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Lakewood Old House Fair May 5 - See Page 17

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 8, Issue 8, April 17, 2012

Wednesday, April 25

Welcome To Lakewood Event

by Melissa Garrett

The City of Lakewood's Community Relations Advisory Commission and the Lakewood Family Collaborative are sponsoring a Welcome to Lakewood event on Wednesday, April 25, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Garfield Middle School, 13114 Detroit Avenue. This event is designed to welcome new residents to the community and to assist anyone looking for additional opportunities to make connections within



the community. Welcome to Lakewood is a fun, new event where residents can learn more about local civic organiza-

tions, services and ways to get involved in Lakewood.

This is an opportunity to meet Mayor Mike Summers,

Lakewood Schools' Superintendent Jeff Patterson, Lakewood City Council Members and hear a special welcome from Lakewood's State Representative,

Nickie Antonio. Thirty local organizations will be on hand to provide information about how to get more involved in the **continued on page 3**

LakewoodAlive Hosts Community Housing Forum

by Paul Beegan

Though Lakewood's history can be traced back into the mid-1800's, the city as we know it today really started its heyday of development at the turn of the last century. Within 40 years Lakewood was mostly built out. We now find ourselves in the second decade of the 21st century, and all of our beloved Lakewood homes are nearing or have turned 100 years old. As we enter the 2nd century of housing here

in Lakewood, Ohio, we have to ensure our homes can continue to serve us for decades yet to come and keep our community both vibrant and vital.

On Thursday, April 26, LakewoodAlive will be hosting a community forum entitled "Housing: A New Approach for a New Century." The forum will discuss the current state of our housing in Lakewood, the value of our historic homes to our neighborhoods and **continued on page 4**

Join The Conversation

by Susan Dunn

We live in uncertain times. In a world of war, poverty, unemployment and homelessness, we fear what we do not understand. We begin to question our government, our faith, our future, our neighbors and even ourselves. With all the advances in technology we are constantly in contact with others, yet sometimes we feel alone and that no one hears what we have to say or really understands how we feel.

A new program at the Main Library, Communities in Conversation, offers the chance to gain a greater appreciation of different faiths and backgrounds. Together, participants will explore a variety of religions, allowing everyone to come to a deeper understanding of their own beliefs and the

beliefs of others through talking, listening and thinking.

Communities in Conversation, led by Emilie Barnett, is an organization that believes study and discussion are a crucial part of strengthening community ties. Their goal is "to provide opportunities for a diverse population with a broad range of religious backgrounds to meet, converse and learn from each other in order to fashion expanding circles of awareness, knowledge, sympathy and fellowship."

Join the conversation Tuesdays, May 1 through May 29 at 7:00 p.m., in the Main Library Multipurpose Room. We hope you will join in this series of discussions aimed at strengthening our community by sharing our lives.

This program is free and open to the public, but space is

limited. To register, please call the Main Library Technology Center at 216-226-8275 ext. 127. Participants are encouraged to pick up their free study guide at the Technology Center before the first meeting. For more information visit the Communities in Conversation website at www.communitiesinconversation.org.

"Little Shop of Horrors" May 3-5 At LHS

By Dave Gannon,

Barnstormers Director

The Lakewood High School Barnstormers Drama Club and the LHS Music Department are proud to present the sci-fi farce, "Little Shop of Horrors." This off-the-wall musical comedy is about a plant on a mission to destroy the human race! Will it succeed? Find out by joining us at 8 p.m. in the Civic Auditorium on Thursday, May 3; Friday, May 4; or Saturday, May 5.

Advance sale tickets are available for the low price of only \$6. Advance sale tickets may be purchased by calling 529-4162 and following the instructions. Tickets may also be purchased at the door on show nights for \$8. Mark your calendars for "Little Shop of Horrors" and remember the advice of those in the know - whatever you do, don't feed the plants!

Lakewood Cage Classic To Bring 100 Teams

by Christine Gordillo

Get ready for a basketball invasion in Lakewood. About 100 teams and 1,000 players are set to descend on our city April 27-29 for the 3rd Annual Lakewood Cage Classic, hosted by the Lakewood High School basketball program, led by varsity boys' coach Phil Argento and his staff.

Proceeds from the event, which features all-star AAU teams of 4th through 11th grade boys and girls from across Northeast Ohio and western

Pennsylvania, help fund the Ranger basketball program's summer league camps, leagues and shootouts. Games will take place on nearly all the gym floors of the school district.

An all-day pass, which admits you to any game on any court during the day, is \$5 for adults and \$2 for seniors and students. So now that March Madness is over, come get your basketball fill at the Lakewood Cage Classic. For more info, visit www.playhoopsusa.com or call Greg Donner at 330-714-9570.

CVS - The Prescription Is Almost Ready

When a new bike rack appeared at CVS, the Lakewood Observer Deck erupted with comments and kudos. Jim O'Bryan looks at losing a church while retaining a drug store. Follow the QR Code at the right to read his and fellow readers' views. Or <http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=10899>



Calendar Page

Thursday, April 19

7th Annual "Healthy Starts. Happy Hearts" Charity Wine & Beer Tasting

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The best wine and beer tasting event in Lakewood, benefiting Jordan's Family Foundation. JFF provides funding for research, development and education in the field of pediatric cardiology. Admission is \$25 at the door. The beer and wine are all being paired with delicious gourmet food.

Razi's Wine House 14900 Detroit Avenue

Lakewood City Limits' "Class and Sass"

7:00 PM - 6:30 PM

April 19 brings "Class and Sass" to Lakewood City Limits. The 'class' is Lakewood High School's cello quartet which includes 2 members who are also members of the National Honors Orchestra. The 'sass' is "WIFEY", a two person improv group founded by LHS 1999 grad, Brenna Connor. Closing the evening may be a classy brass quintet. Remember, this is the series that is booked as 'not your ordinary church music' series.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 16400 Detroit Avenue

Friday, April 20

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce April Luncheon Meeting

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Join us for the annual Mayor's Address to the Chamber by Lakewood Mayor Michael P. Summers and State of the Chamber Address by Board Chairperson Diane Helbig

\$15 members, \$20 non-members
RSVP to info@lakewoodchamber.org
Lakewood Senior Health Campus
1381 Bunts Ave., Lakewood

Community Day at Lakewood YMCA

2:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Come See what the Lakewood Y has to offer:
The Lakewood YMCA open to the public for free from 2pm-8pm

2:00pm: Crafts for over 50
3:00pm-4:00pm: Water Aerobics for those who have arthritis
5:00-7:00pm— Open Swim, Pool Games 7-8pm
4:00-4:30pm: Dance Demo for kids
5:00-5:50pm— Zumba for all
5:00-5:30pm— Theater for kids

16915 Detroit Road Lakewood, OH 44107
216-521-8400

Junk 2 Funk 2012 Charity Event to Benefit North Coast Health Ministry

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Local Girl Gallery and stArt Neo have joined forces to bring back Junk2Funk, the season's funkiest event featuring local artists' and designers' work created from repurposed materials, to benefit North Coast Health Ministry, the West Side's free medical clinic for the low-income uninsured.

The event will take place on Friday, April 20, 2012, from 7 to 10 p.m. at Local Girl Gallery, 16106 Detroit Avenue. The evening will feature unique art, jewelry, sculpture, furniture and more created by northeast Ohio artists and designers. The evening will be highlighted by a live auction, Chinese raffles, wine, hors d'oeuvres and desserts from local restaurants and caterers, and organic, fair trade coffee from Coffee for a Cause.

Tickets are \$15 in advance (\$20 day of event, as available) and can be purchased online from North Coast Health Ministry at www.nchealthministry.org/ events or by contacting Elizabeth O'Brien at 216-228-7878 ext. 114 or eobrien@nchealthministry.org. This event has sold out in advance the past two years.

Local Girl Gallery, 16106 Detroit Avenue

Saturday, April 21

Spring Bargain Baby Bonanza

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Lakewood Early Childhood PTA's semi annual kids resale event. Sell or buy gently used baby and kid clothes, toys and gear.

Seller registration forms are available at our website, by email or by calling 216 521 3134.

Emerson Elementary School, 13439 Clifton Blvd, Lakewood OH 44107

Lakewood Public Library Spring Book Sale

9:00 AM - 12:00 AM

The Friends of Lakewood Public Library are gearing up for their annual Spring Book Sale. There will be many gently used books, videos, music CDs, magazines and more at this big spring sale.

Join the Friends and receive entrance to the special, members-only preview sale on Thursday, April 19, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Memberships may be purchased at the door. Memberships: Individual \$2, Family \$5, Patron \$10, Company/Business \$10, Lifetime \$100.

Lakewood Public Library

Lakewood Police D.A.R.E. Basketball Tournament

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The Lakewood Police Department D.A.R.E. Unit will be conducting its 12th annual basketball tournament for fifth grade students on Saturday, April 21, 2012. The tournament begins at 9:00 a.m and the final game will start at 2:00 p.m. This year's tournament will be held in the East Gym at Lakewood High School, 14100 Franklin Boulevard. Admission is free and all are welcome to attend.

Lakewood High School East Gym, 14100 Franklin Boulevard

Keep Lakewood Beautiful's Great American Clean-Up & Earth Day Festivities

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

The clean-up will be from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and Volunteer Lunch and Earth Day activity booths will be in Pavilion from 11 — 2:00 p.m. - "Adopt-A-Tree for Free"

Groups should pre register...
(Dan Morgan rex@StraightShooter.com)

Woman's Club Pavilion at Lakewood Park

Spring Open House on Madison

11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

It's finally Spring! Come down to Madison Avenue on Saturday, April 21st to see all the awesome businesses Madison Avenue has to offer. Special Events will be going on throughout the day, just look for the balloons to see who is participating!

For each participating shop you visit during the day, you will receive a ticket for the raffle. The prize will be a basket full of goodies from Madison Avenue businesses. This means the more shops you visit, the better your chance to win! Of course no purchase is necessary, but it will be hard not to pick up a few things during the day. :)

Please visit our website, www.mamalakewood.com for a complete list of participating shops and events.

Madison Avenue, Lakewood

MODA OF LAKEWOOD EARTH DAY WEEK-END SIDEWALK SALE!

(Saturday and Sunday)

10:00 PM

25% off Any Used Clothes, Shoes, Accessories and Rock Hard Treats T-Shirts For Men & Women! Local Art, Jewelry & Bath/Body Products and Housewares, too! Will Have Food, Beverages & Balloons Drawing for \$100 Lakewood Student Shopping Spree.

14203 Madison Avenue

Sunday, April 22

Lakewood Kiwanis Fundraiser Pancake & French Toast Breakfast

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

*All You Can Eat Pancakes (regular or blueberry) and French Toast, Sausages- Juice & Beverages

Tickets: \$7.00 (children 5 and under free) available from any Kiwanian or at the door. Proceeds Benefit Lakewood Kiwanis Community Projects

*Only Pancakes and French Toast Are All You Can Eat.

Grace Lutheran Church, 13303 Madison Avenue - Across from Madison Park

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



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, April 22
Sunday, May 6

Publish Date

Tuesday, May 1
Tuesday, May 15

www.lakewoodobserver.com – 216.712.7070

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Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Council by Christopher Bindel

"No Turn On Red"

Council President Brian Powers called the April 2, 2012 Council meeting to order at 7:34pm, and his first order of business was to excuse Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II) who was out of town. Council did so.

The next order of business was a report from the Committee of the Whole given by Councilman Powers (At-Large) regarding an agreement between the City and the owners of the Drug Mart property on the east end of Detroit Avenue. The land immediately to the east of that Drug Mart is owned by the City and there has been a long standing agreement between the two that Drug Mart can use the land to access the back of its property for loading and unloading trucks provided they perform snow removal and some other maintenance. The resolution before Council would formalize the agreement.

The Committee of the Whole, which is made up of all the members of Council, recommended adoption of the resolution to Council, which they did.

Then Councilman Ryan Nowlin (At-large) read a report from the Public Safety Committee regarding changes to the ordinances controlling the use of 'No Right Turn on Red' signs. Currently every one of those signs is individually listed in Lakewood's Codified Ordinances. This means every time traffic patterns change, for instance when a school closes, in order to remove those signs each one has to

go through an ordinance in Council. With about 150 signs in the City this could take up a lot of Council's time, and City resources.

The ordinance the Public Safety Committee discussed would take all of the signs listed out of the Ordinances and replace them with a system that would allow the Director of the Public Safety to make those calls, therefore allowing changes to be made more quickly. The Committee did add a provision in the ordinance that would require the Director of Public Safety to give Council a 30 day notice of any changes that may be made. With that included, the Committee recommended Council adopt the ordinance, which they did.

Councilman Shawn Juris (Ward III) then gave a report from the Public Works Committee regarding street pavement. The Committee reviewed the annual Pavement Condition Rating report and discussed a long term street strategy. They broke streets into three categories, asphalt, concrete and those that can be paid for by CDBG funding. With CDBG funding dictating what streets, and how many, can be done the Committee concentrated on the first two. Though the number of streets that can be resurfaced depends greatly on how much the bids are for the projects, the Committee discussed that between 10 and 12 asphalt streets could be done this year. No concrete streets are due

for replacement, but two will receive some maintenance.

Also discussed in the meeting was the City's sidewalk strategy. Some of the points discussed were under what circumstances City funds would be expended to replace sidewalks, how cost will be assessed to property owners, enforcing sidewalk regulations, and how the City will systematically monitor the sidewalk conditions.

Council filed the report.

The last item on the agenda was Law Director Kevin Butler asking Council to extend the Moratorium on internet gaming and sweepstakes cafes. These are establishments that allow people to play games on computers and win cash prizes. Because these cafes are within a fine line of the law, the city wishes to keep a moratorium on them until the State makes a ruling. Direc-

tor Butler updated Council saying that legislation regarding these types of establishments has begun to move forward in the State Legislature and that he hopes to hear more about it soon.

Council referred the moratorium extension to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

Coming to the end of an extremely short Council meeting, Council President Powers adjourned the meeting at 7:56pm.

Council meetings are held every first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M. in the City Hall Auditorium. The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be held on May 7, 2012. For a copy of the agenda or for any other information regarding the LakewoodCity Council, you can find it at onelakewood.com/citygovern_council.html.

Welcome To Lakewood

continued from page 1

community. There will also be yummy treats from local bakeries. All attendees will leave with a packet of information all about Lakewood.

The Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission was established in 2005 to serve in an advisory capacity for the purpose of educating, informing and making recommendations to City officials, departments, boards and commissions on matters relating to community relations within the City of Lakewood in

an effort to advance respect for diversity, bonds of mutuality and equity.

The Collaborative is a group of agencies, organizations and concerned individuals working together to make sure a network of services and supports are available and accessible to children, youth and families in our community. The objectives of the Collaborative are to assist in the identification of community issues and needs as they relate to youth/families, advocacy for youth/family/community and consultation and support to strengthen and expand community networking/partnerships.

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We're located in the historic Bailey Bldg. at Detroit and Warren roads in Lakewood, Ohio. Our main entrance is to the south of the building just off of the parking lot.

The University of Akron
Lakewood

*The 2012 Bloomberg BusinessWeek rankings of part-time MBA programs.

Visit mba.uakron.edu to learn more about the Saturday MBA program.

Lakewood City News

Keep Lakewood Beautiful Announces 2012 Schedule of Events

by Dan Morgan

The Keep Lakewood Beautiful (KLB) organization was created in September of 1982 to promote civic involvement through public interest in the general improvement of the environment of Lakewood. The volunteer board initiates, plans and coordinates programs for litter prevention, solid waste reduction, recycling and green space beautification. New programming is always being developed, and new volunteers are always welcome.

This year, the Great American Clean-Up & Earth Day Festivities will take place on April 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Woman's Club Pavilion at Lakewood Park. The clean-up will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with volunteer lunch and Earth Day activity booths in the pavilion from 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Eco-friendly individuals and groups are encouraged to join us. Individuals can simply come to the Lakewood Park Pavilion by 9 a.m.

LakewoodAlive Hosts Community Housing Forum

continued from page 1

community, and report on the Housing Forward Strategy that the City of Lakewood has begun to implement.

Lakewood's housing stock is vital to the health and vibrancy of the city – we are a community of homes. The historic character of our homes, our beloved front porches, and our walkable, tree-lined streets are the reason why we all have chosen Lakewood as a place to live and raise our families. But the health of our city is dependent on the health of our homes. As the 2005 Grow Lakewood Report cites, "housing is Lakewood's economic linchpin."

The City of Lakewood and its collaborative partners, including LakewoodAlive, are hard at work to make sure our aging housing stock is ready for the next century. As planned in the Housing Forward Strategy, they have been working with homeowners, landlords, investors, and local banks to abate residential code violations while providing connections to resources to help stabilize and strengthen the foun-



YMCA Adventure Guides lent a big hand at 2011 Clean Up.

Why not assemble a team of Lakewood friends or coworkers to help clean up? This kind of "off-the-clock" productive group activity is a great way to strengthen your group through team building. There is also limited space available inside the pavilion to show off your earth-friendly company or conduct a fun activity. A group representative must be on hand in order to display at one of our tables.

Groups should register in advance with Maria Parke at maria1091@sbcglobal.net. There is also detailed information about group involvement at the Keep Lakewood Beautiful Facebook page, www.facebook.com/KeepLakewoodBeautiful.

Mark your calendars for this year's semi-annual humus sales. The spring humus and perennial sale will be held on May 19th this year from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Skate House/Old Stone House parking lot at Lakewood Park. Our fall humus sale will be held on October 20th. Humus will be sold for \$2.50 a bag. We sell great organic leaf humus and there is nothing better for your gardens any time of year! Lakewood High School sports teams will be on hand to generously help with bagging and loading the mulch.

The 2012 Beautiful Home Awards and Adopt-A-Spot Appreciation Breakfast is scheduled for November 10th at the Woman's Club Pavilion. Keep an eye out for a particularly beautiful home in your neighborhood, and nominate it! Judging is based on landscaping, house maintenance, and overall beauty of the property.

Keep Lakewood Beautiful is particularly proud of its Adopt-A-Spot program. For 28 years, volunteers have been maintaining over 60 green spaces throughout Lakewood. There are currently a few volunteer opportunities available. The City of Lakewood supplies plants, fertilizer and yard waste bags. Our volunteers plant, weed, water and keep their areas looking fabulous.



www.OneLakewood.com/KLB
"Like" us on facebook

KLB provides out Adopt-A-Spot volunteers with the Annual Appreciation Breakfast in November.

The City of Lakewood has recently increased its efforts to strengthen the community through volunteerism. New KLB volunteer task forces are being formed. The tree, litter and storm/wastewater task forces will assist the City of Lakewood with these important issues.

Please visit www.OneLakewood.com/KLB for more information about all of these great programs and volunteer opportunities or "Like Us" on Facebook!

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City News

Backyard Hens Saga Continues

by Margaret Brinich

At the recent Hens in Lakewood Forum expert panelist, Morgan Taggart of OSU Agriculture Extension described her experience as an advocate for the backyard hens' movement in Cleveland. She noted that while ultimately successful in legalizing backyard hen raising, the campaign was a long struggle. Three years and several iterations after the initial introduction of backyard hen legislation to Lakewood City Council the debate over bringing egg laying hens back to Lakewood can be described in similar terms.

Not to be deterred by a series of setbacks, Hens in Lakewood went back to basics, constructing the Hen's Forum as a mechanism both to educate the community as well as to vet concerns and questions from all sides of the issue. A packed Library Auditorium first listened intently to Hens in Lakewood volunteer, Jaime Bouvier give a detailed overview of various peer reviewed studies tracking the benefits of backyard hens. This was followed by a point by point debunking of many of the common concerns expressed by those opposed to bringing hens to Lakewood, e.g. odor, noise, and appearance/upkeep of coops.

While the audience was overwhelmingly in favor of backyard hens, the concerned neighbors made their voices heard. As a law professor at Cleveland Marshall, Jaime emphasized her attention to the credibility of her sources for all of her material. Coupled with the admittedly biased recounting of several expert panelists about their positive experiences raising backyard hens, several audience members remained unconvinced that bringing hens to Lakewood could be anything but detrimental, much less beneficial, for the community.

These questions were then directed to a panel of hen experts. Ranging from a hen owner in Cleveland, to a realtor,

to a young Lakewood mother and hen advocate, the panelists offered their own insights into the value of backyard hens.

At the conclusion of the program, a survey was distributed to the attendees asking for their opinions about bringing hens to Lakewood. Of the 54 individuals who completed the survey, only four expressed an overwhelmingly negative opinion about hens in Lakewood. Despite the supportive audience, key points of contention remain and appeared several times in the survey results.

Would hens hurt Lakewood's property values? Realtors on both sides of the issue spoke out- some were certain that the value of our housing stock would take a hit, others cited personal experiences in which clients listed hens as a key item on their wish list.

How much would it cost the City to manage a hen licensure program? In the Cleveland example the program has run so smoothly that Morgan Taggart indicated that the Building Department no longer issues the licenses and in fact, the Health Department provides any necessary oversight. While this points to a fairly low overhead, the structure of the program in Lakewood would dictate the final cost.

With a clearly biased sample, the data should not be extrapolated out as representative of the community at large, but the data does provide some insight into where the conversation around hens currently stands. Primarily, that despite the lengthy discussion that occurred that evening, the conversation is far from over.

With another round of hen legislation likely to hit City Council in the coming months, Hens in Lakewood has their work cut out for them, but this group of advocates has made it clear that they won't be giving up on hens anytime soon.

LakewoodAlive Hosts Housing Forum

continued from page 4

dAlive's Director of Housing Outreach Hilary Schickler, Heidi Finniff from First Federal of Lakewood, local housing appraiser William Gaydos, Eric Lowrey from Prudential Lucien Real Estate, and Michael Molinski from the Lakewood Architectural Board of Review. Questions from the audience to the panel are invited.

"Housing: A New Approach for a New Century" will be held on Thursday, April 26 at 7:00pm at the Garfield Middle School located at 13114 Detroit Avenue. No advance registration is required and the forum is free and

open to the public. Please consider attending to learn what you can do to move Lakewood's homes forward into the next century. Visit lakewoodalive.com for more information.

Paul Beegan is a member of LakewoodAlive and LakewoodAlive's housing committee chairperson.

LakewoodAlive is a nonprofit economic development corporation whose mission is to facilitate economic stability and growth in the City of Lakewood. LakewoodAlive creates alliances with community leaders, leverages community assets and expands the pool of available resources to protect and enhance Lakewood's quality of life.

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Lakewood Public Library Events

compiled by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

April 17
Knit and 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 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 for the next discussion.

Tuesday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

April 19
Poetry Month
Langston Hughes Listens to America
Presented by the Players of Karamu House

Langston Hughes spent some important formative years in Cleveland—and Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and New York City. But it was during his days as a Cleveland high schooler that he first began to write. Designated as the class poet against his will—because black kids were supposed to have rhythm—he trudged through banal themes of school spirit and eventually grew to become one of our country’s most penetrating and insightful voices as a poet, playwright, screenwriter, short story writer and novelist. The Karamu Theatre Outreach Performance Series makes a special contribution to our poetry celebration with a stylized ‘choreopoem’ of eleven of Langston Hughes’ most profound and moving poems set to the music of drums and brought to life with stylized movement. Writing at a time when the contributions of African Americans to our history were often minimized or disregarded, Hughes brought hidden struggles and dreams to light with humor, pathos and an unerring sense of justice.

Thursday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

April 21
Five Star Films
A Woman’s Face (1941), Directed by Cukor - Not Rated

Given a new face and a fresh chance at life by her plastic surgeon, blackmailer Joan Crawford remains attached to a cash-strapped and living large Conrad Veidt, her cruel accomplice. When he concocts a diabolical plan to eliminate his main obstacle to a family fortune, will she have the will to stop him?

Saturday, April 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

April 22
Sunday with the Friends: Transportation Boulevard Jazz Quintet

The Boulevard swings hard through jazz, blues, Latin, and Bop, channeling the night club energy of the 50s and 60s—but they’re best known for pinpoint control and mastery of small, intimate environments. This is an opportunity to observe the streetcar up close and watch the sparks fly.

Sunday, April 22 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

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April 23
Health and Wealth: Power Living: Power Healing and Joy Part 2
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 your 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 into control

Monday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

April 24
Poetry Month - Great Poems of the Classical Era: In Greek, Latin and English Translation

An appreciation of poetry and its founding role in our language, our history and our culture is incomplete without a little Greek and Latin. From the Theogeny to the Iliad to the Odyssey to the Aeneid, the building blocks of metaphor, expression and thought were first laid down in the verse of the ancients and have been repeated ever since. Stergios Lazos and Daniel Cavoli of St Edward’s High School will read selections from the Classical tradition in both the original language and English translation and breathe new life into the stories that shaped our world. Selected students will also read from their own modern interpretations of the Aeneid and the Metamorphosis.

Tuesday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

April 25
Lakewood Historical Society: Buckeye Tales and Legends

The singing, storytelling naturalist and folk historian Foster Brown spits out tall tales of the lives of early Ohioans. He’ll also throw in some true stories, mix in a few Native American legends and sing good old fashioned folk songs from a past way of life. This program just might have something to teach the whole family.

Wednesday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

April 26
Poetry Month
Selected Correspondence of Kenneth Patchen: A Controversial Ohio Poet in His Own Words

New insights into life of a rebel poet, born in the shadow of Youngstown’s steel mills, are brought to light with the publication of Selected Correspondence of Kenneth Patchen by Bottom Dog Press. Patchen’s biographer, Dr. Larry Smith, joins the new volume’s editor, Allen Frost, for a live rekindling of the poet’s journey with readings of his poems and letters and a discussion of his impact on jazz poetry, the Beat Generation and many others who followed. Read over Patchen’s shoulder with correspondence to and from such literary giants as Henry Miller, Kenneth Rexroth, e.e. cummings, Dylan Thomas, as well as publishers James Laughlin and Cleveland’s Jasper Wood. Many artists are averse to labels, but Patchen simply refused them, encompassing yet growing beyond proletariat poetry, dadaism, surrealism with a forceful and original gift that never stopped innovating with protests, elegies, jazz plays, experimental novels, picture poems and love poems. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Thursday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

April 28
Art House Cinema
Bright Star (2009), Directed by Jane Campion - Rated PG

Poet John Keats left behind a brilliant body of work. He also left behind Fanny Brawne. After a magical three year love affair, his life was cut tragically short at the age of twenty-five. This moving period piece explores the tenderness and innocence of their love in lyrical strokes reminiscent of his ageless poetry.

Saturday, April 28 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Children/Youth Events
compiled by Arlie Matera

Friday, April 20 at 6:00 p.m.
Skateboarding at the Movies: Grind, directed by Casey La Scala, Rated PG-13

For youth in sixth through twelfth grade
Get psyched for warm weather with the hilarious, action-packed Grind, a story of four friends from Chicago who set out on a cross-country trip to become professional skateboarders. The movie will be shown in the Main Library Multipurpose Room. Call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 for more information.

Sataday, April 21 at 3:00 p.m.
St. Edward Robotics Team

For the whole family
Meet the robots and humans from St. Edward High School’s pre-engineering department who compete annually on the national stage. Learn how the robots are built and programmed. Then see them in action. Main Library Multipurpose Room. Call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 for more information.

Friday, April 27 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Poetry Slam

For teens ages 13 to 18
Teen poets recite original works of poetry before an audience of their peers, and are judged on their lyrics, rhymes and talents. Often recited at a breakneck pace, the themes range from love to sibling rivalry, school life, to national issues--any subject that appeals to the participating teens. The poetry slam will be held on the Main Library Auditorium stage. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Saturday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m.
The Magic of Edd Zauber

For the whole family
Witness an amazing display of tricks and illusions performed by the dazzling Edd Zauber. Audience participation, mind-boggling mysteries, and classic magic make this one a delight for all ages. The magic show will be held 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.

Lakewood Public Library

Meet Barbara Hacha Author Of “Line By Line: A Novel”

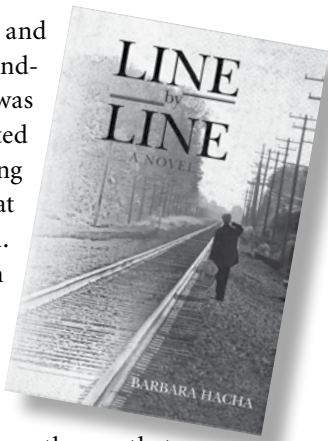
by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

As the Great Depression deepens and her family falls apart, Maddy Skobel flees her central Ohio home by freight train, determined to make her own way in the world. She faces hardship and danger at every turn and discovers her own strength and resourcefulness while learning to survive as a wandering hobo.

Don't miss your chance to meet Author Barbara Hacha at 7:00 p.m. on May 2, in the Main Library Auditorium as she discusses *Line by Line*, her first novel, and a 2011 Finalist in the Best New Fiction category of The USA "Best Books 2011" Awards, sponsored by USA Book News.

Hacha, who is also a freelance editor and photographer, allows the reader to journey with Maddy as she surveys

the strained and tested landscape that was the United States during the Great Depression. Through these young eyes, *Line by Line* explores larger themes that resonate loudly in our times: coming of age in the midst of economic devastation, eroding trust in government and the life-shaping influence of family—whether it be the one we're born into or the one we choose with the people who surround us. This page-turning novel draws powerful lessons from the past



even as it entertains with a gripping, unstoppable narrative.

Books will be available for sale and signing at the event. This free event will be held in the Lakewood Public Library

Main Auditorium at 15425 Detroit Avenue. Visit lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/literary for more events. No registration is needed. Call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127 for more information.

Transportation Boulevard Jazz Quintet Swings At Lakewood Library April 22

by Amy Kloss

In the midst of celebrating National Poetry month, Lakewood Public Library is offering up another type of poetry, the poetry of jazz music. On April 22 at 2:00 p.m., Transportation Boulevard Jazz Quintet will bring their blend of improvisation, originality and education to the Main Library Auditorium.

Transportation Boulevard swings hard yet maintains control and balance in small, intimate environments. The group performs original compositions and music influenced by styles such as swing, blues, Latin, bop and traditional jazz from the 1950s and 60s at restaurants, art and music festivals, parties and jazz clubs throughout Cleveland and Akron. With Mark Russo on trumpet, Tom Lempner on tenor saxophone, Jason Shank on guitar, Jeremy Poppard on bass and Bob Walker on drums, the group's goal is to continue jazz traditions while creating music that is newly composed and improvisatory. Since its formation in 2003,



Transportation Boulevard Jazz Quintet has recorded two albums, *Jazz Sampler* in 2004 and *Live in Cleveland* in 2006.

The April 22 concert in the Main Library Auditorium is a great opportunity to observe up close the interactions and communication among some of Cleveland's finest jazz musicians. Listeners who enjoy excellent song selection, improvising, musicality and professionalism should stop by the Library at 15425 Detroit Avenue on Sunday, April 22 for the 2:00 p.m. show. All programs are free and open to the public. This event is generously funded by the Friends of Lakewood Public Library.

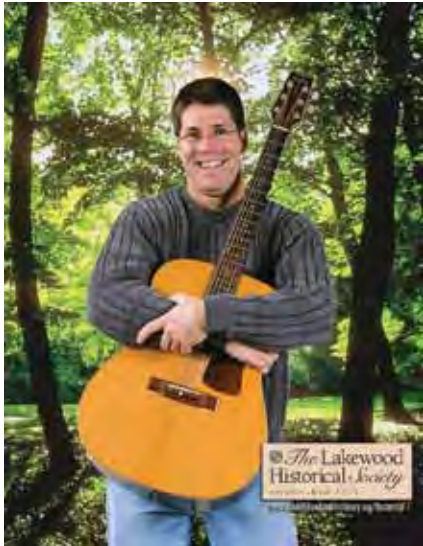
Discover Buckeye Tales And Legends With Foster Brown

by Elaine Rosenberger

Unearth some Ohio History when singing storyteller Foster Brown presents *Buckeye Tales and Legends* on Wednesday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m. in Lakewood Public Library's Main Auditorium. Filled with humor and song, Brown's *Buckeye Tales* are raucously entertaining, but they also preserve aspects of Ohio's history in danger of being lost. Brown believes the age-old art of storytelling can embody the life of the early Ohioans. Through tall tales, true stories, and Native American legends, we capture the past and learn lessons from it.

A naturalist and storyteller, Foster Brown grew up in Indiana, where he was interested in biology and nature but also in drama and music. Brown's interests converged in a performance style uniquely his, which he terms *Nature Theater*. Brown has performed locally in the Cleveland Metroparks and at libraries, schools and festivals. He has also appeared at folk festivals, nature centers and national parks throughout the United States. Foster's physical comedy, sense of suspense and elements of surprise enthrall audiences everywhere and impart valuable life lessons to groups of all ages.

Brown has been praised for his folksy presence, which captures children's imaginations. He uses his love of hiking, biking, and canoeing as a back-



drop to his storytelling. Brown has also recorded several CDs, including *Songs from a Naturalist's Notebook*, *Naturally*, and *Legacy of the Land: Songs of the Emerald Necklace*. Both *Naturally* and *Songs from a Naturalist's Notebook* received Parents' Choice Awards.

Foster Brown's *Buckeye Tales and Legends* program at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25 is presented by the Lakewood Historical Society in the Main Library Auditorium and promises to be a memorable and enjoyable experience for the whole family. Copies of Foster Brown's CDs will be available for sale and signing following the event.

American Folk Music Revival At The Library!

by Andrea Fisher

It's an American Folk Music Revival! Muszikat-Shalom will take the stage with their charismatic rendition of the story of America's folk renaissance, on Sunday, April 29 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. American folk music is steeped in a tradition which encompasses many different musical styles and eras. As part of the Sunday with the Friends series, Muszikat-Shalom will transport the audience to the heart of the American Folk Music Revival, embracing its roots in gospel, jazz, country-western and more.

Muszikat-Shalom will perform some of the best loved songs of the American Folk Music Revival and explore musicians like Pete Seeger, Burl Ives and the Kingston Trio. The duo, featuring Nancy Bernstein on vocals and Drene Ivy on piano, formed in 2006 and has performed throughout the Cleveland area in churches, libraries and even jazz clubs.

Rediscover American Folk Music with Muszikat-Shalom on Sunday, April 29 at 2:00 p.m. This concert is generously funded by the Friends of Lakewood Public Library and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture. As always, library programs are free and open to the public.




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SILHOUETTE DANCE & FINE ARTS

Lakewood Schools

Rotary Honors Speech, Music, Visual Arts Contest Winners At Beck Event

by Lynn Donaldson

Winners of the annual Rotary Speech, Music, and Visual Arts Contest were honored at an awards ceremony March 27 at the Beck Center for the Arts.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Lakewood & Rocky River, the competition showcases the incredible talents of students attending five high schools – Lakewood, Lutheran West, Magnificat, Rocky River, and St. Edward.

“This annual event is a wonderful way to acknowledge the talents of our youth,” said Ed Gallagher, Beck Center director of education, “and the quality work of the participants truly shows that the arts and creativity are alive

and well in our community.” The Beck Center is a longstanding partner with the Rotary club for this competition.

The winners received congratulations and prize money from Lynn Donaldson, Rotary club president. “Our club has a long history of recognizing, encouraging and supporting the youth of our community in many areas of endeavor,” he told the audience. “We celebrate each participant’s talent, hard work and persistence in the visual arts, music and speech.”

Connor Hooper of Rocky River High School was the speech contest winner. His topic was “Pacifism as U.S. Foreign Policy.” Second place went to Steve Saed, Lakewood High School,

and third place to Alaina Valkoff, Rocky River.

The speech contest was held in two parts with the semi-finals at the Beck Center on March 10 and the finals at the Rotary’s March 19 meeting. Speeches must be of original content and be based on “The Four Way Test of Rotary” which asks, “Is it the truth, Is it fair to all concerned, Will it build goodwill and better friendships, and Will it be beneficial to all concerned?”

All music contest winners were from Lakewood High School. Jiale Peng, violin, captured first place in the music contest with “Violin Concerto” by Sibelius. Soprano Abby Boland placed second, performing “Se tu m’ami, se sospiri” by Pergolesi, and Jacob Short, trumpet, placed third, performing “Hummel Trumpet Concerto, Movement 1” by J. Hummel. The contest, which follows the judging standards set by the Ohio Music Education Association, was held on March 24.

Mike Benesh, “State Champ,” clay and colored pencil, St. Edward High School, third place.

Honorable mentions went to Hannah Frimel, “Under the Sea,” batik, Lakewood; Michael Todaro, “Stun E. Cuffs,” ink, Lakewood; and Blakes Trumbel, “Croc,” clay, St. Edward.

Judging for the visual arts portion took place in late March and over 100 pieces, of numerous styles employing various media, were submitted by all five schools. A jury of artists selected outstanding works of art meeting the contest requirements. From this gallery of art, judges chose winners and prizes were awarded for the most outstanding works of art in the contest.

Selected entries from the visual arts contest are on display in the Rotary Student Art Show in the Jean Bulicek Galleria now through April 29. This exhibit is free and open to the public during regular gallery hours.

Awards ranged from \$500 for first place to \$100 for third place. Support for the event was provided by FFL Investments Services at First Federal of Lakewood.

Five Earn State Reflections Recognition

by Christine Gordillo

Five Lakewood City Schools students have had their creative work recognized as among the best in the state in the National PTA Reflections art recognition program. The five students who received recognition were among 24 entries from the district that merited judging at the state level.

The five students, all earning an Honorable Mention, are:

Maya George, 3rd grade, Horace Mann Elementary, Visual Arts category

Matthew Dailey, 6th grade, Harding Middle School, Photography category

Alex Grunder, 8th grade, Harding Middle School, Literature category

Paula Atfield, 8th grade, Harding

Middle School, Literature category

Renee Klann, 9th grade, Lakewood High, Literature category

The Reflections program offers students from schools with active PTAs the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Students in pre-school through grade 12 are encouraged to submit works in six arts areas: literature, dance choreography, film/video production, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts. All entries must follow a chosen theme, which this year was “Diversity Means...” The top 24 art work pieces sent to state judging were chosen from the more than 100 that were recognized at the district level during a celebration held in January at the Civic Auditorium.

Visual arts winners were Bram Myers, “Forest in Charcoal,” charcoal, Lakewood, first place; Montague Cockrell, “Cleveland Born,” acrylic painting, Lakewood, second place;

Kids With Disabilities Can Blossom At Area Camps

by Marilyn Scott

Camp Happiness is a seven-week program which provides summer day camp experiences to children and young adults ages 5-21 with cognitive and other developmental disabilities. Camp is from June 18-August 3, 2012. Each campsite provides and enhances social, spiritual, recreational and educational opportunities. In addition to the educational development, participants have the opportunity to make new friends, swim, go on community field trips, play fun games and create exciting arts and crafts!

Parents often use glowing terms to describe the experiences of their children at Camp Happiness, including one mother who wrote: “My son would come home happy and exhausted. He went to camp with excitement and anticipation.”

Camp Happiness is operated by Catholic Charities Health and Human

Services, Disability Services. Children of all faith traditions are welcome.

The three locations are: Camp Happiness at Lakewood Catholic Academy, 14806 Lake Ave., Lakewood; Camp Happiness at Parmadale, 6753 State Rd., Parma; and Camp Happiness at Center for Pastoral Leadership (CPL), 28700 Euclid Ave., Wickliffe. Campers at all three sites enjoy time in a beautiful, natural setting, and those at the Wickliffe camp can also take a dip in the on-site pool.

For further information on Camp Happiness, contact Kathy Rich at 216-334-2997 or krich@cleveland-catholiccharities.org; or Marilyn Scott at 216-334-2963 or mjscott@cleveland-catholiccharities.org. Find Catholic Charities Disability Services & Ministries on Facebook or visit our website to download a registration packet – www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/disability.

LHS Choir Set For Virginia Concert Tour

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood High School Symphonic Mixed Choir is embarking on a concert tour this month in Virginia that will see them performing in Strasburg in the Shenandoah Valley, at Roanoke College in Salem, and in Colonial Williamsburg at Bruton Parish Church, which has its roots back to the 17th century. The group will perform in the church’s annual Candlelight Concert Series.

The group, along with its director Dr. Lisa Hanson, departs on April 19

for Strasburg, where the ensemble will sing in Strasburg Methodist Church. Next up on April 20 will be Roanoke College, where the group will attend a choral workshop given by Roanoke’s choral director, Dr. Jeffrey Sandborg. The choir then travels to Williamsburg for some sightseeing first, then an evening at Bruton Parish, where LHS is one of only a few high schools asked to perform in their annual concert series. This is the fifth time LHS has been invited to Bruton Parish. The group returns home on April 22.

Free Alternative Energy Camp At LHS This Summer

by Christine Gordillo

For seven summers in a row, West Shore Career-Technical District has offered 8th grade students interested in electronics and engineering the chance to participate in a three-day camp at Lakewood High School exploring alternative energy technologies. This free camp offers students a hands-on opportunity to learn about earth-friendly energy sources; wind turbines, solar

energy, and fuel cell technology. Campers will build solar cars and boats as part of the camp, which runs from June 11-13 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Enrollment is limited to the first 15 registrants. The registration deadline is May 18. You can download a registration form by going to the district web site and www.lakewoodcityschools.org and visiting either the Garfield or Harding home page. For more info, call 529-4163.

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Wed, April 25th
7pm to 9pm
Garfield Middle School
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- Meet Lakewood’s Mayor Mike Summers, Lakewood Schools Superintendent Jeff Patterson and City Council members
- Over 30 local organizations
- Activities for kids
- Yummy treats from local bakeries

Sponsored by the Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission & The Lakewood Family Collaborative.

THE LAKEWOOD FAMILY COLLABORATIVE

Lakewood Schools

Lakewood's Pro Football Quarterback:

Cheerleader Trades Pom Poms For Shoulder Pads

by Mike Deneen

Like many women, Lakewood resident Amber Barrick spent her high school years as a cheerleader. She grew up loving football and enjoyed being part of the game. However, as an adult, she decided that she would rather call the plays than lead the cheers. Therefore, she traded in her pom poms for shoulder pads and became a quarterback.

This past winter Barrick joined the Cleveland Fusion, the local semi-pro women's football team. The Fusion, which plays traditional outdoor tackle football, starts its eleventh season this month. The Fusion is part of the Women's Football Alliance, which has over 60 teams across the country from California to Maine.

"I play because I love the game. Football became a part of who I am," says Barrick, who is listed as a safety, wide receiver and backup quarterback on the team roster. She is one of nearly 30 women on the squad, ranging from college-age to 48 years old. Unlike their male counterparts in the NFL, Fusion players have full-time jobs. Barrick works with the US Coast Guard, while other players work in positions ranging from law enforcement to Industry Analyst.

The women on the team have a wide range of athletic backgrounds. In addition to cheerleading, Amber played softball in high school. She also played last fall with the Cleveland Crush, the local entrant in the Lingerie Football League. Other Fusion players have experience in sports such as flag football, rugby and soccer.

Amber's new teammates are happy to have her with the Fusion. Christy Conlin, who is also a rookie this year, likes Barrick's attitude. "She keeps things fun, she is a hard worker and doesn't take things too seriously," says Conlin. Like Amber, Conlin is forecast to play wide receiver and defensive back.

Fusion Head Coach Erik Keister,



Amber Barrick, QB/DB/WR, Cleveland Fusion. photo by Julie Stambaugh

who is in his first year at the position, has extensive experience coaching high school and college football. He views this position as similar to his previous jobs. "Football is football," he says. However, he recognizes that coaching women is a little different than men. "You have to take a little different approach," he says. "You can't yell at them constantly."

Fusion players have been working out all off-season, and began organized contact practices over a month ago. They practice three days per week during the season, and have games on Saturday night. Plus, there is lots of other work: "I make time every day to either study film, review the playbook, condition, practice or just promote the team," Barrick says. The players love what they do. Barrick cites the strong team unity. "The veterans and coach teach and the whole team is supportive of each other."

Despite her football and work commitments, Barrick still finds time for her three dogs - two Golden Retrievers (Zoey-8, Bianca-5) and a teacup long-haired Chihuahua (Violet, 2). Dogs are one reason that Barrick decided to move to Lakewood. Amber has been active in our community, doing volunteer work

for the All Dogs Heaven rescue group.

After a 5-3 record last year, the team is optimistic about the 2012 season. They plan to make the playoffs and make a deep run at the league championship. They will play teams from Chicago, Pittsburgh, Columbus, Detroit and Michigan.

The Fusion plays an eight game

schedule, with games each Saturday from April 14 to June 9. The team plays its four home games at Byers Field in Parma, next to Parmatown Mall. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids. Children under six are admitted free. For more information on the Cleveland Fusion, visit www.clevelandfusion.com.

Ambulance Chase Top 11

by Polly Stringer

11 Fun Facts About Lakewood Hospital's Ambulance Chase

- 1) Nominated as a 2012 "Best of the West" charitable race finalist.
- 2) One of the largest 5Ks in Northeast Ohio.
- 3) Total participants since inception: 7,151
- 4) Participants ranged in age from 5 to 90.
- 5) Last year, participants from Ohio and 9 other states (CA, CO, FL, IN, MI, NC, PA, VA, WV).
- 6) 2011 record participation of nearly 1,300 with 29 teams.
- 7) Fastest 5K time 15:28 – for those that enjoy a challenge!
- 8) Record female time of 18:15 in 2008; record male time of 15:28 in 2003.
- 9) Donald Marten's Ambulance Services presenting sponsor for entire 11



Best of the West Event. Front row-L to R-Polly Stringer, Maria Mephram, Back row-L to R-Lori Forester, Bill Forester, Danielle Constantine

years.

10) Donald Marten's ambulance that leads the race is a 1964 Vista Cruiser.

11) Known for our great after race food!

For more information, visit lakewoodhospitalfoundation.org/ambulancechase or call 216-529-7009.

Pitch, Hit & Run Competition May 6

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools and Lakewood Recreation Department's softball and baseball programs are hosting a Pitch, Hit and Run Competition sponsored by Aquafina and Major League Baseball. The Pitch, Hit and Run contest is the official skills competition of MLB.

The event will take place on Sunday, May 6, at Lakewood High's baseball stadium from 1-5 p.m.

There are separate divisions for boys and girls in the following age groups:

7/8 year olds (birth dates July 18, 2003-July 17, 2005)

9/10 year olds (July 18, 2001-July 17, 2003)

11/12 year olds (July 18, 1999-July 17, 2001)

13/14 year olds (July 18, 1997-July 17, 1999)

This "local competition" will have champions in the Pitch (for accuracy - hitting a "strike zone" target from 35'

for girls and 45' for boys), Hit (for distance and accuracy from a batting tee toward straight away centerfield), Run (for speed from second base to home, touching third base - boys run 160 feet, girls 120 feet) and All Around for each division for boys and girls.

The champions will move onto a sectional competition with the opportunity to advance to a Team Championship. Each Major League team will have an All Around champion for each division.

The winners of the Team Championship may have a chance to advance to the National Finals to be held at the 2012 MLB All-Star Game in Kansas City, MO, July 8-10.

Registration is free and can be done at the Recreation Department. A birth certificate MUST accompany each registration.

For further information, visit www.mlb.com/phr. The Lakewood competition is listed under Lakewood Softball.



The University of Akron
Lakewood

Chinese Culture and Language

Spring Splash - Free!

Learn Chinese paper cutting & experience Chinese folk music at two "Spring Splash" sessions in April and May at UA-Lakewood.

Both events are FREE; no reservations required. Drop in when it's convenient for you!

SPRING SPLASH 1: CHINESE PAPER CUTTING
3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 26

See demonstrations of Chinese paper every 30 minutes.

SPRING SPLASH 2: CHINESE FOLK MUSIC
Thursday, May 24 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Demonstrations of Chinese folk music will occur every 30 minutes.

Chinese Summer Camp

Confucius Institute
Chinese Summer Camp for
7th -12th Grade Students



July 16 - 20, 2012 at UA-Lakewood

- Presented by The University of Akron Confucius Institute
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Dates: July 16-20, 2012 • Time: 9am to 1pm

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Cost: \$160 per student • Registration Deadline: May 31, 2012

Application form available at: <https://lakewood.uakron.edu/>
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Questions? Contact: 330-972-2013 • nee@uakron.edu • www.uakron.edu/ci

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Lakewood Cares

North Coast Health Ministry Call For Volunteers: Patient Prescription Assistance

by Jeanine Gergel

In 2011, North Coast Health Ministry (NCHM) dispensed \$3.9 million worth of prescription medication at no charge to its patients. NCHM, a faith-based free clinic located in Lakewood, provides prescription assistance as well as primary care, specialty referrals and behavioral health counseling to the low-income uninsured in Western Greater Cleveland.

Keeping up with the volume of

labor to meet the growing need for prescription assistance has become a challenge. The organization is actively recruiting volunteers to help patients and staff with prescription assistance applications which are then submitted to participating pharmaceutical manufacturers. No clinical background is required. All that is required is a willingness to help individuals in need, attention to detail and a commitment of at least six months to a regular

weekly or monthly schedule.

“We couldn’t serve all those who come to us in need without the contributions of our many valuable volunteers,” says NCHM Executive Director Lee Elmore. “Our prescription assistance program is critical to the care we provide. The majority of our patients have chronic disease, and our ability to provide them with free or low-cost medication is indispensable to keeping them healthy and out of the

hospital.”

Individuals interested in volunteering should contact Mary Ludwig at 216-228-7878 ext. 122 or via e-mail at mludwig@ncealthministry.org.

About North Coast Health Ministry

North Coast Health Ministry is a faith-based free clinic serving the low-income uninsured on Greater Cleveland’s West Side. In 2012, NCHM provided care to 2,700 patients who had no other route to health care. With the support of 140 volunteer physicians, nurses and other caregivers, NCHM is able to provide primary health care, specialty referrals, prescription assistance, behavioral health care and social service referrals to the medically underserved. NCHM strives to be the medical home for its patients providing preventive care and chronic disease management as well as care for acute illnesses and injuries. Founded in 1986, North Coast Health Ministry is a vital part of the health care safety net on Greater Cleveland’s West Side. NCHM’s primary location is at 16110 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, Ohio.

Club Foundation Provides Over \$37,000 For Community, Youth

by Lynn Donaldson

Over \$37,000 from the Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary Foundation will be used to provide scholarships, recognize student achievement, purchase dictionaries, and fund grant requests made by Lakewood and Rocky River community organizations.

The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River began presenting the awards on March 27, when student winners in the club’s annual speech, music and art competition were recognized at an awards ceremony and reception at the Beck Center.

The Beck Center’s visual arts program also received \$2,500 for club-sponsored scholarships, and \$1,322 was used to continue the club’s commitment to provide a dictionary to every third grader in Lakewood and Rocky River.

Other grants for youth-related programs were awarded to: Mathew’s

Lending Library, Lakewood Community Recreation, H2O (Help to Others), and the American Youth Foundation programs at Lakewood and Rocky River high schools.

This year’s largest grant of \$5,000 was awarded to Trinity Lutheran Community Outreach for its weekly hot meal program, gardens and fresh produce distribution.

Additional community service grants were awarded to: Lakewood Community Services Center, Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp., North Coast Health Ministry, Lakewood Meals on Wheels, Rocky River Meals on Wheels, Barton Senior Center, Rocky River Senior Center, and Lakewood Hospital Foundation’s diabetes assistance initiative.

The club Foundation’s assets grow each year as the result of gifts, donations and bequests by members and friends of the club.

The local club was chartered in 1926. Rotary International is the world’s first service club organization, with more than 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs in more than 160 countries worldwide. RI’s polio eradication project, begun in 1985, has eliminated polio in all but four countries, the lowest in history.

Information about the club is available at www.lakewoodrockyriver-rotary.org.

H2O’s All Middle School Dance

by Stacey Sponsler

Have you heard!? H2O, short for Help To Others, is hosting another all Middle-School dance! H2O is a youth volunteer program in the City of Lakewood’s Division of Youth. H2O has a partnership with the schools and has hundreds of members from Lakewood’s middle schools and Lakewood High. A group of high school students visit the middle schools five times a month (twice at Harding and Garfield and once at Lakewood Catholic Academy, aka LCA) and gets them involved in volunteering activities.

H2O will have fun events at the dance, such as a donut eating contest, a video game system station, and the concession stand. There’s also going to be a raffle for some unique prizes! And, of course, there’s going to be a D.J.! So bring your friends from Gar-

field, Harding and LCA to join H2O on April 20th from 6:30pm-8:30pm at Lakewood High School!

Tickets will be available at Garfield and Harding on Thursday, April 19 and Friday, April 20 for \$3.00.

Admission at the door will be \$5.00.



Kiwanis Pancake And French-Toast Breakfast April 22

by Gordon Brumm

The land of milk and honey, figuratively speaking, has moved. Lakewood Kiwanis’s annual breakfast will be held on Sunday, April 22, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It will have the same abundant menu, featuring all-you-can-eat pancakes and French toast, but at a new location,

the Grace Lutheran Church, 13030 Madison Ave., across from Madison Park.

Tickets at \$7.00 are available at the door or from Kiwanis members. Admission is free for children 5 and under. Proceeds, as always, go to support Kiwanis’s community service projects.

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Lakewood Cares

The Lakewood Family Room’s Move:

A Heartfelt Thanks To So Many

by Toni Gelsomino

Over the last 18 years, The Lakewood Family Room, a City of Lakewood program, has been a place for parents and caregivers to connect with one another over a cup of coffee in a comfortable and supportive “Family Room.”

It has been a place to make friends, ask questions, find referrals, and build a personal community of natural supports for the journey of parenting... all while our children play together! The Family Room has been intentionally designed to support each child’s growth and development through PLAY.

We had been located at the former convent behind St. James Church until the end of January. The move to our new location, at the Lakewood United Methodist Church at 15700 Detroit Ave. (at the corner of Summit), was swift and successful. For that I am indebted to so many people, most of all the parents and caregivers who have participated in Family Room--past or present!

I have to thank St. James Church, St. James Child Care Center, the Catholic Diocese and Catholic Charities, for allowing the Family Room freedom to create responsive programming for Lakewood families raising our youngest children. It has been a pleasure to share space and resources with St. James Child Care Center’s talented leadership and staff over these last 18 years.

We owe true gratitude to The Lakewood United Methodist Church, namely Pastor Bruce and Pastor Laura for their “radical hospitality.” The board and staff put mission into practice, quickly accommodating our need for a new space. As Church leaders shared with their congregation: “When we open our doors to scouts, homeless, hungry and those raising and caring for young children, we are living out the Gospel. May our actions match our words as the people known as United Methodists: ‘Open hearts, open minds, open doors.’”

The Church’s Youth Room transforms into The Lakewood Family



Some young visitors to The Lakewood Family Room enjoy a song and dance.

Room five mornings a week. I appreciate their adjusting so graciously to the new wall color, toys and small tables and chairs that now fill their space!

To make the actual move, hundreds of hours of shared expertise and hard work were donated by Judy Foote, retired director of Calvary Preschool, and Brenda Nakoneczny, retired director of Lakewood Presbyterian Preschool. They both spent many hours sorting, cleaning and purging. Judy focused on laying out the newly designed room for children to truly Learn Through Play and for their “grown-ups” to comfortably connect with one another. Brenda touched everything in the Family Room and storage more times than I am sure she ever imagined--and then she painted!

Jessica Parker, Family Room participant and volunteer, also worked many hours through the drudgery of sorting, cleaning and discarding 18 years of accumulated “stuff.” When necessary, she alerted the community of our move on Facebook, coordinated move volunteers, filled in whenever needed and often did so with a 4-year old and a just-turned 3-year-old in tow!

Jessica’s artist/contractor husband Clay oversaw the painting process, choosing all our wonderful new colors and helping complete this project within a limited budget and time frame. He gently guided (I need a lot of guidance!) and coordinated the paint volunteers, which included my ever-supportive husband Tony, longtime Family Room volunteer Laurie Zubal, Jen Lizanich, Brenda Nakoneczny, Anne Gomez, Abby Gelsomino and our high school helper, Nate.

I can’t stop there. The following people also made this move possible, and deserve way more than this mention: Brian, Nate, Dottie, Laura, Abby, Patricia, Bruce, Mary, Judy, Susan, Amy, Jeanne, Michelle, Brody, Christina, Anne, Bria, Rachel, the “Public Works” guys especially Kirt, Nick and Ramon, John, the other Brian, Emily, Holly, Lakewood’s fabulous H2O KIDS, Emmie, Vanessa and Mayor

Summers, who supported the Family Room move from start to finish!

As a result of all this support, families have been enjoying the new location for about a month and a half. There have been very few challenges and many gifts along the way. Thanks to everyone who helped make this move possible and who kept the Family Room doors open for Lakewood’s wonderful families!

Following is a list of all of the programs offered by the Lakewood’s Division of Early Childhood Services. All are located at the Family Room at 15700 Detroit (inside Lakewood United Methodist Church) unless otherwise noted:

Monday

“Lil” Artists @ The Family Room with Miss Judy (a/k/a Judy Foote, former director of Calvary Preschool)

An opportunity to learn and explore different artists and mediums of art in a play room designed for FUN!

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Arab American Woman’s Organization (last Monday evening of each month)

A time to build relationships, gather information and understand cultural differences and similarities. RSVP for FREE childcare. A light dinner is provided. Please call 216-529-5018 for new evening program location. 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Baby-n-Me and Big Kids, Too! Play Group

Raising a child can be filled with many different emotions and lots of questions! Join your fellow parents and an early childhood facilitator. Make new friends, share your stories and gain information.

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

NEW! The Play Room at the East End Family Room

Stop by, have a snack and play with the friends and neighbors of Birdtown.

(Located in Fedor Manor, 12400 Madison Ave. Enter through front door.)

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Nursing Moms Chat Group

Each week a lactation specialist, a family support specialist and many wonderful breast-feeding moms gather to encourage and support each other.

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Literacy Through Play - Family Literacy Program

Caregivers and children from birth to age 5 can enjoy a relaxed, friendly environment and discover art, creative play, math, science, language and stories. Parents and caregivers help their children gain valuable school readiness skills by playing with them.

(East End Family Room in Fedor Manor, 12400 Madison Ave. Enter through front door.)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Thursday Play Group for All Ages!

Join other parents and an early childhood facilitator to make new friends, share your stories, have fun PLAYING and gather new ideas and information!

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Mommy & Me Young Parent Drop In

2nd Thursday of each month

This is an evening that begins with a shared family meal and includes opportunities for children to play, and young parents (pregnant and parenting teen parents, or who were teens when their children were born) to make new friends and strengthen support systems. Call (216) 529-5018 for more information and directions.

(Located at Lakewood Child Care Center, 1450 Belle Avenue in Lakewood)

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Friday Literacy Through Play - Family Literacy Program

See program description under Wednesday

(Located at the main Family Room, 15700 Detroit)

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Please note:

The office of the Department of Human Services’ Early Childhood Division has a new location. The mailing address is: City of Lakewood, Dept. of Human Services, Division of Early Childhood, 12400 Madison Avenue, Suite 102, Lakewood, OH 44107. The phone number is 216-529-5018. The fax number is 216-521-1376.

Toni Gelsomino is the Program Manager of Early Childhood Services, a Division of the Department of Human Services, City of Lakewood.



Dominique shows her art project, done at the Lakewood Family Room’s new location.

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Regional Premiere:

“Velocity of Autumn” At The Beck

by Lauren Fraley

I will freely admit that when I saw that The Beck Center would be showcasing Dorothy Silver and David Hansen in *Velocity of Autumn* by nationally renowned Cleveland playwright, Eric Coble I thought, how could this get any better? Then I found out that Eric Schmiedl was directing it and knew that his unique spice would make this recipe for powerful theater even richer. I may have had preconceptions, but it lived up to all of them; this show is thoughtful, funny, and lush with a real and unique relationship that anchors the audience in something magically universal.

That anchor of the parent and child theme, and the role reversal that comes in old age, is one that takes on a new turn in *Velocity of Autumn*. Silver’s character is the focal point of Coble’s “Alexandra Plays,” of which *Velocity* is the 3rd in the trilogy. She says that she and her son are just “Two adults. Talking.” But the twists and turns surrounding this “talking” result from Alexandra’s threat to literally blow up her Brooklyn brownstone as a cry for freedom and refusal to go into a nursing home. Really. There are jars of kerosene scattered on the set. Intrigued? It’s just the beginning.

David Hansen and Dorothy Silver relate beautifully as mother and son. Their layered past is revealed moment to moment through an unspoken connection as kindred free spirits. The skewed and surreal set designed by Todd Krispinski is a churning back-

drop to their parent/child dynamic.

Velocity of Autumn, although set in New York, is a testament to Cleveland talent, and Lakewood’s privilege to have it housed at The Beck. One of Schmiedl’s ingredients for playing within the nuance of Coble’s text is likely that he’s a skillful playwright himself. I know his work, as well as the others’ not just because they are nationally acclaimed, but locally active.

This connection points to something just as powerful as the content and craft of a show—the fact that we have fertile enough artistic ground here in Cleveland to use all local ingredients in our theater. I’m writing in a community-based newspaper about people I consider to be a part of my artistic

community, and that has something a community can’t describe on paper. Critics supposedly keep art honest, but in this case, and so many others, the artists do that just fine on their own. Go indulge yourself and devour this piece of art. You’ll love every taste.

Beck Center for the Arts proudly presents the regional premiere of *The Velocity of Autumn* by Cleveland’s most prolific playwright Eric Coble, March 23 through April 29, 2012 in the Studio Theater. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets for *The Velocity of Autumn* are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors (65 and older), \$17 for students (with valid ID), and \$10 for children (12 and under). An additional \$3 ser-

vice fee per ticket is applied at the time of purchase. Group discounts are available for parties of 13 or more. Purchase tickets online at beckcenter.org or call Customer Service at 216.521.2540, ext. 10. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

Beck Center’s production of *The Velocity of Autumn* is sponsored by Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Ohio Arts Council.

Lauren Joy Fraley is a recent graduate of Bowling Green State University where she studied Theatre and Arts Management. She is now working in the Community Engagement and Education Department at PlayhouseSquare and has returned to living in Lakewood where she grew up.

Beck Center Creative Arts Therapies Presents 12th Annual Show Razzle Dazzle XII - We Are Family!

by Fran Storch

Razzle Dazzle XII will be held Friday, May 4 and Saturday, May 5 in the Music-Armory Building at the Beck Center for the Arts. The theme for this year’s show is “We Are Family.”

Razzle Dazzle is a unique collaboration between the Beck Center’s Creative Arts Therapies Department and the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Adults with special needs and volunteers from around the county will be acting,

singing and dancing to some familiar songs, as well as some new ones, about our family and friends.

The 12th annual show includes a special performance on Friday, May 4 by the choirs from the Rocky River Adult Activities Center and the Maple Heights Adult Activities Center. Artwork from the Rocky River Adult Activities Center and art therapy clients from Beck Center will be on display in the lobby of the Music-Armory Building. A Silent Auction

and Chinese Raffle will be held throughout the weekend to benefit the Beck Center’s Creative Arts Therapies Department.

A special benefit performance will be held 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 4. The cost is \$15 per person. The performances on Saturday, May 5 at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. are free but donations are encouraged.

For more information, visit beckcenter.org or follow Razzle Dazzle XII on Facebook for updates.

“Take A Look and You’ll See” Willy Wonka At Beck Center Youth Theater Brings “Pure Imagination” To Mackey Main Stage

by Fran Storch

Beck Youth Theater presents *Willy Wonka*, a musical based on the favorite children’s book by Roald Dahl on the Mackey Main Stage, May 4 through 13, 2012. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets are now on sale. The student matinee 10 a.m. Thursday, May 10 is sold out.

Roald Dahl’s entertaining fable of the world-famous candyman and his

quest to find an heir comes to life in this musical adaptation of *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*, featuring songs such as “Pure Imagination” and “The Candy Man” from the classic family film *Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory*.

Directed by Russ Stich, this production of *Willy Wonka* features a cast of 69 students ages 7 to 17 from Beck Center’s arts education programs. “This production, like *Willy Wonka’s*

world, is a menagerie of larger-than-life characters, comedy, music, and a little bit of the unexpected,” said Stich. “Whether you’re a fan of the book, Johnny Depp’s characterization or the Gene Wilder classic, you’re sure to find something familiar, and perhaps even something surprising.”

Tickets for *Willy Wonka* are \$12 for Adults/Seniors (65 and over) and \$10 for Children/Students (18 and under). To purchase tickets, visit beckcenter.org or call the Beck Center box

office at 216.521.2540, ext. 10. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. Free onsite parking is available.

Beck Center’s production of *Willy Wonka* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI) and is sponsored by Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, the Ohio Arts Council, and Music Is Elementary.

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

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Free Event!

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Rocky River Public Library • (440) 333-7610, www.rtpl.org

Lakewood Is Art

Lakewood Residents Featured In American Greetings Fine Art Show

by Frank Cirillo

Local card company American Greetings has become an industry leader thanks in large part to the diverse talents that comprise the world’s second largest publicly held creative studio. The creativity that goes into the products is recognized on a daily basis, but each year (for the past 32 to be exact) the company has taken time to celebrate the personal works of its employees with a Fine Art Show, and this year two Lakewood residents, Jennifer Fitchwell and Audrey Jones, are featured.

Designed to inspire and celebrate all forms of creativity, the American Greetings Fine Art show features selected works of original art and literature from employees as determined by a panel of judges. Following a company-wide call for entries, the judging panel determines a list of top selections as well as those that have been accepted for the show.

Fitchwell and Jones pieces selected for the show reflect their own interests and passions as well as the work they do for the card company.

Celebrating creative innovation and the many forms it takes

A mother of three, Fitchwell balances her role as mom with her work as a senior illustrator at American Greetings. For this year’s show, she decided to focus on creating a collection of florals but wanted to develop a unique look for them by utilizing bold colors. The result was one that the Fine Art Show committee was eager to include.

“I worked in acrylic for this collection and used a larger brush which allowed me to remain very loose. That



She’s not a skateboarder but Audrey Jones is inspired by the lifestyle and focuses on it in her art.

technique, along with the bold color choices, let me create some fun pieces that I’m very proud to have in the show.”

Jones, a photographer in the Creative Photo Studio at American Greetings, was attracted to the profession by the

unique challenges it offered as well as the opportunities to further explore her own ideas, push the limits, and try to produce work that has never been seen before. Her accepted submission, “I am not a skateboarder,” is a mixed media piece originally inspired by a work assignment.

“After photographing skateboarders for a job assignment I became fascinated with their lifestyle. That interest, combined with influences from current fashion trends, inspired me to paint and design skateboards on canvas as well as using actual skateboards as a base to work off of.”

And the unconventional title of her entry? Well, that can be traced back to the first question she always gets about her work.

“I first showed my skateboard designs during the art walk at the Treehouse last November and the question I was always asked was ‘are you a skateboarder?’ So, I thought that I could go with a simple yet informative title for my piece which led me to ‘I am not a skateboarder.’”

The American Greetings Fine Art Show will be at Spaces Gallery in downtown Cleveland through Sunday, April 29.



Community Celebration Of The Arts: Beck Center Says “Thank-You” To The Community

by Fran Storch

Beck Center for the Arts hosts its 4th annual Community Celebration of the Arts 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 6 throughout the Beck Center campus located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. This annual event is held to express the arts organization’s appreciation to the community for its

support throughout the year. Free convenient onsite parking is available.

This fun, free event is open to families of all ages. Attendees will enjoy hands-on art activities as well as dance, music, and theater performances and interactive experiences throughout the afternoon.

New this year! Local artists and

Beck Center visual arts faculty will display and sell their unique creations and guests will enjoy a special family-friendly performance by Cleveland’s premiere improv troupe, Something Dada! A complete schedule of events may be found at beckcenter.org or

call Beck Center Customer Service at 216.521.2540, ext. 10.

Beck Center’s theater productions and arts education programs are made possible through the generous support of Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Ohio Arts Council.



Children create unique art at last year’s Community Celebration of the Arts.

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The logo for The Root Cafe features a stylized, hand-drawn illustration of a root system with several thick, dark roots extending downwards. The words "The Root Cafe" are written in a large, flowing, yellow script across the top of the roots.

Business News

National Cash Mob Day

Cash Mob Descends On Nature’s Bin

by Valerie Mechenbier

The creator of the Cash Mob phenomenon, 32-year-old Andrew Samtoy of Cleveland, organized over 300 shoppers to gather and spend money at Nature’s Bin on Saturday, March 24th. Samtoy reported that Nature’s Bin was selected as the target for a cash mob because of its contributions to the community. As both a “buy local” and “build community” effort, he told the mob gathered outside the store that he only has three rules: “1) You have to spend at least \$20, 2) meet three people you’ve never met before, and 3) you must have fun.”

The Cash Mob movement started last fall and has spread throughout the United States as Samtoy’s 1400+ facebook friends in other cities picked up on the idea and orga-



“Mobbers” at the March 24 Cash Mob at Nature’s Bin wave \$20 bills shortly after entering the store. Each mobber was asked to spend that \$20 at the store.

nized their own events. And since March 24th was declared “National Cash Mob Day”, the national media

flocked to interview the Cash Mob founder at Nature’s Bin early Saturday morning. MSNBC, Reuters, and

local media outlets Channels 19, 5, 3, Fox News, and CoolCleveland were all on hand to cover the story.

Scott Duennes, Executive Director of Nature’s Bin, shared some statistics from the event: Nature’s Bin experienced a 30% increase (over \$6000) in average Saturday sales, and, between 2-4:00 p.m., over 300 shoppers explored the aisles of the store. The nonprofit natural foods store was ready for the friendly chaos and added extra staff and cash registers for the event.

“The publicity from this, raising our profile, is a huge plus,” Duennes said.

See more photos, articles, and the CoolCleveland.com video about the event on the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce:

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 20
Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Monthly Meeting

Annual Mayor’s Address to the Chamber by Lakewood Mayor Michael P. Summers and State of the Chamber address by Board Chairperson Diane Helbig
\$15 members, \$20 non-members
Sponsored by AT&T
Registration & Networking: 11:30 a.m., Lunch & Program: Noon
Lakewood Senior Health Campus (Assisted Living Entrance)
1381 Bunts Road

Thursday, May 17
Annual Scholarship Breakfast
\$15 members, \$20 non-members
Registration & Networking: 7:30 a.m., Breakfast & Program: 8:00 a.m.
The Clifton Club, 17884 Lake Road

have surpassed all expectations for excellence standards. Our dining room is open,” she continued, “and I invite the public to dine with us and see for themselves just how good our menu and services are!” For a reservation to experience dining at Northwesternly, please contact us.



Scott Kantor, Susan Hunter-Bollin, Ann Sevenich of Northwesternly Assisted Living

Chamber Member Spotlight:

Heidi Finniff, First Federal Of Lakewood

by Valerie Mechenbier

Heidi Finniff is the Branch Manager for First Federal of Lakewood’s main branch. She grew up in Pittsburgh, attended college at St. Mary’s College, Notre Dame (South Bend, IN) and majored in Philosophy. Heidi has been in banking since 2005, helping to make banking easy and effective for consumer and business clients. Representing FFL, Heidi is very active in the community as a member of the Cham-

ber, Lakewood/RR Sunrise Rotary, LakewoodAlive, and the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance. Heidi is married to Vincent Tripodi. Together they enjoy spending time renovating their Lakewood home and raising

3 pups. Most people who know Heidi know that she is a runner, and serves as President of the Cleveland West Road Runners. Most do not know that her bucket list dream is to run the length of the Appalachian Trail.

Did You Know...

...that nineteen Lakewood Chamber of Commerce member businesses were among the “Best of the West” finalists in more than 55 categories in the Spring 2012 issue of West Shore Live Well magazine?

Lakewood Assisted Living Community Receives Distinguished Dining Award Of Excellence

by Annette Kelly

At Northwesternly Assisted Living Community, they rave about the food; and with good cause. Recently, Northwesternly announced an exceptional recognition received by its dietary department; the Crandall Corporate Dietician’s Award of Excellence presented at Crandall Corporate Dietician’s annual conference.

In January 2012, Chef Susan Hunter-Bollin received an invitation

from Crandall Corporate Dieticians to attend their annual conference held in Mesa, Arizona. At the conference, Chef Hunter-Bollin was recognized for excellence in dietary management. The award was presented by Linda Crandall, President and CEO of Crandall Corporate Dieticians.

According to Michelle Hansen, consulting dietician from the Crandall Corporation, “In my career, I have not witnessed this degree of departmental

excellence.” Accompanying Chef Hunter-Bollin were Ann Sevenich, Northwesternly Executive Director, and Scott Kantor, owner of the Northwesternly and Bloomfield Senior Living. “This is only one example of how the Northwesternly provides premier assisted living services to the residents,” Mr. Kantor stated. “I am very proud of Chef Sue and her team,” stated Ms. Sevenich. “They

like us updates more

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What's In Your Instrument? Part 1

by Sharon Marrell

Have you seen the aftermath of the kid's lunches, snacks, candy, and gum as it travels through a kid's instrument? Probably not and don't want to. Kids won't be brushing their teeth between classes or rinsing at the water fountain. Add to it the fact they swap and play each other's instruments. Wow! What a great breeding ground for bacteria and mold. When it occurs it can affect health and the workability of the instrument.

Brass instruments are enclosed tubes that are a perfect warm environment for bacteria to grow. Imagine dirty brass instruments similar to clogged arteries. Based on what we eat, there is more build-up in the arteries/tub-

ing and the opening becomes smaller, and the harder it is for the blood/air to flow through. And most of the time the build-up may not be noticeable. A good visual is to remove the main slide from a trumpet and while pointing at a light, look through the leadpipe, where the mouthpiece is inserted. A clean instrument should look smooth and shiny. Other signs of build-up on trumpets or trombones are valves sticking and slides working slowly.

With woodwinds the sugars from food mixed in the saliva generally deposit on woodwind pads, and cause the pads to rot, stick to the tone hole or become sluggish as it pulls away from the sticky, dirty tone hole. In some cases

you can see green mold on the tone holes. Mouthpieces are another place where bacteria can grow in large numbers. Re-breathing all the bacteria and mold can be a reason for reoccurring

colds and colds that linger for weeks.

In the next issue, what you can do with the instrument to prevent health problems from lingering throughout a season.

Sharon Marrell, a Lakewood resident, owns Marrell Music and has been a repair technician for over 20 years.

MAMA Spring Open House April 21

by Christin Sorensen

Spring has sprung! Come down to Madison Avenue on Saturday, April 21 to see all the awesome businesses Madison Avenue has to offer. So many eclectic shops, offering everything you need for you, your pets and your home. Did I mention all the great restaurants? Special events will be going on throughout the day, just look for the balloons to see who is participating!

StrtEat Mobile Bistro will be serving lunch from 11:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. in the Crafty Goodness Parking lot (15621 Madison).

MAMA (Madison Avenue Mer-

chant's Association) will be sponsoring a raffle, open to everyone who attends. For each participating shop you visit during the day, you will receive a ticket for the raffle. This means the more shops you visit, the better your chance to win! Of course no purchase is necessary, but it will be hard not to pick up a few things during the course of the day. The prizes will include gift certificates and items from Madison Avenue Businesses, plus a Ukelele courtesy of Marrell Music (13733 Madison)!

Please visit our website, www.mamalakewood.com for a complete list of participating shops and events.

Crafty Goodness Bridal Bazaar

by Christin Sorensen

Something borrowed, something blue...something handmade just for you!

Crafty Goodness on Madison will be hosting a bridal show on Sunday, April 22 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The store, at 15621 Madison Avenue, will be featuring a wonderful selection of local vendors who will help make the blushing bride's day special. Join us for a mimosa and peruse the wares and services of over a dozen different local businesses.

Carol Lynn Salon Plus on Madison

will be showing what's new in wedding hairstyles for 2012. Thirstees Bridal will have her 2012 line of custom made to order shirts for the bride and bridal party. Yates Apothecary will be offering custom blended scents for the bride and her attendants.

Did you know Crafty Goodness offers bachelorette craft parties? They do!

That is just a small sneak peek, there will also be bakers, photographers and more. For full list of vendors, please visit www.craftygoodnesscleveland.com.



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Pulse Of The City

Lakewood Kid Games...A Half-Century Ago...

Let's face it, Lakewood kids have never had it easy as far as finding places to play. While we've always had plenty of residential areas to live in, finding safe places where kids can be kids in a city like ours is a perpetual challenge.

For us kids living in Lakewood 50 years ago, the choices as to where we could play were simple and fivefold. We had our yards, the parks, the ball fields, the pools and Winterhurst. Those are still the fundamental choices for childhood recreation around here. If you liked playing ball, or ice skating, this was your town! Every long-time Lakewoodite over the age of 50 will remember the "George Usher Insurance" and "Geiger's" T-shirts worn for years by young Lakewood ball players during the summer months. Lakewood ball teams of all ages enjoyed the hometown playing fields. Many summer evenings were filled with the cheers of parents and the crack of balls and bats under the lights of breezy starlit Lakewood skies.

Back then, with the absence of video games and many-channel televisions, kids often occupied their time with outdoor pursuits. Biking was, and continues to be, a great activity for Lakewood kids. Back then, there were many brick streets, so you had to be very careful, especially after a rain, as the bricks had all the traction of mid-winter ice. Those bumpy bricks helped to make a good business with spoke-truing for local bike shops. Middleweight and newspaper bikes were starting to make way for 20-inch bikes with banana seats and high handlebars, as well as for those exotic 10 speed "English racers." Some of the early inexpensive 10 speeds, however, were neither English nor did they race very well. Many American bikes

were built like tanks back then, compared to their foreign counterparts. They may have been sturdy as all get-out, but when we lined up for a race, let's just say there was a reason for that "English racer" name. Speaking of races, I actually got the city to sponsor bike races back then. We had a "Lakewood Day" city festival around the middle of July each year, and that's when we ran those races. Great fun.

Another activity that kids did back then was to play "hide and seek" with the rough and tumble names of "Army," "Cowboys," or "Guns." Toy guns were all the rage back then and the more realistic they were, the better. No red tips were found on those toy gun barrels back then either. The things had to look real, or else! Schools even had gun clubs, where .22 rifles were regularly shot in the school gymnasiums. With W.W. II and the Korean War recently past, and the Vietnam War just getting underway, there were many movies and television shows depicting military or cowboy activities. There were also numerous Army-Navy surplus stores where kids could obtain all manner of militaria for their games. It was nothing to see 30-40 motley-uniformed kids crawling through the neighborhood bushes and going house-to-house in Lakewood searching for the "enemy." Sounds of "rat-a-tat" and "I got you!" and "No you didn't!" rang through Lakewood streets on summer evenings. Perhaps in retrospect all of that play was probably good basic training, because the military draft was still very much in effect and a few years later, the same type of helmets that the kids bought for \$3 at the Army-Navy store would again

be put on their heads, as they were flown off to places having names like DaNang, Pleiku, and Saigon.

Tennis was BIG back then too. You had to wait, sometimes for HOURS, for a net at one of Lakewood's many tennis courts. Our problem with tennis back then was with keeping the ball inside the fence. Many's the time that we had to run outside the cage at the park at Orchard Grove in order to retrieve our fuzzy yellow tennis balls.

We had great active games in Scouts too in the church basement where we met. There was "Battle-ball" where two teams stood on either side of the room and we tried to whack each other with every thing we had, until one team had eliminated the other one! Then there was a spy kind of game where the lights were turned out and you got down on the cold linoleum floor. Two teams, each having their own passwords, crawled towards each other in the dark. The password was asked for, and if not given correctly, you were dragged kicking and screaming towards the other wall by the other team. You had to give up only when a part of your body came in contact with their wall. It's a wonder we all survived, but yeah, it was a blast. There was probably more than a few Scout uniforms torn in the process!

The only place to play ball, other than the parks, was unfortunately... on our streets. Once in awhile, a car or house window would be shattered by a line drive, and then there was a piper to pay. More than a few kids skinned their knees pretty badly on Lakewood's unyielding curbs. Of course, this activity was frowned upon by Lakewood

authorities and the parents. Heck, when I think about it, virtually all of the above was probably frowned upon by the adult world, but let's face it, there was so often very little that a Lakewood kid COULD do in this city EXCEPT get into trouble. Once, I even got in trouble for setting up a lemonade stand on my street. Some shirt-and-tie wearing Lakewood bigshot stopped his car and lectured me about needing a vendor's license. That was a telling lesson for a young pre-teen!

To keep kids out of trouble, there were the pools, and there was Winterhurst. The pools (Madison and Lakewood) were and continue to be great fun. Ice skating was often the ONLY social thing to do on a Friday night in Lakewood. Strapping on those old worn leather rental skates was quite an adventure back then. "Weak ankles" were no excuse, and it was interesting to see otherwise macho friends' ankles turn to jelly on that unforgiving ice. In fact, I go back to when we had an outdoor rink. There were some great times up there, as Lake Erie's bitter winter winds blew across that night-time ice! Many lifetime relationships came out of cuddling up with your significant other at the edge of that Winterhurst ice.

We had roller skates and later skateboards too, starting in the late '50's. Both skates and those first boards had steel ball-bearing "trucks" that could be quite bone-shaking on those sandstone Lakewood sidewalks. The sign of a "cool" guy or gal was wearing a skate key on a string about one's neck. Other modes of transportation included home-made scooters and box-cars made from wagon wheels and wooden crates.

These days, Lakewood kids so

continued on page 19



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Old House Fair 2012

A Bit About Building Code Requirements And Why They Are Important For Historic Homes

by Jessica Ugarte

City, State and Federal Building Codes are essential pieces of legislation that help to ensure the safety and health of building owners and residents. These rules and guidelines, and the penalties for noncompliance, play an important role in today's society by protecting the owners, occupants, and even the structures themselves, from unnecessary harm or loss.

One of the first recorded examples of a building code can be found in the Code of Hammurabi-- a Babylonian set of 282 laws that dates to about 1772 BC. The Code included five building-specific rules such as "If a builder builds a house for someone, even though he has not yet completed it; if then the walls seem toppling, the builder must make the walls solid from his own means." By ensuring that the structures that were built were sound and safe, ancient rulers who were in charge of the well-being and safety of the people could regulate how, and how well-built, buildings would be.

More contemporary Building Codes are largely the result of great disasters; those events which had the effect of calling attention to certain failings of structures that then caused significant loss of life and property. Examples include man-made disasters such as the Chicago Fire of 1871- which helped to spur the regulation in fire-safe construction and requirements for fire suppression -- or natural events like the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906 and Hurricane Andrew in 1992-which

resulted in scientific analysis of how buildings could better withstand natural disasters and codes that then were implemented as a result of the findings.

While other Codes exist and have bearing on built structures, it is the Lakewood Building Code that most Lakewood residents will come into contact with. While many of these City regulations deal with important, life-or-death matters, others are the result of decades of research and experience that have determined those maintenance standards that will ensure the continued safety and stability of the Lakewood's existing housing stock. It is these, usually maintenance-specific Building Codes that are often of primary importance in talking about older and historic structures.

In 2011 Lakewood undertook a citywide housing survey that examined the existing housing stock for compliance with the City's Building Code. While approximately a third of the homes surveyed meet the current Code guidelines, sixty-seven percent of the surveyed homes either "almost meet" current Code - meaning that the home is beginning to show minimal wear--or were listed as "needs work"-- which indicates that there are multiple minor code violations or a few major violations present. These Code violations are issues that must be taken seriously and remedied, as the City has the ability to pursue further legal action or leverage fines.

The exterior violations that were noted in this survey could be any-

thing from a small portion of missing handrail on the porch to a larger problem such as missing roofing material. Issues such as exterior paint failure, damaged gutters and the condition of the porch floor might seem like minor and frivolous matters for the City to be concerned about. However, it is these small, routine maintenance-type issues that can have a huge impact on the long-term stability of the historic housing stock that makes Lakewood such a distinctive place to live.

On May 5 the Lakewood Heritage Home ProgramSM, a program operated by the Cleveland Restoration Society with the support of the City of Lakewood, will make a presentation at the Lakewood Old House Fair about why issues such as paint failure and proper drainage systems are vitally important to the long term stability of older homes. Come and learn about the common deterioration processes of old buildings, and about how the way homes are built and maintained (with guidance from the Building Code) helps to keep them standing strong as the decades roll on. Find out about why you might want to think twice about using "quick fixes" such as vinyl

siding to achieve the look and compliance that the City expects. Get tips on how to make your paint job last, and how simple tasks can extend the longevity of the home's architectural features and materials.

While this presentation will address some of the inquiries that homeowners of older homes may have about Code violations and maintenance requirements, this presentation is not associated with the City of Lakewood Building Department or intended to resolve current Code-related issues or concerns of residents. If you have specific questions about your Lakewood home's status, please contact the City of Lakewood Department of Housing & Building for further assistance.

In addition to educational presentations like the one happening at the Lakewood Old House Fair, the Lakewood Heritage Home Program also offers FREE technical assistance and low-interest loans for homes that are 50 years of age or older. New for 2012 is a lower interest rate (currently at 2%), increased availability, and lowered fees. Please contact Jessica Ugarte at 216-426-3101 or jugarte@clevelandrestoration.org to find out more about these services.

The Cleveland Restoration Society will present at 12 and 2 p.m. at the Old House Fair on Saturday, May 5 held at Harding Middle School.

A Beautiful, Healthy Yard: Mission Impossible?

by John Palmer

When I talk to people about their yards, everyone seems to have one or two problems that continually frustrate them, and keep them from having the yard they want. Whether it's your clumpy, semi-yellow lawn, one dying shrub in a row of healthy ones, weird looking bumps or spots on tree leaves, permanently wet areas of the yard: the issues are never-ending. What you need is to understand the basics of Plant Health Care to help you pinpoint the problem. What you don't need are old wives tales and anecdotes. I think I can help.

My name is John Palmer and I'm an Arborist and a landscape specialist with over 15 years experience. I'll be speaking at Lakewood's Old House Fair on Saturday, May 5th and I'd love to help you with your problems. I specialize in tree and shrub pruning and trimming, pest and disease identification, landscape planning and design, and lately, specializing in Emerald Ash Borer destruction of our Ash trees. I don't do "hardscapes" sprinkler systems, or gutter cleaning. I decided years ago that I wanted to specialize in living things. I'd love to share some of what I've learned.

For instance: When you have a pruner or saw in your hand, you're a surgeon. In my travels, I see lots of "patients" who have been permanently scarred by plant "malpractice." For the health of your trees and shrubs, let me help!

Lakewood yards can be especially difficult due to the close proximity of many of the homes, shade issues from trees and houses, and the fact that you're never very far from a sidewalk, driveway, or foundation. All of these factors can combine to make it very difficult on plants, grass, and trees. It can also make it difficult to diagnose problems depending on how these factors combine. Understanding the basics will give you more tools to use in the pursuit of the kind of yard you see in your dreams! I hope you can join me, and all of the business professionals at this year's Old House Fair at Harding Middle School. In addition to the seminar, I will be available at my table to answer your questions. Just look for me right next to the Lakewood Hardware table.

John's presentations are scheduled for 1 and 3 p.m. at the Old House Fair at Harding Middle School in the cafeteria.



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Watch for more details found in upcoming Lakewood Observer news in print & online. Also, visit the Observation Deck online forum for ongoing House Talk at www.lakewoodobserver.com



Lakewood Living

Let's Go Ride Bikes!

If you've ever spotted me on my bike, it's incredibly likely it was a dual spotting, with Tati in the very near vicinity. One of my closest friends, she's also my favorite and most frequent bike buddy. If you looked at our phones' in-boxes, you'd see a long history of messages like, "Wanna go ride bikes?" (Among other things of course, and NO, you can't actually look at my texts.)

Tati is a well known face in Lakewood, and a well loved one too. She's been a fantastic help to me in getting more people pumped about biking, encouraging our friends to ride more, and meeting new people to get them excited about cycling too. She's the other half of Lakewood Sunday Mass, taking groups of riders around Lakewood and Cleveland at the 7:00 p.m. time slot. She even gave her bike pump up for use at the Root Cafe for any cyclist who finds themselves without the air to keep moving.

Arrow is the name of Tati's sty-

by Erika Durham



Erika and Tati strike a pose at Root Cafe.

lie little ride. She's a red fixie with a little bumblebee bell and bullhorn handlebars. As I've written about other people and their bikes in the past, Tati and Arrow are a true example of bike/



seems like a fad to some people, but Tati is part of the proof that this is a lifestyle that some of us have embraced and take seriously. It doesn't matter if it's raining or sunny or that there is snow on the ground, or that the wind is flying directly in your face at 25 mph. You just keep riding, because that is the right thing to do.

To me, it's wonderful to just be able to go for a bike ride at any time, to be able to enjoy coming and going to work, to meet friends throughout the city and get there by pure physical human energy. But when you add in another person who has that same enthusiasm for riding, and just loves to be out there no matter what the weather, it makes all of it that much sweeter. Everybody should have a best friend like Tati.



Arrow, striking a pose.

Bike For Beck! Arts + Bikeability + Community = Fun Family Event

by Fran Storch

The first annual Bike for Beck, a bicycle tour and fundraising event is Saturday, May 19, 2012. This fundraiser is sponsored by Connect to Beck (C2B), a volunteer group of young professionals who support the Beck Center through social, cultural and insider events.

The bike tour begins at Beck Center and runs through the Cleveland Metroparks, with 12-mile, 25-mile and 60-mile routes. There is also a family-friendly ½-mile bike parade with the theme "Music in Motion." Parade participants are encouraged to decorate their bicycles in creative ways to artistically convey this theme.

Bike tour and parade participants can register online at beckcenter.org. Cyclists who register for the bike tour before May 1 save \$10 off the registration fee.

Tour participants and community members are also invited to join their family, friends and neighbors for the Bike for Beck Fest. Guests will enjoy an afternoon of live entertainment on the Beck Café Red Stage, bike safety and



maintenance demonstrations, a vintage bicycle exhibit, art displays, food trucks, and much more. To view a complete list of the day's activities visit beckcenter.org.

Volunteers are needed to assist with this inaugural event. If you would like to help on Friday, May 18 or Saturday, May 19, please contact Brittany Lesch at 216.521.2540, ext. 34 or blesch@beckcenter.org. For more information about Connect to Beck (C2B), email C2B@beckcenter.org.

Located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, the Beck Center for the Arts is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that offers professional theater productions, arts education programming in dance, music, theater, visual arts, early childhood, and creative arts therapies for special needs students, and gallery exhibits featuring regional artists.

human companionship. Arrow is the two wheeled embodiment of Tati, if you can imagine that sort of thing.

Tati was also my main support to get through this winter on my bike. Not that we had a horrible winter or anything, but there were certainly some bitterly cold and extraordinarily windy days, which only becomes more intense and apparent if you're out there with no shield from it. She bundles like nobody I've ever seen. Believe me, it doesn't seem like it would be difficult to put on a lot of layers for warmth, but Tati makes an art form of it. She was the original discoverer of the infamous "Chotas," the canoeing boots that many of us adopted as our rainy weather footwear, and on multiple occasions has saved me from freezing with extra scarves and hats pulled out of her bag.

She has a pretty good history of bike experiences too, working for a time at Spin Bike Shop, living in Pittsburgh and cycling those crazy hills on a fixed gear without a brake. She grew up skateboarding as well, so has been out there on her own power for most of her life. I realize that cycling still

Lakewood Bike Taxi To Make Its Maiden Voyage!

by Erika Durham

You might remember reading an article around the end of last summer about Everett Query and his love for cycling. One very notable part of Everett's story was that he had taught all of his children to ride bikes via tandem cycling. The idea was to teach them the feel of a bike in a comfortable setting so that when they got on their own bikes, they had a solid base of understanding.

Everett's tandem is about to make

another splash in Lakewood, but this time with another rider on the front end. Cary Manning is going to be providing a friendly "Bike Taxi" service. Informal at its outset, Cary will likely be riding up and down Detroit and Madison, and simply offering a ride to anyone who is interested.

So keep your eyes peeled for that extra empty seat, and if you're feeling like having a wonderfully breezy time, flag him down and go for a spin!

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Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood Living

Mary Hardison Selected As Barton Center's Volunteer Of The Year

by Curt Brosky

Mary Hardison was voted by Barton Center members as the 2012 Barton Center 'Sweetheart,' or Volunteer of the Year. She was honored at a dinner held recently to recognize her years of volunteer service at Barton Senior Center. This was the 39th annual ceremony held to recognize Barton Center volunteers and was attended by over 100 members, including 12 previous award recipients.

Mary was born and raised on a farm in Granville, OH, 35 miles north-east of Columbus. She continued living in Granville as she raised her family and had a long career in the transportation industry. In retirement, she moved

to Rocky River in 2006 to be closer to her daughter Wendy. Coincidentally, her cousin moved to the Westerly Apartments about the same time and invited Mary to participate in various Barton Center dinners and events. Mary liked what she saw, and said could not wait until she was old enough to move to the Westerly. She moved in during 2009 and began volunteering immediately since she already knew the staff and many of the members.

Mary now volunteers 5 days per week, working in many different areas: answering phones and selling tickets in the Office; arranging appointments in transportation; coordinating the Hospice Greeting Card Workshop group;

creating items for sale with the Arts & Crafts class; preparing food for Wine & Cheese fundraisers; and helping decorate the three Westerly lobbies with a different theme each month.

Mary said she loves working in the office and at the car/transportation desk because she gets to interact with many different members. She stated it makes her feel good to help others and it is a lot of fun. She has made many friends, and said she does not know of a better place to live and socialize than at the Westerly Apartments and Barton Center.

Mary invites everyone to visit the Barton Center with its various shops, including Hodge Podge furniture and



Mary Hardison is Barton Center's 'Sweetheart' or Volunteer of the Year!

resale shop, Greenhouse, Corner Store, Fabric Shop and Book Nook. Membership in the Barton Center is available to anyone age 55 and over for \$18 per year. To find out more about Ohio's first senior center, call Barton Center at 216-221-3400. Barton Center is located on the Ground Floor of the Westerly Apartments at 14300 Detroit Ave. and is open M-F 9 AM-3 PM.

Until the financial situations for these sellers improve, the market will continue to drag. Go to [HTTP://www.northeastohiorealtor.com](http://www.northeastohiorealtor.com) for more information.

So What Is The Market Like?

by Eric Lowrey

In the city of Lakewood there are currently 160 single family homes for sale as of April 10, 2012. In the last six months 147 single family homes have sold giving a current market supply of 6.5 months of homes. That is if no

more homes came on the market it would take six and a half months to sell all the homes currently on the market.

And this means exactly what? The lower the supply of houses the better it is for sellers and 6.5 months is an improvement over the past few

years. However for a healthy balance we need to cut a few more months off that supply.

Currently there is too much supply for the available demand. But we are seeing an improvement. Borrowing costs are at historical lows. Demand for finished reasonably-priced homes is up and these homes are selling reasonably quickly. The drag on the market is overpriced under-finished homes.

Lakewood Kid Games...A Half-Century Ago... continued from page 16

often seem to spend their leisure time connected electronically to something or other. Whether by cell phone text messaging, or with video gaming, or with those earphone-connected music players, so many kids connect to the rest of the world in an almost one-on-one kind of isolation. The social media seems to have largely replaced "Kick the Can" and other kid games. All too often these days, for kids the "game" of "Guns" has become real. Kids no lon-

ger need to visit DaNang or Pleiku to be in danger of their lives from gunfire, and there is no longer any doubt regarding the question as to whether or not they were really shot either. The times of our lives have indeed changed, and not always for the better. The alienation and social disconnect that seems to be prevalent among so many young people these days must continue to be addressed by our own community and nation, as so many of yesterday's kid games are sadly. . . no longer games.

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