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# THE ROCKPORT Observer

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FAIRVIEW PARK & ROCKY RIVER COMMUNITIES | VOL 03, ISSUE 6 | DECEMBER 2015



Photo by Gisela McDaniel

## Light Up River

By Liz Harmath

Light Up River is just around the corner and the Rocky River Beautification Committee has kits ready for you! Sunday, **December 20**, is the evening that people around Rocky River will set out luminarias and enjoy the soft glow of light as they walk around their neighborhood or take a leisurely drive.

This is the fifth year for the event and it continues to expand. It usually starts with a few houses on a street and grows as neighbors see how peaceful and picturesque it is. Eventually entire streets are glowing, as Eriewood Dr. and Prospect Ave. did last year.

This could be the first year for your street – you could be the leader!

So get a kit and say “Yes!” when people ask if you are participating. Then grab some hot chocolate and chat with neighbors as you enjoy a few moments of downtime during the holidays.

Kits consist of white bags and candles, and are available to order until December 11 at [www.rrcity.com/beautification-committee/](http://www.rrcity.com/beautification-committee/). Kits are \$10 for a set of 10 (suitable for most homes), or \$30 for a set of 35 (helpful if you have a corner lot). They will also be sold at a variety of Rocky River holiday events. Proceeds from the event fund projects like the refurbished stone wing walls at the corner of Erie Rd. and Detroit Rd., the croquet-style bike rack at the Civic Center, and more!

Please join us! •

## RR’s Megan O’Bryan to Lead Tri-C Foundation

By John Horton

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) has selected Rocky River resident Megan O’Bryan as vice president of development and the



Megan O’Bryan

Cuyahoga Community College Foundation.

O’Bryan brings two decades of philanthropic and leadership experience to the Tri-C Foundation, which raises funds to benefit students through scholarships and enhanced academic programming. She currently heads the Cleveland Transformation Alliance.

She called her new position an opportunity to help Tri-C students succeed and contribute to the future of Northeast Ohio. “Cuyahoga Community College works tirelessly to bolster the vitality of our region by empowering individuals and allowing them to achieve their goals,” O’Bryan said. “I am very excited to join Tri-C and play a part in students realizing their college and career dreams.”

O’Bryan brought her drive for

Tri-C page 2

## Wishing Tree for Special Needs Kids

By Lorilynn Wolf

*I wish bullies weren’t so mean; I wish people would accept me, autism and all; and I wish that I could see.* These are just some of the wishes that children with special needs have added to the Connecting for Kids’ Wishing Tree at Barnes & Noble at Crocker Park, 198 Crocker Park Blvd. in Westlake. The tree will be on display through the holiday season.

“We wanted to build something amazing in our community and we are so excited to see it all come together,” said Sarah Rintamaki, Executive Director of Connecting for Kids. “We have two goals with the Wishing Tree. One is to raise awareness in the community about what it’s like to have a child with special needs. The second is to demonstrate that even though a family may have a child who struggles, their wishes are similar to any other family. One parent wrote that her wish is not to have to remind her sons to wash their hands every time they leave the bathroom – I think all parents can relate to that wish.”

The seven-foot, white and silver tree is being sponsored by St. John Medical Center and Five Guys at the Promenade at Crocker Park. In addition to wishes, the tree also features family photos, holiday greetings and messages of support from area professionals. “We invite



Connecting for Kids’ Wishing Tree

you to take a few minutes and view the Wishing Tree as you are shopping during this busy time of year. I think it will give you a new perspective,” said Rintamaki.

Additional messages will be added to the tree once a week. If you would like to purchase a leaf for \$10, simply visit [cfk.gobigfundraising.com](http://cfk.gobigfundraising.com). All proceeds are 100% tax deductible and benefit Connecting for Kids. Monies raised will be used to fund free, parent education programming in the coming year.

Connecting for Kids offers education and support for families with questions or concerns about

Wishing Tree page 2



### A Gift Fur Everyone

Make a furry friend’s holiday dreams come true at Rocky River Public Library’s 4th “Annual APL Critter Christmas Party” on Saturday, **December 19** from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Drop off a gift from the Animal Protective League’s wish list, which can be found at <https://clevelandapl.org/donate/our-wish-list/>. Stay to meet animals looking for forever homes and make a pet-friendly gift for your pet or donate to one in need. Family friendly.

ROCKPORT FILES

Take a “Journey to Bethlehem”

By Paula Deal

The public is invited to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the holidays for a “Journey to Bethlehem” at Church of the Redeemer United Church of Christ, 23500 Center Ridge Road, in Westlake from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, December 18 and Saturday, December 19. The journey is free and everyone is welcome. For the 16th year, more than 50 members and friends of the Redeemer congregation will participate in this holiday tradition for area families. It is an interactive story of the

Nativity featuring live animals, uplifting music, refreshments, and more! The 15-minute guided tours depart continuously throughout the evening from inside the church sanctuary. Traveling back 2,000 years, travelers meet King Herod, angels, shepherds, wise men, live sheep and a donkey along the way. The outdoor tour includes a brief visit with the Innkeeper and his wife and ends with a few moments at the manger with the Christ child. Cookies and beverages await travelers back inside the church. For more information, visit [www.corucc.org](http://www.corucc.org) or call 440-331-0834.



And friendly shepherds will greet you.

# SPEND CHRISTMAS DOWNTOWN AT TRINITY CATHEDRAL



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Thursday, December 24

**5 p.m.**  
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**10:30 p.m.**  
Prelude Carols for choir, organ and trumpet

**11 p.m.**  
Choral Eucharist  
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**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
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Tri-C from page 1

educational opportunity and achievement to the Tri-C Board of Trustees, on which she served from 2012 until September 2015. “Ms. O’Bryan has proven her dedication for ensuring access to quality education for everyone in our community,” said Alex Johnson, president of Tri-C. “That passion and insight, combined with her commitment to the College’s mission, will be invaluable for the success of Tri-C students.” Her work within the community has led to leadership positions on boards and committees with numerous Northeast Ohio organizations. “Ms. O’Bryan’s involvement across Greater Cleveland has forged the relationships and perspective that will strengthen the Foundation and the College,” said Rick Chiricosta, chairperson of the Tri-C Foundation. “Her leadership will carry the Foundation into a new era.” Community support allows the Tri-C Foundation to turn student dreams into realities. In the last academic year, the Foundation awarded a record \$1.7 million to Tri-C students to open doors to higher education. The Foundation oversees more than 150 scholarship funds.

Wishing Tree from page 1

their child, with a focus on children birth through age 12. A formal diagnosis, such as an autism spectrum disorder or ADHD, is not required to receive information or participate in Connecting for Kids’ programs. If your child is struggling, you’re not alone. Connecting for Kids can help.

Lorilynn Wolf is Communications Director at Connecting for Kids.



# THE ROCKPORT Observer

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Community news powered by the citizens of Rocky River & Fairview Park

Check out our Web site at [TheRockportObserver.com](http://TheRockportObserver.com)

With a current circulation of 5,000 copies distributed to over 250 locations in the Fairview Park, Kamm’s Corners, and Rocky River community and via our Web site, The Rockport Observer is a community media initiative whose mission is to involve, engage, inform and converse with neighbors in what was once known as Ohio’s Rockport community. The views and opinions expressed in the publication do not necessarily reflect that of The Rockport Observer, its publisher or staff. Copyright 2015-The Rockport Observer, All right reserved. Any reproduction or use of the content within without expressed written consent is forbidden.

The Rockport Observer is a locally-owned and operated citizen-based news source written by community writers. Stories are accepted in the order received (save for time-sensitive community event material). The Rockport Observer reserves the right to edit all entries and items for publication.

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## SMALL BUSINESS

# Greeting Customers: Tricky During Holidays

By Perry Haan

For retailers, in addition to being the busiest time of the year, the holidays have become more complicated with the controversy over how to greet customers. The traditional greeting of “Merry Christmas” has been deemed politically incorrect and possibly offensive to some.

Owner of Paws & Effect Pet Grooming and Doggie Day Camp in Rocky River, Jason Stefan said, “I myself greet customers with Happy Holidays but do not require my employees to do so—it’s their right to greet in the way they feel comfortable.”

On the other hand, some customers do not like it when local retailers succumb to political correctness and greet them with “Happy Holidays” or “Season’s Greetings.” Some go so far as to suggest a war on Christmas is at the center of this politically correct shift. Conservative Christians nationwide have converged around the topic of Christmas, complaining that secularists and nonbelievers are destroying the holiday’s religious meaning.

“As a pastor I might be expected

to be the guardian of Christ in Christmas. But in reality, I just don’t get bent out of shape over what Christmas is called,” said Gordon Myers, Pastor at Rockport United Methodist Church in Rocky River. “History teaches us that the early church did not place the same importance we place on the birth of Christ. For the record, the birth of Christ is mentioned in only two of the four Gospels.”

A Pew Research study found 42% of American consumers preferred that stores greet their customers with “Merry Christmas”, 12% preferred “Happy Holidays,” and 46% did not care how they were greeted.

Not surprisingly, a majority (62%) of white evangelicals Protestants disagreed with the use of the “Happy Holidays” or “Seasons Greetings” salutation instead of “Merry Christmas.” A majority (58%) of the religiously unaffiliated agreed a secular greeting is more appropriate.

Myers added that he is concerned when the culture attempts to reprioritize the importance of festivals to meet its own needs. “When that happens, we often end up with a reclassification of the event. A clear example of this can be seen

in the previous religious influences associated with Christmas and now the secular commercialization of the Christmas season.”

Most advocates of the more generic greetings suggest that these salutations avoid offending the increasing number of non-Christians who live in the U.S. They note that this is not a war on the December 25 holiday. In part, the controversy stems from the changing demographics of the U.S. The number of Americans who identify themselves as Christians fell from roughly 78% in 2007 to just over 70% in 2014.

“I choose to say Happy Holidays to avoid conflict but certainly would not be offended if someone greeted me with a holiday I don’t celebrate, like Hanukkah,” Stefan said. The use of secular greetings by retailers is not an attack on Christianity. “Everyone is way too sensitive these days.”

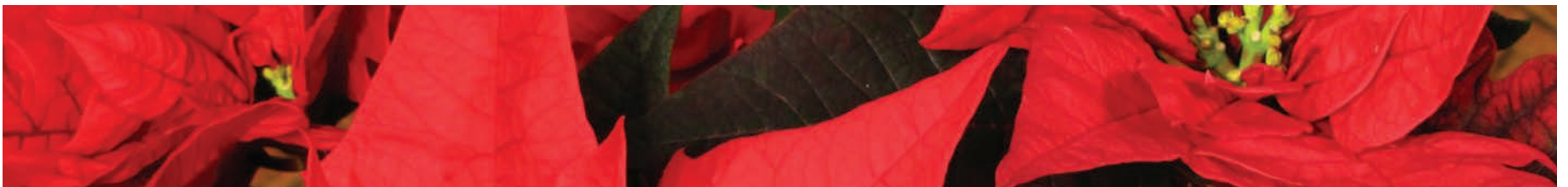
This year Starbucks came under fire for taking Christmas trees and ornaments off its holiday red coffee cups. The company said the move was made to give customers more room to write their own holiday message on the cups.



Dr. Perry Haan

Myers added, “I believe that a festival or event like Christmas needs to, and should be expected to, change to meet the cultural needs of the day. What I am not willing to give up is the original significance associated with the season—thinking of others through the act of giving. If that is maintained, I don’t care what it is called, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, or the day I think of others more than myself.” •

*Dr. Perry Haan is Professor of Marketing and Entrepreneurship and former Dean of the Business School at Tiffin University. He resides in Rocky River and can be reached at 419-618-2867 or [haanpc@tiffin.edu](mailto:haanpc@tiffin.edu).*



## Are you or is someone you know diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease?

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COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

# Tart Has Something for Everyone

By Beth Hess

Tart Boutique is an eclectic little gift and consignment shop on Lake Road in Rocky River. We carry a unique mix of vintage and antique pieces,



Beth Hess proudly standing under the new sign for Tart Boutique.

new items, and one of a kind pieces of artwork created by local artists. Among our offerings, you can find tea towels, t-shirts and apparel that I screenprint on site, locally made candles and body products, cards for all occasions, and a variety of other great pieces that you will not find anywhere else.

Whether you are looking to buy something for yourself or as a gift, Tart Boutique has something for you in all price ranges. The store originally opened as Trois Soeurs in August 2011 and I took it over in April 2015. I just recently changed the name to Tart Boutique and hung out a new sign.

When I learned that Trois Soeurs was for sale, I knew it was the place for me! Taking over the shop has been a wonderful opportunity. For the past several years, I had sold my creations at local art festivals, craft shows and outdoor markets as well as at local boutiques. Now, I have my screen printing studio in the back

of the shop and a permanent venue from which to sell as well. I think Tart Boutique offers a notable blend of old and new as well as handmade and upcycled creations. And I love all of the people that I get to meet!

I have wonderful neighbors on the street and am proud to be a part of this community of small businesses. My children go to school in Rocky River and I love that they can come and spend time with me at the shop after school.

Please stop by whether you are looking to shop, consign, or sell your artwork. If you haven't been in to the store in a while, I hope you'll come and see it. Our inventory is constantly changing and there's always something new!

Tart is located at 20145 Lake Road in Rocky River. For more information, call 216-712-7704. •

*Beth Hess is the owner of Tart Boutique. She and her family live in Rocky River.*

## On the Beat in Fairview Park Lock Your Cars

By Jeff Antoon

My name is Officer Antoon and I am with the Fairview Park Police Department. I am writing this column to address an easily preventable crime that has occurred far too often. Crime is unfortunately everywhere. I do believe, however, that we live in a safe and comfortable community and that the law enforcement officers in this and surrounding communities are dedicated to keeping it that way.

A number of thefts from vehicles have been reported recently, occurring between 8:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. on various side streets in Fairview Park. Similar reports have also been made in the surrounding suburbs. The suspect or suspects

have been entering numerous vehicles and taking small items of value. Now, I chose my words carefully for a reason. The majority of these vehicles have not technically been broken into, simply entered. Why? Because they were unlocked.

The suspects walk from driveway to driveway, car to car, tugging on door handles. They very rarely smash windows or pry open doors. If the vehicle is unlocked, they go through it, steal your property, and move on. If the vehicle is locked, they simply move on. The suspects move fast. They do not care if you are home or not. If the door opens, they are in and out in seconds, usually searching the glove compartment and center consoles.

Victims continue to call in to

report that their vehicles were broken into. When asked if the door was locked, they almost always report that it was unlocked. We police officers are doing what we can to try and catch the criminals. One suspect was recently arrested, who also happened to be arrested for stealing items from vehicles earlier this year. We are regularly patrolling the side streets at all hours of the day and night with special attention given to the side streets that have been hit more often. However, streets all over the city have been targeted throughout this past year.

Reports regarding thefts from vehicles by the Fairview Park Police Department since January 1, 2015 are as follows:

- 2 vehicles had their windows broken to gain entry.
- 4 vehicles had their catalytic converter stolen.
- 2 vehicles had their hubcaps stolen.

- 2 vehicles believed to be locked were entered with no damage to the door or window.
- 120 **unlocked** vehicles were reported entered.

It is obvious which vehicles are being targeted. Items reported stolen are usually spare change, small electronic items, and sunglasses. In a few cases, pocket knives, and one firearm were taken. We take these crimes very seriously, and so should you. Do not let these criminals make you a victim. Please remove your valuables and weapons from your vehicle...and lock the doors. •

*Jeff Antoon has been a police officer with Fairview Park since 2013. Prior to joining Fairview, he completed his master in Clinical Counseling. He utilized these skills among others as a Reserve Police Officer for the City of South Amherst while also practicing as a licensed Professional Counselor.*

## Tour the Cowan Pottery Museum of RRPL

By Kitty Sommers

The Cowan Pottery Museum at Rocky River Public Library can be viewed during regular library hours. You can also arrange for a free guided tour for yourself or for a group of 20 or less. To schedule a tour, please contact Curator/Historian, Lauren Hansgen, at 440-895-3763. The museum holds the largest publicly owned collection of Cowan Pottery in the world, a distinctive form of American art pottery produced in Rocky River from 1920-31. The "Jazz Bowl," an iconic piece of American decorative arts, was created by Viktor Schreckengost and is part of the museum's collection.

For additional information, call Rocky River Public Library at 440-333-7610 or visit [www.rrpl.org](http://www.rrpl.org). •



COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Recruiting Rose Hopefuls for 2016

By Kathy Luengo

On February 13, 2016, everything will be *coming up* roses when one special young lady of Irish descent becomes the 2016 Ohio Rose. The upcoming Ohio Rose Selection Celebration is one of several North American Rose Centre selection rounds conducted in affiliation with Ireland's Rose of Tralee International Festival, where the "2016 Rose of Tralee" will be named in August.

Roses are evaluated by the manner in which they represent their lineage, pursue their aspirations, and exude inner beauty through charm, wit, intelligence, and grace.

Several lasses from the Rockport area, neighboring Westshore communities and elsewhere in Northeast Ohio have participated in recent Ohio Rose selections, while other Rose candidates have traversed the state to take part in the annual selection event. Westshore communities have provided two



Photo by Egon Luengo

Rose hopefuls at the 2015 Ohio Rose Selection Celebration in February.

successive Roses: 2015 Ohio Rose Kaytee Szente of Bay Village and 2014 Ohio Rose Grainne Mangan of Westpark. Annie Dunne of Fairview Park was named Ohio Rose in 2009.

Like her predecessors, the 2016 Ohio Rose will travel to Ireland (expenses paid) for The Rose of Tralee International Festival's subsequent selection event. The Festival's final selection nights

routinely rank among the most highly-viewed televised programs in Ireland.

As the Ohio Rose Centre's delegate, the 2016 Ohio Rose will grow accustomed to being in the public eye by participating in special events at home and abroad. When in Ireland, the Ohio Rose will be regarded as an ambassador for our state. Along with Roses from

throughout the Emerald Isle, North America and various countries across the globe, the Ohio Rose will receive celebrity treatment and be feted by sponsors, judges, local officials, and an adoring public.

It is recommended that prospective Rockport area Rose applicants first verify their eligibility and availability before completing the Rose application and securing a sponsor. Detailed information is available at [www.ohiorose.com](http://www.ohiorose.com).

It's also advisable to apply sooner rather than later. While the posted application deadline is **December 31**, there's always a chance that an earlier close date may be imposed if the application threshold is reached before the end of this month. All inquiries may be directed to [info@ohiorose.com](mailto:info@ohiorose.com).

The Ohio Rose Centre is managed by Westlake World Partners, a non-profit organization formed to support Sister Cities programming for the City of Westlake. •



Our Fairview Park Senior Center Veterans.

Celebration of Fairview Park Veterans

By Regina Sillasen

The Fairview Park Senior Center celebrated its first annual Veterans Day Hero Celebration in November. The program began with the American Legion Post #738 Color Guard of Fairview Park. All joined in the singing of the National Anthem led by Alyssa Gruttadauria. Mayor Eileen Ann Patton offered a moving personal view of what Veterans Day means to her in her opening remarks. Rev. Dan Sewell of New Hope Church offered an inspiring invocation.



Gil Bachna and Don Menhenett proudly wear their uniforms from the Army and Marines.

The pinning ceremony began with a poetry reading by Gary Walker of the Hospice of the Western Reserve, "What Is A Veteran". Each of the 36 veterans in attendance were individually acknowledged and pinned during a very patriotic ceremony. Also in attendance were 12 widows of veterans, including Harriet Beekman, "We Do Care" Chairman and the "mother of our troops". A special wreath laying ceremony followed, presented by senior Gil Bachna.

With the help of our pianist, Maureen Moskalski, and drummer, Don Kenzig, the room was filled with patriotic music and song. A luncheon followed the ceremony. In all, 85 persons were in attendance. •

Regina Sillasen is the Director of the Fairview Park Senior Life Office.

**"It wasn't just that she was beautiful, she had an Irish oldness of soul..."**  
—The Wee Fellahs

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— Chi Cao, principal dancer with the Birmingham Royal Ballet

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COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

A Five Year Milestone

By Irene Dooley

Every journey starts with a single step. That’s the mantra of a small business owner and that’s how Girls Got Swing evolved.

Five years ago, opening our doors for the first time felt a lot like introducing a newborn. We passed out cigars -- little chocolate ones



Girls Got Swing...and class!

wrapped in pink foil. Our shop was conceived with TLC and the hope of a thriving future. And it grew by taking baby steps.

Born of a passion for both golf and fashion, it was built on the idea that dressing for success isn’t limited to the office. Looking good boosts confidence, and women are inspired by apparel and accessories that let them express their individuality whether at work or play. And the better they feel, the better they perform.

Our goal has always been to provide products that are both fashionable and functional. We carry brands designed to be worn on and off the course, with unique features like mesh sleeve panels, sun protection factors, and moisture-wicking fabrics. Interesting accessories are tucked-in throughout the store, making it fun to shop.

This month, we’re introducing a new long-sleeve top that’s made of fabric that cools the skin in response to body heat. It’s a perfect example of how far sportswear has come, and



Happy customers at Girls Got Swing

how well it transitions to women’s activewear in general.

We’re one of the few retailers in our area offering designer warm-weather apparel year-round for our customers (aka: Snowbirds) who shop before they escape for the winter. And we always welcome them back in the spring!

As we celebrate our fifth birthday, all are invited to stop into Girls Got Swing on **December 5** from 11 a.m.

to 4 p.m. during the Holiday Walk at Beachcliff Market Square. We’ll save a slice of birthday cake for you!

The shop is located in the Beachcliff Market Square at 19316 Detroit Road in Rocky River. For more information, call 440-333-3377 or visit [www.girlsgotswing.com](http://www.girlsgotswing.com) or [facebook.com/GirlsGotSwing](https://facebook.com/GirlsGotSwing).

*Irene Dooley is the owner of Girls Got Swing.*

“Fashion is not something that exists in dresses only. Fashion is in the sky, in the street; fashion has to do with ideas, the way we live, what is happening.”

—Coco Chanel

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COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

HOLIDAY EVENTS  
IN THE ROCKPORT COMMUNITY

**All Aglow Holiday Celebration & Tree Lighting Ceremony** - December 4, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the lawn of Rocky River City Hall. The lighting of the evergreens will be followed by a warm reception at the Senior Center. Enjoy hot chocolate, cookies, children's crafts, carols sung by River's Edge, and, of course, visits with Santa himself. Parents, make sure to bring your cameras!

**Winter Wonderland at Kamm's Corners** - December 4, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Join the fun under the clock at 6 p.m. as friends and neighbors gather for a mini-concert and sing-along under the stars. May the force awaken us at this Star Wars themed Winter Wonderland! Meet and greet your favorite Star Wars characters while Santa and Mrs. Claus pose for photos with children. Sip hot chocolate while you enjoy the ceremonial turning on of the lights. Sleigh rides around Kamm's Plaza are set for that night and continue December 11 and 18. The complimentary sleigh rides depart from the tower corner at 6 p.m. with the last trip leaving around 7:40 p.m. Bundle up and enjoy this family friendly treat!

**Holiday Walk** - December 5, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Don't miss the fun and festivities at Downtown River's Annual Holiday Walk! This family day has become a tradition for Downtown River's visitors from near and far.

**Lunch with Santa** - December 5 at the historic Bain Park Cabin, presented by Fairview Park Junior Women's Club. Tickets are \$7 each for adults and children over age 1. Price includes a serving of pizza, fruit, carrots and dip, beverage and dessert. Children can decorate a holiday cookie and complete a craft or two. Santa will be making a special visit so be sure to bring your camera! Contact Sally Lisowski at 440-779-1417 with questions or to make a reservation.

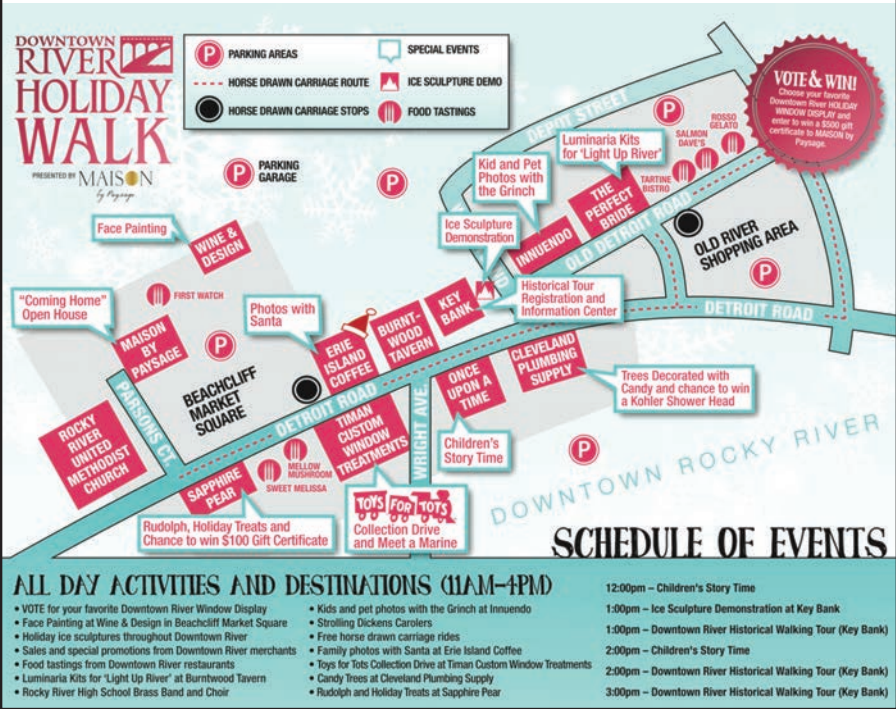
**A Country Christmas** - December 5 at 6 PM. Bring friends and family to dinner at the American Legion Post 738, 19311 Lorain Road, Fairview Park. Enjoy an evening with dinner, dancing and the soft sounds of country played by our special host, Tim Whalen and Sundown. Band will follow dinner. Tickets are only \$10. The evening will include raffles, 50/50, sideboards and a great time! To order tickets, call 440-356-4110. Reservations are required.

**Rocky River Women's Club Holiday Home Tour** - December 6, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Each year Rocky River residents generously open up their beautifully decorated homes to inspire tour-goers creativity, to celebrate our city's beautiful architecture, and to enjoy a day out with friends. . . all while raising money for scholarships, schools, and local charities. All profits from this event are disbursed back into the Rocky River Community! Tickets must be purchased. Go to [www.rwvc.org](http://www.rwvc.org).

**Swim with Santa** - December 12 at 1 p.m. at the Fairview Park Gemini Center. Santa will spend an hour in the aquatic center visiting and posing for pictures. For the children, there will be milk and cookies and crafts. Bring your cameras for pictures and your bathing suit and towel to swim! Free for members; residents, \$2 for adults and children; and non-residents, \$3 for adults and \$2 for children.

**Light Up River** - Join us on December 20 when we light up the night! Streets throughout Rocky River will be twinkling with thousands of luminarias.

**Santa Patrol** - December 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Santa will once again visit the streets of Fairview Park via fire truck! You never know when Santa will be on your street. You'll know he's close when you hear the siren!



Holly Market at Magnificat

The Magnificat High School Mothers' Club hosts its second annual Holly Market event on Thursday, December 3 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Magnificat High School. Grab your friends and enjoy a ladies' night out, complete with artisan and fair trade shopping, heavy appetizers by Italian Creations, one drink ticket and one raffle ticket—all for \$25. Or, new this year, pay \$5 at the door with a cash bar.

Visit [www.magnificaths.org](http://www.magnificaths.org) for more information or to purchase tickets. To see a complete list of vendors who will be onsite, visit the Holly Market Facebook page. •



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COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

# Rotary Recognizes Edward Gallagher for Arts Program

By Lynn Donaldson

Edward P. Gallagher, Director of Education for the Beck Center, received a Paul Harris Fellowship from the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River in November in recognition of his 11 years running the club's speech, music and art awards program.

Each year, students from all Lakewood and Rocky River high

schools are eligible to compete for scholarships that recognize their talents in speech, music and art.

"This annual event is a time to showcase our local schools, the students, and the power of speech and the arts. I am proud to work closely with Rotarians each year to make this event a way to bring students together as they strive to further develop skills that will serve them for a lifetime," Gallagher

remarked.

"Personally, I enjoy being part of the process that turns the local spotlight on young talented musicians, outstanding artists and individuals who deliver speeches with passion under the framework of the Four-Way Test of Rotary."

The Paul Harris Fellowship is named for Paul Harris, who founded Rotary in 1905. The Fellowship was established in his honor in 1957. •



Edward P. Gallagher



Dr. Carissa Romero

# Magnificat Presents an Evening with Dr. Carissa Romero

By Karen Uthe

On Thursday, December 10 at 7 p.m., Magnificat High School presents Building Confidence Through a Growth Mindset - an Evening with Dr. Carissa Romero. Don't miss this opportunity to meet Dr. Carissa Romero from Stanford University as she shares the latest research on

Mindset, as well as strategies parents and educators can use to empower students to reach their full potential now, in college and in the real world.

There will be a reception with Dr. Romero before her speaking engagement from 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. This program is made possible by the Rosemary Saas Center for Women of Faith in Leadership at Magnificat.

This free event is open to the public, but seating is limited. The event will be held inside the Magnificat Center for the Performing Arts. For reservations or more information, please call Mrs. Susie Turek at 440-331-1572, ext. 253.

Magnificat High School is located at 20770 Hilliard Blvd. in Rocky River. •



The chambers honored 24 veterans.

# Fairview Park Chamber and Others Honor Veterans

By Tammy Bertrand

The 100th Bomb Group was host to a Veterans Day luncheon put on by the Power of More Chambers of Commerce. All six chambers invited their member veterans and their families to be recognized and honored. Over 125 people members attended, including Rocky River Mayor Pam Bobst and Representative Nan Baker. Fairview Park Chamber President Tim Sacko brought two generations of his family - Dad John Sacko, who is a Vietnam veteran, and his Grandfather William "Bud" Szabrak, who is a veteran of the Korean War.

The keynote speaker was John Reiss, Executive Director of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission. He spoke on veterans benefits. All 24 veterans present, ranging from age 25 to 97, received a veteran pin during the emotional ceremony. •

*Tammy Bertrand is the Marketing Manager of the Power of More Networking organization combining six West Side chamber of commerce groups, including Fairview Park.*

# RR Citizen Police Academy

By Carolyn Hildebrandt

Mayor Pam Bobst, Police Chief Kelly Stillman, and the City of Rocky River Division of Police are pleased to announce the 6th Citizen Police Academy.

The goals of the Academy are to provide a basic understanding of the operation of the RRPD, to provide insight into police work, to provide a clearer understanding of citizens' role in assisting law enforcement, to help citizens feel comfortable communicating with police and City officials, and to strengthen the partnership between the police and the community.

Topics to be discussed include RRPD Special Services, an overview of the Municipal and Common Pleas courts, crime prevention, internet crimes against children, domestic violence and stalking, firearms, unarmed self-defense, drug abuse, and more.

The Academy will be held at the Rocky River Police Department from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30-10:00 p.m. for 16 Tuesdays, starting January 12, 2016 and ending with a graduation ceremony on Thursday, May 5, 2016.

Applicants must be 21 years of age or older, have a high school diploma or GED, be a resident or have worked in the City for at least one year, have no pending criminal charges or civil cases, no felony convictions, and have personal character consistent with community standards.

Applications are available at the Rocky River Police Department, Rocky River City Hall, or via email by request to Lieutenant George Lichman at glichman@rrcity.com. Applications are due no later than **Tuesday, December 15**. Space at the Academy is limited. Questions can be directed to Lt. Lichman via email, or telephone at 440-799-8208, or at the Rocky River Police Department. •

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FAMOUS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Our Irish Champion: Una Ellis

By Peggy Calvey Patton

Una McCaughey was born in Skerries, a small town outside of Dublin Ireland. When she was four years old, she and her mother and sister immigrated to America to join her father. The family settled in the Bronx. During grade school, she met John Ellis who would later become her husband.

Una's love of Irish dancing was instilled by her parents, Michael and Sarah, and she started taking dance lessons at the age of six. When she was a teenager, she returned to Ireland and studied for three summers with Anna McCoy in Belfast, Ireland.

After they married, John and Una settled in New Jersey to raise their family, and it was there that she opened her first school of Irish dancing. When John's career took them to Cleveland, Una opened Ellis

School of Irish Dancing on Wooster Road in Fairview Park.

Una has taught Irish dancing for 50 years and has judged Irish dance contests all over the United States and parts of Canada. She has won several New York State Championships and a Feiseanna in Ireland. She has also judged the World Irish Dance Competition on two occasions. She served as Treasurer, Secretary and Regional Director for the Mid-America Irish Dance Region when she lived in Ohio.

John and Una retired to South Carolina, where she served as Regional Director for the Southern Region for six years. She chaired the North American Irish Dance Championships in July 2003 in Tennessee, which produced the highest profit for any National Irish Dance Competition at that time. Una is one of the Founders of the IDTANA

(Irish Dancing Teachers Association of North America) which is under the jurisdiction of An Coimisiun le Rinci Gaelacha in Dublin, Ireland.

When living in South Carolina, she was voted Catholic Woman of the Year from the Pee Dee Deanery and also obtained a degree in Criminal Justice from Horry Georgetown College, graduating with honors. John

and Una returned to the Cleveland area because they missed their family. They are the parents of three children and grandparents of four and long-standing members of the West Side Irish American Club. In 2013, Una was chosen the Irish Mother of the year. •

Peggy Calvey is a freelance writer from West Park.



Una Ellis

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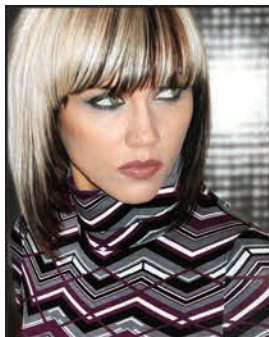
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GOVERNMENT

It’s Official! Rep. Baker Files for State Senator

By Nan Baker

Nan Baker (R-Westlake) announced in November that she has officially filed her petition for the March 15, 2016 election at the Cuyahoga County Board of Election for State Senator representing the 24th Senate District.\*

“After months of meeting thousands of our neighbors across the 24th Senate District, walking door-to-door, participating in all the parades, festivals, and events, our message has been strong - It’s All About Jobs! It is an honor to file my petition for State Senator so I can take the important work accomplished in the Ohio House since 2009 and continue that work in the Ohio Senate. Work that created a

business friendly environment that produced More JOBS, Higher Paying JOBS, and Better JOB Training!”

During her tenure at the Ohio House of Representatives, Nan Baker has worked tirelessly to bring common sense to state government - balanced budgets, easy to understand rules for businesses and lower taxes for all Ohioans. She has helped create the environment to retain, create and bring jobs to Ohio. Since she began her service, over 300,000 jobs have been created. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee and Chair of the Ohio House Economic and Workforce Development Committee, her focus has been to provide opportunity for workforce training to learn the skills to obtain a good paying job.

Baker’s current Ohio House District 16 represents Bay Village, Fairview Park, North Olmsted, Rocky River and Westlake. She has left a legacy with her colleagues at the Ohio House. When you talk about Nan Baker, **It’s All About Jobs!**

\*Senate District 24 includes Nan Baker’s current House Districts 16; Bay Village, Fairview Park, North Olmsted, Rocky River, Westlake, and expands to District 7; Berea, Olmsted Falls, Olmsted Township, North Royalton, Strongsville, and House District 6; Brecksville, Bentleyville, Broadview Heights, Chagrin Falls, Chagrin Falls Township, Gates Mills, Glenwillow, Highland Heights, Hunting Valley, Independence, Lyndhurst, Mayfield



Nan Baker

Village, Moreland Hills, Oakwood, Seven Hills, Solon, Valley View, and Walton Hills. •

National Defense PAC Endorses Mike Dovilla for Ohio Senate



Mike Dovilla

By Brandon Gesicki

The National Defense Political Action Committee, unequivocally and without reservation, endorses Mike Dovilla to represent the 24th Ohio Senate District, which is comprised of 28 suburban communities in Cuyahoga County in the greater Cleveland area. Dovilla is a patriot dedicated to the service of his Nation and State.

National Defense PAC National Chairman, Rear Admiral (Ret.) Jim Carey, stated, “Mike Dovilla is exactly the caliber of military veteran that NDPAC seeks to support for elected office. He knows America’s national

defense, intelligence and homeland security needs and he will work hard to make sure that those needs are addressed in the Ohio Senate on behalf of the citizens of Cuyahoga County and especially for all of our men and women in uniform. He understands the premise of peace through power!”

A lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve, Dovilla is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom with more than 13 years of commissioned service. A qualified Information Dominance Warfare Officer, his military decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Joint Service

Achievement Medal, and various campaign and unit awards. Dovilla is currently serving his third term in the Ohio House of Representatives, where his colleagues elected him Majority Whip for the 131st General Assembly.

“I am honored to receive the endorsement of the National Defense PAC in my candidacy for the Ohio Senate,” said Dovilla. “Veterans advocacy has been a major focus of my efforts during the past five years in the Ohio House of Representatives. I am pleased to have authored laws expanding opportunities for higher education and post-military employment, protecting service members and their families from identity theft, and improving the voting process for deployed military personnel.” •

West Shore Council of Governments Meeting of November 18

By LWVGC observer Kathryn Kosiorek

*This report is not an official statement of the League of Women Voters; Mayor Sutherland’s office prepares official minutes, which are posted on Bay Village’s website.*

**RTA (Sutherland):** There will be an election for representation of mayors on the RTA board.

**NOACA (Sutherland):** There will be no meeting until mid December.

**Land Bank (Kennedy):** There are a few projects in the pipeline. More properties are needed for the demonstration fund.

**Cuyahoga County Planning Commission:** There was no meeting to report on. There will be an appointment of a mayoral representative soon.

**Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers Association (Kennedy):** The association will be appealing for an increase in the Local Government Fund. The next meeting is December 2 for the new mayors’ orientation. Mayor Kennedy also reported on a program

on human trafficking that illustrated the extent of trafficking throughout all communities.

**Municipal League** is looking at statewide advocacy for strengthening leadership.

**CERT (Community Emergency Response Team):** Fire Chief Raffin reviewed CERT needs and support from the Chiefs of Police. The need for volunteers continues. The county would like to coordinate CERTs.

**WEB (Westshore Enforcement Bureau) (Mahoney):** October financials were passed. Adjustments in the budget for the rest of 2015 were approved. The proposed 2016 budget was passed. Ms. Mahoney reported on the allocation of monies from a prior drug bust which will be distributed to community law enforcement trust funds.

There will be no December meeting. The next meeting will be held at Rocky River City Hall on Wednesday, January 13. WCOG meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. In 2016, WCOG meetings will be hosted by Major Pam Bobst at Rocky River City Hall. •

Rep. Baker Working to Keep Drunk Drivers off the Streets

By Nan Baker

Legislation sponsored by Rep. Nan Baker (R-Westlake) to strengthen penalties on drunk drivers passed unanimously by the Ohio House Judiciary Committee last week. The committee’s passage sends the bill to the House floor for a full chamber vote.

House Bill 300 would prevent drunk drivers from reclaiming their driver’s license immediately after their release from prison. The bill protects innocent people from aggravated vehicular homicide offenders, those who cause the death of another as a result of driving while intoxicated.

“It just doesn’t make sense,” Baker said, referring to current Ohio law. “Why suspend someone’s license for 15 years when most of that suspension will be served while that person is in prison? The offender cannot drive a car in prison.”

Under current state law, OVI (operating a vehicle under the influence) offenders can serve a prison sentence and a driver’s license suspension at the same time. In some cases, OVI offenders have been able to legally regain their license shortly after being released from prison. HB 300 provides that, in order for OVI offenders to terminate their license suspension with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, they must provide documentation that the entirety of their license suspension was served out of prison.

Baker co-sponsored the bill with Rep. Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville). “I am thankful to have had Rep. Manning as a primary sponsor of House Bill 300,” Baker said. “His background and insight was a valuable asset in creating this bill.” Manning is leading a subcommittee to further research other needed changes to OVI laws. •

EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

FHS “Stream Team” Wins Adelstein Award

By Julia Comerford and Colleen Sliwinski

In November, the Fairview High School “Stream Team” was awarded the Hope and Stanley Adelstein Student Environmental Leadership Award for Excellence by the Earth Day Coalition. The Stream Team is a group of FHS environmental science students dedicated to promoting the understanding that we are all part of a watershed and that clean water is essential to our region’s health and economy.

The Adelstein Award was given to the FHS Stream Team for their role in and commitment to the Coe Creek Streambank Restoration Project. This project, funded by a grant from Ohio EPA to the City of Fairview Park, was designed to resolve streambank erosion issues along a highly visible section of Coe Creek in Bain Park. As part of the project, the Stream Team was given



A Stream Team contingent was on hand to accept the Adelstein Award, including FHS students Jacob Marinak, Samuel Hvizdos, Mollie Quinn, Julia Comerford, Christina Stover, and Lexi Neuhaus, and teacher Mrs. Colleen Sliwinski.

the opportunity to collaborate with the City and its partners and take an active role in both data collection and the planting and maintenance of vegetation in the riparian zone along Coe Creek. Most recently, the Stream Team

collaborated with Fairview Park resident and landscape designer, Mary Alice Mastrovito, to plan and conduct a tree assessment and maintenance program in Bain Park. Students created a checklist of supplies and action items used

to determine and address the needs of each tree planted as part of the streambank restoration project. The final project phase will be the installation of a permanent interpretive sign in Bain Park that has been designed by Stream Team members in collaboration with the FHS Art Department.

The Adelstein Award included a \$1,000 check, which the Stream Team plans to use to implement environmental education initiatives throughout the Fairview Park City School District. •

*Julia Comerford, a senior at FHS, plans to attend Bowling Green State University next fall. She is actively involved in many environmental initiatives.*

*Colleen Sliwinski is a Fairview Park resident and FHS science teacher. She is a board member on the Rocky River Watershed Council and an active member of the Fairview Park Green Team and Fairview Park Safe Routes to School Committee.*

Rotary Presents Dictionaries to Third Graders

By Lynn Donaldson

The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River purchased more than 800 dictionaries for all third grade students in Lakewood and Rocky River schools. Club members took the dictionaries into the classrooms to deliver them personally and to spend time talking to the students about how Rotary is active in their communities and internationally. Jay Rounds was the project chairperson.

Students and teachers alike are very appreciative of the gift, and each year the club receives hundreds of letters and thank you cards from the students. The students mention their favorite sections of the dictionary and how they have begun to use the dictionary in their classrooms. The first page of each dictionary is stamped with the club’s name and a copy of the Four-Way Test of Rotary.

Since 2005, the club has presented dictionaries to over 9,000 students. The dictionaries are published by The Dictionary Project. A nonprofit organization, its goal is to assist all students to become good writers, active readers and creative thinkers by providing them with a gift of their own personal dictionary.

The dictionary features over 32,000 words with simple, child-friendly definitions, plus pronunciation and parts of speech, and includes additional information about punctuation, the nine parts of speech, a map of the United States, and more. The back of the book has over 150 pages of supplemental information such as the Constitution of the U.S. and world maps. •

What’s in Your Tool Belt?



Westshore Young Leaders Annual Leadership Conference

By Noreen Kyle

The 2015-2016 Westshore Young Leaders Network continues to flourish as it spices up its Leadership Training by welcoming a new partner - Flo Brett, Founder and Executive Director of ELA (Effective Leadership Academy).Flo, a graduate of Derby University in England, specializes in helping teams and individuals achieve improved personal and organizational skills through action-based team-building strategies, goal achievement, and positive attitude development.

Westlake Recreation Center was the site for the Annual Leadership Training. Some 100 middle and high school students from the six western suburbs and their school representatives put on their “Leadership Tool Belts” to become better equipped as leaders. Some of the “tools” in their belts included developing a leadership mindset, knowing yourself and your team, and tackling team challenges.

On the third Thursday of every month, you will find many of these same devoted students at the WYLN monthly teen meeting in the Bay Village Police Department Community Room from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Each meeting focuses on alcohol and drug prevention strategies, along with reinforcing and building a teen’s self-esteem through leadership development.

Students have the opportunity to network with friends from other schools. This unique assembly gives teens the affirmation of peers and allows them to develop plans, share dreams and goals, and create new ventures for their schools and communities.

The Westshore Young Leaders gives youth a voice, opportunities to lead, and recognition for positive choices. •

*Noreen Kyle is the school prevention and youth education specialist for the Westshore Enforcement Bureau.*

**FAIRVIEW PARK BRANCH LIBRARY HAPPENINGS**

**December 12 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Join us for **Greeting Card Creation**. At this adult program, you will learn how to write and design greeting cards using different techniques and equipment. Light refreshments will be provided by The Friends of the Fairview Park Branch Library.

**December 12 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.** Come and relax or browse to the sounds of **Classical Holiday Guitar**. Musician Cheryl Fitiak will perform an arrangement of seasonal favorites and songs from her classical repertoire. Some seating will be available and light refreshments will be served. Sponsored by The Friends of the Fairview Park Branch Library.

**For more information, visit or call the Fairview Park Branch Library at 440-333-4700.**

THE GOOD LIFE

# The Eponymous Antique Shop Owner Deck the Halls...and the Mantels and Walls

By Mitchell Sotka

Soon we will be decorating for the holiday season. The fireplace mantel can provide a great opportunity to add a little festivity to any room. It is a small surface, but it can make a big impact. Last month, I wrote about how the mantel came to be, so let's thank our forefathers and come up with some great holiday redesign in their honor.

The fall and winter seasons bring us back inside for festive meals with friends and family. Thanksgiving and Christmas are just two of the occasions to be creative. Head to Pinterest, home magazines like "Elle Décor" or "Veranda" and keep your eyes open while on the Rocky River Holiday Home Tour for new ideas to try on your mantel. From simple to elaborate, stark to full of fluff and glitter, no matter your everyday style this is an opportunity to experiment. Try a style that is the opposite of how your mantel is currently decorated.

Collections can be the key to dressing the mantel in any season. Pick an item and go with it - crystal

Christmas trees found at antique shops or local retailers, vintage felt pixies from the sixties, or glass vases filled with colorful ornaments. A cohesive grouping is always fun to put together. Moreover, when you see your mantel full of like items of various sizes, it does not look cluttered. A grouping of like items act more as a unit and less as a large number of things.

Laying greens over the mantle, either artificial or real, is a lovely tradition. Once the greens are in place, think about what else can be added. Collections of candlesticks - brass, silver or glass - can bring that next layer of contrast and shimmer. Although I am partial to off-white candles, it's the holidays so get colorful if you wish.

Remember a more successful arrangement is created with various sizes in odd amounts. Also, do not be wimpy, do it right and fill the mantel with a baker's dozen. When you



enter the room, you see a simple and elegant picture—a mantel draped in lush greens and punctuated by various candlesticks poking through.

So you have no mantel or have one that is not even deep enough to place a thimble on. Do not think small or

nothing, think big! The holidays can give you good reason to swap out art with an image of a winter landscape. A large wreath is also another option. Fill it with pinecones, holly berries and other natural accents to bring nature into your home.

If your home is modern, swap out the natural for the artificial and create a wreath filled with glass ornaments over a bed of white or silver artificial pine branches. Remember the wreath acts as the mantle, so the same rules apply: varied sizes and odd amounts.

The winter holidays are not long and can be the muse to experiment with design on a small scale. You should not tire of your new look as it will be taken down in several weeks. A few small chachkies sprinkled throughout your home can be lackluster, but they can be impressive when gathered all in one place.

Give those that gather at your home this holiday season a feast for the eyes - the gleam is not only your roaring fire but also the mantle or space above it. •

## Christmas Memories

By Peggy Calvey Patton

Christmas Eve is my first real memory of the holiday. My mom insisted that my sister Eleanor and I go to bed early. I realized some time ago that we went to bed at dusk and it was probably only 5:00 p.m.! We were too young to tell time and there was no TV.

Our bed was on rollers and easily pushed to the front window of our second floor bedroom. We kept our chenille bathrobes on because storm windows didn't exist then and it was drafty. We used our breath to melt the ice on the windows and make lopsided peep holes, thus settling into our secret viewing area.

We were going to see Santa and his reindeer land the sleigh this year - for sure. Alas, we never did, the Sandman always came before Santa.

The pile of gifts under



the tree the next morning made catching Santa fade in importance. Great gifts under the tree for everyone!

One Christmas we got matching winter coat sets, mine was blue and Eleanor's was red. They were double-breasted wool coats, each trimmed with a black velvet collar and buttons, and came with matching leggings and a bonnet. People asked if we were twins.

**Downtown**

A trip downtown was one of the joyous events of our Christmas vacation from school. We would catch the Lorain Avenue streetcar at the W. 110th St. stop. The route was east along Lorain Ave, a left turn on W. 25th St., and a right turn on Detroit Avenue into the lower level of the Detroit-Superior bridge. It was slow going, with many stops, so it took an hour to get downtown.

As we passed the West Side Market, we saw black-clad immigrants carrying live chickens that peeked out of oilcloth shopping bags. We loved it when they got on the streetcar with the squawking birds. Every one getting on or off the streetcar at that stop spoke in a foreign language. We saw kids not much older than us working the outside vegetable stands and warming themselves at the steel barrels used as fires pits.

When the streetcar emerged on the other side of the bridge, it was a short ride to the sparkling magic of Public Square. We would spin in a circle to take it all in. The four quads each had their own splendors, but the one nearest the terminal had an enormous tree. The department stores' marquees had tinsel laden trees and the windows were draped with garlands.

What delights those fanciful windows held! Higbee's and May's brought the holiday to life, with Santa's work shop and tinkering elves or snowy Christmas scenes with kids sledding and skating or a giant nutcracker. Further down Euclid Ave. awaited Sterling-Linder-Davis's breath-taking 50-foot tree and Halle's Mr. Jingeling. The crowds of people around the windows were three deep, but Eleanor and I would wiggle our way up to the glass windowpane.

Once inside the crowded stores, we headed for Santa Claus and his enormous red and gold throne. After a wait that seemed hours long, we finally climbed up onto his lap and... were overtaken by shyness. We were speechless, but somehow he always knew what we wanted for Christmas anyway. •

*Peggy Calvey Patton is a freelance writer from West Park.*

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## THE GOOD LIFE

## On the Light Side Food from the Fringe

By Tim Piai

End-of-year Food and Drink wrap-up pieces are tough for food writers to dish out. They have to be hip and deliciously descriptive. A humor writer's recipe, however, lands somewhere between cold pizza and warm beer.

For example, I'm half-serious when I say that the highlight of my food year was when Dunkin' Donuts widened their curvy, éclair-thin drive-thru lane. No longer will java junkies bounce their mini-vans against the curb like a 7 year-old riding the antique cars at Cedar Point. Now, we are cleared – fritter in hand – to navigate safely back onto Lorain Road.

Speaking of Lorain (and fritters), while attending a backyard party this past summer, an off-duty police officer confirmed to me that U-turning on Lorain – after you have had your fill at Becker's Donuts – is not strudel with local law enforcement. I now know that U-turns are okay on light business roads – like Hilliard Road – but not storefront strips like Center Ridge. And, no, I did not get a ticket for taking a U-turn at Beckers. It was just a question.

Speaking of questions, I finally asked one of the regular Chick-Fil-A dancing cow mascots if he and his fellow moo-vers and shakers jam to tunes under the giant cow head. The reason for my inquiry was that I had experienced several instances at red lights when the cow was grooving to the exact same beat as the song I had on WNCX. The cow confirmed the headphone habit, but seemed beefed at my Classic-Rock accusations. These cows, it seems, prefer Country. No surprise there.

Speaking of no surprise, the burrito battle that was taking place on Center Ridge – west of the cow – finally came to a head when Qdoba Mexican Grill cried “no mas,” and closed its door. Don't panic. There are still enough beans left at Chipotle and Moe's Southwest Grill to fill the nearby AMC movie theater.

Speaking of flatulence, it truly stinks that East Coast Custard closed its windows for good this fall. While it's true that our community has more ice cream shops than bus stops, East Coast was soul food for the nearby locals. Not only was it a throwback, hometown-type hangout, but it represented a right-of-passage for River and Fairview kids alike. ECC was typically the test locale where parents finally allowed their kids to head out unsupervised – often in big bike gangs or packs of pre-teen pedestrians.

Completing my rundown of food and drink trivia is a plea to both Fairview and Rocky River libraries to finally get some coffee brewing. Please. It's not like the correlation between reading and drowsiness is a new concept. And as any parent who has read to their kids on the second floor of the RRPL will tell you, a stack of Maisy the mouse books requires a full pot. If somebody can make this happen, then I'll bring the donuts. •

*Tim Piai is a freelance writer living in Rocky River.*



### Tasty Trade

What could be more fun than a COOKIE SWAP? It's holiday baking time again, so join us for a “Holiday Cookie Recipe Swap” on **December 5** at 2:00 p.m. If you'd like to revamp your repertoire, bring two dozen of your favorite home-baked cookies and the recipe to the Library and we'll sample, share stories and take home recipes. Beverages provided. Registration required. For additional information, call Rocky River Public Library at 440-333-7610 or visit [www.rrpl.org](http://www.rrpl.org).

## The Etiquette Corner What Is Appropriate Attire?

By Colleen Harding

The holidays are upon us. Many people will be attending parties, dinners and company holiday gatherings. What is appropriate attire for holiday events? Some may be casual, taking place in a bar. Some may be more formal, especially those hosted at a private club or banquet facility.

When considering what to wear, think about two things: the other guests and the location. If you focus on the other attendees and what they will be wearing and comply, you will be in good taste and everyone will be comfortable. If you think about what is appropriate for the location, you will also fit in with the crowd.

The problem is, however, that many people want to follow their own style whether or not it is appropriate. For example, if you are a gentleman who does not want to wear a jacket, don't go to a restaurant that requires one. You cannot redefine appropriate attire because you don't feel like following the recommended dress code.

The good news is that we have many choices today. There are definitely options that will accommodate your desire to get dressed up or dressed down. Clothing attire suggestions are put in place for a reason. It is best to follow the recommendations so that everyone is comfortable. •



Colleen Harding

*Please submit your questions to Mrs. Harding through our website, click on Submit a new story and choose the category “Mrs. Harding.”*

## It's a Jolly Holiday at Beck Center

By Pat Miller

Beck Center for the Arts is fully prepared for the rapidly approaching holidays this year. With plenty of opportunities to enjoy the most wonderful time of the year, Beck Center is here to help. From original gifts to gift cards, to theater tickets and more, there are numerous options to suit all styles and age groups.

Beck Center's annual celebration of local art and artists returns with the LimeLight Holiday Gallery Exhibition. This show is perfect for shoppers looking for one-of-a-kind gifts this holiday season. Designed specifically in the festive spirit, these works will be on display in the Jean Bulicek Galleria through Sunday, January 3.

After breaking all previous Beck Center box office records, the magic of Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's “Mary Poppins” returns **December 4 through January 3, 2016**. Based on the stories of P.L. Travers and the Walt Disney Film, this smash-hit musical production stars Broadway's Rebecca Pitcher. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and at 2:30 p.m. on Sundays. Double performance dates will take place December 12, 19, 26, and January 2.

Beck Center's Department of Dance holiday tradition –



“Nutcracker...Jazzed Up!” – is sold out.

The performances continue with Beck Center Youth Theater's production of “Happily Forever After,” **December 11 to 20**. When Snow White, Cinderella, and Goldilocks achieve their happy endings, they soon realize that happily-ever-after isn't quite how they imagined! Meanwhile, Princess Wallflower is still hoping for her happy ending. Follow her adventure to see if her dreams come true. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays, and at 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

For more information, visit [beckcenter.org](http://beckcenter.org) or call Customer Service at 216-521-2540, x10. Beck Center for the Arts is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. •

*Pat Miller is Graphic Design & Marketing Coordinator at Beck Center.*

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ROCKY RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY · CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**December 1 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Drop in for our **Holiday Craft Festival**. The holidays are coming and it's time to decorate! Stop by the library with family and friends and make ornaments together. For all ages.



**December 3 at 7:00 p.m.** Meet the **Author James Renner**. Novelist and freelance journalist, James Renner, discusses his newest novel, "The Great Forgetting". A fascinating read that blends science fiction and conspiracy thrillers with a touch of pure fantasy. Q&A followed by book signing.

**December 5 at 2:00 p.m.** It's holiday baking time again, so join us for a **Holiday Cookie Recipe Swap**. If you'd like to revamp your repertoire, bring two dozen of your favorite home-baked cookies and the recipe to the library and we'll sample, share stories and take home recipes. Beverages provided. Registration required.



**December 7 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Stop by for a **Freestyle**

**Hangout** for students in grades 3-6. Relax after school and hang out with friends. Get creative with art supplies and have fun with technology including our Smart Board. Drop in as you please!

**December 9 at 9:30 a.m.** Learn about **NASA: Living and Working in Space** from NASA staff member, Jim Simek. The presentation includes duties on the International Space Station and Shuttle.

**December 11 at 5:00 p.m.** Join us for **Your Book, Your Brew** at Erie Island Coffee Company. This is a new kind of book club! We'll meet outside the library for a casual chat about books we're reading, while enjoying a beverage of your choice.

**December 14 at 6:30 p.m.** View "Secrets of War," a 2015 Dutch drama, as we continue our **Indie International Film Fest**, featuring selections from the world's top film festivals. During WWII, the friendship of two boys is at risk when a girl tells a very personal secret to only one of them. Please note that films shown have not been rated and should be assumed to have mature content.

**December 18 at 2:00 p.m.** Why not come to the library to **Sip, Snack, and Craft!** - and chat while you get into the knitting groove. You'll want to bring your own project and supplies, and the library will provide the cozy atmosphere and helpful assistance if you get stuck. Or if you'd like to work on the same project as others, please stop by Reference Desk for a free pattern. Registration required.

**December 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Make a furry friend's holiday dreams come true at our **4th Annual APL Critter Christmas Party**. Drop off a gift from the Animal Protective League's wish list. Stay to meet animals looking for forever homes and make a pet-friendly gift for your pet or donate to one in need. Family friendly. APL wish list and donation site is <https://clevelandapl.org/donate/our-wish-list/>.



**December 21 at 3:30 p.m.** Drop in for **Movie Monday** for students in grades 3 through 6. We'll feature newly released DVDs, along with everyone's favorite classics, after school. Enjoy free popcorn and drinks.

**December 26 at 12:00 p.m.** Come to our **Movie Matinee** featuring "Trainwreck," starring Amy Schumer and Bill Hader - and LeBron James. Popcorn and lemonade provided!

**December 28 at 6:30 p.m.** Join us for the 9th annual **Cowan Classic Film Festival**, which continues on with a showing of "The Killers" (1946), starring Ava Gardner and Burt Lancaster. Fresh popcorn provided!

**December 29 from 6:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.** Be a part of the **Adventure**

**Gaming Club**. Are you looking for a place to play your favorite adventure games? Pokeman, Yu-Gi-Oh!, or Magic players, gather your cards and join us. Would you rather play D&D, Munchkin or Settlers of Catan? We've got them! New to gaming? No problem. Grades 7 and up.

**After-School Teen Scene** takes place on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays** during the school year, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.:

- **Tuesdays** - Gaming in the Computer Training Center.
- **Wednesdays** - Join the Library Literati for weekly bookish activities.
- **Thursdays** - Stop in for a casual Teen Lounge. Activities will vary, but pancakes will be a staple! Grades 7 and up.

Calling all **Teen Volunteers!** Are you a student in grades 9-12 looking for a place to fulfill school assigned volunteer hours? The library may be able to help. Opportunities will range from collection maintenance to assisting librarians with program preparations and implementation. Please contact Megan Alabaugh, Teen Librarian at 440-895-3752 or [m.alabaugh@rrpl.org](mailto:m.alabaugh@rrpl.org) to find out more about this new opportunity.

**Holiday Closings:** Rocky River Public Library will be closed on **December 24, December 25, December 31, and January 1** in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

For additional information, call the Rocky River Public Library at 440-333-7610 or visit [www.rrpl.org](http://www.rrpl.org).

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