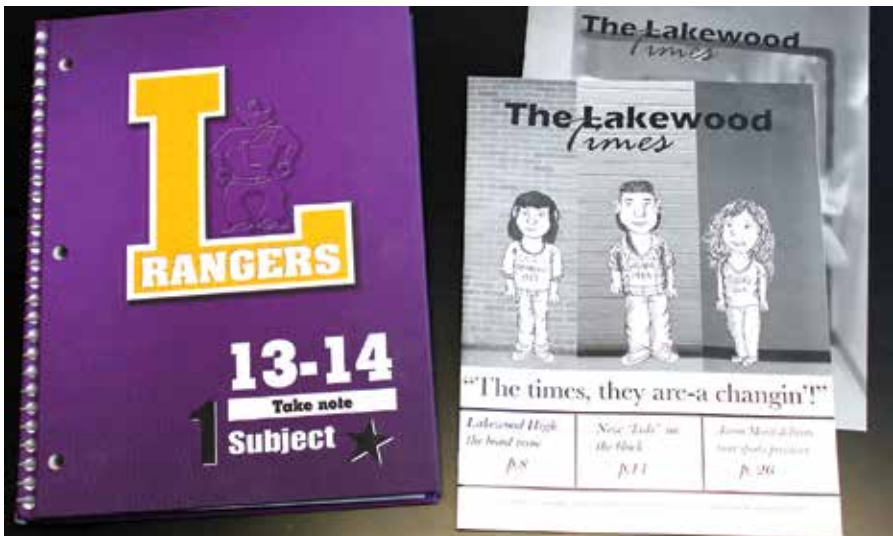
tional Assessment) results typically do not reflect this. PISA has assessed fifteen year old students every three years since 2000 in math, science and reading literacy. I believe one reason that China, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Finland typically rank higher than the United States is because of the consistent, stable and unified courses of study in these countries. Fifty fragmented sets of state curricula in our country make it difficult for us to compete on these tests internationally."

"Our Department of Teaching and Learning in Lakewood has been working on preparation for the Common Core standards and the PARRC assessments for close to four years now.....The Common Core and PARRC have given us standards and assessments that we can rally around and point to for augmented expectations and student performance. Units have been developed, lessons planned, outlines plotted out and assessments created. The Common Core also allows for local control in a State where we have always taken pride in that way of doing business." (85 % of the CORE is required and 15% is able to be tweaked, allowing for national continuity with some local control.)

The Common Core and the revised State Report Card are intended to raise expectations for our students and help them be more competitive in an increasingly globally competitive and interdependent workplace, marketplace and economy. Within the report card is the indicator of "value added." Simply stated, this is a measure first developed by Dr. Bill Sanders at the University of Tennessee that looks for at least a year's growth in student achievement in a year's time. During my entire career here in Lakewood this has been a goal of both Superintendent Patterson and the Lakewood City Schools Board of Education. In recent years as a school district, our students have typically exceeded a year's growth on the report card, a statistic where we take great pride.

Rather than fight the Common Core and the State Report Card accountability system, we have embraced the changes. We believe

continued on page 11



LHS News Magazine, Yearbook Take Top Honors

by Christine Gordillo

The 2013-2014 Lakewood Times and the LHS Cinema each received first-place awards in the annual American Scholastic Press Association contest for high school yearbooks and magazines. The ASPA reviews hundreds of publications from across the country and offers critiques and assigns awards for first, second and third places as well as some special category and merit awards.

Of the Cinema, the judges said: "Your yearbook shows excellence in the fields of writing, photography and page design and contains all the elements/sections of an effective yearbook that will be treasured for years to come."

Judges' comments on the Times: "Creating a newsmagazine teaches the fundamentals of publishing, good writing skills, proofreading and editing skills, concepts of design and composition and promotes a community of young writers. Your magazine does all of that and showcases the superior efforts of talented and creative editors, artists, photographers and graphic designers. Your staff and advisor are to be congratulated."

LHS English teacher Dennis Ebner serves as adviser to both publications. Last year's Times editor was Matt Morgenstern, a current senior who continues as editor this year. The Cinema was led last year by then-senior Hailey Davis. Congratulations to all who worked to make these publications so successful!



I earned my first degree from Tri-C®

MY STORY

Stephanie Bayne saved thousands of dollars by starting her college career at Tri-C.

Stephanie chose Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) for its convenience and affordable tuition. Her credits transferred seamlessly to Kent State University, where she began as a junior. Tri-C has allowed Stephanie to save money on the way to completing her bachelor's degree in four years.

Are you a high school student who wants to earn college credit before you graduate? Are you ready to start your college career? Tri-C is the smart choice for earning your first degree.

Metropolitan Campus
29000 Community College Ave. | Cleveland, OH 44115

tri-c.edu
216-987-6000



Lakewood Cares

Healing With The Power Of Music and Drums With Tommy Melarago & Friends: “Yoga Basics” Followed By Drum Circle

by Kristine Pagsuyoin

The Lakewood Council of PTAs is hosting a wellness series focused on taking care of yourself first. The series will feature workshops specifically designed for busy people looking to create balance and wellness in their lives. Participants will leave each workshop with the know-how to incorporate techniques into their day to day routine to help reduce stress and better manage a hectic schedule. Each

instructor is a highly knowledgeable experienced professional certified in their field of expertise.

The next installment in the series is “Yoga Basics” followed by “Drum Circle: Healing with the Power of Music and Drums” on February 25th at 7 p.m. at Garfield Middle School. To register email lakewoodcouncil@gmail.com. The series is free for PTA member, \$5 per workshop for non-members. Participants may join PTA

the night of the event.

During “Yoga Basics” participants will learn about the origins of yoga as well as how yoga can benefit the physical body through stretching and strengthening as well as increased balance and flexibility. We’ll also discuss the mental and emotional benefits of yoga to reduce stress and promote more calm, peace and clarity for the mind and spirit. Instructor, Darlene Kelbach, will lead a yoga class to introduce basic

poses and breathing exercises that can be easily incorporated into a daily lifestyle.

Darlene Kelbach is a Registered Yoga Teacher (RYT) with the Yoga Alliance and teach yoga as a freelance instructor throughout the Cleveland/Akron area who has been practicing yoga for approximately 11 years.

After yoga, stick around to enjoy the musical effects of the drums led by Tommy Melarago & Friends. Melaragno will be discussing the history of music and drums, and sharing evidence of its healing power. He will lead the group in playing/drumming with percussion instruments. Participants are encouraged to bring their own drum or percussion instrument. A limited amount of drums will be available to share.

“Time Management For The Modern Parent”

by Kristine Pagsuyoin

The next installment of the PTA Wellness Series: It’s All About You is entitled, “Time Management for the Modern Parent.” This workshop will take a holistic approach to examining the relationship between life balance, mental focus and personal organization systems.

Facilitator, Georgia Reasch, is a Reiki Practitioner, Holistic Life Coach, author and artist, and President of LEAD Vision LLC. As a mother with multiple demands and interests, she brings insight into managing time and life demands through a balanced

life approach. Reasch explains, “This workshop is designed to provide practical tools of time management to help manage the complexities and demands of parenting and family life.”demands of parenting and family life.”

Partnering with Reasch in facilitating the January 22nd workshop will be Debbie Prutton, a Board Certified Polarity and Holistic Health Practitioner with over a decade of research, education and practice in Polarity Therapy, Elemental Reflexology, CranioSacral Therapy, Essential Oils, and Meditation.

In addition to lecture presen-

tation, the workshop will explore self-care practices that enable balance; including deep breathing, mental centering, emotional release and hands-on scheduling improvement strategies.

“Time Management for the Modern Parent” is Thursday, January 22nd, 7-8:30 p.m. at Garfield Middle School in Lakewood. To register, contact the Lakewood Council of PTAs at lakewoodcouncil@gmail.com or call 216-767-5545. The PTA Wellness Series is free to all PTA members and \$5 per workshop for non-PTA members.

Be Your Own Hero!

by Tricia Granfors

Whether everyday emergencies like injuries, fires, and outages or large scale disasters, community preparedness starts with you. If you were there, would you be part of the problem or solution? The Westshore Regional Community Emergency Response Team (WSC) is offering free classes on topics such as disaster preparedness, emergency medical considerations, search and rescue procedures, fire suppression, disaster psychology, and more. The 20-hour FEMA course is conducted by local safety professionals.

Teens welcome. Westshore residents who are over 18 years of age, successfully complete training, and pass a background check are eligible for team membership. Team membership is not required to participate in the free training. Visit www.westshorecert.org for more program and team information.

Do your part to keep your family and our neighborhoods safe and prepared. To register or for more information contact WSC Coordinator Tricia Granfors at (440) 716-4135 or granforst@north-olmsted.com. Space



Photo courtesy of WSC Member James MacMillan

is limited.

Training begins Saturday, February 28. The five consecutive Saturday morning classes will be held at St. John Medical Center and the Westlake Service Center from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Italian Creations
Restaurant, Catering, and Take-out

Making life simple...
Catering from
Italian Creations

216-226-2282

16104 Hilliard Road • Lakewood
www.ItalianCreation.com

Italian and Classical American Cuisine

OUR ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY HAS JOINED THE BLOOM FAMILY!



Bloom
at LAKEWOOD
- SENIOR LIVING -

We're shakin' things up over here.

Take a tour of Lakewood's multi-million dollar newly renovated senior living community to see what all the buzz is about.





Fedor Manor
Apartments

Affordable Senior Housing Community



When you walk through the door, you know you are home.

Seniors Make us your NEW home this Winter!

12400 Madison Ave. • Lakewood, Ohio
216-226-7575
TTY 1-800-750-0750

www.fedormanorapartments.com



Lakewood Cares

Help Local Pets On Super/Puppy Bowl Sunday

by Mike Deneen

The NFL playoffs are underway (without the Browns, again), which means we are rolling toward Super Bowl Sunday. Here in Lakewood, Super Bowl Sunday signals the return of the annual “Stuff the Subaru” event to benefit “My Best Friends Bowl” (MBFB). MBFB is a local volunteer group that collects dog and cat food to help local pet owners in need. This helps Lakewood families to keep their pets, preventing more animals from being surrendered to local shelters and rescue groups.

Here are the details of this year’s event:

DATE: Sunday, February 1st

TIME: 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - So you’ll be home in plenty of time to see the Puppy Bowl!

LOCATION: Lakewood High School - You can even stay in your car if it’s cold...just pull in off Franklin Ave.

ITEMS NEEDED: Dog and Cat food, as well as one gallon zip lock bags. The bags are used by volunteers to distribute dry food to end users.

You’ll probably be on the road picking up snacks or going to a party, so please stop by to donate!

For more information about this event or about MBFB, visit www.mybestfriendsbowlakewood.com.

Moving Beyond Loss Grief Support

by Daniel Wenger

We are all in an ongoing process of saying “Hello” and “Good-bye” 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® Grief Support Groups teach; how to let go, how to complete and say good-bye 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.

The Grief Recovery Method® is for those who desire to address the pain in their lives, due to 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.

The next 8-wk Support Group is offered on Thursdays, 3:30-5 p.m., beginning January 29 and ending March 19, Lakewood Hospital Community Center, 1450 Belle Ave, Lakewood, OH.

The 8-week Group repeats on Mondays, 6:30-8 p.m., beginning, April 20 and ending June 15, (does not meet Memorial Day) at the Fairview Hospital Wellness Center, 3035 Wooster Road, Rocky River, OH.

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

Resident Hope Reddick Turns 102 At O’Neill Healthcare Lakewood

by Sarah Rohland

Residents and staff at O’Neill Healthcare Lakewood had a blast celebrating resident Hope Reddick’s 102 birthday! The secret to Hope’s longevity may be in the glass... Hope loves drinking milk.



Happy Birthday this month to Hope Reddick, 102 years young!

Swim Into The New Year

by Monica Zayd

2015 brings with it changes for the Lakewood YMCA Aquatic Department. We are now pleased to offer Goldfish Mondays. Goldfish Mondays began January 5th and offer a new style of swimming lessons at the YMCA. These “adaptive swimming lessons” will now be offered at 4 p.m.

In the course of the lesson, the instructors will focus on each child’s needs and work with each child to help him or her reach his or her full potential. Multilevel lessons will follow the adaptive swimming lesson. Multilevel lessons will group children based on their age instead of their ability. This will allow children

to learn from one another as well as from the instructors.

Swimming lessons have been scheduled for all of 2015, so sign up today for traditional lessons or Goldfish Mondays at the YMCA! The YMCA offers financial assistance for those in need, please see the front desk for an application.



Join in for Goldfish Mondays to take advantage of the Lakewood YMCA’s new swim lesson offerings.

Ask Roxann Ramsey

continued from page 9

the CORE is based on the newest educational thinking with international benchmarks. Needless repetition of material is removed and each year in school students will build upon the last year, as was always intended. Essential twenty first century evidence based skills are embedded in the content with an emphasis on helping students to think critically. The CORE is geared for student college and career readiness and to help prepare them to be citizens of the world.

Know that we, in Lakewood City Schools, take our charge of educating our community’s students very seriously. Parents send us their best, and we want to provide our very best. Parents have hopes and dreams for their children and want to give them every advantage as they venture into the world. We believe that the programs we are putting in place as a school district aligned with the Common Core and the new State Report Card fulfill the expectations of parents by more adequately preparing students to compete and be productive members of the global economy.

St. James Anglican Catholic Church

1861 East 55th St.
at Payne Ave. in Cleveland
Sung Mass 10:30 a.m. Sundays
Monday, Feb. 2 Purification
Sung Mass 6:30 p.m.
www.saintjamescleveland.com
216-431-3252

Westerly Apartments

SENIOR LIVING

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN THE HEART OF LAKEWOOD

Providing Quality Senior Housing for 50 Years!

Affordable living for Older Adults on an Active Senior Campus (age 62 & up)

Visit our Leasing Office at
14300 Detroit Ave. • Lakewood, OH 44107

Open weekdays, 9am-4pm or
by appointment (216) 521-0053

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: WESTERLYAPARTMENTS.COM

Lakewood Is Art

Come One, Come All To Parade The Circle Workshops At Beck Center!

by Pat Miller

Join Beck Center for hands-on workshops to create a fun and family-friendly group entry for the 26th annual Parade the Circle on Saturday, June 13! Parade the Circle is organized by the Cleveland Museum of Art and is the largest art parade in the region. Beck Center has been a proud participant since 2007.

Over the course of 16-weeks, participants receive instruction from Beck Center faculty in designing and creating wearable works of art. Basic materials and supplies sufficient to create an art costume are provided, but additional supplies may be purchased by the participants at their discretion. All costumes need to be related to the theme in some way.

Stay tuned for this year's theme announcement!

Participants are encouraged to attend all Sunday workshops from 3:30-5:30 p.m., February 15 through June 7. Every week attendance is not required, but mandatory participation is needed for the first workshop (February 15), the last workshop (June 7), and Parade the Circle on June 14. Participants will meet and coordinate at 10 a.m. with the parade beginning at noon. Following Parade the Circle, participants are invited to be a featured entry in the City of Lakewood 4th of July parade.

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult registered for Parade the Circle. Registration is \$50 for Course #3525. To register, please visit beckcenter.org or call Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10.



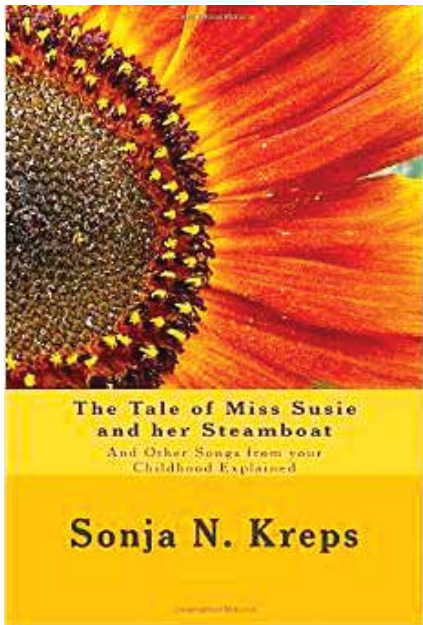
Participants from previous Parade the Circle Workshops in full costume!

Miss Susie Had A Steamboat Because Of A Newborn Baby

by Sonja Kreps

For most of us, summer camp experiences are long gone, but their imprints remain: the long tables for meals in the mess hall, bunk beds in cabins with inch thick mattresses, bugs everywhere, and songs around the campfire. While I have carried these songs with me since childhood, it took the sleepless nights of having a newborn to really think about them. Being up late night after night, trying to soothe a crying baby, you go through a lot of nursery rhymes and songs, and after sleep deprivation really starts to kick in, you start to wonder and think about a lot of bizarre things. Mine revolved around camp songs, with the focus on Miss Susie. Miss Susie had a steamboat. Was it really a steamboat, or could it be something else? A nickname? A dreamboat? Could the bell be his phone? What if Heaven was the name of a night club? And so it went until a story based on childhood songs but meant for adults was born.

After a few nights, I had the sense to start writing some of these ideas down, and much like the funny notes drunk people leave for themselves, most of what I thought during those late night rocking sessions made no sense, but the idea was there. It would take four years and another baby, but, "The Tale of Miss Susie and her Steamboat: And Other Songs from your Childhood Explained"



The author's recently self-published book, "The Tale of Miss Susie and her Steamboat"

Childhood Explained," was written, proofread by many thoughtful friends and family members, and self-published on Amazon.

If you have fond memories of camp songs, enjoy reading, or just want to support a Lakewood alumnus, please check out Miss Susie, available in book or Kindle format.

Sonja Kreps is a graduate of Madison Elementary, Harding Middle, and Lakewood High School, she has moved out of Lakewood, but now teaches in the wonderful city where she grew up.

Lakewood Family OWNED & OPERATED



PEPPER'S
ITALIAN
RESTAURANT

A Little Bit of Italy
IN LAKEWOOD, OHIO

WINNER "BEST PEPPERONI"
2013 Kiwanis Pizza Bake-Off

WINNER "BEST SPECIALTY PIZZA"
2014 Kiwanis Pizza Bake-Off

Please support **KIWANIS** and **PEPPER'S**
at the **2015 Pizza Competition**

Open Everyday: M-Th 5-10, F-Sat 5-11, Sun 5-9

12401 Detroit Avenue • (216) 226-6191

WWW.PEPPERSLAKEWOOD.COM



dance
LAKEWOOD



Come dance with us!

15644 Madison Ave., Lakewood OH

Classes ages 3-adult in: Ballet • Pointe • Jazz
Tap • Lyrical • Acrobatics • Pilates • Hip Hop

Register online at www.dancelakewood.com
or by emailing dancelakewood@gmail.com

"This is absolutely the No. 1 show in the world, ABSOLUTELY THE BEST."

— Kenn Wells, former lead dancer of the English National Ballet

神韻晚會 2015

SHEN YUN

5,000 YEARS OF CIVILIZATION. LIVE ON STAGE!


"I have reviewed over 3,000 shows. None can compare to what I saw tonight."


— Richard Connema, renowned Broadway critic

"Demonstrating the highest realm in the arts. Shen Yun inspires the performing arts world."

— Chi Cao, Principal dancer with the Birmingham Royal Ballet

NOT MADE IN CHINA:
Based in New York, Shen Yun is a nonprofit organization dedicated to reviving traditional Chinese culture that has been mostly destroyed under communist rule.





FEB 10-11 STATE THEATRE

Tickets: 216-241-6000
Hotline: 888-974-3698
PlayhouseSquare.org TicketingBox.com

Celebrating Over 10 Years of Community Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Business News

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur Speaks At January Chamber Luncheon

by Valerie Mechenbier

U.S. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, who represents Ohio's Ninth Congressional District, spoke at the January 16th meeting of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce at Brennan's Banquet Center. Congresswoman Kaptur is serving her sixteenth term in the U.S. House of Representatives, is the senior-most woman in the House and the longest-serving woman from Ohio in history, and ranks 17th in seniority among 435 members of the 113th Congress. Although a veteran on Capitol Hill, Congresswoman Kaptur is relatively new to the eastern part of the Ninth District which encompasses the 141 miles along Lake Erie's coastline – in the Congresswoman's words: "a sapphire and emerald necklace" – from Toledo to Cleveland.

Sante Ghetti, Director of Government Relations at COSE, introduced Congresswoman Kaptur to the audience of one hundred Chamber members and guests. The Congresswoman thanked the Chamber for the opportunity to introduce herself and spoke at length about her background, her reasons for choosing to serve the public, and the challenges and opportunities that our district faces in 2015 and beyond. Her presentation ranged from her first race for office ("my Catholic guilt set in, spurred me into



A packed crowd for the January 16th Lakewood Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting listens intently to Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

running") to her 17-year legislative battle that she waged to have a World War II memorial built on the National Mall ("this is how things move in Congress"), from the 2008 economic collapse to the toxins and algae that caused the loss of drinking water to a half-million residents in Toledo last summer. The Congresswoman was open, engaging, and optimistic about the future of her district. In reflecting on our area's image at the national level, the Congresswoman cited the need for a collaborative approach to create "a coastal connectivity" that could be transformational for the Lake Erie coastline. Answering questions from the audience, Congresswoman Kaptur discussed the Affordable Care

Act and offered her view of the role of today's culture in politics.

Lakewood Mayor Mike Summers spoke briefly about the recent announcement regarding Lakewood Hospital and extended an invitation to Chamber members to attend the January 28th community meeting at Beck Center for the Arts. Congresswoman Kaptur also encouraged the audience to look at this news as an opportunity: "There might be ideas that aren't in the heads of anyone in this room yet." The biggest round of applause came when the Congresswoman invited Mayor Summers to be her guest at the January 20th State of the Union address.

Lakewood Chamber CEO/President Patty Ryan thanked the members of the Chamber's Legislative & Governmental Affairs Task Force, chaired by Nicole Hatem Farley, and this month's meeting sponsor COSE Council of Smaller Enterprises for bringing Congresswoman Kaptur to our January meeting.

Lakewood Chamber Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, February 17**
Fat Tuesday Business After Hours with Rocky River Chamber of Commerce
Sponsored by Cox Business
Burntwood Tavern
19304 Detroit Road, Rocky River
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Friday, February 20
- 9th Annual West Shore Career-Technical District: Outstanding Work Ethic Awards Breakfast**
Sponsored by Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Rotary
Brennan's Catering & Banquet Center
13000 Triskett Road, Cleveland
7:30 a.m. Registration, 8 a.m. Program

Elements Hair Studio Is On The Move

by Trudy Hutchinson

The familiar three-foot diameter "e" now hangs in the window at 15020 Madison and signals the move of Elements Hair Studio to its new location. Although the space has been updated, the Elements experience has not changed. Customers relax with hot or cold beverages in the store's refurbished interior. Music plays in the

background and original art surrounds customers as they relax into quiet conversation.

Customers will continue to enjoy a complete range of styling options including color, highlighting and other specialty services. Elements offers deep conditioning and Keratin treatments to smooth and straighten hair. Elements is an Aveda Salon and sells selected Aveda and other high-quality hair products.

The new location is centered in a line of attractive storefronts on Madison just west of Malley's. Owner Dennis Petkac shares space with six other stylists. Stop in at Elements Hair Studio at its new location and visit on the web at www.elements-hair-studio.com. Call for an appointment at 216-228-2643.

FOR OVER 30 YEARS

KnappsAutoTow.com

Knapp's

MADISON AUTO SERVICE

14588 Madison Ave. Lakewood, Ohio 44107

Fast, Reliable, Accurate And Affordable Auto Repair & Towing!

- **FREE** Towing and Customer Shuttle in Lakewood (with repair...restrictions apply)
- **ASE CERTIFIED** Technicians
- **SAME DAY SERVICE** on Most Repairs
- All Prices Approved **BEFORE** Repairs are Made
- **BRAND NAME** Repair Parts
- **WARRANTIED** Parts and Repairs 12months/12,000 miles
- **WE SERVICE** Domestic Models, Foreign Makes, "Problematic" Cars, 4X4's, Pick-ups and Light Trucks
- **2 LOCATIONS:** Lakewood and Olmsted Twp.

ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+ RATING SINCE 1995 AAA Approved Auto Repair

Call Us Today!

216-226-4100

REPAIRS YOU CAN TRUST!

INTERIOR
EXTERIOR
RESIDENTIAL
COMMERCIAL

P•M•K
PAINTWORKS
216.226.3056

Opinion

Letters To The Editor

Re: Lakewood Hospital

To the Editor:

Is the City of Lakewood at risk of becoming a medical desert? After more than 30 year of residency and medical practice in Lakewood, I was interested in the comments by the elected leaders of our city regarding the impending closure of the acute care hospital beds at Lakewood Hospital. This completes the process which began 15 years ago in which psychiatry, cardiac surgery, thoracic surgery, oncology, invasive cardiology, electrophysiology, vascular surgery, pediatrics and trauma were moved to other Cleveland Clinic (CCF) hospitals. The expansion of obstetric beds, neurologic services and the construction of rehab beds elsewhere this year means these services will also be leaving. It is no wonder that the census of our hospital has declined since we no longer

offer the services our community needs. In addition, the decision by Dr. Loop more than 10 years ago to not assist the non CCF independent physicians in their attempts to find replacements has largely led to the collapse of the core medical staff.

Within 5 years, with Lakewood’s progressively aging physician population, there will be almost no specialty physicians based in the city. The primary care physicians will be almost totally controlled by the CCF and will be referring our neighbors to remote facilities which are particularly difficult for the most disadvantaged to reach. Our failure was predictable when we agreed to a lease which could by fulfilled by an “urgicenter” rather than a full service medical facility.

It is unfortunate that our politicians do not understand what the founders of Lakewood Hospital

knew over 100 years ago. There is a contract between the people and the local government that requires us to look out for each other and care for our neighbors. Without the infrastructure of a community-owned hospital and a department of health (closed under Mr. Fitzgerald’s administration) we will be unable to either monitor our health care needs or deliver care to those who are disadvantaged.

We have essentially delegated our community responsibility to an outside entity (i.e. the CCF) which is outside our control and has no mandate to care for our people. The Clinic is a private multispecialty group practice wrapped in a nonprofit mantle envisioned by its founders to meet the economic and professional needs of those physicians and not the needs of the community. Their actions are not hostile but are predictable. Crain’s

Cleveland Business has recently reported that the top physician/executives are paid more than \$1 million while Dr. Cosgrove makes more than \$2 million.

A recent Crain’s article reports that the Main Campus revenues are increasing by 7% while 7 of the 8 community hospitals in their network are showing negative growth suggesting patients are shifted to the main campus by CCF corporate decisions. The argument by the mayor and city council president that future health care will not be delivered to patients in hospital beds is obviously not held by the CCF as evidenced by their construction of a new acute care hospital in Avon which has less need than our older, denser and more disadvantaged citizens. The Avon Hospital simply promises more opportunity for profit for the CCF.

The investment by our community over the last century is soon to be lost. Furthermore, the tax base represented by the largest employer in Lakewood is also about to be significantly curtailed such that our ability to pay for the social needs of our fellow citizens will be compromised at a time their need is greater.

Letters To The Editor

H.R.37

by Michael Lauer

I have to agree with Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur’s opposition on H.R.37. Kaptur states, “The American people, some who have lost their life savings, their jobs and dignity during the 2008 financial disaster deserves better than a rubber stamp for Wall Street.” Kaptur goes on to say, “Instead of joining House Democrats and supporting bills that lift up all Americans, House Republicans would rather go back to the days of sub-prime mortgages, risky Wall Street schemes and giveaways for their most loyal campaign contributors.” In addition, H.R. 37 would allow for a two year delay in implementation of the Volker Rule

and also limit regulatory authority to police financial markets.

After I have read the book; Who Stole the American Dream by Hendrick Smith, I can understand Representative Kaptur’s decision on opposing H.R.37. I came to the conclusion that greed and deception can disrupt many American families. The results of some of the decisions that were made in our economic and political systems during the 1970’s to the 2000’s were in some instances economically, devastating for many middle class families. The book points out in some aspects, that the 70’s and 80’s set the stage for many ordinary Americans to be cut out of their share of the nation’s

economic gains. For example, in the book, Hendrick mentions that in some occasions, immigrants were deceived with “rushed” sub-prime mortgages that were not adequately explained. Many had no clue of “adjustable rate mortgages” and “minimal mortgage payments” that created huge debts for families. Hendrick further explains instances of deceptive 401(k) plans from businesses to deceptive stock options on Wall Street that contributed to the economic collapse of 2008.

In my opinion, deception practices must be reduced if not eliminated from our banking industry, corporations, businesses and investment firms in order to gain back the trust of the American people.

The citizens and political leadership of Lakewood, at this point, cannot save Lakewood Hospital, but we can come together and redefine our commitment to each other and derive a process to move forward. We can no longer allow outside entities to define our city’s needs. We must take responsibility and control our future. Our relationship with CCF has benefited them by giving them control of the local market. We need to diversify our healthcare resources to assure that we as a community are benefited and control our own fate.

Terence E. Kilroy, MD.
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

Letters To The Editor

Police Car Lights Too Bright

by Ted Nagel

Now that we’re through complaining about the traffic signs, as Jerry Seinfeld might say, “And how about those lights on top of the police cars!” Is it just me or has anyone else noticed that it is almost dangerous to pass a police car that has its top lights flashing? The new light system has a white light shining at eye level directly back into approaching drivers’ eyes that is more intense than any car high-beam that I’ve seen. The flashing colored lights also seem to be a significant level higher intensity as well.

I’m not sure why the change

happened, or what it’s supposed to achieve. Did the old lights cause accidents? Is this system of lights supposed to physically repel drivers to move farther away from the police car? All I can say is that I cannot see anything around the police car or the general vicinity and I think that’s unsafe.

Now get off my lawn!

Ted Nagel moved here with his wife, who grew up in Lakewood, and family after retiring from the Army. He volunteers in the community primarily with sports but also through the Lakewood Congregational Church.

NOW YOU CAN
Rent A Husband
Handy Man Services

Painting
Gutter Cleaning \$70-\$75
Drywall, Plastering
Electrical/Plumbing
Window Repair
Porch/Steps Repair
Garage Door Repair
Deck/Home Pressure
Washing

And all those jobs and repairs that you never had the time or talent to do yourself!
(Building code violation correctons)
Call: **Rich Toth at 440-777-8353**

That's What All The People Say
HEATING • COOLING
Air Conditioners
Furnaces, Boilers
Serving lakewood
for Over 20 Years

Slife Heating & Cooling
216 221-0310
www.slife-hvac.com

Pulse Of The City

"One Shovel Wide"

by Gary Rice

"One Shovel Wide"

© 2015 Robert and Gary Rice

*On a silent snowy morning, 'neath the January moon,
She was walking by my window, passing by.
With her shovel in the pathway, clearing diamonds in the snow,
One shovel wide, she pushed those snowflakes high...*

*Our Lakewood street was long, closely one third of a mile.
The night, it was so bitter and so gray,
Yet in that time of darkness, shone a bright light with that deed.
One shovel wide, to give the children way.*

*No frozen feet and ankles did our students have that day.
No slipping, sliding, falling on that walk.
'Cause a thoughtful Lakewood neighbor gave an hour of her time,
One shovel wide told more than we could talk.*

Refrain

*One shovel wide! One shovel wide! Pushin' back that snow, one
shovel wide!*

With her shovel in the pathway, clearin' diamonds in the snow,

Pushin' back that snow, one shovel wide!

Recently, in the darkness of a January morning, I looked out our window, and was amazed to see that a lady had cleared a one shovel wide pathway through the snow; so that our students might have an easier time making it to school. While I really do not know whether she had shoveled the entire street or not, she'd done quite a bit of it, to be sure. This beautiful selfless act on her part inspired us to create this song, and also, for me to suggest the simple saying "One Shovel Wide" on the Lakewood Observer's community chat room "Observation Deck"; as a way of encouraging others to start thinking about clearing their walkways at least "one shovel wide". It's a small step, admittedly, but at least it's a relatively safe one; once the shovel has done its work.

This posting has quickly generated over fourteen hundred views in just a few days, indicating that I've apparently touched a nerve. Many Lakewoodites, it would seem, are very concerned about our winter sidewalks.

Let's face it, we need to address this situation NOW. The topic of shoveling snow (and the lack thereof!) seems to come up every year around this time, and with no small amount of controversy connected to it. Some of our residents and businesses routinely clear their walks every year, while others regularly ignore the job. Indeed, quite a few residents might not be able

to personally do so, for a variety of valid medical reasons. Many, if not most communities however, (including ours) do have sidewalk snow removal ordinances.

In the past, our city has also collaborated with various community groups with a "CLEAR 4 KIDS" pro-

gram, encouraging timely sidewalk snow removal.

Still, from year to year, this problem keeps returning. With nearly six thousand Lakewood public school students, the vast majority of whom walk to school, (and, adding to that figure, a number of private school

students, as well) this is not a small concern. Nor will snow go away on its own. Lakewood's sidewalk snow removal problem is one that potentially places all of us in danger, and not only the students. I've personally had more than a few close-call-falls myself in the past decade, any one of which could have been deadly serious. In speaking with my friends and neighbors, my experiences have not been unique either.

Whatever long-term solutions there may be to the annual sidewalk clearing issue, perhaps we might at least consider starting with that "one shovel wide" approach? Perhaps block clubs, youth groups, church groups, school activity groups, and others might consider volunteering at the neighborhood level, and start working from there?

It needs to be stated here that the City of Lakewood does indeed have small vehicle sidewalk plowing, and they indeed do efficiently cover the municipal sidewalk properties in Lakewood. They have also recently purchased a more specialized plow for sidewalks, and have used that one on the residential Franklin walks a few times.

Lately, the City has paid a great deal of attention to residential sidewalk repair and replacement issues during the summer months, and has, particularly in the past year, worked much more closely with residents with more of a team approach, regarding improved sidewalk management. As people are understandably much more attentive to the summer sidewalk issue now in Lakewood, perhaps this would be an excellent opportunity to consider ways that we might improve our sidewalk safety in the winter, as well.

While it would be wonderful if Lakewood could expand its small vehicle municipal snow removal program someday, perhaps in the meantime, it would not be too much to hope that we could all work together...at least long enough to forge a common pathway; just one shovel wide?

Cats On Holiday Invite Observers To Party At The Bevy

by Denis DeVito

Come join us, Cats On Holiday and the Lakewood Observer for our post Mardi Gras "Rock the Winter Blues Away Bash." Cats On Holiday will bring our "Swamp Poppin" (roots, Rock, Zydeco) to Lakewood's newest concert club, the Bevy in Birdtown. On March 7th The Cats are rocking the ex Winchester Music Hall from 8-12. The word on the street is that the Bevy has done a ton of improvements throughout the venue, including a brand new kitchen that is putting out some good eats and a fine sound system. The Observer's Jim O'Bryan and I will be reliving the days of the 70/80's when O'Bryan used to book Lucky Pierre shows when I was a member. Yeah, its not exactly the same as the punk rockin days, when O'Bryan would produce a show in a empty storefront or warehouse that he would transform from abandoned space to a cool rock venue.

Anyway, come on out and groove to one of Cleveland's hardest working bands, (100 gigs a year for over 10 years) mingle with our Lakewood Observer readers and check out Lakewood's newest live music venue. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. If you



Rick Christyson and Denis DeVito of Cats On Holiday.

mention the Lakewood Observer at the door, day of show tickets will remain at \$5. Go to bevyinbirdtown.com for tickets and more info. By the way,

there is plenty of parking in the Dollar Store parking lot or Madison Park which are just West of the Bevy.

HOME ALONE PET SITTING, INC.



**In Home Pet Care
While You Are Away
Experienced**

Veterinarian Technician

Bonded & Insured

216-548-1543

**d.hokin@sbcglobal.net
homealonepetsittinginc.com**

Lakewood Living

Why Is There A Porch Off The Bathroom? Interesting Facets Of Lakewood Homes

by Michelle Mehaffey Taylor

Like most who choose to live in Lakewood, I adore my old home with its beautiful character and unique architectural attributes. These features, which may seem unusual now, are a glimpse into the daily lives of our homes. Stewards from the past century. As a Realtor, when I am showing homes in Lakewood, Buyer's often ask me the purpose of some of these features. While I am certainly not a member of "This Old House," I have learned a thing or two over the years. Here are a few of the most common questions.

"Why is there a porch off the bathroom?"

One common element of several Lakewood homes is a second floor porch off the bathroom or back bedroom. These small spaces are "sleeping porches." Prior to air conditioning, a home would typically include a sleeping porch to provide some comfort to the family on hot summer nights. In addition, at the time most of Lakewood homes were built, fresh air and sunlight were a common treatment and preventative

measure for several diseases such as tuberculosis.

"What is the old metal appliance in the basement?"

Long before most consumer items came in plastic cartons, home owners burned most of their garbage in basement incinerators. While it's illegal to use these now, most have a great vintage look and make for a good conversation piece.

"What a great storage space!"

The small door next to the side entrance was not originally put there to store the dog leash or shimmy through incase you forgot your keys. This is a milk chute. Prior to the Beatles debut and Giant Eagle, most homes had daily delivery of milk and other perishable food items. The Milk Man would place the order through the outside door and retrieve empty bottles. The homeowner would open the inside door to collect the delivery or leave notes of new items needed.

"Is that an art nook?"

No, but some of these original telephone nooks are artwork themselves. These small alcoves, usually found by the main stairway are

typically waist high, so that a chair could be placed nearby for comfort, when chatting on the party line with neighbors.

"Why does the garage look like a small barn?"

That's because it might have been. Prior to the 1910's, most families did not own a car. Trolley lines were the most common form of local transportation in Lakewood. A shed or barn may have been kept in the back for small livestock or even a horse and carriage. In the 1920's garages grew in popularity when automobiles became more affordable.

"What is this brass handle in the doorway?"

"Go ahead and pull it," is typically what I say and then wait for their astonished look. This is a pocket door. Typically in pairs and made of beautiful, solid wood with ornate hardware, Pocket Doors can be found from Lakewood's grand Victorian homes, to the common American Foursquare design. Pocket doors were a popular architectural feature up to mid 1930's. Their function assisted in creating larger spaces for entertaining, closing off more private sections of the home from guest, and to keep heat in certain areas of the home.

"Why is there a button in the middle of the Dining Room Floor?"

It was not uncommon for many upper-middle class households to employ domestic help. The button in the middle of the dining room floor or on the perimeter is a Butler's Button. When this button was pressed it would turn on a light in the Kitchen to summon the cook when the family was ready for the next course, or to clear the table. This more than likely was a part of what is called an Annunciator Box. This is a small box in the Kitchen or Servant Quarters, which rang bells to summon staff when buttons were pressed in various parts of the home.

There are numerous fascinating components that can be found in all of our beloved Lakewood homes that reflect lifestyles of a by-gone time. What will our descendants find of us that make them scratch their heads in wonder? Lakewood homeowners are a wealth of knowledge on century home trivia. Contact me if you are stumped on a certain component in your home or have some insight to share.

Michelle Mehaffey Taylor is a Lakewood resident and licensed Real Estate Agent with Keller Williams EZ Sales Team – Michelle@EZSalesTeam.com.

Lakewood Old House Fair Signing Up Exhibitors

by Melissa Page

The 7th annual Lakewood Old House Fair will be Saturday, April 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Harding Middle School.

Are you a home improvement or home-related business? Do you know one you can refer? Local businesses wanted!

Exhibitors must pledge to support and educate residents on goods and services that respect the integrity and maintain the quality of Lakewood's older housing. Most of the exhibitors are Lakewood businesses and/or Lakewood residents themselves. Therefore, they not only have professional experience with older homes, but also share an interest in maintaining the quality of our neighborhoods.

This event is a home-improvement informational one-stop shop. It not only caters to Lakewood residents and housing, but also meets the needs of the average small and independent business. Most of our exhibitors return every year because they see the benefits to their business and to our community. We continue to want to offer



more home improvement resources and options to our residents while showcasing and supporting local businesses. Booth spaces start at just \$50 and require about six hours of your time the day of the event. What do you have to lose? Just look into it and see if this event is a good fit for your business, too. For more exhibitor information visit Lakewood Hardware at 16608 Madison Ave., or by phone at 216-226-8822.

Stay plugged into The Lakewood Observer for upcoming event details.

Cleveland

PICKLE SANDWICH SHOP

HEY LAKEWOOD, WE ARE OPEN SUNDAYS!!! 11-4

Sundays are for the Pickle.

Serving two locations!

cleveland
850 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, OH
216-575-1111
Mon-Fri 11a-4p SAT 12p-4p

lakewood
17100 Detroit Ave.
Lakewood, OH
216-521-5555
Mon-SAT 11a-8p SUN 11a-4p

clevelandpickle.com
@ctownpickle
clevelandpickle

Carabel Beauty Salon & Store

Meaningful Makeovers can make you feel better!

Relationships over, life changing events?

A new style, color, or improving your nails can signal a new starting point.

Call for an appointment for best service.
Free Private Parking. Check with Id or cash

15309 Madison Avenue • 216.226.8616

MICHELLE MEHAFFEY TAYLOR

Listing Specialist with EZ Sales Team at Keller Williams

YOUR LAKEWOOD NEIGHBOR AND REAL ESTATE EXPERT

"I'm proud to call Lakewood my home. As a resident and full-time Realtor, I offer first hand knowledge in selling your Lakewood home for maximum market value and strive to provide a stress-free experience." -Michelle Mehaffey Taylor

- Comprehensive marketing to largest range of qualified Buyers
- Exceptional personalized service and consistent communication
- Exclusive representation and no "junk-fee's"

Considering selling your home? Contact Michelle today for a listing consult.
216.233.8316 Michelle@EZSalesTeam.com

kw
KELLER WILLIAMS

Lakewood Living

Twins In The Place To Be

by Ingrid Dickson & Irene Joyce

As our readers may already know, we Taster Twins are breakfast people. We have “morning person” personalities (much to the dismay of our long-suffering husbands) and we are fans of all things breakfast. We decided to indulge our appetites and met at the aptly named The Place to Be on Warren Road, just at the corner of Detroit Road for an early lunch.

First of all, we were welcomed to the restaurant with smiles and a warm familiarity. We were seated by a cheerful hostess and a pleasant server waited on us immediately. Since we were in an indulgent mood, we ordered the amazing corned beef hash with not two, but three, eggs! This corned beef hash is not the canned cubes of salty mush with which many of you may be familiar. It is tantalizing slices of fresh tasting corned beef mixed in with perfectly cooked potato slices. The buttery texture of the potatoes



The Place To Be, 1391 Warren Road, Lakewood, OH 44107, Phone: (216) 226-8783

was pure heaven--so delicious and comforting. We also had a create-your-own omelet with gyro meat, tomatoes, mushrooms, and cheese. The choices were practically infinite and when our customized one arrived, it was made

exactly to specifications, accompanied by a generous pile of those aforementioned heavenly potatoes.

While The Place to Be may not be a gourmet eatery, it does not pretend to be. The gracious welcome is like stopping in to a friend's place to have a bite. Home-cooking is the order of the day and sometimes, you don't want fussy or fancy--you just want your belly filled in a comfortable atmosphere.

Like many Lakewood establishments, The Place to Be is small. Recently painted with new artwork on the walls, the look is refreshed without being overly designed. The warm staff is efficient and they always seem happy to see the various regulars and new customers alike. The fare is simple, but they do it well, with a homespun touch in a welcoming environment. Neighborhood restaurants like The Place to Be succeed because they keep the coffee cups filled, the customers happy, and no one leaves hungry.

Cuyahoga County And The Earned Income Tax Coalition Offer Free Tax Preparation Services

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. Last year in Cuyahoga County, the VITA Program

served 11,950 people and brought back more than \$14.8 million to the community. 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 tax site will be open Monday evenings and Saturdays. Southgate NFSC is located at 5398 ½ Northfield Rd, Maple Heights Ohio 44137; the tax site will be open

Wednesday evenings and Saturdays. To schedule an appointment go online to www.211oh.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. All returns will be screened for eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit. To qualify, tax-payers must have a 2014 earned income less than \$52,427, and must be filing a simple return.

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. If the taxpayer purchased health insurance under the Affordable Care Act, bring 1099 tax credit from health insurance company.

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 or www.cjfs.cuyahogacounty.us.

COMPLIMENTARY WORKSHOP EVENT

MAXIMIZING YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Learn what millions of baby boomers are doing to maximize their Social Security benefits.

JOIN US AT THIS FREE SEMINAR AND LEARN:

- What is the current status of Social Security?
- How to maximize benefits for you and your spouse.
- Divorced-spouse and survivor benefits.
- Delayed Retirement Credits and how to use them.
- How working can affect your Social Security benefits.

Tuesday, January 27

LaCentre Conference Facility
25777 Detroit Rd., Westlake

WORKSHOP TIMES:
2:00 p.m. Registration
2:30 p.m. Workshop
- or -
6:00 p.m. Registration
6:30 p.m. Workshop

Hosted by

Nye

Financial Group
1991 Crocker Road, Westlake

RSVP TODAY!

800-837-8848

or NyeGroup.com

SEATING IS LIMITED

Sit back and relax, nothing will be sold at this 100% educational event.

NO Cost - NO Obligation - NO products will be offered or sold. We do not provide specific legal or tax advice, nor promote, market, or recommend any tax plan or arrangement. Please consult a tax and/or legal professional for guidance with your individual situation.

Lakewood's #1 choice for interior and exterior painting

Neubert PAINTING

Serving Northeast Ohio Homeowners since 1975

Quality Painting.
THAT'S ALL WE DO!

Call us at 216-529-0360 for a Free Consultation!

neubertpainting.com

15514 Detroit Ave.
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

LASKEY COSTELLO

Certified Public Accountants

P: (216) 521-2100
F: (216) 521-3258

Tax Preparation and Accounting Services
Individual • Small Business • Corporate • Estate

info@laskeycostello.com • www.laskeycostello.com

Celebrating Over 10 Years of Community Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Living

LakewoodAlive Announces New Housing Program

by Allison Urbanek

Lakewood Alive-- through the generous support of Charter One Bank, the City of Lakewood, Enterprise Community Partners, First Federal Lakewood, Ohio Savings Bank and individuals through the CrowdRise Challenge-- is excited to unveil a new program. The Community Engagement Program will develop outreach to homeowners and residents in two low-moderate income neighborhoods to support affordable housing, stabilize and establish a sense of pride, ownership, and leverage the power of neighborhood relationships. Housing is Lakewood's economic lynchpin and

we must ensure these neighborhoods (Birdtown and Scenic Park) sustain their aging housing stock. These neighborhoods are primarily occupied by senior and low income families, groups who often struggle most to maintain sustainable housing.

As many know, maintaining a historic home is a daunting and expensive task. Whether an owner occupant, tenant or landlord, we seek to provide them all with resources to maintain their homes, thereby strengthening neighborhoods. LakewoodAlive believes in empowering residents through education to instill confidence in all aspects of homeownership.

Residents will begin to see the presence of the program in early March. LakewoodAlive will kick off the program with a community meeting in each neighborhood to get to know folks, gain insight into the needs of the community and introduce our Community Engager. The Engager will work with individuals and groups to provide access to programs, homeowner education and support, establish block club structures, and help residents engage with one another and with public officials. Relationship-building is key to the success of this type of program. Trust needs to be built and relationships need to develop in order for the

position to be effective leading to better program utilization including those that LakewoodAlive provides.

This program implementation has been a major focus of LakewoodAlive since February 2014. We are thrilled to be able to roll out this exciting program and to work hand-in-hand with residents to really get down to what our residents and neighborhoods need to thrive.

For more information about the Community Engagement Program or the Housing Outreach Program visit lakewoodalive.com or call Allison at 216-521-0655.

2014 Posts Another Solid Year For Real Estate

by Chris Bergin

2014 posted another solid year for Lakewood real estate! Despite historically low levels of inventory, Lakewood still managed to surpass sales of 2013 by nearly 3%, with 449 Single Family Homes transferring ownership! Not only were sales up again, but the Median Sales Price jumped another 7%, finishing at an even \$131,000. In 2013 the median was \$122,300 and in 2012 it was only \$108,000. Not a bad little recovery run for Lakewood!

Other good facts from 2014: The Original List Price averaged \$134,900 (an average of \$87 per square foot); Days On Market averaged 55; and the Sales Price to List Price Ratio was 97.5%. Many homes sold at or above list price and more often than not sold in multiple offers.

But how did Lakewood stack up against some of the suburbs? Rocky River saw sales decline over 9%, with a modest 5% increase in the Median Sales Price. Although Bay increased sales by 1.64%, the MSP declined by 7%. Fairview was flat in sales, but posted a nice 11% improvement in the MSP. Westlake sales dropped by 16% but was still able to post an improvement in the sales price by nearly 3%. A complete city-by-city report can be obtained for free by emailing the subject line "Community Comparison" to Chris@ChrisBergin.com.

Let's take a look at where the sales were in 2014. Nationally the number of foreclosures on the market was down and Lakewood was no exception. In 2013 the number of sales below \$60,000 comprised 15% of the Lakewood market. In 2014 this dropped to only 8% of the sales.

The market between \$60-100k

remained steady, making up 20% of the market in 2013 and 19% this past year.

The largest gains were in the typical "first time home buyer" range, homes sold between \$100-200,000. In 2012 this range was 45% of the market. In 2013 it grew to represent 50% of the market. Last year it jumped again to represent 57% of the sold homes in Lakewood!

The remainder of sales remained fairly consistent. Sales between \$200-400,000 finished at 11% and 12% respectively. Sales between \$400-600 dropped 1%, comprising 2% in 2014 while the sales over \$600,000 grew 1% to comprise 2% of all sales.

Where does Lakewood go from here? Moving forward we can expect values to continue to improve at a modest pace, between 1-3%. Inventory remains at historically low levels. As of January 14th, there were only 98 Single Family Homes for sale. This will make it difficult for buyers looking to make a purchase this year. As sellers begin to feel more confident, inventory will begin to grow. Until then, buyers and sellers should anticipate this to be a fairly strong sellers market, with multiple offers being more common than not. Sellers who see their homes sit on the market for more than 3 months should review their marketing and pricing strategies. February is the perfect time to consult an expert and place your home on the market! Start your homework at www.HomeValuesInLakewood.Info or www.ClevelandsRealEstateSource.Info.

Chris Bergin is a licensed real estate agent at Berkshire Hathaway Lucien Realty in Lakewood and can be reached at Chris@ChrisBergin.com.



Lakewood residents at a recent meeting sponsored by LakewoodAlive's Housing Outreach.

Lakewood Collaborative Job Club Meeting

by Kathy Augustine

The Lakewood Collaborative is hosting a monthly Job Club at the Lakewood Public Library at 15425 Detroit Ave. The next Job Club meeting will be held on Tuesday January 27th, from 6-8 p.m. at the Lakewood Library. The speaker will give a pre-

sentation on "Interviewing Skills." Also, we will provide information and resources to assist people with finding a job in today's market. The Job Club is free and open to the public.

For information contact Becky Carlton at R.Carlton@csuohio.edu or 216-421-6685.

Lakewood Collaborative Meeting Features Dr. Ned Hill

by Kathy Augustine

The January Lakewood Collaborative Meeting's speaker is Dr. Ned Hill, Dean of the College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. Dr. Hill will speak on

"The Economy, the Region, Work and Opportunity." The meeting is on Thursday, January 22nd at 12:30 pm, at the Lakewood Park Women's Club Pavilion, at 14532 Lake Ave, Lakewood Ohio 44107.



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices

Lucien Realty



Chris Bergin
216.244.7175
Chris@ChrisBergin.com

Your
Lakewood
Specialist





People You Know,
Names You Trust.

Visit www.HomeValuesInLakewood.Info
for your **FREE** report!

The Back Page



**ALLURE PAINTING**
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL

Quality interior and exterior painting for over a decade

OWNER ON SITE • FREE ESTIMATES
Now scheduling interior house painting!

216-287-7468/216-228-0138 office • www.allurepainting.net

**ONNELLY**

SERVING LAKEWOOD SINCE 1922

CALL US TODAY!
216-521-7000
24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

\$15 OFF any service call	\$125 OFF any furnace or A/C installation
-------------------------------------	---

HEATING & COOLING

SALES ■ SERVICE ■ INSTALLATION

The Lakewood Observer Serving Lakewood Residents & Businesses Best, For 10 Years
In Print & Online
And Now In 20 Other Communities!

Isn't it time you joined with this history making, award winning project?

CALL 216.712.7070 TODAY!

**Rozi's**

Hours
Mon. - Thurs. 7:30am - 7pm
Fri. Sat. 7:30am - 9pm
Sunday 12am - 5pm
Café service ends 15 minutes prior to closing.

14900 Detroit Ave. • 216.221.1119

New Gift Catalog now-online and in the store. Holiday Season is quickly approaching. Be sure to check out our new award winning Gift Basket Selections

www.rozis.com
WE SHIP WORLDWIDE

Thank-you for making Rozi's Wine House, Inc. Northeast Ohio's #1 Ranked Wine Store (Cleveland & Scene Magazines)

**Rozi's Front Porch**

NOW OPEN!
Choose a select bottle (or glass) of wine or draft beer from from the Café Menu OR Browse Cleveland's #1 Rated Wine Store and choose any bottle of wine or beer from the shelves and take it back to the porch to enjoy.

When others say NO We find a way to say YES!

A leading Mortgage Banker for Over 30 years...

**the DeLeva group**
"DOING GOOD THINGS FOR GOOD PEOPLE"

**American Midwest mortgage corporation**
NMLS# (Branch) 265051
NMLS # (LOAN OFFICER) 250474
Ohio License # (Loan Officer) 029367.00
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

First time home buyers look no further. We offer Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OFHA) first time buyer programs.

FHA • VA • CONVENTIONAL • USDA
203K HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALISTS

CREDIT CHALLENGES ARE WELCOME... WE BELIEVE PASSIONATELY IN THE AMERICAN DREAM OF HOMEOWNERSHIP!! Call Us and We Will Prove It.



CALL or Scan TODAY for a free consultation.

John DeLeva - sr. Loan Officer
216.228.UOWN(8696)
Enter Code #222

John@theDeLevaGroup.com
www.theDeLevaGroup.com/LO.html
14701 Detroit Avenue #750 • Lakewood, OH 44107



**THE WORLD**
would be a better place

REFLECTIONS' AWARD CEREMONY
An Evening of Recognition and Praise for the Artistic Achievements of Our Student Participants in the Lakewood PTA Reflections Competition.

Tuesday, February 3rd, 2015
7:00pm-8:30pm
Lakewood Civic Auditorium
Questions can be directed to 216-630-6349

Keynote Speaker, Matt Charboneau, Beck Center

