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Volume 8, Issue 3, February 7, 2012

Political Newcomer Graham Veysey Positions Self As Fresh Alternative

by Walter Wright

Graham Veysey (pronounced “VeeZee”), 29, is running for Congress, in the newly-drawn and likely to be hotly contested 9th District. In an unusual race that pits two veteran politicians against one another, Graham has positioned himself as a fresh alternative. Both pro-choice and fiscally moderate, drawn

equally to direct political action and new social media, Graham represents a good cross-section of Cleveland's new “brain gain” cohort – young, idealistic, yet practical people who are anxious to make a difference. I interviewed Graham recently during a sunny afternoon at The Root Café – the type of local small business in Lakewood's walkable down-

town that Graham cites as an example of the emerging new economy.

Graham grew up in a close-knit family, one of four boys raised by a father who was a JAG in the Marines and a stay-at-home mom. “No one was political in my family,” says Graham, “but we were always engaged. My mom was always the president of the local PTA, and my parents voted for the candidate, not the party.” However, after the family relocated from

Chicago to Cleveland, several teachers made a big impact on Graham, especially in classes on the environment and in American Studies, and by the time Graham was a freshman at the progressive Bates College in Maine, door-knocking, volunteering and making a difference became part of his life. As a volunteer for Howard Dean, and later, Obama, Graham found himself drawn to practical policies that could have impact. He was impressed by Dean's commitment to

fiscally sound policy. He established a rainy-day fund for Vermont that helped to insulate their economy from the shocks of 9/11 and the “Success by Six” preschool program. Graham explains, “Do you realize that for every dollar we spend on pre-K, we save six dollars on remedial education later? It's just more efficient and the best way to improve our local economy. Raising the college graduation rate by just 1% adds \$1 billion to the local

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Graham Veysey, a candidate for the Democratic Primary taking place on March 6, enjoying the unseasonably warm weather at Lakewood Park.

Puppy Love Party Benefits Friends Of The Lakewood Dog Park

by Alanna Faith

Inspired by Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park members Kaylee Daussin and Chad Bray—who met at the Lakewood Dog Park and became engaged on Dec. 9--dog lovers and singles are invited to attend a benefit party.

Puppy Love Party

Sunday, Feb. 19

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Avenue Tap House
18206 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

KIDD Productions will be rocking the tunes for dancing. This DJ will get the party started and keep it going!

Ticket proceeds benefit the Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park and include:

Puppy Love and Pooch Punch signature cocktails to toast the occasion.

Savory hors d'oeuvres to satisfy a love for food.

Thirsty puppies can select beverages: soft drinks, domestic draft beer, selected wines, and well liquor drinks (no shots).

Who doesn't love sweets? Create-a-Cake will be on hand with tasty treats. They're the bakers for Chad & Kaylee's wedding cake too!

Extra activities will include:

Grab your love and visit the photo booth with the big dog himself, Cleveland Browns mascot, Chomps. A professional photo package will be yours if you snap a shot. (Space is limited to the first 20 people. Online \$5 payment in advance is suggested).

Looking to mingle? The “Magic Match Up” co-ed Corn Hole Tournament will have singles playing for points and winners receive extravagant Brown-Aveda product gift baskets. (Space is limited to 24 people/12 teams. Online \$5 payment in advance is suggested).

Do you love cash? Join the 50/50 raffle that benefits Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park and you may impress

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The End Of An Era:

The Lakewood Family Room Closes, Reopens At Lakewood United Methodist Church

by Jana Christian

For the past eight years The Lakewood Family Room has served many purposes in my life and in the health of my family... it has provided healing, given me hope and, ultimately, brought me to a place of happiness in motherhood. The Celebration of the Family Room on Saturday, January 28 was a beautiful tribute to an institution that has supported families in Lakewood for years.

I first discovered the Family Room while suffering from severe postpartum depression after the birth of my son. In those dark days, the simple act of surrounding myself with “normal” mothers provided safety. Although I wasn't

healthy enough to really make friends or share in the social aspect of the program, I recognized how critical it was for me to get out of the house and provide my son with an opportunity to interact with other children. As I took a more active role in my recovery, I used every resource available to become a better mother... including an eight-week parenting class that literally changed my life.

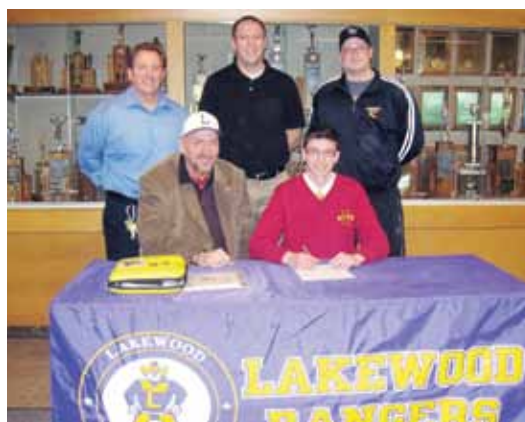
Pregnancy, labor and delivery made me a mother, but it took several years before I truly accepted my role as mom... before I felt comfortable enough in my position to trust my instincts and let go of the impossibly unrealistic expectations I set for myself.

Just as I was making this transition, I found a job and my son entered preschool and except for some quick exchanges at community events, I lost touch with Toni Gelsomino and the Family Room.

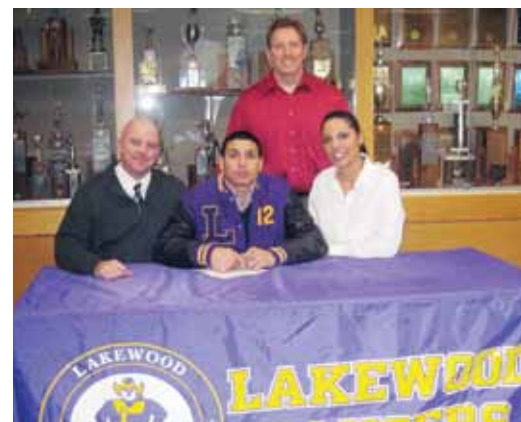
Then, we were blessed with a second child. Thankfully, I did not need the safety that the Family Room provided, but motherhood provided very few opportunities for social interaction and I craved some adult conversation. It took months before I was comfortable enough to talk to the other women that attended the morning drop-ins... not because they were unfriendly, but because I con-

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Ranger Athletes Land College Scholarships



Nick Jackosky signs his Letter of Intent to run for Iowa State. Joining Jackosky are his father, Paul (left), and (standing from left) Athletic Director Bob Thayer, cross country coach Mike Schreiner and track coach Scott Troyan.



Aturo Morgan signs his Letter of Intent to play football for Lake Erie College next year. Joining Morgan are his mom, Ruby Soto, Coach Ron Lewis (sitting) and Athletic Director Bob Thayer (standing).

Calendar Page

Wednesday, February 8

The 2012 Great Big Home & Garden Expo
Presented by Time Warner Cable
11:00 AM - 9:00 PM

The 2012 Great Big Home & Garden Expo Presented by Time Warner Cable will bring exhibitors, celebrities and special events to Northeast Ohio when it comes to Cleveland's I-X Center February 4-12. A classic TV show-themed Garden Showcase, cooking stage and appearances by home and garden celebrities are among the highlights that are sure to excite and surprise show attendees.

\$14 - Box Office (Adult Admission)
\$11 - Online at www.greatbighomeandgarden-expo.com, AAA or Home Depot locations (Adult Admission)
FREE - Children 5 and under

Lakewood Schools' Community Engagement Meeting

7:00 PM

Superintendent Jeffrey W. Patterson invites the community to share its vision of the future of our district as the Schools face challenging economic times ahead.

Roosevelt Elementary School
14237 Athens Ave.

Friday, February 10

Spring Awakening
8:00 PM

In collaboration with Baldwin-Wallace College Music Theatre Program

Winner of 8 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Spring Awakening is a rock musical adaptation of the controversial 19th century German play that explores with poignancy and passion the turbulent journey from adolescence to adulthood. Follow this group of teenagers on their passage as they navigate self-discovery and coming-of-age anxiety in a powerful celebration of youth and rebellion. This landmark musical is an exhilarating mix of morality, sexuality, and rock & roll. This show is recommended for audiences 17 years and older.

Beck Center for the Arts, Mackey Main Stage
17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107

Saturday, February 11

Valentines?...Schmalentines!!
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Winter. That season in Cleveland when most couples cocoon, ingest copious amounts of Netflix and carbohydrates; all the while they anxiously await that special day of chocolate, roses, and mushy sentiments. . . Did you just gag a little?

Do you instead find yourself booing the screen while watching rom-coms? Do you have to physically restrain yourself from clothes lining couples walking with hands in each other's back pockets? When you win a toy in your local claw machine, do you toss the pink bear into a mud puddle before you dwell on having no one to give it to? Well then Breakneck Gallery has the show for you.

"Valentines?...Schmalentines!" is an art show about the humorous, jaded, and hated sides of love

Lakewood Kiwanis Spaghetti Dinner

March 3rd - 4pm - 7pm
Lakewood High School
SAVE THIS DATE • SAVE THIS DATE

and the often dreaded Valentine's Day. The show features a slew of local artists you will love, or perhaps love to hate, and a live performance by local musician Joshua Jesty.

So if you want to give that stupid little baby Cupid an atomic wedgie every February 14th, drag your bitter old buns down to Breakneck Gallery and snark it up with the best of em. (happy couples welcome too. . . just don't rub it in)

Opening Reception is Saturday February 11th 6pm-10pm, Performance by Joshua Jesty starts @ 7:30pm. As always there will be food, drinks, fun and of course ART!

21+ After party next door at Mullens on Madison - 17014 Madison Ave., Lakewood Ohio

Cant make it to the opening? Show runs through till March 3rd.

Breakneck Gallery, 17020 Madison Ave.
216-767-5610

West Shore Film Series to host film "The Healthcare Movie"

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM
Healthcare: For People or For Profit?

This documentary provides the real story of how the health care systems in Canada and the United States evolved to be so completely different, when at one point they were essentially the same. Most people under the age of 50, in both countries, are not aware of the intensity of the political struggle that led to the universal medical care system in Canada. Nor are they aware of the public relations campaigns, still active today, that have been prevalent in the United States since the early 1900's to dissuade the public from supporting national health care.

Produced by Canadian/American couple Laurie Simons and Terry Sterrenberg, The Healthcare Movie reveals the personal and emotional impact on Canadians who now have access to universal health care because of the heroism of people who took a stand nearly 50 years ago. It also reveals the continuing struggle in the United States between the fear of government intervention and the right to quality health care for all people.

Presented in cooperation with Single Payer Action Network (SPAN) Ohio.

The film series is free and open to the public (donations gratefully accepted).

West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 20401 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River, Ohio 44116 (Free Parking)

Wednesday, February 15

Business After Hours Networking Event
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Join members of the Lakewood & Rocky River Chambers of Commerce at our annual joint network-

ing event. Sponsored by Cox Business.

Deagan's Kitchen + Bar
14810 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood

Cleveland Clinic Health Talk: A Free Public Seminar

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Diabetes & Heart Disease: What Do They Have In Common?

Join us to learn the latest treatments for Type 2 diabetes, lowering your cardiac risk & heart healthy eating for diabetes.

Lorain County Community College
John A. Spitzer Conference Center Room 207-208, 1005 Abbe Road North, Elyria, OH 44035

Lakewood Schools' Community Engagement Meeting

7:00 PM

Superintendent Jeffrey W. Patterson invites the community to share its vision of the future of our district as the Schools face challenging economic times ahead.

Lincoln Elementary School, 15615 Clifton Blvd.

Thursday, February 16

Team Lakewood's First Annual Chili Cookoff
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

TEAM LAKEWOOD is putting on a wonderful CHILI cook-off with recipes from our Lakewood HH realtors! Come vote on the best and all proceeds benefit the HH Children's Free Care Fund.

1495 Warren Rd, Lakewood, OH 44107
the drive between Speedway and the brick build-

Many more listings at
www.lakewoodobserver.com
List Your Event Today - It's FREE!

ing, park in the rear!

Saturday, February 18
Auction and dinner
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Over 150 items will be sold by silent and live auction.

Childcare provided.
Lakewood United Methodist Church
15700 Detroit Avenue, 216-226-8644

Sunday, February 19

Child and Infant CPR
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

You Will Learn:

- How to care for a child or infant who is choking.
- Recognize and care for a child or infant who is not breathing.
- Care for cardiac emergencies.

Lakewood YMCA

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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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

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
Sunday, February 12
Sunday, February 26

Publish Date
Tuesday, February 21
Tuesday, March 6

www.lakewoodobserver.com - 216.712.7070
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Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com



February Events



OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, February 19, 2012
12:00 - 1:30PM

Come and enjoy a complimentary lunch or dessert!

LUNCH & LEARN

Thursday, February 23, 2012
at 11:30 a.m.

“Seasonal Affective Disorder”

Presented by:

Cathy Jacob, RNC, MA, PC
Psychiatric Nurse Clinician/Community Liaison
Lutheran Hospital

RSVP by February 21 to 216-226-4010. Complimentary lunch provided!



Traveling Store Is Coming!

Wednesday, February 29, 2012
10:00AM - 2:00PM

Assisted Living
1381 Bunts Road, Lakewood
(Campus is on NE corner of Bunts & Detroit)
(216) 226-4010

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City News



Lakewood Family Collaborative Meets Monthly for Networking and Presentations

The Lakewood Family Collaborative Shines The Light On Housing Discrimination

by Amy Thacker

February’s meeting of the Lakewood Family Collaborative on Thursday, February 28, 2012 at the Women’s Pavilion at 1 p.m. will spotlight the Housing Research & Advocacy Center (the Housing Center), a fair housing agency. Mandy Mehlman, Fair Housing Community Educator, will be presenting issues facing the community regarding housing discrimination and services offered by the Housing Center.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimates that two million instances of housing discrimination occur on an annual basis. However, less than 1% of people who experience discrimination file a complaint. The difference in the actual number of cases of discrimination and the number of complaints filed is due in part to the public’s lack of knowledge of both fair housing rights and

the complaint process. Over the past two years, the Housing Center has trained nearly 1,000 on fair housing laws. The agency regularly conducts fair housing law seminars and events for landlords, property managers, real estate professionals, social service providers, government officials, community organizations, and Northeast Ohio residents. Free events are listed on the Housing Center website.

This presentation is part of the Lakewood Family Collaborative’s ongoing Spotlight series occurring the fourth Thursday of every month at the Women’s Pavilion from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Free and open to the public, these informative networking events are geared toward area agency and organization professionals, as well as businesses and residents, concerned with the success of Lakewood families.

Newcomer Graham Veysey

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economy.”

Professionally, Graham established a small media and marketing firm, and thinks transparency and storytelling are essential to the approach he’d like to bring to Congress. “Can you imagine what a shift it would if someone from within the system was sharing stories with the public?”

Graham says that if elected, he would stress coalition-building and networking. He’s disgusted by the inability of the current Congress to get things done. “I don’t know why we let the ‘perfect get in the way of the good,’” he says, invoking the failure of both Kucinich and Kaptur to vote on the Great Lakes Fresh Water Compact. “Fortunately that bill passed, and will save our water and create jobs. We have to focus on practical, environmentally-sound practices that will be critical in the new economy.” Afraid of narrow corporate interests and the impact of the Citizen’s United decision, Graham supports

campaign finance reform as well.

Asked what he likes about Lakewood, Graham points to the clientele at The Root, and cites a recent meeting with Mayor Summers. “I’m so impressed with what Lakewood is doing to strategically target solutions - for example, tracking housing conditions city-wide and using funding where it will have the most impact. Cities and the inner-ring suburbs are leading indicators of where the Federal Governments decisions have impact, and they can and should be incubators for new ideas.”

While Graham has a steep curve ahead, he’s already stimulated a lot of interest and positive coverage. As a voter in the new 9th District, I was pleased to get the chance to learn more about Graham and his campaign, and I’ll be interested to see how the other candidates react to his challenge. If this interests you as well, you can see Graham and the other candidates, at a City Club Forum on September 20th.

Vote By Mail Now Open

by Mike West

Vote by Mail and Early Voting at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections for the March 6th Primary Election is open as of January 31st. The Board of Elections will begin mailing ballots to voters who have submitted Vote by Mail ballot applications and voters will be able to begin voting early at the Board of Elections.

The Board of Elections will not automatically mail ballot applications to voters for this election. Voters must request a ballot application if they wish to vote by mail.

“We are encouraging voters to continue to take advantage of the convenience of voting by mail,” said Jane Platten, Director of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections. During the last Presidential Primary Election, one of the worst ice storms in history slammed the area with snow, sleet, and freezing rain. “Vote by Mail allows voters to cast their ballots from the warmth and comfort of their homes,” said Platten. Voting by mail also gives voters extra time to study the candidates and issues.

To request a ballot application visit www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us or call 216-443-3298. Vote by Mail ballot applications are also available at all public libraries.

The Board of Elections is open for early voting between 8:30 a.m. and

4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Board of Elections is located at 2925 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland. Voters can vote early from January 31st through March 2nd. The Board will also be open for Early Voting on the following weekends:

Saturday, February 18th from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. and Sunday, February 19th from 12 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Saturday, February 25th from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. and Sunday, February 26th from 12 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Hand-delivered ballot applications must be returned by 6:00 p.m. on March 2nd. Ballot applications that are returned by mail must be received by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections on or before noon on March 3rd.

The voter registration and change of address deadline for the March 6th Primary Election is Monday, February 6th, at 9:00 p.m. Voters who have not registered, or have moved and not updated their registration, must do so on or before February 6th. Voter Registration Cards are available at public libraries and on the Board of Elections website, www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us.

Voters may call (216) 443-3298 with Vote by Mail and registration questions. For additional information visit the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website: www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us.

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City News

Is Lakewood A Walkable Community?

by Trudy Hutchinson

Walkable communities are described by Walkable Communities, Inc as “thriving, livable, sustainable places that give their residents safe transportation choices and improved quality of life. Walkable communities improve resource responsibility, safety, physical fitness and social interaction.”

Walkscore.com assigns a point value to communities in the US to assist families and individuals who seek a community lifestyle that benefits personal health and finances, the environment, and total community living. According to Walk Score a score of 43 is the average of 2500 cities measured in the US. Lakewood’s score is 68.4--a ranking in the 50-69 point range that is described as “somewhat walkable... Some amenities within walking distance.” According to this source 47% of Lakewood residents have a walk score of 70 or above, 95% of Lakewood residents have a walk score of at least 50 and 5% of Lakewood residents live in car-dependent neighborhoods.

The walkability of a community is measured according to a 12-point checklist.

1. Intact town centers. The town center includes stores that offer a wide-range of goods plus library, government buildings, post office.
2. Residential density, mixed income, mixed use. This measure looks for high population density near the town center.
3. Public space. Green space and places where people can assemble is easily accessed.
4. Universal design. Infrastructure and public space in the community demonstrate a healthy respect for people of all abilities. Marks of universal design include benches and shade trees.
5. Key streets are speed controlled. There is an absence of thoroughfares designed to flush commuters from the urban area to the suburbs.
6. Streets and trails are well-linked. The community is laid out in a block-style pattern that links trails and public walkways. There is a minimum of winding street patterns and cul-de-sac design.
7. Design is properly scaled to ¼ and ½-mile radius segments. This measure refers to the average distance between a residence and an elementary school, high school, park or public accommodation.
8. The town is designed for people. Observations associated with this measure include whether investments are being made in plazas and parks.
9. The town is thinking small. This item on the check list refers to whether ordinances specify maximums along with minimum requirements for square footage and

off-street parking.

10. Many people actually walk or ride bicycles and these people represent a range of demographic groups, old and young, singles, couples, groups. Motorists are courteous to pedestrians and share the road with cyclists.
11. The town and neighborhood have a vision represented by a master plan.
12. Leaders are visionary and communicate forward thinking. This item is often the focus of the city or town web site.

The importance of community walkability to Lakewood residents probably varies. A vision of Lakewood leaders was expressed in the City of Lakewood Zoning Code (Section 1156.01, dated July 2008). This section is titled Planned Development (PD) and states that “Planned development encourages more compact mixed use development, pedestrian-friendly site design, and an urban character in order to increase pedestrian traffic, reduce vehicular traffic...” This section goes on to say, “A PD specifically discourages those uses that promote a strip center development pattern, promote idle land and over parking...” Lakewood residents can judge whether this language continues to express an active, dynamic goal for the future of the City.

Another measure of a walkable city is the attention paid to public art visible to passers by and includes music venues that are open to all. In November the Lakewood Public library unveiled the 16-foot “Transversion” art work by Peter Diepenbrock. This gift from the library to Lakewood residents reinforces the walkable city objective as do the summer front porch concert series and the concerts at Lakewood Park.

Residents who would like to know more about walkable cities are invited to do a walking audit of Lakewood. More about a walking audit can be found at www.walkable.org.

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Reservations 216.221.3500

He's Got Your Back

Orthopaedic Expert Helps You Decide When Back Surgery Is Necessary



Jeffrey Roberts, MD

If your back gives you trouble, you're not alone. Eight of every 10 Americans experience back problems at some point in their lives. In fact, back pain is the fifth most common reason why people visit a doctor. So when is surgery really necessary to fix your back?

Jeffrey Roberts, MD, has the answer. During his many years as an orthopaedic specialist, he has seen every type of spinal condition – from injuries and scoliosis to arthritis and spinal stenosis. A member of the Fairview Hospital staff, he served a fellowship in scoliosis and spine surgery at The Hospital for Special Surgery in New York and is a graduate of the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

Before recommending surgery, Dr. Roberts always seeks to determine the root cause of his patients' back problems. Next, he tries conservative measures such as pain medications and physical therapy. When surgery is the best option, he has the expertise and experience to perform it successfully.


According to Dr. Roberts, patients are amazed at how surgery can improve the quality of their lives.

You may benefit from back surgery if you have:

1. **Scoliosis.** This condition is a curvature of the spine that can lead to debilitating problems. While most cases of scoliosis are mild, severe cases can lead to lung and heart damage, arthritis of the spine, and chronic back pain.
2. **Spinal stenosis.** Commonly caused by arthritis, spinal stenosis is a narrowing of one or more areas of your spine. By putting pressure on the spinal cord or spinal nerves, this situation can result in pain or numbness in your legs, back, neck, shoulders or arms; weakness and lack of coordination in your limbs, loss of sensation in your extremities, incontinence and even paralysis.
3. **Degenerative disc disease.** Caused by normal wear and tear, this disease leads to pain in your back's discs, which are the rubbery cushions separating the bones in your spine.
4. **Ruptured disks.** Sometimes the soft center of a disc pushes out through a crack in its hard exterior. Called a herniated disc, slipped disc or ruptured disc, this situation can result in pain, numbness or weakness in your arms or legs.
5. **Pinched nerves.** When a herniated disc compresses a nerve root, this is commonly referred to as a pinched nerve. Since this compression disrupts the nerve's function, it can cause pain or numbness along the back of your leg. If the pressure continues for a lengthy time, chronic pain and nerve damage can occur.
6. **Broken bones.** These may include fractured vertebra or other spinal column damage.

When conservative measures fail to improve your problematic back, don't hesitate to undergo surgery. Thanks to today's modern medical technology, most surgeries result in dramatic improvements in a person's ability to live a full and active life.

To schedule an appointment with an orthopaedic surgeon at Fairview Hospital, call 1.866.733.6363.



Fairview Hospital

a Cleveland Clinic hospital

Every life deserves world class care.

Lakewood Public Library Events

compiled by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

Feb. 11

Lakewood Public Cinema: “Joe Versus the Volcano”

This wry fairy tale is a Tom Hanks/Meg Ryan romantic comedy for people who don’t particularly like those kinds of movies. A miserable office drudge discovers the simple fact that life is worth living when he prepares to sacrifice himself to the angry volcano that threatens a South Sea island paradise. Abe Vigoda, Ossie Davis and Lloyd Bridges bring the laughter with one gem performance after another while a clever selection of songs conspires with the moon to move you to tears of joy.

Saturday, February 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Feb. 12

The Worlds of Maurice Sendak: Guided Tour of the Maltz Museum

This special guided tour of the American Story Gallery examines the concerns of Jewish immigrants to Cleveland during the great waves of immigration in the first half of the 20th century and explores the tensions between ethnic identity, ancient traditions, American citizenship and the ongoing creation of a multicultural nation. After the tour, explore other Museum galleries on your own. Space is limited.

Sunday, February 12 at 2:00 p.m. at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage

Feb. 16

The Worlds of Maurice Sendak: “Where the Wild Things Are” Movie

You know the story! When the mischievous, wolf-suited Max is sent to bed without his supper, he runs away through the forest of his mind and sails to the Island of the Wild Things where he conquers all and dances in the Wild Rumpus! Director Spike Jonze transforms the Caldecott Award-winning classic into a piece of pure cinema with a masterful visual approach beyond the imagination of just about everyone but Max.

Thursday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Feb. 18

Five Star Films: “Woman of the Year”

Star political journalist Katherine Hepburn and sportswriter Spencer Tracy like to fight it out in the pages of the newspaper. The fur flies, but we know that opposites attract. And yet... while Hepburn remains committed to being a career woman, Tracy begins to feel neglected. Then things get even worse.

Saturday, February 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Feb. 19

Sunday with the Friends: Northcoast Jazz Collective

What can we say? According to Scene Magazine, these guys are the Best Jazz Group around. Playing straight-up modern jazz that’s creative, emotional and accessible, this quartet braves the post-bop world with a hard-working trademark sound that says Cleveland all the way. We can’t think of a better way to say goodbye to another great season of Sundays...

Sunday, February 19 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Feb. 21

Knit & Lit
Gail Eaton hosts a social club for multitaskers—a combination book club and stitchery group. She’s looking for readers who can enjoy intense discussion of modern classics while relaxing with their latest project. Come share your passion for great literature and show off

Celebrate With The Northcoast Jazz Collective

by Elaine Rosenberger

Set the New Year swinging with the Northcoast Jazz Collective on Sunday, February 19 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Voted best jazz group both by Scene Magazine and by the Free Times, the Northcoast Jazz Collective is known for “straight-up modern jazz that is creative, emotional and accessible.”

Members of the collective include Mark Grey on drums, Dan Maier on piano, John Gallo on acoustic bass, and Dave Frank on tenor saxophone, soprano saxophone, and flute. Northcoast Jazz Collective has three CDs to



From left to right: Dan Maier (piano), Mark Greay (Drums), Dave Frank (sax and flute), John Gallo (bass)

its credit. Their eponymous debut CD contains nine original compositions. Their second CD “Changing Times” features classic jazz as well as original compositions. “Cleveland Splendor,” their newest release, pays homage to a Cleveland legend, comic book writer Harvey Pekar.

NJC has performed in clubs and festivals throughout Ohio and was featured on PBS. Peter Chakerian, Managing Editor of CoolCleveland, writes: “The NJC radiates charm, warmth, and the sort of instrumental intuition that only comes from regular gigging.” Northcoast Jazz Collective’s Sunday with the Friends Concert will be held in the Main Library’s Auditorium. Admission is free as the concert is generously funded by the Friends of Lakewood Public Library. CDs will be available for sale and signing after the event.

your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress. At the close of every meeting, the group decides which book will be read for next time. Visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/bookclubs for a complete list of the books being considered and find out which title you should read to be ready for the next discussion.

Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

Feb. 22

Meet the Author: Maria Doria Russell:

From The Sparrow to Doc to Other Novels

In her critically acclaimed debut novel, a Jesuit priest is the first human being to make contact with an alien civilization. “It was predictable, in hindsight. Everything about the history of the Society of Jesus bespoke deft and efficient action, exploration and research. During what Europeans were pleased to call the Age of Discovery, Jesuit priests were never more than a year or two behind the men who made initial contact with previously unknown peoples; indeed, Jesuits were often the vanguard of exploration.” Since then, Maria Doria Russell continues working to reconcile divine inspiration with human experience, exploring subjects ranging from Jewish refugees in the Italian Resistance to the foundation of the modern Middle East at the Cairo Peace Conference. In her latest book, Russell tackles the Western and the Murder Mystery with no less an icon than Doc Holliday as her leading man. It may sound like an odd departure at first, but watch as Russell peels away layers of Wild West cliché and reveals the human beings inside the heroes. These gunfighters have never been more compelling. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Feb. 25

Lakewood Art House Cinema: “Heartbeats”

Nicolas and Marie are best friends and bitter rivals. These trendy Montrealers are über cool and painfully so, but when they both become infatuated with a young Adonis, their carefully-constructed facades begin to fray. This beautiful boy only returns gestures of friendship halfheartedly. Their obsessive needs are driven to new levels...

Saturday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Children/Youth Events

compiled by Arlie Matera

Saturday, February 11

Tail Waggin’ Tutors

For school-age children

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

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

Saturday, February 11

Manga Academy

For youth in sixth through twelfth grade

Wagakou e yokoso! Welcome to our school! Got a favorite manga or anime series? Ever wonder how it all got started? Join us for Manga Academy, where we will spend an afternoon talking about manga history its unique art style, and Japan’s anime culture.

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Tuesday, February 14

Fantastic Fables!

For the whole family

Chase away the chills of winter with an evening of special stories and entertainment.

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose 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

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. Programs are offered every weekend throughout the year, and there is no need to register in advance.

Madison Branch Children and Youth Services

Saturday at 11:30 a.m. and Sunday at 3:30 p.m.

Meet The Author:

Mary Doria Russell Fascinates With “Doc”

by Lisa Calfee

John Henry was a Southern gentleman by birth and a dentist by trade. Thin, frail and nearly dead of tuberculosis at the age of 22, the young scholar went west to save his lungs in the dry, hot air. He sounds nothing like Doc Holliday, the infamous gambler, gunman and all around tough guy, but they are the same man. New York Times bestselling author Mary Doria Russell describes John Henry’s transformation into Doc Holliday in her latest novel: “Doc.” Lakewood Public Library is delighted to welcome the award winning writer to discuss her fascinating work as part of our Meet the Author series on Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium at 15425 Detroit Avenue.

As an author, Mary Doria Rus-

sell is a study in contrasts. She mixes literary genres and time periods like a painter mixes oils on canvas. Her award winning novels have explored outer space as gracefully as they have travelled inside the minds and hearts of her characters. With a doctorate in biological anthropology, Russell brings the research abilities of a scholar to her narratives.

With so much to talk about and suggestions that she should do stand-up comedy, a visit with Mary Doria Russell is not to be missed! So join us at Lakewood Public Library for this very entertaining talk with one of Cleveland’s own nationally recognized authors. Our Meet the Author series is generously funded by Friends of Lakewood Library and as always is free and open to the public!



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30¢ Wings Everyday! Check Us Out!

According to “Those That Know” —
We’re the 6th HOTTEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR!

Lakewood Public Library Events

Spring And Summer 2012 Health & Wealth Events

Compiled by: Morgan Maseth

Natural Solutions for Healthy Living

Would you like to live a more natural and healthful life? Holistic wellness coach and master herbalist Rachel Anzalone confronts your greatest health challenges with her powerful plan.

May 23 - Understanding the Glycemic Index and How Food Affects Mood

June 20 - Women’s Hormone Health

July 18 - The Yeast Connection:

Addressing Chronic Candidiasis
August 22 - Adrenal Fatigue: A Syndrome of Stress
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Power Living

Do you have problems getting what you want or need from others? Do you wish you had more love in your life? Are you looking to bring more joy to the world around you? Are tender emotional wounds getting in the way of the life you want to live? Dr. River Smith, a local psychologist and the author of A Conspiracy to Love: Living a Life of Joy, Generosity & Power, introduces powerful techniques designed to put you back in control.

April 2: Power Getting

April 9: Power Loving

April 16: Power Healing and Joy Part One

April 23: Power Healing and Joy Part Two

April 30: Power Eating

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

Taxes

Tax Deductions for Parents, Students and Educators

Natalie Vloedman, an H & R Block senior tax advisor with over thirty years of experience, comes to the Library with the simple goal of enriching her community. She’ll share specific strategies for reducing the tax burdens of teachers, students and those who love them.

Tuesday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Family

Supporting Learning at Home for Children with ADHD

Dr. Nora McNamara knows that parenting children who exhibit signs of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) can be an alternately frustrating and exhilarating experience. Children with ADHD are typically just as bright and often brighter than other children, but they learn differently. Dr. McNamara offers techniques to spark imaginations and ingrain habits of lifelong curiosity and learning, based on the latest neurodevelopmental research.

Tuesday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Retirement

Strategies to Maximize Your Pension and Social Security:

Open your eyes to opportunity. Financial advisor Sandra Anderson dispenses good advice on handling money that you’ve already earned. Make your pension and social security benefits last and enjoy the life that you deserve without worry.

Tuesday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Welcome To The Jungle

by Arlie Matera

Jungle Terry doesn’t take vacations. He has over one hundred animals requiring twice daily feedings, and your average pet sitter just isn’t up for the task. Get Jungle Terry talking about his job though (he’s an animal trainer, naturalist, educator, and entertainer all rolled into one) and you quickly realize he doesn’t exactly need a vacation. In fact, he seems barely able to contain his energy and enthusiasm for his work.

“I love working with kids and animals,” he says. “When I was a kid I spent all my time in the woods. I was so into nature, I didn’t even know girls existed until I was eighteen.”

The transition from amateur to professional naturalist happened gradually. He started by doing impromptu animal shows for his friends. They loved it, and soon he was getting requests from their friends to do birthday parties and classroom visits. The

business just kept growing. So did the menagerie.

Today, Jungle Terry has six acres and a specially designed, temperature controlled barn to house all his animals. His two children help with feeding and care-taking, and just as importantly, with hand-raising and training the animals. “Our animals are handled by children at all our shows,” Jungle Terry says, “so I have to make sure they’re comfortable around children.” In other words, Tic Toc the crocodile and Big Al the fifteen foot python might look scary, but nervous parents take note; all Jungle Terry’s animals are kid-tested and kid-friendly.

Jungle Terry will bring a special selection of animals to the Main Library Multipurpose Room on Saturday, February 25. The show begins at 7:00 p.m. Don’t miss out on the Library’s wildest night of the year!

Hospice/Volunteering
Hospice 101 and Volunteering

Hospice is a service and not a place. Laura Brindza and Tracey Peek of Odyssey Hospice clear up common misconceptions about end of life care so that those who need it will have better opportunities. Find out who is eligible for care, what services are provided and what costs are covered by Medicare. Also, learn how volunteers can become an important part of another person’s life journey with a rewarding experience that cannot be replaced.

Wednesday, June 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Gaming
The Educational Benefits of Chess

Who can’t benefit from a rousing game of Chess? Chess clears out the cobwebs and rewards long-term strategic thinking in young and old alike. Educator John Saade uses the king’s game to reach out to at-risk youth and reinforce the academic and intrapersonal skills necessary for success.

Wednesday, August 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium



CLEAR THE WAY!

Help do your part to keep Lakewood a successful walking community and clear your sidewalks after a snowfall.

If you see or witness any problems relating to clearing snow from the sidewalks (neglected property-residential or commercial), please call the city at **216-252-4322**.

Kids need clear sidewalks during the winter to get to and from school safely each day.

NEED HELP CLEARING?
If you’re not able to clear the snow, you can get help by calling **216-521-1515**.

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A Fairview Hospital and Speaking of Women’s Health Event

More than one in three women has some form of cardiovascular disease. Christine Tanaka-Esposito, MD, cardiovascular medicine, will discuss prevention, risk factors, and signs and symptoms.

In addition to the talk, there will be blood pressure screenings, a healthy heart lunch and raffle prize drawings.

Event co-sponsored by 

Free. Registration required.

Call 1.877.234.FITT (3488) or visit fairviewhospital.org (click on “Calendar of Events”)



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Every life deserves world class care.

For Women Only:
Taking Care of Your Heart

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Blood Pressure Screening
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Heart Healthy Lunch and Talk
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Rocky River Civic Center Memorial Hall
21016 Hilliard Blvd.
Rocky River, OH 44116

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Schools

Ranger Athletes Land College Scholarships

by Christine Gordillo

Two of Lakewood High’s best athletes both signed Letters of Intent recently to continue their athletic endeavors next year at the college level. Senior Nick Jackosky capped off his stellar cross country and track career by signing a Letter of Intent to run for Division I Iowa State and senior Aturo Morgan, the Rangers quarterback for the past two seasons, accepted an offer to play wide receiver and defensive back at Division II Lake Erie College in Painesville.

Jackosky, who will receive scholarship money for both his athletic and academic achievements, was sought after by several schools, including the University of San Francisco, which paid for a recruiting visit to California, and Iowa State, which won him over

with its “more traditional college feel,” Jackosky said.

In inviting Jackosky to sign a Letter of Intent, Iowa State’s Director of Track & Field/Cross Country wrote to him: “Very few people have the opportunity to compete at the NCAA Division 1 level and even fewer receive a scholarship to be able to compete. You are part of an elite group who has this honor, and I am extremely proud to have you with us here at Iowa State University.”

Iowa State’s record of being either first or second among the Big 12 schools each year of graduating student-athletes was also a big factor in Jackosky’s decision as the academic component was equally important to him.

Although he still has the LHS track season ahead of him, Jackosky looks back fondly on his years running

at LHS and said he feels blessed to have been part of the “brotherhood” of runners.

“Everyone was just really nurturing from the start (of my freshmen year)... The seniors really helped get my confidence up” and urged me on, Jackosky said. He said the closeness among teammates helped him adjust when he first came to LHS. “I had a group of friends instantly,” he said.

Ironically, Jackosky had hoped to go to St. Ignatius but was put on the waiting list and turned to Lakewood High instead. “That was a blessing in disguise,” he said. “LHS has been the best place for me and I couldn’t have had a better experience.”

Highlights from Jackosky’s high school career:

All-State team, cross country

Two-time State qualifier, cross country
State qualifier, 3200 meters, track
District winner, 3200 meters, track
District winner, cross country
NOC Runner of the Year 2011
Three-time NOC champ, 3200 meters, track
Two-time NOC champ, cross country
Academic All-Ohio team junior year

Morgan, who Ranger fans watched scramble and throw all over the field these past two seasons as the Rangers’ quarterback, received a generous scholarship and aid package offer to play for Lake Erie.

On hand to watch Morgan sign his Letter of Intent were Athletic Director Bob Thayer, his mom and head Ranger football coach Ron Lewis, who called Morgan “the best athlete we have on the team.” Lewis cited Morgan’s stats of both rushing and throwing for more than 500 yards this past season as the impact Morgan had on the field. And offense wasn’t the only impact he had as Morgan also started on defense as a safety for the team.

When asked what his biggest accomplishment as a Ranger was, Morgan doesn’t cite his own individual statistics or any one victory, but “giving the school a winning season that they haven’t seen since 2003,” he said. The Rangers finished the 2011 season at 6-4.

Morgan, who right now thinks he wants to major in Criminal Justice, said he was impressed by Lake Erie’s facilities and in typical football player fashion, he particularly liked the cafeteria.

Morgan’s mother, Ruby Soto, said she “is proud that he’s made it this far.” “It’s been a long road,” she said, of getting Morgan through numerous injuries and keeping him motivated. She credited the Ranger coaching staff and Coach Lewis in particular for “his big influence and helping to see (Aturo) through everything.”

Best of luck to both young men as they move toward graduation and the next chapter in their lives.

Can’t Attend A Community Meeting?

You Can Still Have Your Input

by Christine Gordillo

Superintendent Jeffrey W. Patterson is nearly halfway through his round of Community Engagement Meetings that address the future of the district and the need to make significant expenditure reductions in the next two years. There are four more meetings to go so there are still plenty of chances to attend one. The conversation has been lively, polite and interesting at each of the meetings. Residents have been freely sharing their thoughts with Patterson and he has been listening intently.

Although many options remain to

attend a meeting, including one more that will have child care available (Feb. 29 at Harrison, call 529-4074 to reserve space), the Superintendent understands that not everyone can make an evening meeting. He wants to make sure that everyone has a chance to give their input and although it’s best to attend a meeting to hear the context of what the district is facing regarding its finances, he knows that is not always possible.

If you would like to have your voice heard and cannot attend a meeting, please feel free to send your responses to the questions below via

email to jeff.patterson@lakewood.k12.oh.us or snail mail to Jeffrey W. Patterson, Superintendent, 1470 Warren Road, Lakewood OH 44107.

Question #1: What criteria will you use to judge the wisdom of our ultimate plan to balance the Lakewood City School District’s budget?

Question #2: What district characteristics, programs and services make your school district special to you?

Question #3: As we cut the projected expenditures by \$4 million, what should be the last things affected by the reductions?

Again, if you can make it to a meeting that is best. The remaining meeting dates are:

- Wednesday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m., at Roosevelt Elementary
- Wednesday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m., at Lincoln Elementary
- Thursday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m., at Emerson Elementary
- Wednesday, Feb. 29, 7 p.m., at Harrison Elementary

At the conclusion of the meetings, Superintendent Patterson will hold one more wrap-up meeting where he will report back to the community what he has heard from across the city and what direction the administration is considering in regards to the recommendations it will make to the Board of Education in April. That meeting will take place, Thursday, March 8 at 7 p.m. in Lakewood High’s East Cafeteria.

LHS Horticulture Project

Lands Big Lowe’s Grant

by Christine Gordillo

The support behind Lakewood High’s new Horticulture Outdoor Learning Lab continues to grow. The project, which benefited from the Lakewood Garden Club’s super successful fundraising efforts, recently received a \$5,000 grant from Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation.

LHS Horticulture teacher Mark Rathge, who applied for the grant, was hoping for some portion of the \$5,000 offered and was thrilled when he learned the project was to receive full funding from Lowe’s. “It’s amazing how this has all come together,” said Rathge. “This grant gives us some financial flexibility to do some things faster than originally planned.”

Some of those plans that the Lowe’s money will be earmarked for, include purchasing plants and a few specialty trees and planting materials such as soil and mulch in the spring for the four raised beds that flank the entrance to the high school. Rathge would also like to plant some more grass and install some stepping stone

pavers around the four beds.

The grant is part of Lowe’s Toolbox for Education grant program, which awards funds to school improvement projects that can be completed within a year.

Lowe’s is committed to recognizing and supporting efforts that enrich the lives of our neighbors and customers,” said Marshall Croom, chairman of Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation. “By supporting schools like Lakewood High, we know we are contributing to a cause that’s important to our customers and employees and helping build stronger communities.”

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Brunettes are special at Carabel Beauty Salon & Store. Many brands of color to select from. Special effects too. Touch up prices range from \$16.80, \$21.30, and \$30.00. Free allergy test and consultation. Call for appt. or more info 216.226.8616

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Research Volunteers Needed for Mental Imagery Study

Older Adults/ Right-handed


Volunteer Information:

- 65 and older (male/female)
- No nervous system impairments
- No cognitive impairments
- All study visits at main campus
- 20-40 hour time commitment (elderly)

- Non-invasive brain and muscle recording
- Financial compensation

For further information, please contact 216.445.6728.

This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board at the Cleveland Clinic and is funded by the NIH.



Lakewood PTA Reflections 2012

Diversity Means...



Congratulations and thank you for sharing your talents with us! Good luck to those with entries being judged at the state level! Those names appear in **BOLD**

Garfield Middle School

Name	Grade	Catagory
Abuzahriyeh, Shuruq	6	Literature
Donegan, Victoria	6	Film
Folts, Jacquelyn	6	Literature
Fox, Rachael	6	Visual Arts
King, Kyndl	6	Literature
Layton, Courtney	6	Literature
Rivera, Isabella	6	Literature
Rouiha, Youssaf	6	Literature
Salumkombo, Blandine	6	Literature
Skourlis, Elizabeth	6	Visual Arts
Steiner, Daniel	6	Literature

Grant Elementary School

Davidson, Adalyn	1	Visual Arts
Funk, Casey	1	Visual Arts
Sorge, Madalynne	1	Visual Arts
Allio, JR	2	Visual Arts
McIntire, Lucy	2	Literature, Visual Arts
Vuyancih, Zach	2	Photography, Visual Arts
Binion, Sydney	3	Visual Arts
Sorge, Annabelle	3	Literature, Photography
Budzar, Max	4	Photography
Leaf, Peyton	4	Visual Arts
McIntire, Emily	4	Photography
Pagsuyoin, Emma	4	Photography
Sorge, Turner	4	Photography, Visual Arts
Vuyancih, Olivia	4	Visual Arts
Allio, Abigail	5	Visual Arts
Williams-Riseng, Lalia	5	Visual Arts

Harding Middle School

Bobinac, Tara	6	Literature
Chanter, Casey	6	Film
Cimino, Caitlin	6	Photography, Visual Arts
Cogar, Hannah	6	Literature
Dailey, Matthew	6	Photography
Dalisky, Abe	6	Photography
Dolatowski, Calvin	6	Photography, Visual Arts
Gamez, Carter	6	Film
Jones, LaNiqua	6	Literature
Weddell, Liam	6	Visual Arts
Wynn, Eva	6	Literature

Harding Middle School (cont.)

Daso, Rachel	7	Photography
Nanni, Sophia	7	Visual Arts
Sangree, Grace	7	Literature
Atfield, Paula	8	Literature
Budzar, Zoë	8	Visual Arts
Corrigan, Rodrigo	8	Literature
Grunder, Alex	8	Literature
Harkenrider, Stephanie	8	Literature
Kantor, Amanda	8	Literature
Pavlovski, Anna	8	Literature
Simonson, Liam	8	Literature
Toner, James	8	Literature

Harrison Elementary School

Tigges, Chloe	Pre-K	Visual Arts
Haklaj, Jasson	K	Visual Arts
Joyce, Anna	K	Visual Arts
Peck, Dominic	K	Visual Arts
Wille, Pete	K	Visual Arts
Scarpucci, Ana	1	Visual Arts
Seeley, Jacob	2	Visual Arts
Ayala, Destiny	3	Visual Arts
Hanes, Lorelai	3	Visual Arts
McReynolds, Bailey	3	Visual Arts
Plumley, Avery	3	Visual Arts
Shinn, Caroline	3	Visual Arts

Harrison Elementary School continued

Bray, Isabelle	4	Visual Arts
Cooper, Isabelle	4	Visual Arts
Elkhatib, Rania	4	Visual Arts
Haklaj, Jessica	4	Visual Arts
Jones, Emily	4	Visual Arts
Jones, Renee	4	Visual Arts
King, Zachary	4	Visual Arts
Capretta, Brailey	5	Visual Arts
Dupay, Shannon	5	Visual Arts
McKissick, Alesondra	5	Visual Arts
Scott, Shannon	5	Visual Arts

Horace Mann Elementary School

George, Lukas	K	Visual Arts
Horton, Edward	K	Visual Arts
Jaroszewicz, Jillian	K	Visual Arts
Miller, Helen	K	Visual Arts
Horton, Alexandra	1	Visual Arts
Miller, Cecelia	1	Visual Arts
Wright, Lila	1	Visual Arts
Hoppel, Grace	2	Visual Arts
Miller, Simon	2	Visual Arts
George, Maya	3	Visual Arts
McHugh, Erin	3	Literature
Banak, Kim	4	Visual Arts
Nanni, Isabella	4	Visual Arts
Westrick, Chloe	4	Visual Arts

Lakewood High School

Klann, Renee	9	Literature
Watson, Gregory	9	Music
Vatemanu, Irina	10	Photography
Kiraly, Hannah	11	Film
Millman, Katherine	11	Visual Arts

LECPTA

Buckingham, Greyson	LECPTA	Visual Arts
Christian, Dominique	LECPTA	Visual Arts
McGinley, Sarah	LECPTA	Visual Arts
Parker, Anneliese	LECPTA	Visual Arts
Smith, Hunter	LECPTA	Visual Arts
Payne, Charlie	K	Visual Arts

Lincoln Elementary School

Reighard, Jonathan	K	Visual Arts
Chanter, Amanda	2	Visual Arts
O'Donnell, James	2	Visual Arts
Marjanovic, Gina	3	Literature
Chanter, Ella	4	Visual Arts
Crino, Kitty	4	Visual Arts
Fordu, Lily	4	Visual Arts
Krandich, Grace	4	Visual Arts
Miranda, Sophia	4	Visual Arts
Roe, Mackenzie	4	Visual Arts
Stahl, Audrey	4	Visual Arts
Stockman, Mariana	4	Dance Choreography, Music
Wynn, Jack	4	Literature
Campbell, Marisa	5	Literature, Music, Photography
Lewellyn, Maxwell	5	Visual Arts
Marjanovic, Kira	5	Visual Arts

Roosevelt Elementary School

Page, Evelyn	K	Visual Arts
Gee, Monet	1	Visual Arts
Bunevich, Lexa	2	Visual Arts
Dent, Sofie	2	Visual Arts
Hunt, Colin	2	Visual Arts
Kavc, Julia	2	Visual Arts
Page, Maxwell	2	Visual Arts
Westlake, Julia	2	Literature
Kavc, Jacob	3	Visual Arts
Cocan, Sebastian	4	Visual Arts
Westlake, Christina	4	Visual Arts

Good luck to those with entries being judged at the state level!

State Level - Visual Arts

- Abigail Allio, Grant Elementary School
Isabelle Bray, Harrison Elementary School
Rania Elkhatib, Harrison Elementary School
Maya George, Horace Mann Elementary School
Jessica Haklaj, Harrison Elementary School
Alexandra Horton, Horace Mann Elementary School
Bailey McReynolds, Harrison Elementary School
Helen Miller, Horace Mann Elementary School
Simon Miller, Horace Mann Elementary School
Katherine Millman, Lakewood High School
Charlie Payne, Lakewood Early Childhood PTA
Elizabeth Skourlis, Garfield Middle School
Olivia Vuyancih, Grant Elementary School

Literature

- Paula Atfield, Harding Middle School
Marisa Campbell, Lincoln Elementary School
Rodrigo Corrigan, Harding Middle School
Alex Grunder, Harding Middle School
Stephanie Harkenrider, Harding Middle School
Renee Klann, Lakewood High School
Erin McHugh, Horace Mann Elementary School

Photography

- Marisa Campbell, Lincoln Elementary School
Matthew Dailey, Harding Middle School
Rachel Daso, Harding Middle School

Music

- Gregory Watson, Lakewood High School

Many thanks to our unit chairs

- LECPTA Sheri Buckingham
Grant PTA Judy Szentkiralyi, Brenda Budzar
Harrison PTA Maria Shinn, Kim Hartman
Horace Mann PTA Lisa Horton, Oliva Weisman
Lincoln PTA. Tessa O'Donnell
Roosevelt PTA Regina Westlake
Garfield PTA Debbi Polen
Harding PTA Mona Ewing Atfield, Tonya Nanni
Lakewood High PTA Martha Neff

The Lakewood Council extends a special thank you to: the many judges who helped broaden the artistic opportunities for the students of Lakewood; and the Lakewood Observer for donating the printing of the programs.

Lakewood Cares

Ministerial Musings: Sacred Solitude (A Sermon)

by Rev. Dr. John Tamilio III

One thinks of the memoir *Journal of a Solitude* by May Sarton. Or the extended essay *A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Wolfe. Or maybe even the CD *Solitude Standing* by Suzanne Vega. I think of the quote at the top of today's bulletin. Greta Garbo is often quoted as having said, "I want to be alone." According to her, though, "I never said, 'I want to be alone.' I only said, 'I want to be left alone.' There is a difference." Indeed, there is a difference! We all need to be left alone sometimes. We all need space, privacy, room to reflect, time to pray.

Jesus did, too.

Every once in a while, when he was tired from all the people who crowded around him seeking healing or a blessing, Jesus ascended a mountain or a hill to be alone, to pray, to rejuvenate his soul. Reflecting on this, Annemarie Kidder and Eugene Peterson wrote, "In communion with God in solitude from his demanding everyday life, [Jesus] refreshed his body and spirit so he could continue his work with those seekers of healing and hope who crowded around him. The richness of solitude provided both a deep spiritual rest and the physical and emotional renewal necessary to live with both deep compassion and conviction. Soli-

tude helped Jesus to see — and to live fully" (2002: 2).

But sure enough, the people found him and back to work he went.

I once heard a pastor say that this is the model we are to follow — that there is no rest when we are about the work of Christ. We may want to take a break, but, when sought, we are to put away the novel, turn off the soothing music, blow out the scented candle, dump the herbal tea down the drain, and get back to work.

Really? That's what we're supposed to do? Didn't God create a Sabbath for spiritual, physical, emotional, and psychological refreshment? Where is the commandment that says, "Thou shalt be a workaholic always on the go working thyself to death"? We honor the Living One by living — and not just for others. Sometimes we have to live for ourselves. How can we effectively minister to others when we are worn to the nub constantly?

You have probably heard this example before, but it bears repeating. When you are on an airplane and the flight attendants explain how to fasten your seatbelt and where to find the emergency exits, what do they say you

are to do in the event of a loss of cabin pressure? When the masks come down from the overhead compartment, you are to fasten your mask first and then help those who need assistance. Why? Because if you cannot breathe, you will be of no assistance to those who need you. It is absurd to think that you can help another person breathe when you are gasping for air. You cannot help another heal when you yourself are sick. You cannot take the speck out of your neighbor's eye when you have a great big plank in your own.

Whether or not people allowed Jesus time to rest, he himself saw the value in it and sought it when he knew he needed it. That is the model for ministry that we are to follow.

Ever since the 1980s, the phrase "work ethic" has become a fundamental part of our language in a rather negative way. The phrase has always been around. Years ago, though, it was defined by characteristics such as honesty, pride, customer service, reliability, and industriousness. Over the last three decades, though, it has come to mean something else. Today, "work ethic" means that you are to put your job above everything else, includ-



ing your family and your health. You have a good work ethic if you work over twelve hours a day and do not take a sick day (even when you feel like death), nor do you take any vacation time because that will make you look lazy.

Sound familiar?

That is not having a good work ethic. That is letting yourself become a slave. No one lying on his/her death bed, says, "You know what? I wish I had spent more time at work." However, we live as if we cannot work enough, because we think that is what is expected of us if we want to be successful, if we want to get ahead in life.

While I was in seminary, I worked for a couple years at one of the biggest law firms in Boston as a computer trainer and PC support specialist. There was an attorney there who was about my age at the time. He was married and had a young daughter. He was going through a bitter divorce and could not understand why his spouse was leaving him. I could not understand why this brilliant Harvard Law graduate could not figure out that literally working from 6:00 a.m. till 10:00 at night (even on weekends) wasn't somehow a contributing factor.

Alan is like many of us. Work, work, work... The boss is God. Everything else is secondary at best. Singer-songwriter Steve Earle once said, "If there is such a thing as a workaholic, I'm it, and that's what passes for leisure."

But work (even if we totally enjoy what we do) isn't leisure. We need time to pause, to breathe, to fill our wells. We need sacred solitude. If we believe that our God is still speaking, and we want to hear what God has to say, then we need to pause and listen and draw near to God, because God's voice isn't a loud, bellowing roar. It is a still small voice. If your life is always filled with clamor, then you will never hear it and your soul will shrivel up.

Find those moments, my friends. Find your mountaintop. Climb it. Claim it. Bask in the glory of the One who will follow you to the summit. Don't let anyone pull you down from that height. Relish it. Carve it into your schedule. Make it yours and yours alone. In those moment — those sacred moments — you just might be surprised at who you find, because you just might find yourself. Amen.

Lakewood Resident Elected President Of Nature Center Board

by Frank Colosimo

The Board of Directors at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center has elected officers to provide leadership and support for the Bay Village nonprofit organization in 2012. Lakewood resident Colleen Lowmiller, Senior Actuarial Consultant at Findley Davies, Inc., has been appointed as President of the Board after serving two terms as Vice President since joining the Board in 2009.

Lowmiller will guide the Board of Directors in fulfilling their duties to govern and support the Center. "It is great that I can spend my volunteer time with an organization that also

fits with what my family loves," says Lowmiller, who regularly takes part in the Center's educational programs with her daughter. "I believe technology, which broadens many horizons, can begin to separate us and our children from others and from nature. The Center provides those natural connections that are missing for many people, and by pausing and connecting with nature, they can also learn to keep the personal connections with others that will continue to be important in their future."

Taking on the mantle of Vice President is Steve Fink, PhD, a Research Instructor at Case Western Reserve University's Department of Medicine. Fink's long-standing connection with the nonprofit Center reaches back to his youth, when he spent time as a volunteer junior curator. Jerry Rudowsky, Senior Manager, Assurance Services at Ernst & Young LLP, returns for a second term as Treasurer while Corryn Firis, Staff Attorney at the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, returns as Secretary.

"Lake Erie Nature & Science Center gives people opportunities to discover and appreciate our natural world with hands-on programs, live animal exhibits, a planetarium and direct access to Lake Erie. The talented professionals elected to the Center's Board of Directors provide vital leadership and support for our



nonprofit organization and this important mission," said Executive Director Catherine Timko. "The officers and all of the Board Members serve as key advisors and ambassadors to the community."

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is open free to the public seven days a week. Visitors enjoy more than 100 live animals on exhibit and a wide variety of educational offerings, including astronomy programs in the on-site Planetarium. The \$1.2 million nonprofit organization annually serves more than 180,000 children and adults and is an independent affiliate of the Cleveland Metroparks. The Center is located at 28728 Wolf Road in Bay Village. For more information, visit www.lensc.org or call 440-871-2900.

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Lakewood Cares

Lakewood Hosting American Cancer Society Relay For Life Kickoff This Month

by Alissa Marks

Sneakers, sleeping bags and cancer education? It must be the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life, an overnight event to celebrate survivorship and raise funds to help create a world with less cancer and more birthdays.

Relay For Life brings together teams from local businesses, schools, churches and families for fun, food, music and entertainment, and a night under the stars – all while team members take turns walking or running on a track. Relay For Life begins with a Cancer Survivors Lap and reception to celebrate life. Later in the evening, a Luminaria Ceremony honors those who are battling cancer and remembers those who have lost their fight. The monies raised from this event will go toward the American Cancer Society's research, education, advocacy and patient service programs.

The 2012 Relay For Life of Lakewood will be held at Lakewood

High School, beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 15 and ending at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 16, 2012.

The Relay For Life of Lakewood is looking for team captains, volunteers, cancer survivors, community leaders and sponsors to get involved in this signature fundraising event. Community members interested in learning more are encouraged to attend the Relay For Life of Lakewood Kickoff on Tuesday, February 28 from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. The event will be held at Jammy Buggars, 15625 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. Fifteen percent of food sales during this time will benefit the American Cancer Society.

For information about Relay For Life or about cancer, call toll-free anytime 1-800-227-2345 or visit the American Cancer Society Web site at www.cancer.org.

The American Cancer Society combines an unyielding passion with

nearly a century of experience to save lives and end suffering from cancer. We save lives by helping people stay well by preventing cancer or detecting it early; helping people get well by being there for them during and after a cancer diagnosis; by finding cures through investment in groundbreaking discovery; and by fighting back by rallying lawmakers to pass laws to defeat cancer and by rallying communities worldwide to join the fight.

On Kiwanis:
Pizza Bake-Off Fills Cafeteria, Stomachs

by Gordon Brumm

Some 600 pizza-tasters crowding the LHS East Cafeteria at the January 27 Lakewood Kiwanis Club Pizza Bake-Off – that is a definition of success by any standards, and by some standards the most successful LKC fund-raiser ever.

The event netted \$4700, all for

groups and projects serving the Lakewood community, as well as providing an evening of fun and companionship for those in attendance.

The key to LKC's success was community involvement, in this case the 14 pizzerias that furnished their wares for attendees to sample.

Subjecting all offerings to the taste

test, pizza fans voted these establishments as best in their categories:

Best Pepperoni Pizza – Angelo's Pizza, 13715 Madison Ave.

Best Specialty Pizza – Dewey's Pizza, 18516 Detroit Ave.

People's Choice Pizza – Zappitelli's on Madison, 14201 Madison Ave.

Kiwanis president Dave Norton promised another Pizza Bake-Off next year, and by all indications it will become a permanent feature of Lakewood life.

Singles Find Love At The Lakewood Dog Park

by Alanna Faith

Single? Tired of the bar scene? Or being hit on at the gym? Forget about stalking the celery in the produce aisle waiting for someone who looks available!

The Lakewood Dog Park is THE new place for singles to find love!

Think about it. Lakewood has more 18- to 35-year-olds than any other Cleveland suburb. More households now own dogs than have kids. And let's face it; dogs are chick and guy magnets. If you love dogs, what better way to meet people with the same interests and values than at a place where other people who share that love of dogs congregate? The Lakewood Dog Park is where Kaylee and Chad found love.

This is truly a story of PUPPY LOVE.

A Texas girl transplanted to Lakewood, Kaylee Daussin confides, "The Lakewood Dog Park was a place for me to meet new people." With Cin-

der, her Border Collie mix by her side, she explains, "We all have one thing in common--the ability to speak 'dog.'"

Chad Bray adds, "We'd see each other every day at Lakewood Dog Park about 6 p.m."

Kaylee chimes in, "It was easy to get to know one another. We started talking about our dogs and babbled away for hours." Chad adds, "We both belong to Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park, so we spend lots of time together volunteering on projects. Now even my dog Buster and Kaylee's dog Cinder are inseparable."

Chad goes on, "In the beginning, a group of us would go out for dinner after going to the dog park. Then, Kaylee and I went to a reggae Summer Concert at the Lakewood Library--that was our unofficial first date." "After that, we just started spending more time together," says Kaylee, smiling. "Our first kiss was on Black Friday 2010. Chad had just asked me to officially date him." Kaylee blushes with this confession. "We both work and are in grad school. It sounds a bit old-fashioned, but we took it slow."



Kaylee Daussin, Cinder, Chad Bray and Buster

der's where this love story gets really exciting.

Besides their love of dogs, the couple enjoys backpacking, hiking

and cycling. In fact, it was on a trip to the Virginia Kendall Ledges in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, on December 9th, that Chad proposed to Kaylee!

Do Chad and Kaylee give credit to the Lakewood Dog Park for meeting their "perfect match"? You bet they do! "We're getting married June 9th!" Chad proclaims. Kaylee happily professes, "We have so many things in common. But, it was our crazy love for dogs that brought us together. And our dogs couldn't be happier either!"


Now that's called PUPPY LOVE!

Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park invite all dog lovers and singles to attend the:

Puppy Love Party on Sunday, Feb. 19 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Avenue Tap House, 18206 Detroit Avenue.

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Broadway At The Beck:

Spring Awakening, Featuring Baldwin-Wallace College

In a world of 3D movies and YouTube at your fingertips, why go to the theatre? If you're unsure, the Beck Center's production of Spring Awakening will remind you. Thanks to the Beck's brilliant collaboration with Baldwin-Wallace College's nationally recognized Music Theatre program, this powerhouse of a production will spin you around emotionally, and be there to catch your fall. This is a revolutionary musical with the artistic team to match.

Spring Awakening is based on a 19th century German play of a similar name – Spring's Awakening. But this rock musical can hardly be called a period piece. Sure, it's clearly provincial Germany; girls romanticize marriage (but still believe in the stork), while boys are equally imprisoned in their ignorance despite the rigor of their schooling. But with punk-rock jumping and spiked hair, the teenagers of this story fight to find their voices, navigating their own angst amongst a sexually and emotionally repressive world- one very different from today's, and yet, at times, frighteningly similar.

Spring Awakening is a musical that was ground-breaking when it hit Broadway in 2006- both in content and in style. Victoria Bussert, the acclaimed director of Music Theatre at B-W, honors the production's themes of self-discovery and resilience, but turns the production down even more new avenues that will surprise and awaken you. Bussert and choreographer, Gregory Daniels, masterfully take advantage of the intimate Beck Center space, giving the audience an experience that you just can't get with a Broadway tour. Lucky for Cleveland audiences however, the talent on stage is of that same caliber!

The lifeblood of this production truly is the honesty and energy of the Baldwin-Wallace Music Theatre students themselves, who bare their souls and spread their chutzpah all over that stage each night. Ranging from gritty to delicate, the emotional range of the ensemble is the sturdy backbone for the story. But it's the principals Zach Adkins, Kyra Kennedy, Andrea Leach

by Lauren Fraley



Boys singing: From left to right, Baldwin-Wallace Music Theatre students Chris Cowan (Ernst), Zach Adkins (Melchior), James Penca (Moritz), and Nick Varricchio (Hanschen) in Beck Center's production of Spring Awakening, February 3 through March 4 on the Mackey Main Stage.

and James Penca that drive the piece with a level of freshness that connects to every seat in the house. Equity actors, Laura Perotta and Scott Plate, play the all of the adult roles in the show- and are clearly having the time of their lives with the opportunity to play with these skilled other performers.

No production element is remiss; Alison Garrigan's costume design is an evocative blend of eras with so many playful touches to notice throughout the show. The lighting and set design by Jeff Herrmann are both clean, sharp and clever- but just like in Bussert's direction, there are surprises I wouldn't dare spoil- you'll be so glad to experience it for yourself.

My only big complaint? Half of the theatre was empty on Sunday afternoon! Everyone who actually was there couldn't stop raving about it afterwards- I don't give out standing ovations haphazardly, but this production deserves it. It's fun but important; poignant and powerful; heart-breaking and heart-warming. Once word of mouth gets around, my suspicion is that you'll want to get your tickets as soon as possible!

In collaboration with Bald-

win-Wallace College Music Theatre Program, the Beck Center for the Arts presents the Tony Award-winning rock musical, Spring Awakening, February 3 through March 4, 2012 on the Mackey Main Stage. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are now on sale.

Based on the controversial 19th century German play by Frank Wedekind, Spring Awakening explores with

passion and poignancy the turbulent journey from adolescence to adulthood. This landmark musical swept the 2007 Tony Awards winning eight out of its eleven nominations, including Best Musical and Best Score. Spring Awakening is an exhilarating mix of morality, sexuality, and rock & roll including hard-hitting songs like "Momma Who Bore Me," "My Junk," and "The B**** of Living."

This production includes adult language and nudity and is recommended for mature audiences ages 17 and older.

Tickets are \$28 for adults and \$25 for seniors (65 and older). An additional \$3 service fee per ticket is applied at the time of purchase. A special discount rate of \$15 is available to students with valid I.D. (use promo code "MAMA"). Group discounts are available for parties of four or more. Purchase tickets online at www.beck-center.org or call Customer Service at 216.521.2540, x10.

Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking.

This production of Spring Awakening is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI) and is sponsored by Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Ohio Arts Council.



Melchior and Wendla touching: From left to right, Baldwin-Wallace Music Theatre students Zach Adkins (Melchior) and Kyra Kennedy (Wendla).

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The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later

by Lauren Fraley

The year was 2003 and I was half-way through my first year at Lakewood High School. The Barnstormers Drama Club announced that its winter drama would be The Laramie Project- a play about the community of Laramie, Wyoming where a young gay man, Matthew Shepherd was murdered in a brutal hate crime. Bookish and curious at age 14, I plunged into the script and there was no return. Questions were popping up left and right- how does a community foster that kind of hate?

Could that happen here in Lakewood? I joined the cast (with a whopping 8 lines!) but my high school experience was changed. There was no black and white. And I was no kid.

This year, The Barnstormers presented The Laramie Project: 10 years later- a piece created by the same group- Moisés Kaufman and The Tectonic Theatre Project. The show was compiled from interviews, just as the original was,

to explore the community's response to the murder 10 years later, and how the town became defined by the incident. In hearing this, I became that 14-year-old questioning again- has Lakewood changed in 10 years? Since changes in laws with gay marriage and other legislation, would the Lakewood High School students doing this play today think of "10 years ago" as some less progressive, ancient time?

In asking the current Lakewood High School students questions about their experiences in the cast and their opinions about the show, I found out that so many of them had done thorough research into the town of Laramie and the real people who are the play's characters. They gave so many thoughtful responses about the ideas of nurture vs. nature, how a community defines itself and what a "progressive" community like Lakewood can take away from a story like Matthew Shepherd's. And just like in the Laramie Project script, there are so many different perspectives. Each student had a unique angle on each question- and the truth comes from seeing each one.

This is similar to the reason that LHS drama director Dave Gannon (or Mr. G as we'd often call him) had for asking cast members of the 2003 Laramie Project to share our memories of how the show affected us and how we hoped the show affected our community. With our responses, Dave and students from the drama club created a video montage of all of our stories that played just before the performance. There's something about going back to an old place that's like seeing an old friend. Even almost 10 years later, the LHS tryout theatre and I could pick up right where we left off.

And yes, the tryout theatre seats are still incredibly uncomfortable. And no, as an adult I don't need to call Dave Gannon "Mr. G" anymore. But yes. As the Lakewood High School cast showed me, both a community and a true story can make changes. As an alum said in her interview, "If you reach just one person, it's worth it."

Beck Teen Theater Presents

'Reckless' A Darkly Comic Tale Of Modern-Day Alice In A Perilous Winter Wonderland

by Fran Storch

Beck Teen Theater presents Reckless, a satirical comedy by Tony-nominated playwright Craig Lucas, in the Studio Theater, February 24 through March 4, 2012. Show times are 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. on Sundays. There will also be a special 10 a.m. student matinee on Thursday, March 1.

Reckless is an absurdist midwinter night's dream directed by Jonathan Kronenberger, Beck Center's Associate Director of Theater Education, that features a talented cast of 16 teenage actors who are students at the Beck Center. "This is my third time directing this show and each time I return to the play, I find it richer and funnier," remarked Kronenberger. "It is particularly exciting having the input of these terrific young actors who have yet to truly understand the potential 'surprises' that life can have in store."

At home on Christmas Eve, the play's heroine, Rachel, is informed by her guilt-ridden husband that he has hired a hit man to kill her. Distraught, she flees for her life by scrambling out the bedroom window and into the snowy night. Rachel's adventure takes her from town to town where she meets a variety of bizarre characters and encounters an endless series of incredible coincidences. In the end, she is forced to face the hard truth that it's difficult, if not impossible, to really know people and that we lead reckless lives in which "things just happen." The New York Times called Reckless "a bittersweet Christmas fable for our time. It's A Wonderful Life as it might be reimagined for a bruising contemporary America."

One of the quirky characters in the play is hearing impaired, so the Reckless cast has been working with members of The HeArd, a group of

professional theatrical sign language interpreters, to learn basic sign language skills in preparation for their roles. Coincidentally, The HeArd will be signing an upcoming production of Alice in Wonderland on February 26 at the Fine Arts Association in Willoughby. To learn more about The HeArd visit www.heardwhatsup.com.

Tickets for Reckless are \$12 for Adult/Senior (65 and over) and \$10 for Children/Student (18 and under). To purchase tickets, visit www.beckcenter.org or call 216-521-2540, ext. 10. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just 10 minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

Beck Center's production of Reckless is presented through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc. and is sponsored by Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, the Ohio Arts Council, and Music Is Elementary.

All Are Welcome

by Anne Palomaki

An auction will be held on February 18 at 6:00 p.m. at Lakewood United Methodist Church, 15700 Detroit Ave. The proceeds will underwrite the programs at the church that support the community. A buffet dinner will be provided. The tickets are \$12.00 for one or \$20.00 for two. Childcare will be provided for children under 10 on the premises.

There are over 150 donated items. Many church members are

providing services for others such as house cleaning, fall clean-up, dog care, sewing, and transportation for seniors. The silent auction will include items such as tickets for Cavs or Monsters games, ski passes at Boston Mills, Y membership, or football coaching. Many children's items have been donated including hand-painted chairs, ice skates, knit sweaters, and doll outfits. Members have given picnics, barbecues, Asian dinners, and a party for 12 with curb-

side seats for the 4th of July Parade. Art and antiques will be on sale. Breads and pies for each month of the year as well as soups, cookies, meals, and sticky buns will be on the auction block. Gift certificates have been donated by local merchants such as Barry Buick, 56 West, and Mitchell's Ice Cream. Many members have donated themed Gift Baskets filled with Beauty items, candles, Italian items, or chocolate treats. A professional auctioneer will be adding fun

to the evening. He will auction off a day at the golf course, a sailboat ride and picnic at Clifton Beach, Cleveland Orchestra tickets, a children's birthday party, an eye exam, and a ride on a 30 foot Stingray boat.

It's a Party and Breadsmith have donated items for the dinner.

Tickets may be purchased at the church office daily between 9-5 p.m. or the night of the event.

Call 216-226-8644 with any questions.

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Taking The Pressure Off Family Dinner

by Jana Christian

When I received word that Blog for Family Dinner accepted a post from my blog (<http://writeonjana.com>), I was ecstatic... and a little shamed. You see, I had fallen into the habit of picking at food while cooking and then serving each child a different mixture of the final meal (to accommodate food allergies and preferences)... never even sitting down to eat from a plate myself. Nice, huh?!

Thankfully, the “call” to represent The Blog for Family Dinner Project motivated me to wake up and smell the spaghetti... I snagged a copy of The Family Dinner: Great Ways to Connect with Your Kids, One Meal at a Time at Lakewood Public Library and got to work implementing some of the strategies for bringing people to the table.

Go Vegan In 2012!

by Christin Sorensen

Have you ever wanted to go Vegan but didn’t know where to start? Is it possible to bake a delicious cookie and not use an egg? The answer is a resounding YES! Get started on a healthier life path, the benefits are numerous: they range from disease prevention to weight loss. Lakewood resident Nicki Schneider will be hosting a Vegan Baking Basics class at Crafty Goodness on Sunday, February 26 from 1-3 p.m. She will discuss substitutions, recipes and answer any questions you may have. During the seminar the attendees will

I’ve mentioned before that forcing my children to help with meal prep is a recipe for disaster... it is infinitely easier for me to get them entertained on another project than to have them fighting over the step stool or throwing tantrums near a hot oven. And, we always say grace (no matter how “funny” the dinner) so I crossed that off my list of goals as well.

So, the real battle for me was: preparing a meal that everyone will eat without complaint (yeah, right!) and keeping everyone seated for longer than five minutes in joyful conversation.

A daunting task, indeed. And one that I agonized over for weeks....

And while we do make a point to sit down at the table together, the meal

more closely resembles a cafeteria tray than a gourmet restaurant. To keep everyone safe and healthy (and to minimize my stress level which is already through the roof), our super-dull and uneventful meals contain: meat (like ground beef or ground turkey, baked chicken or turkey or hamburgers) with little to no seasonings, vegetables (again raw or steamed, without sauces or seasonings) and carbohydrate (although my kids are not big fans of pantry staples like rice, potatoes and noodles so I have to get creative)

To be honest, it frustrated me that I wasn’t a “better mom” by meal planning weeks in advance, lovingly preparing a three course meal each evening by 6 p.m. and setting the table with fine china and candles (my husband got rid of them after I nearly burned down the house twice and that was before we had kids!).

But I found peace at the library... with a new title that gave me a fresh

perspective on this whole parenting thing.

Seriously, the book, “I Was a Really Good Mom Before I Had Kids: Reinventing Modern Motherhood” is amazing. I alternated between laughing and crying over how many similarities modern mothers share... no matter what their career status!

And I recognized that even if my kids are not willingly enjoying a meal and pleasant conversation at the dinner table every evening at 6pm, they are reaping the benefits of my quality time (and attention) while we are playing games together, riding bikes, playing on the playground or even trapped in the car or house on rainy days.

I wholeheartedly support Blog for Family Dinner and appreciate all the amazing benefits of sitting down at a meal each evening. But I also don’t consider myself a bad mother if the table isn’t cleared off every night... because sometimes the best conversations take place while engaging in the routine tasks of daily life!

Nature’s Bin Recipe Chicken Noodle Soup

courtesy of Josie Duennes in partnership with Live Well Lakewood

Try this when you need some warming comfort food. It’s a big pot full but you’ll want more than one bowl!

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 med yellow onion, diced | 2 quarts chicken broth, home-made if you’ve got it. Low salt organic if not. Use the best you can find, this is no time to skimp |
| 2 med carrots, diced | 8 oz. noodles, we use Kluski, but any will work |
| 2 stalks celery, diced | |
| 1 parsnip, diced | |
| 2 Tbs. Italian parsley, minced | |
| 2 Tbs. vegetable oil, or butter | |
| Salt | |
| 2 cups cooked chicken breast, cubed | |

In a nice big pot over med. high heat, melt the butter or heat the oil. Toss in the vegetables and 1 tsp. salt. Stir and cook til the onions take on a little color. Toss in one tablespoon of the parsley and cook briefly. Add the chicken broth. Taste for seasoning and add a little more salt if needed for your taste. Reduce heat and simmer until vegetables are tender, about 1/2 hour. Bring up heat to get up to a gentle boil and add noodles and the chicken. Cook til noodles are done. This will vary depending on the noodles you use. Fine noodles will be done in a couple of minutes. Kluski will take at least 15 minutes. When you’re ready to serve toss in the last of the parsley and stir it in just to wilt it.

We use just white meat and if you need to cook the breasts, they are best if just gently poached in salted water with a chunk of onion and the leftover celery leaves. Don’t overcook them! They’re going to cook some more. If you have leftover chicken of any kind, take the skin off, cut it up and use it. If you don’t have any chicken, this soup is still good with just the broth and the vegetables and the noodles!

Makes 6 big bowls full.

sample a delicious, 100% Vegan pastry plus a few different soy milks. A recipe booklet will also be provided, along with a packet of dry ingredients to take home and prepare. The cost is only \$25, you can pre-register at the store (15621 Madison Avenue) or email craftygoodnesscleveland@yahoo.com. Your body and taste buds will definitely approve!

Puppy Love Party

continued from page 1

your date too. 50/50 tickets are \$5 at the door.

Love prizes? There will be fun raffle prizes courtesy of Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park, Lakewood Alive and other generous sponsors. Big Dog raffle tickets from KIDD Productions and Create-a-Cake are \$5 at the door. Puppy raffle tickets are 3 for \$5 available at the door.

Just to sweeten the deal--online advance purchase of wrist bands is \$20--SAVE \$5. Wrist bands at the door price: \$25.

Advance purchases online are encouraged. Then just check in and pick up your wrist band and activity tickets at the door. Advance Sales and Event Details are available at: www.LakewoodDogPark.org.

(*Age limits and some restrictions may apply.)

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For more information or to register for a demo, go to LiveWellLakewood.org or call 216.529.7695.



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Wellness Watch

Eat Well Lakewood

by Paula Reed

Live Well Lakewood’s mission is to promote healthy, active living in Lakewood. On Saturday, March 10, 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., we’re sponsoring the third annual Eat Well Lakewood at Lakewood High School (enter at the main entrance.) The vendor fair portion of the event is free and open to all. It offers lots of information about improving your diet and provides the opportunity to try samples of healthy options to choose when eating out, provided by local establishments. Ever had a black bean burger at the Buckeye Beer Engine? Taste one, and we bet you’ll choose it over a hamburger next time--it’s that good! Root Cafe, home of a great vegetarian, vegan and raw foods menu, will be on hand with coffee and tea, both sources of antioxidants.



Chef Ernie Logsdon, Nature’s Bin.

The highlights of the event are the three chef demos, presented in LHS’s fabulous culinary arts area. At 1:00

p.m., the ever-popular Ernie Logsdon, executive chef from Nature’s Bin, makes his third appearance. This year

Ernie’s topic is Eat Well with Great Grains, and he’ll demonstrate delicious ways to include the nutritional powerhouse quinoa (pronounced keen-wah) in your meals. The 2:00 p.m. demo, by Robert Geul, executive chef at Jammy Buggars, is Eat Well with Grass-fed Beef. If you’re watching the amount of red meat you eat, Robert will teach you why grass-fed beef is what you should choose, and why Jammy Buggars serves it. At 3:00 p.m., Eat Well Vegan features Demetrios Atheneos, executive chef of Deagan’s Kitchen & Bar, who will show you how to whip up a vegan dish--maybe even one you’ve ordered if you’ve eaten at Deagan’s vegan night. Seating for the demos is limited, so you must register to attend. There is a \$5 charge for each of these sessions, with \$1 from each admission fee going to the Lakewood Community Services Center; the rest supports LWL’s community events.

To find out more about Eat Well Lakewood or to sign up for the demos, visit our website, www.livewell-lakewood.org; e-mail us, info@livewelllakewood.org, or call us at 216-529-7695 and leave a message. Don’t miss Eat Well Lakewood--it will be good for you, and delicious too!

Unraveling The Mystery Of Traditional Chinese Herbal Medicine

by Rachel Anzalone

Traditional Chinese Medicine, or TCM, may seem exotic and foreign but it is really a simple and approachable system of wellness care that can benefit anyone.

TCM is a 2,500 year old, comprehensive, energy based system of health care. It includes diet, herbs, massage, acupuncture, bodywork and environmental balance to maintain and build health. TCM recognizes the subtle connections between spirit, emotions, mind and body and views the organs as energy centers that are all interconnected.

At its core TCM is about supporting energy, finding balance and the individuality of the person.

In Chinese Herbal Medicine there are 14 basic therapies employed to bal-

ance energy in the body. Many of these Chinese herbal combinations utilize the same plants we use in the West. They may act as diuretics, alteratives, laxatives, tonics, expectorants, etc. The difference is found in their combinations and their applications.

The 14 basic Chinese herbal combinations are designed to restore healthy chi (energy), to balance Yin and Yang energies and to balance the constitutional elements which may become excessive or deficient. The Chinese constitutional elements are Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and Water. The appropriate TCM herbal therapy takes into account the individual’s primary constitution, the health of their chi, their balance of yin and yang and any excess or deficiency in the elements.

The simplest way to understand this is by example:

Consider an individual with what we would consider a “fiery” or perhaps “Type A” personality - They are always on the go, outspoken, enthusiastic, and full of energy. They may have a primarily Fire constitution. When they get out of balance they may either become nervous, dizzy, manic, irritable, anxious or loud (excess Fire) or they may become fatigued, confused, restless, overwhelmed, or burned out (deficient Fire).

Alternatively, a person with a primarily Earth constitution tends to be exceptionally compassionate and empathetic, tends to sympathize easily and has a tendency to nurture others while neglecting their own needs. When the Earth energy gets out of bal-

ance an individual may feel nausea, chronic worry, fearful of the future or a sour stomach (excess Earth) or they may feel weak, have a poor appetite, poor muscle tone, or cling to the past (deficient Earth).

Most people have a constitution that is a combination of the elements, sometimes with one distinct tendency that stands out above the rest. The Chinese herbal combinations are designed to restore balance to the individual based on the whole picture of the person, thus it is truly a Holistic approach to health and wellness.

MetroExpressCare Now Open In West Park

by Shannon Mortland

The last thing you want to do is wait in line or wait for an appointment when you are having a health issue that needs immediate attention. West-siders now have a new, convenient option in MetroExpressCare.

MetroExpressCare is an urgent care center that is now open at the MetroHealth West Park Health Center, 3838 W. 150th Street, Cleveland, just off of I-71. Medical staff is available from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. weekdays and from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturdays to care for adults and children.

Physicians at MetroExpressCare treat minor illnesses such as cold and flu; ear, nose and throat infections; upper respiratory infections; sprains and strains; minor cuts and bumps; and skin rashes. Laboratory and X-Ray services are also available. Patients who require a higher level of care can be quickly transferred to the Emergency Department or to the appropriate specialists.

“We recognized the need of families living in the area, who are struggling to juggle work and family demands. We must make medical care more easily available to them during more convenient times,” said Julia Bruner, MD, director of MetroExpressCare. “When something urgent is going on--perhaps an ear infection causing severe ear pain, or an ankle injury--it’s comforting to be seen quickly and have a diagnosis from a physician who can start treatment right away.”

The first MetroExpressCare location opened in 2010 at the MetroHealth Broadway Health Center. Demand for urgent care close to home prompted MetroHealth to open other locations in West Park and, coming this spring, at the MetroHealth Beachwood Health Center.

Walk-ins are welcome but patients may also schedule a same-day appointment at any MetroExpressCare by calling 216-957-1680. For more information, visit metrohealth.org/

expresscare.

The board-certified physicians who see patients at MetroExpressCare are also available to establish longer-term relationships with patients coming to MetroHealth for the first

time.

MetroHealth West Park Health Center provides primary and specialty care. Visit metrohealth.org/westpark for a full listing of physicians and services.

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Downtown Business

Without Landfall Travel, You're On Your Own

by Andrew Harant

Imagine walking into your office one day, and your boss says, “we’re closing the agency tomorrow.” That’s exactly what happened to Ann Huber, owner of Landfall Travel. How did she respond? She bought the agency, and 20 years later, with a staff of six people, the doors are still open.

Huber recently returned from the beaches of Turks and Caicos Islands, a small British territory between the Bahamas and Haiti, and in early December, she took a wonderful cruise down the Rhine River. Though she has yet to explore many of the destinations she arranges for her clients, she enjoys getting “to see the world through other people’s eyes.”

In 1985, ready for a career change, Huber flipped through the phone book, stopping at the travel section. Her cousin helped launch Huber’s new career, and five years later, Huber landed at Landfall Travel. She describes her colleagues at the time as an “odd assortment of random people.”

With the agency facing financial trouble, the fateful day came, and Huber suddenly became a small business owner. With some paint, remodeling, and learning how to operate a business as she went, she has turned the agency around. In 2001, just before September 11, Landfall Travel became an American Express Travel Representative, which provides the agency with greater purchasing power

and more services to offer worldwide.

Currently, Landfall Travel is busy helping couples plan summer honeymoons. Though its very easy for couples to research and even book trips online, using a travel agent ensures help before, during and after a trip. On a Jamaican honeymoon that Huber arranged, the couple found themselves stranded in Philadelphia due to flight delays. Using her experience and connections in the industry, Huber quickly found the couple a hotel, scheduled an early flight with another airline, and even rescheduled the resort to ensure the couple would still spend 7 nights in paradise.

For honeymooners, places in the

Caribbean are perennial favorites. Huber particularly enjoys Jamaica as she finds Jamaicans to be some of the nicest people in the world. She also mentions Cancun and Riviera Maya are wonderful, and resort areas in Mexico are still considered safe areas. For something different, Huber regards Ireland as a beautiful experience. She also suggests traveling within the United States to see some of our wonderful sites.

For the truly adventurous, Huber describes the upcoming travels of an 89-year-old client of hers who will be making a trans-Siberian rail journey, then a brief stop in Spain, and finally a cruise to Marrakech. Some of Huber’s personal experiences include zip lining in Jamaica and making a transatlantic cruise aboard the Queen Elizabeth 2. Next on her list is to experience a Dude Ranch.

Family Financial Firm Proud To Stay In Lakewood

by Jonathan Clark

Twenty-six years ago my father Steven R. Clark packed up our family from West Park and began to establish roots in Lakewood. As my sister and I passed through Taft, Emerson, and Lakewood High School my father was growing Clark Financial Services with his trusted friend Randon Dobson. I would go on to join them at Clark Financial Services after completing college. After fifteen years at the INA building we were at a crossroad; do we stay in Lakewood or think about other suburbs?

During our discussions we would reflect on the relationships that we have built in the community over the years. My father kept talking about the opportunity of working with other community leaders on Lakewood Alive and serving

as Treasurer for the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce for the last few years. We have also had the privilege to be a part of events such as the Community Festival at Madison Park, the New Teacher Banquet hosted by the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, the Home Show, and the Light Up Lakewood Festivities. I often thought about growing up in the Lakewood City Schools and benefiting from all of the great teachers Lakewood provided me.

Ultimately, there really was not much of a choice at all. As of the first of the year, we are located at 14600 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood Center North. We look forward to continuing to work with retirees and investors on their investment and life insurance decisions, right here at home in Lakewood, Ohio.

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Business News

Mind, Body, Spirit

by Edward Staskus

It is a long way from building boats in Kennebunkport to mid-morning epiphanies in Little Italy, and even farther from the subarctic snow banks of Fairbanks to transforming an empty Lakewood storefront into a new yoga studio, but that is the path Marcia Camino took in creating Pink Lotus.

A Chicago native, Mrs. Camino grew up in Texas, Indiana, New York, and finally Toledo, Ohio, where her steel-working family settled down. While attending Bowling Green University she declared a major in English, and the next year transferred to the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, where she earned an MFA in creative writing. She told her parents she wanted to be a poet.

“But, honey,” she remembers her mother saying. “Poets don’t make any money.”

After graduation she stayed in Alaska, writing, waiting tables, and backpacking the state’s national parks.

“It was very beautiful up there,” she said.

Back home in Bowling Green she worked in modern dance and theater, met her future husband in 1992, and four years later moved to Cleveland. Planning their wedding in 1999, Mrs. Camino surveyed her dress in the mirror.

“Like every young lady I needed to fit into my dress,” she said. “I heard yoga was good for that, so I bought a mat and video tape.”

She practiced every day for six weeks and on the day of her wedding successfully fit into her dress. Afterwards she rolled up her mat and put it away.

“I was happily married, writing, taking art classes, working full-time at Case Western University, everything was fine, no yoga,” Mrs. Camino said. “And then my husband went away to Kennebunkport, Maine, to get certified in wooden boat building. He was gone for a year. I was left to my own means. Not a good idea.”

She turned to long hours at work, enrolled in photography and film classes at night, ballet on weekends, shooting a 16mm black-and-white movie in her spare time, and began to burn out.

“I was eating Pringles for breakfast and lunch,” she said. “I got really super thin and sick. I was a madwoman.”

One May morning in front of her TV in their apartment in Little Italy she unrolled her yoga mat and began to practice again. As she practiced “that yoga stuff” in her living room she experienced a shift in perspective, physically and spiritually.

“I realized I had been living externally, trying to capture “out there,” and I was missing in here,” she said, pointing to herself, “I missed my husband, and I missed my own soul. I just lost it. I remember lying on my mat in child’s pose. It was saturated, not with sweat, with tears.”

One day on her mat led to every day on her mat, and eventually in 2004 to training at the Amrit Yoga Institute. She earned her 200-hour certification, going

on to study with such nationally-recognized master teachers as Paul Grilley, Rodney Yee, and Shakta Kaua Khalsa.

Amrit Yoga, Mrs. Camino’s home base as a teacher and student, is often referred to as the Posture of Consciousness. It consists of several breathing exercises, twenty-six classic yoga postures, meditation between postures, and deep relaxation.

In 2005 she relocated to Cleveland’s west side, buying a house in Lakewood with her husband Joe, and began teaching yoga part-time at studios, colleges, and fitness centers. After five years of free-lance ‘Have Mat, Will Travel,’ eventually earning Yoga Alliance EYRT status as a teacher, Mrs. Camino began to scour Lakewood for a studio of her own.

“Deep down I was always spying for places, to create a space reflective of my personality, esthetics, and yoga philosophy,” she said.

When she found the space she wanted, Mrs. Camino gave up her 9-to-5 job at CWRU and signed a lease on the west end of Lakewood.

“It’s a lovely part of town,” she said. “There are churches on either side of the street, and we’re in a 1911 Tudor-style building. It’s only a mile-and-a-half from my house, rather than thirty miles!”

While many cities lack even one yoga studio, Lakewood sports three, with a fourth just across the bridge in Rocky River, as well as on-going classes at the YMCA and Harding Middle School. Mrs. Camino’s Pink Lotus will be the fifth full-time studio in the area.

“Yoga has always been very hot on the coasts, since the 1960s,” she said. “It’s growing in the Midwest, and it makes sense in a community as diverse as Lakewood.”

Unlike studios that specialize in Vinyasa, a generally faster-paced workout, Pink Lotus tenders a wide range of the contemporary and traditional, including seldom-seen styles like Sivananda, which is what one of Mrs. Camino’s students describes as yoga’s greatest hits.

“My studio offers styles geared towards fitness,” she said. “But we offer more, because faster-paced workouts are not available to everybody, yoga that is breath-based, therapeutic, reflective, and, in the case of Chinese Yoga, new to the Cleveland area.”


She cites a special love for Yin Yoga, created to benefit the body’s connective tissue, where humans first and primarily age.

“We will be trying to bring to all we teach a sense of balance, happiness, and soul,” she said.

After months of planning, permits, and renovation, Pink Lotus opened in early December 2011. Like many another first-time business owner, Mrs. Camino had to overcome a series of obstacles, from raising necessary capital to finding the right plumber.


The solution to burning the mid-night oil turned up right next-door.

continued on page 22



Meet
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Lakewood Opinion

Shadow Banking...

Time To Shine A Light On Fraud

by Chris Perry

On January 17, the Obama Administration announced that it was pushing to get the 50 state attorneys general to agree to a mortgage fraud settlement with America's largest banking institutions. However, a key fraudulent practice will not be part of that proposed settlement--the "robo-signing" scandal. This ongoing scandal involves bank employees signing names not their own, under titles they did not have, attesting to the veracity of documents they had not seen or reviewed. Much evidence exists that it was an industry-wide practice, dating back to 1998 at the earliest, and that it has, in fact, clouded the titles of millions of homes. If the settlement is agreed to, it will let bankers off the hook for crimes that would land you and me behind bars--fraud, forgery, securities violations and tax evasion.

This is most unfortunate, as state-level robo-signing prosecutions are the simplest form of fraud to prove and thereby punish the offenders for. But the Obama Administration has sided

ensuring the legality of documents and offered protection to borrowers against fraud, deceitful mortgage lenders and unscrupulous real estate agents. It was our job to make sure borrowers knew what they were signing and entering into. I took full advantage of the three-day right of rescission law and corresponding legal document that many lenders never submitted to me for the borrower's signature and protection. I continually had to demand it from banks--I would refuse to allow the borrower to sign any loan documents without it. I reviewed everything, in particular the terms of the mortgage note. I alerted countless borrowers to what I thought were undesirable terms, made them read any language related to rate increases, excessive closing costs, balloon payments, severe penalties triggered if they were to refinance or pay off the loan within a certain timeline, etc, etc. In signing the three-day right of rescission form, this

system and is necessary for the conventional system to operate and stay alive. The problem is that repos require "sales"--lots of them--which means the mortgage notes have to remain free to be bought and sold at a moment's notice. The mortgages are left undorsed so they can be used again and again in this hyper-active repo market.

As Gorton observes, there is a massive and growing demand for banking by large institutional investors--pension funds, mutual funds, hedge funds, etc.--which have millions of dollars to park somewhere between investments. FDIC insurance is designed to protect individual investors--not institutions. The large institutional investors want an investment that is secure, that provides them with interest, and that is liquid like a traditional checking account, allowing for a quick withdrawal.

The shadow banking system evolved in response to this need, operating largely through the unregulated repo market. "Repos" are sales and repurchases of mortgage-backed securities--the securitized units into which American real estate has been ground up like a sausage. The collateral is bought by a "special purpose vehicle" (SPV), which acts as the shadow bank. The investors put their money in the SPV and keep the securities, and if the SPV fails to pay up, the investors can foreclose on the securities. To satisfy the demand for hyper-liquidity, the repos are one-day or very short-term deals, continually rolled over until the money is withdrawn. This money is used by the banks for other investing and lots of market speculating, including betting against the SPVs sold to a different group of investors.

MERS is the banking industry's

There are homes here in Lakewood and throughout the nation whose legal ownership can't be determined.

nasty four-letter word. This mortgage shell game was made possible because it was all concealed behind an electronic smokescreen called MERS (an acronym for Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.). MERS allowed houses to be shuffled around like poker chips among multiple, rapidly changing owners while circumventing local recording laws. Title would be recorded in the name of MERS as a place holder for the investors, and MERS would foreclose on behalf of the investors. The homeowner usually thinks the servicer is the lender, but in fact it is a group of shadow investors.

Ten years ago, I channeled my inner Nostradamus, and told my wife that MERS would eventually cause the implosion of the housing market. Starting in 2009, courts across the country began questioning if MERS, which has admitted that it was a mere conduit without title, had legal standing

to foreclose. Courts have increasingly held that it does not. In 2009 and throughout most of 2010, I worked as a foreclosure prevention specialist for a regional nonprofit, assisting homeowners to have banks modify their mortgages and avoid foreclosure. MERS and the shadow banking industry presented immense challenges to those of us trying to broker mortgage modifications. For example, in 2009 Fannie Mae sent out a memo telling servicers that in order to be reimbursed under HAMP--a government loan modification program designed to help at-risk homeowners meet their mortgage payments--the servicers would have to produce the paperwork showing the loan had been assigned to the trust. That paperwork did not exist. The banks' solution was a rash of assignments signed by an army of robo-signers. But ALL the documents are forgeries, making a shambles of county title records. There are homes here in Lakewood and throughout the nation whose legal ownership can't be determined. These homes just sit and rot--bringing down the value of other homes that surround them.

Not only has the system destroyed county title records, but it is highly vulnerable to bank runs and collapse. That is what happened in September 2008 following the bankruptcy of investment bank Lehman Brothers. The top 1%, highly distrustful of one another, rushed to pull their money out overnight. Lending came to a screeching halt and our nation's largest banks did not have their clients' money on hand to pay it back.

Understanding what happened in the shadows is crucial to understanding the last crisis and stopping the next one. The shadow banking market is where big banks, institutional investors, and CEOs who have a lot of

with the banks on this one and handed them a "get out of jail free" card. As part of the proposed mortgage fraud settlement, the banks will not face any more investigations into this crime. To the President's credit, however, he seems to have felt the wrath of the 99% of us in regard to his position on the settlement, in response to protests before his State of the Union address. During his speech on January 24, he did not mention the settlement itself, but announced instead that he would be creating a mortgage crisis unit to investigate wrongdoing related to real estate lending. Only the future will tell if this investigative unit will be given the authority needed when it comes to criminal prosecutions.

The robo-signing largely involved assignments of mortgage notes to mortgage servicers or trusts representing the investors who put up the loan money. Assignment was necessary to give the trusts legal title to the loans. But in millions of cases the assignment was delayed until it was necessary to foreclose on the homes, when it had to be done through the forgery, fraud and back dating of robo-signing. Why did the banks not assign the mortgages to the trusts earlier, when it's required by law in all 50 states?

I think it speaks to the evolution of what Nobel Prize Economist Paul Krugman has aptly monikered "the shadow banking system." I witnessed this evolution during my time spent as a title insurance underwriter from 1995 to 2005. My co-workers and I once took pride in the title industry as its 3rd-party neutrality worked as an effective regulatory mechanism in

allowed me to have a conversation with borrowers about what they may be getting themselves into and allowed the borrowers time to think it over for a couple of days with the option of backing out. Some did, many did not.

However, as early as 2000, I would often confide in my wife about the growing level of deception unfolding within the mortgage industry and the erosion of what the title insurance industry once was. Banks became hostile to the title insurance industry--did not care for the checks and balances of people looking out for borrowers' best interests. Then it came, a wave of corporate acquisitions and forced mergers by banking subsidiaries of thousands of title agencies, thereby severing the web of neutrality and oversight. Thousands of well-intentioned and knowledgeable people lost their jobs as a result. The title industry now serves at the whim of the banking industry. I could no longer participate in the charade and resigned in disgust at the rampant fraud being perpetrated by banks and by the growing collusion of the title insurance industry (what little is left of it) working in the shadows with the banking industry.

There is a working explanation that cuts through some of the haze in regard to the shadow banking industry that has been set forth by Yale economist Gary Gorton as follows: securitized mortgages are the "pawns" used in the pawn shop known as the "repo market." The "repos" are overnight sales and repurchases of collateral. Repos are the "deposit insurance" for the shadow banking system, which is now larger than the conventional banking

money do their banking--particularly their short-term banking. So let's say I was Mitt Romney back in 2007. I had \$10 million that I did not want to pay taxes on and needed to invest pronto. I needed to put it somewhere and, being Mitt and a disciple of free-market fundamentalism, I head to the "repo market," and I ask my good friend John Kasich over at Lehman Brothers to hold my money and pay me interest. John agrees. But how do I know that John and Lehman Brothers won't just keep my money and not make me more money?

You and I--simple little individual depositors in the normal banking market, never have that fear. Through the FDIC, the government insures our deposits up to \$250,000. But they don't insure massive deposits from people like Mitt Romney. So Mitt asks John for "collateral"--something valuable

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Pulse Of The City

The Civil War....150 years ago...

A Pilgrimage To Gettysburg...

by Gary Rice

It's not very much of a fence, as fences go...It's not even waist-high in many places. It's simply a low line of rocks, piled along the edge of a country field. One could easily hop over it in many places, and indeed, many did exactly that--at a critical time in our nation's history. For this particular fence marked the grand battle line of the Army of the Potomac on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (from July 1-3, 1863).

On that third day of battle, from out of the woods across that field came a mile-long line of the Army of Northern Virginia. Frustrated by being turned back on both flanks in the previous two days' fighting, a decision was made by Southern General Robert E. Lee to send that army directly across that open field and take the Union position at all costs.

There are many who have second-guessed the wisdom of "Pickett's Charge," as that Confederate assault went down in the history books, but the fact remains that a number of the Confederates, although raked by rifle fire and deadly cannon grapeshot, did indeed make it to that stone fence, and even some fifty feet beyond, when they were finally stopped stone cold near a small stand of trees. That group of trees still marks the "high water mark" of the Confederate attack on that day, and from that day forward the South would never be able to mount an effective massive assault against the Northern armies, even though the Civil War would drag on for nearly two more years.

Today, a one-way road winds through the Gettysburg battlefield in Southern Pennsylvania, making it possible to take your car easily up the side of "Little Round Top," where so many Alabamians and others fell in a futile attempt to take the position of Colonel Joshua Chamberlain's 20th Maine Infantry. You'll first drive by "The Peach Orchard," with its newly replanted seedlings, and "The Wheatfield," and then through "The Valley of Death" before



photo by Hugo Doerschuk

Gary, by "The Slaughter Pen" in the "Valley of Death," pointing up to "Little Round Top."

arriving at "Devil's Den" and "The Slaughter Pen." Finally, you'll take that winding left turn to the top of the "Little Round Top" hill.

Confederate General Lee wanted to engage the North, but did not think that Gettysburg was the right battlefield. The Union held the high ground there, and in war, the high ground is golden. Still, Gettysburg proved to be the decisive time and place for that horrific Armageddon-like engagement to occur between two great armies and two ways of life.

Walking those fields a few weeks ago, I can report to you there is absolutely no place on earth that I know of even remotely like Gettysburg. In the first place, the climate of that region, unlike most of the rest of Pennsylvania, is considered to be humid sub-tropical, like much of the American South. Even on a cool November afternoon, the different "feel" of the place was remarkable. The battlefield appears surreal in every respect. I suppose that all battlefields just "look" different, but Gettysburg truly does. When I arrived at the parking lot between "The Slaughter Pen" and

the huge rock outcrop that is known as "Devil's Den," I was struck by an intense other-worldliness...and a strange feeling that I was, indeed, not alone.

Of course, I was with my father, Robert Rice, and our good friend Hugo Doerschuk, who had graciously consented to help us to get to Manassas, Virginia, so that Dad could conduct our original musical composition "The American Veteran's Last Salute March" with The American Festival Pops Orchestra. Hugo is a retired Army officer and offered very significant commentary. There were also some other tourists milling about, but on the whole, the place seemed as if it were another planet.

Many of my dear late mom's family were from Alabama and Georgia, and a Great Great Great Grandfather had supposedly fought for the South at Gettysburg and lived. How? I could not begin to tell you. As I looked up from "The Slaughter Pen" to "Little Round Top," at first the distance did not seem that great. In my mind's eye, I could see those Alabamians rushing towards the top of that hill, taking periodic cover

from the boulders that dotted their pathways. I could also imagine the desperate looks on the faces of Col. Chamberlain's 20th Maine as they fought time and again to repulse the Alabamians, finally repelling them decisively with a deadly bayonet charge. From the top of "Little Round Top," you can see how high that hill really was. It was a turkey shoot for the Union Sharpshooters and their fast-loading Sharps rifles. I don't believe that any fighting Alabamian made it to the top of that hill alive.

Some of Dad's ancestors were no doubt also there with the brave Pennsylvanians, who faced the brunt of Pickett's Virginians out on that open field in the center of the battle line on the third day of fighting. Those Virginians raced across that field in a vain attempt at victory, and at the last, they achieved a certain success in one respect...winning immortal valor. I just had to ask myself. Would I even be here now if some part of either side of my North/South gene pool had been lost on that day?

The reasons for the Civil War depend upon whom you ask. From the North's point of view, the "evils of slavery" became their rallying cry. The pursuit of the "Rights of Man" brought a cry to end slavery to the lips of every Union soldier, and yet very few of the Southern men on that field even owned slaves, or for that matter, even cared about that issue. From the South's point of view, they were fighting for the rights of their particular states to follow their own pathways of governance. They were fighting for their friends and neighbors, and, like the Union men across that battlefield, they were fighting for each other.

The issue of slavery, according to a number of historians, was ending in any case. Slaves were simply too expensive to purchase and maintain in the modern world. Economically, it was becoming far cheaper to pay starvation wages to a person for a day's work than it was to keep, feed, and house a person for 24 hours a day. Yes, slavery, bad as it was, was indeed already on its way out. As for "States' Rights," many aspects surrounding that issue are still far from settled, as anyone who has ever studied the politics of government can tell you, and that topic is still very much a part of the Liberal-Conservative debate that rages on today.

So what indeed was "decided" in those three days of fighting in those Gettysburg fields and rocky hills? Well certainly, the fates of thousands of young idealistic men. There were enough killed and wounded from both sides to have populated Lakewood, for example (perhaps 50,000 fallen). The Army of Northern Virginia was severely crippled, and would never again be able to mount a serious offensive campaign. In a sense, I suppose, a great deal about the future of our nation was decided at that time. What exactly was decided though will be for all of us to reflect on, as we remember this 150th anniversary of our Civil War.

Shadow Banking...

Time To Shine A Light On Fraud

continued from page 18

he could hold in order to make sure Lehman Brothers returned Mitt's money plus interest. Something like, say, mortgage-backed securities. This manner of banking created a colossal hunger for collateral. See, Mitt and John, being high-finance vultures, did not really trust one another (would you?). So they, together with some of their friends, needed to create something, anything, to make a profit. It was this greed-driven hunger that drove the wild demand for mortgage-backed securities.

But think about the difference between the shadow banking market and you. The FDIC's deposit insurance exists to prevent bank runs like those that took place in the early 1930s

(which happen when creditors become scared that their bank is insolvent and rush to get their money back, which in turn makes their bank insolvent). The shadow banking market doesn't have deposit insurance. So how does it deal with the problem of bank runs? It doesn't, and John Kasich cut himself a nice fat check as he ran from his bank in 2008 just before the collapse--sorry Mitt--so long Lehman Brothers, hello Ohio. What we had in 2008 was a bank run. No one knew which banks were exposed to the crisis, so everyone froze. Then in October of 2008, the CEOs of our largest banks ran to then-President George Bush, who cut them a check for \$700 billion, interest-free and no strings attached--problem solved as far as the 1% is concerned. We paid their debts.

The longer we continue to ignore the problem, the more it leaves the system vulnerable to future shocks. Fraud-induced bank shocks will continue to come in waves, penetrating ever deeper until the country does something to prevent them. If history teaches us anything, as far as the banking industry is concerned, criminal charges and jail time are the only effective deterrents. The only thing I want to hear is that there will be indictments and lawsuits. Little or no immunity is the only tolerable deal in creating a Federal mortgage fraud investigative unit. It is no longer acceptable to perpetuate the atmosphere where doing deals, paying tiny fines, and admitting no wrongdoing is the way it's always been done in the banking industry.

Lakewood Living

VMS Rocks The Winchester!

by Abe Dalisky, 6th grade Harding Middle School

If you have nothing to do on Saturday, February 11, from 7 to 11 p.m., the Vance Music Studos, VMS, Showcase at the Winchester Music Hall is the place to be. You will be able to see 10 young bands for just \$5. I have seen most of these Lakewood bands perform over the past two years and I can tell you that they really are great. For example, these bands are so good that one past band was even offered a record deal!

Here are just some of the bands to watch. First, there is my favorite band The Barking Spiders, which is made up of Garfield and Harding Middle School students. Look for Isaac Karel on key-

board and James Elder on his guitar and talk box. If you don't know what a talk box is come to the show and find out. Then there is Riot101, which is also made up of Garfield and Harding students. This band has already won several awards including a Louie of the Week award and an international cover song competition. At the last show their awesome drummer, Evan Suttell, played wearing an Anderson Varejao wig. Who knows what he will do this time?

If you watch closely, you will notice that several of the night's performers are in multiple bands. Riot101's bass player Nick Bilski is also an outstanding guitarist who can shred like Eddie Van Halen with the Beginning of the End. You also want to be sure to catch

Dented Fender with Leah Choban as their talented lead singer and the Mercury Monkeys with Chris Vlachakis as their talented lead singer and lead guitarist. In the other bands you can also see members from Lakewood High School, St. Ed's, and Lutheran West. The bands listed above all have a Face-

book fan page and you can find out more about them, Vance Music Studios, and the Winchester Music Hall there or on their own web page.

So if you want to listen to some great classic rock songs from AC/DC to Led Zeppelin and much more, come down to the Winchester February 11.

The Lakewood Family Room Closes, Reopens At Lakewood United Methodist Church

continued from page 1

stantly compared my life to theirs and always declared myself somehow lacking in the area of mothering. Thankfully, my daughter loved attending and her enthusiasm pushed me far outside my comfort zone.

Now I am the one encouraging my daughter to choose the Family Room for our morning activity. It is a place where I, too, have fun... talking to my friends, sharing ideas and accepting suggestions for those tricky parenting questions.

The Open House on Saturday marked the end of an era at St. James. However, everyone shared in the excitement of a new beginning as they prepared to reopen in the new location at Lakewood United Methodist Church in early February. In fact, many people actually went over to the new facility that afternoon to assist with painting. Although I quickly lost count

of the people that filtered in and out that morning and early afternoon, it was exciting to see so many faces from my past and present converging in celebration of such a great program. I hadn't seen some people since my son was a baby and I found it motivating to be able to share with them how far I'd come... to report that I had (finally) found peace in the messiness of parenting.

Motherhood is a journey and, unfortunately, we are not equipped with GPS for raising healthy, happy children. There are times when everything goes smoothly and then there are times when gigantic potholes pop up out of nowhere. No matter where you are in your stage of parenting (or childcare... I can't forget the awesome Family Room nannies), the Family Room is a constant source of support, inspiration and camaraderie. I am eagerly anticipating the changes that a new location will bring.



Zach, Zeke, Evan & Nick of RIOT101 at the last VMS Winchester show.

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Lakewood Living

Happy New Gear!

How To Survive Cleveland At Its Best

by Erika Durham

Ahh...Cleveland winter. The snow is falling, the temperatures dropping, the lake freezing over, and all I can think about is how awesome it is going to be when this is all over!

Now, I realize not everyone shares my disdain for the winter months, but for those of us who greatly prefer those sunny and warm days we get between June and September, it is time to embrace what is inevitably upon us.

This will be more specifically “geared” (haha!) towards those of us who spend more time riding bikes or walking and need that head-to-toe cover, but even if that doesn’t sound like you, you might find at least some part of this information useful for your lifestyle.

So let’s start at the “head” end of things, and work our way down.

First of all, you obviously need a good hat, and maybe even a full head/face cover, depending on how hardcore you are. Balaclavas are a great piece to have because of their versatility and functionality. A balaclava is essentially a face mask that can be manipulated to expose whatever amount of skin on your face you’d like, and can even be rolled up to serve as a hat, or pulled down as a neck warmer. Balaclavas are made from many kind of materials, but the best performing balaclavas I’ve encountered are made from silk. They keep you warm, and will do a better job of keeping out moisture than cotton or fleece. On top of the balaclava, I also recommend a comfortably tight winter hat, something like a Carhartt, that will pull down over your ears and not slip over your eyes.

Next up, you need a solid jacket set up. In my experience, the best way to go is to double-up. First, you’ll want a nice under-layer jacket that will fit you closely when put on over your layer of normal clothing (think sweater or even a good hoodie). There are an extraordinary amount of companies out there that make jackets like this, so you can choose at your discretion, based on what fits your body the best. The key piece in the double-up jacket set-up is the outer layer, which should be a very well performing rain jacket that is labeled as “wind proof” in addition to waterproof. While these can seem more expensive than you might think, believe me, they are worth it when it’s pouring and the wind is blowing so hard you get the urge to punch at it. I wear a hooded Northface jacket, with a Marmot rain cover on top. The Northface keeps me toasty warm, and the Marmot cinches up at both the wrist and waist, and has withstood the rainiest of days, keeping me dry underneath.

For cyclists in particular, gloves are absolutely key. As I found out the hard way, it doesn’t matter how many pairs of cotton gloves you are wearing...the wind will still come through those tiny holes in the fabric and your hands will freeze. While they’re also a bit pricy, waterproof gloves are a necessity. Like the rain jacket, the waterproof layer keeps the wind from breaking through, and will also keep your hands dry. Per-



Chotas...not the most attractive footwear, but can be very helpful in wet weather.

sonally, I chose to go with waterproof mittens, which I think do a better job of keeping my hands warm because there is no separation between my fingers. On the coldest days, I also wear what are affectionately known as “hobo gloves” (cotton gloves with the fingertips cut off) underneath the mittens. As you can see, I’m all about the double-up.

Now that we’re at the bottom half, there is a whole world of options. Many people choose to go with long johns under their pants, some people wear under armor, but my gear-of-choice for my legs is a good pair of rain pants. Like the Marmot rain jacket, many companies make rain pants that cinch at the ankle, keeping that cold wind out, and in the case of rain or snow, keeping the moisture out as well. Rain pants are also baggy enough to fit over any kind of pants you’d be wearing, and are easy to put on and remove once you’ve reached your destination.

Socks. Socks. Socks. Socks are a key component of winter gear that I took for granted for years! This might be the first winter of my life that I’ve sprung for a few pairs of really great socks, and it has absolutely been worth it. There are few things worse than having cold (and/or wet) feet all day long. Again, the array of variety can be intimidating, but this is another area of

personal preference. Alpaca wool socks are fantastic for warmth and wicking. Wigwam makes a few great pairs of thick winter hiking socks as well as thin liners for, you guessed it, the double-up. Smartwool also does a great job with support and warmth, as well as wicking moisture. Socks can also be pricy, and it may be hard to convince yourself to cough up \$20 for one pair, but you’ll be thanking yourself in February when your feet feel great.

Lastly, we have to consider the many options for footwear. My friends and I spent months searching for a



waterproof boot or shoe cover, coming up with fairly limited results. We happened upon a company called “Chota”, which makes a waterproof boot that is meant for canoeing. While conceptually, the Chotas are fantastic, they are a bit too tight on my feet to allow for enough circulation to keep my feet warm. Therefore, I use them on wet days when the temperature is slightly higher. Otherwise, a good waterproof shoe cover will work, or even just a solid pair of hiking boots. Many cyclists also employ the grocery-bag technique...wrapping their shoes in two plastic shopping bags and hoping for the best.

While buying gear can certainly get expensive, try to keep in mind that high-quality items, when taken good care of, will last you for many years to come. A lot of these companies also offer lifetime warranties and will replace your products if they become less efficient due to use or even just bad stitching. It took way too long for me to suck it up and just buy the things I knew I needed, and I’m happy I finally did it. I can be outside this winter and not be completely miserable, which makes me feel even better about embracing the next four months.

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Lakewood Living History

AM Radio Ruled The Airwaves

by Thomas George

Radio has informed, entertained and inspired area residents since its inception.

AM was king for the first fifty years of radio. Early local AM radio included stations WHK which began broadcasting in 1922 and WTAM which quickly followed and began on the air in 1923. Their formats included news and regular network entertainment shows including "the Shadow" and the "Green Hornet" which usually originated in New York City. By 1930 WTAM was broadcasting Indians baseball games live from League Park. FM, invented in 1933, was available but scantily listened because most radio

receivers did not include an FM dial.

Lakewood was home to many early radio personalities including Wayne Mack and Bill Randle. According to Wayne Mack's Encyclopedia of Cleveland Radio History, Randle is credited with promoting then unknown singers such as Tony Bennett and Rosemary Clooney (George's aunt).

While AM radio was the king of the airwaves during the early years of radio broadcasting, FM eventually grabbed the listeners' ears. It wasn't until 1961 that both General Electric and Zenith independently invented a stereo FM system that received government approval.

Still, due to the lack of FM receivers,

many FM stations had very low listenership. Jeff Kinzbach, legendary WMMS air personality and former Lakewood resident recalls, "the signal was clearer and the music sounded so much better with all that dynamic range that FM provided. Many had to buy FM converters because the car radios did not have too many FM radios at the time." As with today's college radio stations, cutting edge or classical music was the standard FM format.

Kinzbach, a former Westlake Avenue, Horace Mann Junior High and Lakewood High student, was always interested in radio and landed a job as a 10th grader at WIXY answering

phones. Several years later, Horace Mann classmates Tom Kelly and Steve Lushbaugh reunited with Kinzbach at local FM station, WMMS. Kinzbach, while at WMMS helped launch the careers of Bruce Springsteen and others and was a leader in the movement to bring the Rock Hall to Cleveland.

Kinzbach remembers, "on the way home from high school we would stop at Melody Lane and buy 45s. There was a little t-shirt shop in the back of the store...it was run by Daffy Dan. It was his first business that eventually became huge."

By 1978 FM finally overtook AM radio and had more listeners.

Alan Freed was an Akron radio announcer and personality who got a job with Cleveland radio station WJW 850 in 1951 where he, at the suggestion of the owner of Record Rendezvous, began to play rhythm and blues music. This eventually led to his "Moondoggers" and the Moondog Coronation Ball, held on March 21, 1952 at the Cleveland Arena.

However, during this early period of rock and roll, the major local station to adopt a rock and roll format was WHK, 1420. Because of its tremendous popularity, eventually other local stations followed suit including WKYC 1100 and WIXY 1260.

Most local radio histories will discuss the popularity of these local stations, particularly WIXY 1260 which had a strong following. However, many today might find it hard to believe but the number one rock and roll radio station during the peak years 1965-1970 was Canadian radio station CKLW 800.

At its peak, CKLW was the third most listened to radio station on the planet. According to the CKLW web site there were reports that, with the right atmospheric conditions, the Big 8 could be heard in Scandinavia. Arbitron ratings in 1967 and 1968 rated CKLW the number one rated station in Cleveland, Detroit and Toledo.

"The Big 8" played what was known as a "boss radio" format with a nearly continuous stream of "much more music."

On a clear Lakewood evening, an adept radio tuner could also pick up the newest rock and roll hits on stations WABC in New York, WBZ in Boston and WLS and WCFL in Chicago.

Today we enjoy quality sound delivered by expensive sound systems and Sirius Radio. However many Lakewood residents nostalgically recall hearing today's rock classics over the grainy AM airwaves emitted from Canada and other far off locations.

Lakewood In The Civil War

Letters Home To Rockport, Part 2

by Mazie Adams

The Lakewood Historical Society continues to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War with a series of articles focused on Rockport Township (now Lakewood) during that time. Corporal Nathan Hawkins wrote a series of letters home during the Civil War. The letters provide a fascinating look into the life of a Rockport soldier during the Civil War.

The letters of Corporal Nathan Hawkins provide wonderful details about life in the 103rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry for him and his friends from Rockport Township, whom he called his "family." At home in Rockport these men were neighbors, schoolmates, members of the same church and sometimes related by marriage.

The men most likely attended the same Rockport recruitment meetings and enlisted at about the same time. During the war they were tentmates, kept careful track of each other when separated, visited each other when ill, and wrote home with news of each other. Nathan and his friends even wrote a short poem about their Civil War lives: "My seat is my knapsack, my desk is my knee & a nice happy family are we."

Nathan spent much time describing the food the soldiers ate, lamenting, "we would get along well enough if we got more to eat." Like the rest of the soldiers, he grew tired of the rations provided by the Union Army. The rations typically consisted of biscuits (hardtack), coffee and salt pork. The soldiers would occasionally supplement their meals with food purchased from local peddlers and the camp sutler, but it was costly. They anxiously waited for food shipped from their Rockport families and friends. When their camps were

located far away from railway lines and major roads, the soldiers would run out of rations and have to confiscate food from local farmers or go hungry. While encamped along the Cumberland River, their camps were surrounded by blackberry patches. The men were delighted to go berry-picking.

In their leisure time, the soldiers wrote letters, read, played card games and baseball, did their laundry, cleaned their tents and repaired their uniforms. "We have taken down our tents to day for the purpose of airing the ground. You have no idea how filthy a tent will get in one week, so much stuff accumulates, every one makes a little dirt, Willie Louis (Lewis) is the worst one I ever saw, as I have charge of the tent, I have to jaw him all the time, he will finish dinner, perhaps leave his plate and cup laying around, perhaps a chunk of meat and two or three hard breads.....go off and play ball."

Due to bad water, lack of good hygiene, and living in close quarters, many soldiers became ill. Soldiers would develop illnesses which Nathan describes as the "ague," bilious fever and typhoid fever and were moved to army hospitals. Rockporters Warren Coe and Johnny Andrews both died in Kentucky hospitals of illness in November 1862. "I went to the hospital last night and took care of the sick ones. Jake and Warren are there yet and I am afraid that Warren will never be any better, he looks very bad..."

Sharing their experiences with friends from home certainly made surviving the rigors of camp life and the danger of combat easier for the soldiers from Rockport Township.

2011 is the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War--an appropriate time for the Lakewood Historical



Nathan Hawkins

Society to consider Rockport Township's participation in the war. For more information on Lakewood's fascinating history, go to www.lakewoodhistory.org.


Mind, Body, Spirit

continued from page 17

"Breadsmith is always in eyeshot," she said. "I look out my windows and I'm thinking of hearth-baked artisan bread when I should be thinking of my yoga."

Blending the personal and professional, Mrs. Camino's Pink Lotus is both a calling and business, feeding the body, mind, and spirit.

"I see many people who need yoga," she said over a slice of Mediterranean Herb bread. "It saved my life. If it helped me, I think it can help anybody."



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Lakewood Living

Resident Pens Book About Grandparents' WWII Letters

by Kara Martinelli

"Darling it may be a long time before we see one another again. But I want you to know. Every time I've said I love you- I meant it. There's no two ways about it. The crew was talking about what's ahead of us, but we all agreed on one thing. We're coming back."

This excerpt is from my new book titled "My Very Dearest Anna." It is from one of the letters that Richard B. Moore had written to his dearest Anna before he went overseas to serve in WWII. But they are better known to me as my Grandpa and Grandma.

"My Very Dearest Anna" features their letters to each other while they were separated during World War II. In 1943 my Grandpa joined the Army Air Corps and then was off to serve as a

B-24 tail gunner with the 5th Air Force in the Pacific Theater. Before he left for training, he worked up the nerve to ask my Grandma out on a date. They promised to write to each other while he was away. Two years later, when he arrived back in Ohio, they were married.

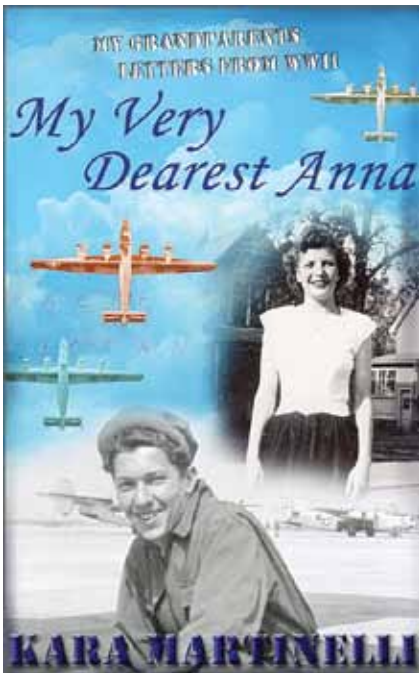
I was very close to my grandparents. Though my Grandma passed away when I was just 14 years old, I was very close to her. And I spent the majority of my time at my Grandpa's house until he passed away in 2007. We would spend countless hours sitting around the kitchen table looking at his scrapbooks and photos from WWII. He would tell me all sorts of stories from his time in the Army Air Corps.

I cherished those memories and his stories. So after he passed away, I

wanted his memories to live on and for others to share in the same stories that made me so happy. I wanted to share their story so people could see that love and hope still grows while the world is at war. So I filled in the holes between their letters to complete their story and had the book published.

"My Very Dearest Anna" allows the reader to step back in time and see history through the eyes of a B-24 tail gunner and the girl he couldn't wait to come home to. This is my very first book; it was published this past December.

Check out www.dearestanna.com for photos and information about the book and pick up a paperback copy. The e-book version is also available at Amazon.com.



Tax Season And The Benefits Of Owning A Home

by Chad Bernard

Well it's that time of year again. You should start receiving your 2011 W-2s from your employer, if you haven't already. Some people schedule an appointment to see their CPA as quickly as possible in anticipation of a refund, which begs the question, "What did I do with that money last year?" Well, if you're not a home owner, why not put that money to good use? You can use your refund to help with a down payment. If you qualify for an FHA loan, your down payment requirement is only 3.5% of the pur-

chase price. Also FHA allows the seller to pay for your closing costs, up to 6%.

With rates as low as they are, your mortgage payment may end up being less than what you currently pay in rent. Here are some other tax benefits of owning a home:

Mortgage Interest Deduction

One of the biggest incentives for owning a home is that the interest you pay on your mortgage is tax-deductible, up to a limit of \$1 million. This deduction, like most other tax breaks for homeowners, applies to any kind of home, possibly including a second home.

Property Tax Deduction

You can claim property taxes you pay as an income tax deduction. This applies to both your principal home and any other home you may own. Any money held in escrow to pay future taxes, however, is not deductible.

Moving Expenses Deduction

The government allows you to write off many of your moving costs when you buy a new home, if it is at least 50 miles closer to your job than your old home. To qualify, you must continue to work full-time in the general area of your job for 39 weeks during the

following year. If you're self-employed and work in your home, any move of 50 miles or more will make your moving expenses deductible. However, you must also work full-time near the new location for 78 weeks during the next 24 months.

Of course, because tax rules vary based on income and other factors, be sure to consult an accountant or financial advisor about your particular situation.

Chad Bernard is the Branch Manager at Primary Residential Mortgage, Inc. in Avon, OH

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