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Let our New Year's resolution be this: we will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word. - Goran Persson

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 8, Issue 25, December 12, 2012

As FFL's CEO Gary Fix Retires

First Federal Lakewood Buys Naming Rights



photos by Jim O'Bryan

CEO of First Federal Lakewood, Gary Fix, presents the big check to Lakewood School Board Members. Gary retires this month and Tom Fraser, (back middle) will take the helm. (More about the big check and what it bought on page 8.)

FFL President/CEO Gary Fix Retires Thomas Fraser, EVP & COO To Lead

by Christina Capadonna

Gary Fix, President and CEO of First Federal Lakewood Announces December 31, 2012 Retirement; Thomas Fraser, EVP & COO to succeed Fix effective January 1, 2013

First Federal Lakewood has announced that Gary R.

Fix, President and CEO will retire on December 31, 2012 and will continue to serve on First Federal's Board of Directors. Thomas J. Fraser, EVP & COO, has been chosen by the board to succeed Mr. Fix as the bank's next President and CEO effective January 1, 2013.

Fix has been with the

bank more than 27 years and has served as CEO since 2005 and as a board member since 2004. He has also held executive leadership positions including COO and CFO. During Fix's tenure as CEO, the bank has experienced significant growth, successfully completed the acquisition of Century Bank, achieved record loan growth year upon year, grown to 18 full service branches in Northeast Ohio with eight lending offices throughout the state, and recorded 19 consecutive quarters of profitability while assets increased to \$1.3 billion.

"All of these positive growth initiatives were achieved while the financial sector of the economy was experiencing the worst contraction since the great depression and we thank Gary Fix for the numerous and valuable contributions he has made," said Ronald W. Dees, Chairman of the First Federal Board of Directors.

"Fraser has worked closely with Fix over the last couple of years and we are confident that this leadership transition will be seamless," said Dees. "The First Federal board extends its congratulations and best wishes to Gary and Tom."

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Gypsy Beans Comes To Lakewood



photos by Jim O'Bryan

Nicole Gillota, one of my favorite Cleveland business personalities brings her delicious style of pastries to the Beck Center.

by Jim O'Bryan

For years one of my favorite meeting places when out of Lakewood has been Gypsy Bean at W. 65th and Detroit. It has it all, and then some--lots of tables, great location, amazing ambience, a private

meeting room, to name some of the minor things. More importantly they have great pastries and sandwiches, really good coffee, and an amazing staff and owner. Well, now we can enjoy all those things and

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photo by Craig Lovejoy, Low Level Aerial Photography

Light Up Lakewood was definitely "the" celebration to be at this holiday season. Good times, good friends, a nice parade, and partying in the streets all night long! LakewoodAlive's thank you to the community and photos from various Observers are on pages 12 and 13. Isn't it time you joined with your friends and neighbors at the Lakewood Observer, working together, for a better understanding and appreciation of everything Lakewood! On Facebook LIKE - "Lakewood Observer" and on our website too!

Lakewood Seeks To Toughen Texting Laws

by Maureen McHugh

On Thursday December 13 at 6:30 p.m. the public will have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion on Proposed Ordinance 44-12 at a public hearing of the Lakewood City Council's Public Safety Committee at Lakewood High School in Lecture Hall 2. The proposed ordinance calls for Lakewood to strengthen the newly enacted state law by elevating the offense of texting by an adult driver from a secondary offense, as is currently written in the state law, to a primary offense. Proposed Ordinance 44-12 would also

maintain the full ban on the use of electronic devices by minors.

On June 1, Governor Kasich signed House Bill 99 to restrict the texting while driving behaviors of adult drivers and to prohibit all cell phone use (including talking and texting) by teen drivers. The legislation included a provision granting power to municipalities to construct local ordinances that are more stringent than the state law. Neighboring communities such as Beachwood, Brooklyn, North Olmstead, and others

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Holiday Refuse & Recycling Collection Schedule

by Melissa Garrett

Due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, there will be no refuse or recycling collected on Tuesday, December 25, 2012 or Tuesday, January 1, 2013. Residents whose refuse is normally collected on Monday will have collection on Tuesday. Residents whose refuse is normally collected on Tuesday will have collection on Wednesday. Residents whose refuse is normally collected on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday should have their refuse and recyclables available for

collection on their regular day.

Residents are reminded that refuse and recycling should not be placed on the curb or tree lawn until after 6:00 p.m. on the night before your collection day and should be available for collection by 6:30 a.m. on the collection day.

In addition, all City of Lakewood offices and the Lakewood Municipal Court will be closed on Tuesday, December 25, 2012 and Tuesday, January 1, 2013 for the holidays.

Lakewood Observer

Lakewood Seeks To Toughen Texting Laws

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have already fully banned the use of cell phones while driving.

Proposed Ordinance 44-12 was brought before the City Council by Councilman David Anderson on September 17. "I find this notion very similar to a sobriety checkpoint," said Anderson. "We do not just wait to see if a driver is swerving in and out of a lane."

Research indicates that using a cell phone has a comparable negative impact on one's ability to drive as driving under the influence of alcohol. According to the Ohio State Highway Patrol there were 31,231 automobile crashes in Ohio that were a result of distracted driving between 2009 and 2011. During this time, distracted driving caused 74 deaths and 7,825 injuries. Distracted driving is defined as any activity in which a driver is engaged that has the potential to distract him or her from the primary task of driving. Using a cell phone while driving

stands out among all other behaviors as the most dangerous distracted driving activity in which a driver can engage. Research shows that young drivers who use a phone while driving are four times more likely to injure themselves in a crash. Text messaging causes a driver to increase his or her risk of crashing to 23 times that of a driver focusing on the road.

The entire community is invited to participate in the public hearing on Thursday December 13th and/or submit testimony for consideration by the City Council. Testimony may be submitted in person at the hearing or in advance via email to council@lakewoodoh.net. Speakers will be limited to three minutes and are asked to sign up fifteen minutes in advance in Lecture Hall 2. For more information please contact the City Council Office at 216-529-6054 or at council@lakewoodoh.net.

Maureen McHugh is the Legislative Liaison to the Lakewood City Council.

Straight from the Heart Raffle
Features \$100,000 Grand Prize!

Would you like to win \$100,000? How about a two-year lease on a Volvo Convertible or a Motorcycle? Or you could win a Mediterranean Cruise for two! These are just a few of the incredible prizes offered through the annual Straight from the Heart Raffle to benefit the cardiovascular programs at Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran Hospitals.

Why not purchase a raffle ticket for your chance to win this grand prize and host of many other generous gifts through the Straight from the Heart campaign. Raffle tickets are \$100 each or three tickets for \$200.

Sponsored by the Community West Foundation, the Straight from the Heart raffle will culminate with a drawing of the 40 prize winners on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013, at The Straight from the Heart red-tie gala at LaCentre Conference and Banquet Facility in Westlake.

To see a full list of available prizes, or the purchase your raffle tickets online, visit www.straightfromtheheartevent.org or contact the Community West Foundation at 216.476.7061.

All proceeds from this raffle will benefit the Heart Centers at Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran Hospitals. Winners need not be present.

heartevent.org or contact the Community West Foundation at 216.476.7061.

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Nicole Gillota, owner of Gypsy Beans, waiting at "Baby Bean" to serve you.

Gypsy Beans Comes To Lakewood

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more right here in Lakewood in what owner Nicole Gillota calls "Baby Bean." The new Gypsy Bean can be found at Beck Center for the Arts in the space that formally housed the Beck Cafe.

Nicole was excited when Kathy Caffrey, Marketing Director for the Beck Center mentioned to her that "There might be an opportunity for expansion at the Beck Center." Kathy, who lives in the Detroit Shoreway area, stops every morning for coffee at Gypsy Bean. What Kathy didn't realize is that an expansion has been part of Nicole's plans since she opened the W. 65th location back in 2005. Nicole had been the head baker at Ohio City Muffins. When Ohio City Muffins lost their Starbucks accounts (Starbucks changed to shipping in pastries) Nicole

bought the business and moved to W. 65th and Detroit, with hopes of having baby Gypsy Beans all over the county.

And the Lakewood location it is very much a "baby" Gypsy Bean, about half of the space, about half the selection of fabulous pastries, cookies and cakes, and a smaller but still fantastic staff. The only difference is no 1,000 square foot kitchen and no secret meeting room, but instead you have one of the country's great local theaters as a partner! Should be nothing but up for this coffee shop!

With the best patio of any coffee shop in town, the best stage, possibly the best location, and now some of the best pastries, Gypsy Bean at the Beck should soon be a stop in everyone's agenda. Nicole, thanks for coming to Lakewood. Good Luck!



**THE
LAKEWOOD
OBSERVER**

**Your Independent Source for
Lakewood News & Opinion**

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

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

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

Upcoming Submission Deadline

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Sunday, January 13, 2013

Publish Date

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City News

FFL President/CEO Gary Fix Retires
Thomas Fraser New FFL CEO

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About Gary R. Fix
Gary R. Fix has been with the bank more than 27 years and has served as CEO since 2005 and as a board member since 2004. He has also held executive leadership positions including COO and CFO. During Fix's tenure as CEO, the bank has experienced significant growth, successfully completing the acquisition of Century Bank, achieving record loan growth year upon year, managing 18 full service branches, eight statewide lending offices, recording 19 consecutive quarters of profitability and increasing assets in excess \$1.3 billion.

Fix is a graduate of St. Edward High School (Lakewood Ohio) and played basketball and baseball at St. Edward University (Austin, Texas) and graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He also attended the Darden Graduate School at the University of Virginia and is a graduate of the Ohio Savings & Loan Academy. After college, he served in the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, and completed a 14 month tour of duty in Vietnam where he was awarded a Bronze Star.

Fix began his career in public accounting and served as the Chief Financial Officer at two other local financial institutions prior to joining First Federal in 1985. Prior to being named CEO in 2005, Fix previously served as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer and was appointed to the board in 2004. He is a past president of the Northeastern Ohio Financial Managers Society, the Northeastern Ohio Institute of Financial Education and the Metro West Kiwanis Club.

About Thomas J. Fraser
Fraser joined First Federal in 2007, and was promoted from VP Residential Lending to Senior VP & Chief Lending Officer to Executive VP & Chief Operating Officer. In June, 2012, the Board of Directors appointed him a director of the company.

Fraser is a graduate of John Carroll University, having earned both his bachelor's degree in Economics, and master's in History, from the insti-



Thomas Fraser, the new CEO of First Federal Lakewood at the Lakewood High School Basketball game the other night, when he was part of the presentation of a check for \$320,000 for the naming rights to the Lakewood Football Stadium.

tution. He has more than 17 years of banking experience, previously working for Westfield Bank National City and Andersen Consulting.

He is active in the community, currently serving as the Chairperson for Lakewood Senior Citizens (Barton Center) and trustee for North Cost Health Ministries, Lakewood Alive and Youth Challenge. He is also the past Commissioner for the West Shore Conference and chaired the American Bankers' Association Graduate School of Commercial Lending.

About First Federal Lakewood
First Federal Lakewood, with total assets exceeding \$1.3 billion, offers a full array of retail and business products through 18 full service branch locations in Northeast Ohio and eight First Federal Lending offices throughout Ohio. Founded in 1935, First Federal Lakewood is a community bank with a deep-rooted tradition of financial strength, stability and integrity. Visit www.ffl.net for additional information.



Straight
FROM THE
Heart

Saturday,
February 16, 2013

Early Bird Raffles:
Two \$1,000 Winners
The first raffle will be drawn from entries received
by December 14, 2012.

The second raffle will be drawn from entries received
by January 18, 2013.

All early bird winners will be eligible for prizes to be drawn at the event.

Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$100 each or 3 for \$200.

For more information or to register, visit www.straightfromtheheartevent.org or call 216.476.7061.

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- 6

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- 7

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- 8

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- 9

7-Day Trip for Two to
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- 10

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- 11

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- 12

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New York
- 13

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- 14

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Cruise for Two
- 15

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- 16

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- 17

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- 18

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- 19

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- 20

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- 21

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- 23

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Las Vegas
- 24

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- 25

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Lakewood City Council

Council Considers Marketing Lakewood

by Christopher Bindel

On the evening of December 3, 2012, the Lakewood City Hall Auditorium was surprisingly full for a Council Meeting. Members of the audience included a number of Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts and a number of citizens clutching bike helmets. At 7:34 P.M. Council President Brian Powers called the meeting to order, and then asked the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts from Troop 115 to lead the body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first order of business was a Finance Committee report given by Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan (Ward IV). The report discussed the committee's consideration of a request by the administration to add a city planner. The addition of this position is being asked for after three positions in the Department of Planning and Development have been eliminated and the Department has undergone some restructuring. The elimination of the positions have come both out of the restructuring of the department and cost-saving efforts of the administration. However with development in the city on the increase lately the department has found itself in need of additional help, therefore they have asked to add the new position of City Planner.

Due to a backlog of work that has piled up because of a medical leave and retirement of an employee, whose position is the third to be eliminated, the

administration asked Council to consider passing the ordinance creating the new position on its second, rather than third, reading.

Before voting, Councilwoman Madigan asked Director of Planning and Development, Dru Siley, if he had anything to say. He reiterated that they do have a large volume of work and that they could seriously use the extra hand, and some expediency would be greatly appreciated. He also wanted to point out that with the addition of this position the head count in the department would still be the same. This position will fill the gap of the newly retired employee.

Council suspended the three reading rule and passed the ordinance on its second reading.

Next Councilwoman Madigan read a statement from her and Councilman Powers (At-Large). She began by commending the administration and First Energy for their hard work after 'Super Storm Sandy' both cleaning up the damage and restoring power. However, she said some effort should be made to help reduce the impact storms like Sandy have on the city in advance. She cites that at its peak, 13,000 residents were without power, and some were without it for as long as eight days. Due to the disruption to citizens and the toll on city resources she believes

the City should critically examine the city's current power situation and partnership with First Energy. She proposes that Council, the Administration, First Energy, the Public Utility Commission of Ohio and members of the public work together to assess Lakewood's electric utility infrastructure, map it out identifying outmoded and trouble spots, estimate the improvements required, set priorities for system-wide upgrades and make a long term improvement and continuous maintenance plan. Madigan said that this is a process that will be "tackled over time," understanding there is not a quick fix. However, she continued saying that it is clear that significant upgrades are needed particularly "in order to survive a changing climate that includes more frequent and increasingly severe storms."

Councilman Tom Bullock (Ward II) thanked Councilwoman Madigan and Councilman Powers for bringing this issue forward and agreed that it is an issue the city should be concerned with. He said that he knew that the mayor has been working with First Energy regarding these issues, and believed that some improvements have been made, however when standing up to ever increasing storms, he said it is hard to keep up. In the recent past there have been concerns from those that lose their power when there aren't storms, notably during summer brown-outs. Bullock said he believed there have been some improvements, but thought it would be prudent to look at where those improvements have been made, and how they relate to storm issues, when starting this process.

Council received and filed the communication from Madigan and Powers.

Councilwoman Monique Smith (At-Large) then asked Council to consider using a portion of the remaining funds in their economic development fund for 2012, to seek outside professional marketing support that can help "craft and promote an identity that fully reflects all of the best qualities" of Lakewood. By engaging marketing industry professionals the city can

take advantage of their experience in compiling attributes into a marketable identity, and crafting a marketing strategy that works best for the intended outcome. In addition, by using money already allocated to Council's economic development fund they would not have to allocate extra money in the budget to pay for these services.

Councilwoman Smith pointed out that Lakewood would not be the first community in Northeast Ohio to market itself, Shaker Heights and Mentor both have done so in the past. Although those who live in Lakewood are aware of all the great things the city has to offer, there are plenty of small businesses and homebuyers looking for a community to settle in who might not. This would be a great way to get the word out.

Although Councilwoman Smith introduced the proposal, she wanted to make it clear that she is not the first one, even among those on Council, who has brought up the idea of marketing Lakewood. She asked Council to take some time and discuss her proposal in the Committee of the Whole.

At the end of the agenda items, there were a few people from the sizable audience who wished to make public statements. The first was Ben Van Lear who wanted to speak in support of current and future improvements to Lakewood's bikeability. He said it has been encouraging to see the region's first on-street bike corral installed, sharrows included in plans for Detroit, and several new bike racks added around the city, including those being incorporated into new designs of projects around the city. He also said he applauds the city's goal, in the bike plan it created, to be recognized as one of the most bike-friendly communities in the nation by 2016, and that the progress made in the last year has helped it move in the direction of that goal. He believes there are other opportunities in the city that will help it leap further towards that goal. That is why he created a plan to include bike lanes on Madison Avenue that could be incorporated into the current 2013 pavement plan for the street. He presented a petition with about 600 signatures from Lakewood and surrounding communities' residents. In closing he thanked Councilman Bullock, Mayor Summers and Director Siley for agreeing to meet with him to discuss the logistics of the proposal.

Following Mr. Van Lear, the proprietors of Spin Bike Shop and Buckeye Beer Engine both spoke in support for the proposed Madison bike lanes. Bob Wright of the Beer Engine also spoke on behalf of MAMA and Uptown Lakewood which both are in support of the proposal and said they would do anything they can to help make it a reality.

With no one else from the community to speak, and no announcements from Council or the Administration, Council President Powers adjourned the meeting at 8:10P.M.

"LEAF Cooks" Is Going Fast- Order Today!

by Margaret Brinich

The LEAF Cooks Cookbook is hot off the presses! Purchase your personal copy and additional gift copies online today! Save \$5 a book by picking them up at the December 18th LEAF Night Market or at GreenSmartGifts.

The LEAF Cooks cookbook is a collection of recipes submitted by vendors, farmers, gardeners, market shoppers, community supported agriculture shareholders, chefs and friends of LEAF. All recipes include local ingredients, available seasonally around Ohio.

Highlights of this cookbook include: Padded 3-ring binder custom color cover (you can rearrange the recipes or add in your own), Categorized by season, Special section for preservation and staple

items, Recipes for those "troublesome" ingredients, Helpful hints, tips, and tricks. The hardcopy cookbook purchase includes an electronic version

Cookbooks will be available for purchase at the final LEAF Night Market of the year on Tuesday, December 18 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the Garfield Middle School Cafeteria (13114 Detroit).



AROUND THE CORNER

TOYS FOR TOTS

"Donate a new, unwrapped toy and you will receive 25% off your food bill!"

The event is going on from now until Dec. 10th. See web for details.

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Lakewood City News

A Community Conversation On "The Other Wes Moore"

by Barbara Schwartz

To engage the whole community in this year's choice for Lakewood Reads, "The Other Wes Moore, a Community Conversation," a meeting was held on Wednesday evening, November 14th at The University of Akron Lakewood. The evening was jointly sponsored by the Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission (LCRAC), the Lakewood Family Collaborative, Lakewood Alive, and the University of Akron Lakewood. Four panelists were invited to share their personal and professional experiences relevant to the compelling story of two young men with the same name and similar backgrounds, but whose lives go in very different directions. To leave with a better understanding of the forces at work for and against the youth of Lakewood was the primary objective of the evening.

The discussion was guided by a set of questions presented by Joe Loboizzo, history teacher at Lakewood High School and a member of LCRAC, who moderated the evening. Assisting Mr. Loboizzo were two seniors from Lakewood High School, Rokeishia Smith, who hopes to attend Case Western Reserve University, and Dominique Lee, who is applying to Cleveland State University. Both Rokeishia and Dominique had been involved in the week of activities at the school centered on hearing Mr. Moore live, and interacting with him through Skype.

Panelist Dr. Ronnie Dunn, Associate Professor of Urban Studies at Cleveland State University's Maxine Levin College of Urban Affairs, received his Ph.D. from Cleveland State in 2004. His research and teaching interests include racial and social justice, crime and the criminal justice system, diversity and issues affecting minorities and the urban poor. Dr. Dunn said that Ohio has no law regarding racial profiling, and that we have in place a system that acts like a funnel, driving people into a system of private, for-profit prisons, with large numbers of sentence inequities. At the same time there is a code of the street that tells young people not to trust the police and not to snitch. He cited the recent book by Michelle Alexander, The New Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, as addressing the policies, laws, and history that have created a large group relegated to second class citizenship through incarceration. He also cited SB 337, which took effect in September, as a step in the right direction in removing barriers for ex-offenders to become rehabilitated and gainfully employed.

Panelist Michael J. Ryan, Cleveland Municipal Judge and newly elected judge to the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Juvenile Division, has worked extensively with the Juvenile Courts Diversion Program. He overcame extreme hardship growing up in the Longwood projects, with challenges much like those of Wes Moore. He acknowledged that he



LHS students Rokeishia & Dominique talking with Mr. Loboizzo and Dr. Dunn.

possessed extreme fortitude, but that education was the ticket for him to get away from his environment. School was a refuge--a place where there was food, heat, water, and people who believed in him--the opposite of the chaos that he experienced at home. It was important to have relationships with people he could trust in order to open up about what was going on at home. Without parents from a young

*"The choices
we make about
the lives we live
determine the kind
of legacies
we leave."
- Wes Moore*

age, Judge Ryan talked about a teacher, an ex-marine, who believed in his abilities and made a personal connection, talking with him, attending his games and graduations. He said many have the potential to make a difference, like teachers, coaches, ministers, those in the juvenile justice system and the police. He said it was important that police develop relationships with the local youth, not to be harassing and arresting authority figures, but to be trusted, safe adults. He also wants citizens to be more familiar with who they put on the bench. When it comes to electing judges, it is essential to put qualified people in these positions. Looking at the ratings from Judge4Yourself is one very good way, and he urged people to come to the court to watch judges in action.

Panelist Mark Brauer has served as the Vice President for Youth Services at Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry (LMM). Next Step is one of LMM's youth programs operating in Lakewood, providing training in independent living skills to older youth aging out of the foster care system. At a pivotal point in the lives of these young people, it is LMM's mission to help move them in the right direction. He talked about the problems getting funding for programs such as breakfasts and lunches in schools. This makes it possible for students to learn

when they are coming from a home where there may be no food and the utilities are turned off. A program in Minnesota provides backpacks of food for students to take home for the weekend; otherwise, they may have nothing to eat until they return to school on Monday. He also talked about how important it was for students to be taught "soft skills" like interpersonal skills. Without these, students may not be able to successfully navigate their way through life. He said it was so important to have people who can mentor be present in a young person's life, starting wherever they are and being there over time.

Panelist Mary Hall is the Administrator of the Division of Youth for the City of Lakewood. She has spent many years working with the families of Lakewood. Mary talked about education and the environment. She said that the expectations that others have of you eventually become the expectations you have of yourself. It is essential to start in early childhood, not just with the child, but with the parents, teaching them the skills needed to help their children thrive. Mary wrapped up the session with the following meaningful statement: "We need to create around each child a climate of acceptance, whether it is a child on your street, in your neighborhood, or in your faith community." The truth is that every child in Lakewood belongs to all of us.

The Lakewood Community Advisory Commission's mission is to advise, educate and promote community relations, foster participation in the community; to be proactive to promote respectful conversations and collaborative efforts among and between residents and city officials; and to promote equity, respect and diversity within the city.

The Commission's next planned event is the annual Diversity Potluck, planned for Thursday evening January 24, 2013. Watch for further details about this very fun and delicious event.



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*U.S. News & World Report, 2012-13.

Lakewood City News

Lakewood "Bad Girls" Finish First

by Apryl Beverly

The sweet smell of "girl power" filled the room as approximately 100 local business owners, professionals and idealists gathered on the 55th floor of the KeyBank Tower on Dec. 5 to hear the name of the third recipient of the \$25,000 loan from Bad Girl Ventures (BGV) Cleveland.

Jillian Neimeister and Tricia Tortoreti, owners of Lakewood's own Birdtown Crossfit, a strength and cardiovascular program, were crowned the third Cleveland recipients of the BGV loan. "We couldn't have done it without BGV," says Neimeister and Tortoreti in a tearful speech as they accepted the \$25,000 loan.

"You go girls," yelled an excited guest.

CrossFit is a strength and cardiovascular program designed for men and women of all ages and every fitness level. Classes will be held in the Lake Erie building located in Lakewood's Birdtown District starting in January.

We are thrilled to have CrossFit in Lakewood," said City of Lakewood Mayor Michael Summers. The irony is that the Lake Erie building was the home of a nuts and bolts manufacturer. In January, Crossfit will build the framework of their business in that very same location.

Micro-lending group Bad Girl Ventures (BGV) came to Cleveland in 2011 to change this ... one "bad girl"



The owners of Birdtown Crossfit are presented with a check by BGV Cleveland Director Reka Barabas (second from left) and two representatives from Key Bank.

at a time. "There was a very recognizable void when it came to funding for women business owners in the area," says Reka Barabas, director of BGV, Cleveland.

Starting and sustaining a profitable business is hard work. Women have an especially hard time balancing their entrepreneurial dreams with their natural tendency to care for their families. If women feel their families will suffer, they'll choose to stay in jobs they hate and defer their dreams. "Life is one of the greatest obstacles women entrepreneurs face," says Barabas. "As caregivers, women carry the burden of

ensuring that the needs of their families are met."

Kimberly McCune Gibson and Ann Marie Larrance were the first recipients of the BGV Cleveland loan last fall. They used the loan to grow their Hungry Bee catering company and to launch production of ReHive Ale, the first sustainable beer out of Ohio brewed by women. Today, Hungry Bee is feeding hungry business professionals at corporate breakfasts and employee lunches. ReHive Ale is brewed at Black Box Brewing Co. and is available at all 17 Heinen's locations and soon to be on tap at several local restaurants.

This past spring, BGV awarded Allison Musser, owner of Babies Travel Too a \$25,000 loan. Musser is using the funding to grow her baby equipment rental company and is exploring franchising opportunities and has plans to launch a second location in Sandusky, Ohio to cater to the needs of vacation travelers.

Whether it's a catering company, a baby rental equipment business or a fitness program, BGV isn't wasting any time building its network of Cleveland bad girls. Over the past year, the program has graduated 30 finalists from



Mayor Summers presents a resolution of support from the City of Lakewood to the Fall 2012 BGV winners, Lakewood residents Jillian Neimeister (left) and Tricia Tortoreti (right) for their soon to be open business- Birdtown Crossfit.

its nine-week business development course. In addition to the three Cleveland recipients of the BGV loan, several finalists have been awarded grants from the City of Cleveland and funding from the program's private giving circle.

Jessica Thrall, owner of Tantalize, was the most recent recipient of a \$5,000 micro-loan. Tantalize offers individual and group spray tanning parties for men and women of all ages and skin types. This past spring, three other women's start-ups received \$5,000 micro-loans. Anne Hartnett, owner of Harness Fitness, has a cycling studio designed to harness energy generated during spinning classes to create electrical power. Blogger Karen Malone Wright launched TheNotMom.com for women who are not moms by chance or choice. Kelley Hynds of the video production company Hyndsight Media used the funds to add short-form videos to her service offering.

BGV has started accepting applications for its Spring 2013 nine-week business development course. Barabas advises prospective applicants to take time to gain confidence about business ideas by conducting market research. "We see business owners try to create their ideas in a bubble," says Barabas. "This is a sure recipe for failure."

Have A Stress-Less Holiday

by Kristine Pagsuyoin

Ahhh....the holidays. The snow, the sparkle, the gifts—and, the stress, anxiety, and non-stop frantic shopping and spending. Have you lost that loving feeling that you once had for this time of year? Does this time of year, whether it is preparing for the holidays or the dread of another dark winter, put a damper on your daily activities or relationships? It doesn't have to be this way--we do have a choice. Join the Lakewood Family Collaborative, on Thursday, December 13th, 1 p.m. at the Lakewood Women's Pavilion, for a special presentation as we welcome speaker, Kim Langley, as she educates and coaches us toward "Stress-Less Holidays." Kim will help us examine what works well and what doesn't work about our holiday experiences. She'll offer tips for minimizing holiday stress, and speak to us on how new traditions can bring new joy and less stress to our celebrations. Winter can be a tough time for many living in this region of the country. Kim will address the winter blues and how to manage the sadness that some people struggle with each winter.

Kim, founder and president of LifeBalance Enterprises, has been a motivational speaker and coach for over 20 years. Her mission is to deliver "exceptional workshops that enable personal and professional growth, enhance authentic interpersonal and self-reflection skills, and make people want to



Kim Langley, founder and president of LifeBalance Enterprises, has been a motivational speaker and coach for over 20 years.

get up for work on Monday morning." She is extremely passionate and knowledgeable about emotional intelligence, optimism training, training emerging leaders, stress management training, and communication skills training.

The Lakewood Family Collaborative meets every fourth Thursday of the month, from 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Lakewood Women's Pavilion in Lakewood Park, and is open to anyone dedicated to strengthening the Lakewood Community for children, youth, and families. To learn more, visit us on Facebook or email lakewoodfamilycollab@gmail.com.

LPL Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Ongoing through March 28

Madison Branch Bright Days
For students in kindergarten through fifth grade

As the leaves begin to fall, come to Madison Branch for books, crafts, fun and games. Madison Branch Children's and Youth Services

Tuesdays and Thursdays, ongoing through March 28 at 4:00 p.m.

Family Weekend Wonders

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

Main Library Activity Room and Madison Branch Auditorium

Saturdays and Sundays
Weekends With Wee Ones

For families with children under 2 years old

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

Madison Branch Children's and Youth Services

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

Lakewood Public Library

compiled by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

December 15

Lakewood Art House Cinema

“Spitfire Grill” (1996), Directed by Lee David Zlotoff - Rated PG-13

After being released from prison, a young woman named Percy looks for a new beginning. She finds it in the rural town of Gilead, Maine where she is taken under the wing of the owner of the Spitfire Grill. This clannish town is wary of outsiders, especially those like Percy who seems to be able to see right through people. Winner of an audience award at Sundance, this overlooked film examines the meaning of redemption.

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

December 16

Sunday with the Friends: Mike and Mary

Mike tickles the ivories while Mary sings gems from the Great American Songbook. There’s nothing they like more than rescuing a good song from a forgotten Broadway show and sharing it with new friends.

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

December 20

Co-dependents, Enablers, Rescuers - Support Group

A public meeting on how to help addicts, alcoholics, mentally ill; in a healthy relationship of helper and helped. This is not a 12 step group.

Sometimes well-meaning people, trying to help an addict, alcoholic or mentally ill person (sometimes a person with all three) gets into a malfunctioning relationship with the person, unintentionally enabling them to continue their problem or problem behavior...like giving a drug addict money for a good purpose that instead is spent on drugs (enabling), or not knowing how to “rescue” somebody who is very sick with such problems, or getting sucked into the person’s problems and losing perspective (co-dependent). These can be complicated, difficult, harmful and overwhelming situations.

7 p.m. at the Lakewood Public Library, Main Auditorium.

December 22nd- January 4th - No Programs

December 24

Christmas Eve – Library closed

December 25

Christmas – Library closed

December 31

New Year’s Eve – Library closes at 6 p.m.

January 1

New Year’s Day – Library closed

January 5

Lakewood Public Cinema

“Harold and Maude” (1971), Directed by Hal Ashby - Rated PG

Young, bored and obsessed with death, Harold meets Maude while crashing a funeral. She’s closing in on eighty, but doing so with the rebellion of a teenager and a hard-won optimism that is intoxicating to a boy without hope. They fall in love, of course. It doesn’t make sense, but it does. In the same way, dark comedy and loving sentiment should not mix, but they do. This strange little film will leave you cheering, even as you mourn.

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

January 6

Sunday with the Friends: SLAP Jazz Trio

“When in doubt, add delay.” For more than a decade, SLAP has carried on a musical conversation about love, humor, danger, and beauty. With simple bass, drums and guitar, they stroll effortlessly through the walls of perception.

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

January 10

Booked for Murder: Tales of Cleveland

“Nemesis: the Final Case of Eliot Ness” by William Bernhardt

For a good, spine-tingling mystery, look no further than your own backyard. Cleveland has plenty of dark tales that will keep you up late at night. Share your midnight thoughts with this friendly, law-abiding group of mystery lovers. Visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/bookclubs for more clues and full book descriptions.

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

January 10

Documentary Film

“Catching Salinger” (2009) ,

Directed by Charles Moore and James Renner

Three buddies, including local writer James Renner, set out to connect with the reclusive J.D. Salinger by following in the footsteps of Holden Caulfield. Of course, many a Catcher in the Rye fan has tried this before and failed. Renner and friends avoid this inevitability with a rare exuberance, finding their own answers along the way. Don’t miss your chance to see the West Side debut of this often funny, sometimes goofy, ultimately enlightening tribute to the hidden man.

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

January 12

Western Movies: The Golden Age, Part 1

“High Noon” (1952), Directed by Fred Zinnemann

Marshal Gary Cooper is about to turn in his badge and leave Hadleyville forever with his Quaker bride Grace Kelly on his arm... But Frank Miller, a man he sent to prison, is due back in town on the high noon train. With the Miller gang bent on revenge Cooper has about an hour to gather deputies, but everyone in town turns him down. Even his pacifist wife seems ready to desert him. Tex Ritter’s “Do Not Forsake Me, O My Darling” resonates as the clock relentlessly advances toward high noon.

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



January 12

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. Visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/bookclubs to find out which book will be discussed next.

Discover New Books And Authors With NoveList

by Elaine Rosenberger

Waiting impatiently for Daniel Silva to publish his next spy novel, I wished I could find more authors like him. Now, using NoveList, I can. With NoveList’s Author Read-alikes, I discovered books by Nelson DeMille, Robert Littell, and Catherine Coulter. Do you have a favorite author and wish you could find more authors just like her? Do you have a favorite book and want to read similar titles? If so, NoveList can help. NoveList is an easy-to-use computer search system to help readers find books they love. To find an author who writes like your favorite author, type in your author’s name and click “Read-alikes.” Read-alikes provides up to nine recommendations of similar authors.

To find a title similar to one you’ve enjoyed, type in your book’s title and click Read-alikes. NoveList will provide up to nine titles that match your favorite book in terms of theme, style, or subject matter. For example, if you loved David Mitchell’s Cloud Atlas, NoveList recommends Kafka on the Shore by Haruki Murakami and A Possible Life by Sebastian Faulks. You can provide feedback to tell NoveList if you loved or hated their recommendations.

NoveList is also excellent for browsing. You can view recommendations in the categories of fantasy, fiction, graphic novels, historical fiction, hor-



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ror, mysteries, romance, science fiction, thrillers and suspense, westerns. You can browse by age of the reader: adult, teen, ages 9-12 and ages 0-8. NoveList also includes feature articles, book discussion guides, book reviews, and lists of award winners and notable books. Resources for parents and teachers include curriculum-based lists and articles in different subjects arranged by grade level.

You can access NoveList at Lakewood Public Library in the Technology Center or from our wireless network throughout the library. You can also access NoveList at home from your own computer by logging onto the library’s homepage at www.lakewood-publiclibrary.org and then selecting NoveList from the left-hand column.

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Lakewood Schools

District, First Federal Sign Stadium Naming Rights Deal

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Schools and First Federal Lakewood have entered into an agreement for the naming rights of Lakewood Stadium. Both parties have agreed to a 10-year contract worth \$320,000 that will see the high school stadium renamed "First Federal Lakewood Stadium."

"First Federal Lakewood is a well-established, longtime civic supporter of many organizations and events in Lakewood and we are thrilled that they have now put their support behind Lakewood City Schools in a major way," said Superintendent Jeffrey W. Patterson. "We are grateful for their partnership and look for the opportunity to replicate this type of agreement with others in the future."

Gary R. Fix, President and CEO, First Federal Lakewood, echoed Patterson's thoughts.

"As a community bank headquartered in Lakewood since we were founded in 1935, we have a rich tradition of supporting the communities we serve," Fix said. "This partnership with the Lakewood City Schools is an excellent opportunity for us to deepen our commitment to the Lakewood community, support programs and facilities that will positively impact the lives of Lakewood students and athletes for years to come."

In addition to the name of the stadium, the agreement, which is broken down into yearly payments of \$32,000, calls for First Federal's name and logo in both end zones, the front and back sides of the score-

board, concession press box, the side ing Bunts Avenue entrances. All signage be paid for by First the money paid to will be deposited into a capital improvement account dedicated to maintenance and

The Board of Education approved the contract at its Dec. 3 meeting and a presentation, including a check for \$320,000, was made before the Lakewood High boys' varsity basketball game on December 7.

"On behalf of the Lakewood Board of Education, I would just thank everyone who worked so hard in developing this agreement," Board President Betsy Bergen Shaughnessy said. "It is critical that the school district and the local business community work cooperatively to support our students."

This ground-breaking contract



photos by Jim O'Bryan

Artist's renderings of the newly branded stadium.

Below right, CEO Gary Fix shakes everyone's hand at the presentation of the check.

for the district comes as it searches for new sources of revenue in the wake of declining state funding and property tax collections due to the still shaky economy.

"We are trying to find creative ways to supplement public education," Patterson said. "It is one of the things our residents asked for in our

community meetings last year – to find different revenue sources."

The new agreement begins on April 1, 2013, and signage should be in place in time for the spring track and field season, when many meets will be held at Lakewood Stadium.

Students Explore IT Opportunities With New Website

by Christine Gordillo

The district's middle school and high school students are learning about a website in their technology, Career Connections and Business classes that is part of an initiative to increase awareness among students and parents of the career possibilities in the Information Technology (IT) field.

Northeast Ohio is one of the fastest growing areas for IT jobs. Many jobs are available, but many are going unfilled. There are jobs in a large array of different industries offering opportunities for almost any skill-set including Software Developer, Business Analyst, Web Designer/Developer, Quality Assurance Analysts and much more.

The website students are exploring, dubbed "UNZU" (Unified Community Zip Unit), is a new career educational tool from UNCOMNtv Network, which is part of the Northeast Ohio Regional Information Technology Engagement (RITE) Board. On the site, students and parents can find links to information

about different IT industries, types of career titles and salaries, info on 2- and 4-year college degrees related to IT and IT summer camps and contests. Students and parents find out about good jobs in IT locally and the educational preparation it takes to land those jobs.

Take a moment to explore the UNZU site at www.uncomn.tv/unzu and ask your student to participate in the contest featured on the site. The

contest ends Friday, December 21. After that time you will still be able to log into the UNZU and continue to see all the videos and information.

Through dynamic industry and educator collaboration, the RITE Board champions IT career development by proactively attracting, preparing and placing IT talent.

Part Two The Miraculous Metamorphosis Of Caterpillars To Butterflies

by Julia Kompier and Mrs. Berry's and Mr. Schreiner's Second Grade classes at Grant

Some of my second grade classmates' comments didn't make it into the notes for the article we wrote about the butterfly cycle in the Lakewood Observer so I am adding them now.

Jack Gollon: "I loved watching the butterflies break out of the chrysalises and fly around our classroom cage."

Koen Childers: "It was amazing to watch the stages from caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly. It was really cool."

Afraha Haque: "I liked when the butterflies flew into the air and some landed on children's bodies! A few butterflies even followed us home!"

Nadeem Syed: "Butterflies have a long straw called a proboscis to drink the nectar from the flowers."

Montaz Phelps: "The butterflies had orange, black and brown on their wings."

Hunter Tate: "Caterpillars spin a

chrysalis."

Michael Burnley: "I was amazed by the whole cycle."

Now that it is cold, we hope they have all arrived in their warm homes.



Even though this butterfly's wings were a little crumpled, it flew away.

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Lakewood Schools

Rotary Club Distributes Dictionaries To 735 Third Grade Students

by Lynn Donaldson

Once again this year, the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River personally distributed dictionaries to every third grade student in Lakewood and Rocky River. Since 2003, the club has given dictionaries to over 7,263 students.

Lakewood schools were Harrison, Roosevelt, Lincoln, Emerson, Grant, Horace Mann, Lakewood Catholic Academy, and Hayes. In Rocky River, the schools were Kensington Intermediate, Ruffing Montessori, and St. Christopher's.

Rotarians who distributed the dictionaries were Curt Brosky, Jon Fancher, Pam Gallagher, Thom Geist, Jim Harris, Brian King, Jim Lechko, Todd Lessig, Jay Rounds, Jean Rounds, John Schmucki, and Michael Shoaf. Jay Rounds headed up the project.

Before the dictionaries are distributed, each is stamped on the inside front cover with the club's name and a copy of the Four Way Test of Rotary.

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

Students and teachers alike are very appreciative of the gift, and each year the club receives hundreds of letters and thank-you cards written by the students.

"Thank you for the dictionary," one student wrote. "It is going to help me spell words I do not know how to spell."

Another stated, "I found the longest word. It has 1,909 letters in it." A third student wrote, "I found a word that I do not know. It is brooch. It means ornamental dress-clasp, a decorative pin. Thank you again for the dictionary."

The dictionary features over 32,000 words with simple, child-friendly definitions, plus pronunciation and parts of speech, and includes additional information about punctuation, the nine parts of speech, weights and measures, Roman numerals, and a map of the United States.

Over 150 pages of supplemental information in the back feature the Constitution of the U.S., the Declaration of Independence, brief biographies of all U. S. presidents, world maps, information about all 50 states, countries of the world, and the planets in our solar system. It ends with the longest word in the English language.

Lakewood Resident Wins Shakespeare Monologue Competition

by Jeanette Flood

For the second year in a row, Lakewood resident Emily Flood won first place in her high school's Shakespeare Monologue Competition, held on November 27, 2012.

The Shakespeare Monologue Competition (SMC) is a national program sponsored by the English-Speaking Union in order to promote greater student awareness of and interest in Shakespeare. It begins at participating high schools; school champions then compete regionally, and regional champions vie for the national championship. At the school level, each contestant performs a soliloquy from a Shakespeare play, and is judged on understanding, expression, and vocal and physical presentation.

Emily attends The Lyceum, a classical, Catholic, college-preparatory school in South Euclid, drawing students in grades 6-12 from all over the Cleveland metro area, as well as from other states. The school is particularly well-suited to participate in the program, as Lyceum students not only read the Great Books, but also regularly memorize and recite poetry, read Shakespeare plays each year of high school, and watch the upper-classmen perform in a Shakespeare comedy every year.

There were seven contestants in this year's Lyceum SMC, performing monologues from plays as diverse as Antony and Cleopatra and Twelfth Night. The characters portrayed ranged from Puck, the mischievous fairy, to Rosalind, disguised as a boy and exasperated by an infatuated shepherdess.

In last year's SMC, Emily played

Lady Macbeth, in the scene where the guilt-stricken queen sleepwalks and tries unsuccessfully to cleanse her bloody hands. In this year's competition, the eleventh-grader portrayed Lady Anne, angrily confronting the villain in Richard III. "Emily's chilling portrayal of Lady Anne showed a deep understanding and a definite grasp of the character's thoughts and emotions," says one of the event's judges, Mrs. Caitlyn Smith, who teaches drama at The Lyceum and directs the Shakespeare plays each spring.

Emily now needs to choose and memorize a Shakespearean sonnet. She will perform her monologue and recite her sonnet at the Regional Shakespeare Monologue Competition on February 23, 2013, at Playhouse Square, along with about thirty other contestants from the region. All school champions and runners-up will receive prizes for winning their school competitions.



Emily Flood, far right, won first place in the Lyceum Shakespeare Monologue Competition.



From left to right:
Cory Fisher, DO
Amber Tully, MD
David Brill, DO
Himanshu Dubey, MD
David Wendt, MD

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Lakewood Is Art

Orphan Annie Finds A Home At The Beck Center

by Sarah Bradic

For those of you out there who are unfamiliar with the play “Annie,” I am about to offer the following review to see if your interests can be piqued. Everyone else who knows the gist, alas, I have nothing new to share.

Or heroine is a cute, perky little orphan girl named Annie (played by Anna Barrett) who is dead set on finding her parents, or rather (spoiler alert) her place in the world. The show’s snarky big opening musical number is “It’s the Hard Knock Life,” a very catchy ditty that will have your foot tapping along with a smile on your face and a semi-awkward feeling in you gut. How can a song where children admit to having ‘empty bellies’ and

lines like “we get kicked” end in thunderous applause from a packed opening night crowd? Answer: those orphans are a talented bunch.

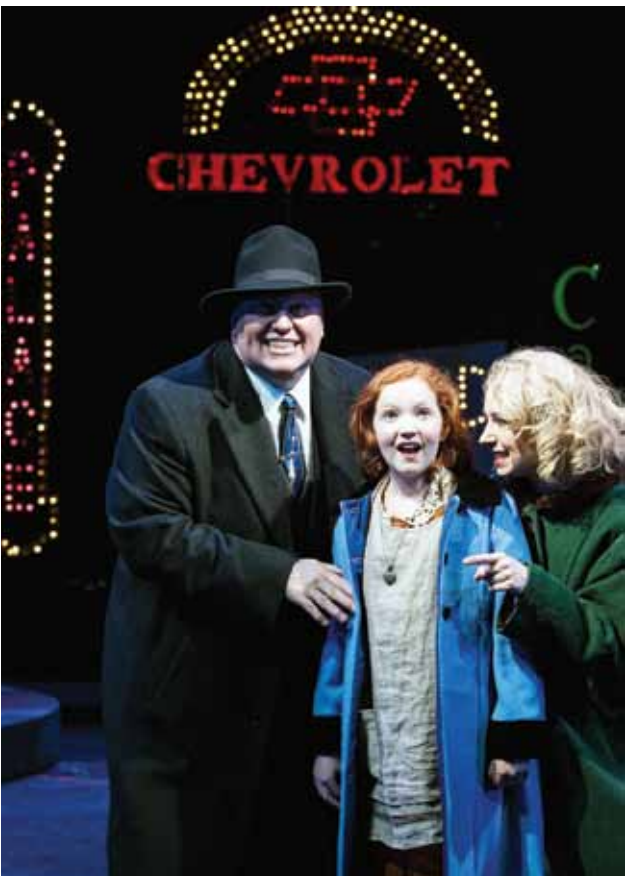
Fast forward past a failed escape attempt from the orphanage and a strange musical number sung by homeless people that sarcastically thanked Herbert Hoover for crippling the country and we find sweet little Annie winning the lottery (figuratively, of course) by randomly being selected to spend the Christmas holidays with the mind-blowingly wealthy Mr. Oliver Warbucks (played by Gilgamesh Taggett*). The father-daughter chemistry was palpable between Barrett and Taggett making their heartfelt musi-

cal numbers all the more believable and at times, adorable.

If you are looking for a night out and a feel good show for all ages, “Annie” fits the bill. It is full of talented actors and actresses, catchy songs and Mr. Franklin Delano Roosevelt himself. Well, maybe not himself, but veteran actor Leslie Feagan was an absolute delight to watch.

Tickets for “Annie” are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors (65 and older), \$12 for students (with valid I.D.), and \$10 for children (12 and under). An additional \$3 service fee per ticket is applied at the time of purchase. Flex Passes and group discounts (13 or more) are available. Purchase tickets online at beckcenter.org or call Customer Services at 216.521.2540, ext. 10. Beck Center for the Arts is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

This production of “Annie” is



Billionaire Oliver “Daddy” Warbucks (Gilgamesh Taggett) and his secretary, Grace Farrell (Caitlin Elizabeth Reilly*) show little orphan Annie (Anna Barrett) the sights of NYC.

presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (mtishows.com) and is sponsored by First Federal Lakewood, West Roofing Systems, Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, and the Ohio Arts Council.

*Appears courtesy of the Actors’ Equity Association (AEA), the union of actors and stage managers.



Annie (Anna Barrett) longs for “Tomorrow” with her scruffy dog Sandy (Buckley Collier) in Beck Center for the Arts’ production of ANNIE, December 7, 2012 through January 6, 2013 on the Mackey Main Stage.

Annual Advent Concert At Faith Lutheran

by Mark Rollenhagen

The eighth annual Dorfmeier Memorial Advent Concert is set for Sunday, December 9, at Faith Lutheran Church. The concert will feature pianist David Robison playing the music of George Gershwin.

The music begins at 3:00 p.m. and will be followed by a gala reception in the church’s Ada Doecker Lounge. A freewill offering will be accepted. Faith Lutheran is at 16511 Hilliard Road (at Woodward) in Lakewood, Ohio.

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Gift Guide

Procrastination Encouraged: With Art & Craft Events

by Kathy Patton

Lakewood’s largest holiday art and craft event has been expanded. The Last Minute Market has been delighting visitors for the past four years, but the people wanted more. Cleveland Handmade, the collective of artists and craftspeople, has added another floor to the already large event.

“People loved the event, but they wanted more to see, and to choose from,” said Eileen Segura, marketing director for the Cleveland Handmade Markets. “We had about 70 sellers last year, but we were able to work with the building management to add space for 110 this year.”

The event is also adding services for visitors like a free photobooth from Blue Button Photo Booth, free gift wrap from the Citizens Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter, and a free coat and parcel check courtesy of Western & Southern Financial.

Umami Moto food truck will be on-hand, vending their modern asian cuisine. The Templar Motor Cars museum exhibit will also be open the to the public.

Over 3,500 people attended the event last year and raised over \$1,200 in cash for The Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland by contributing a give-as-you-wish donation instead of an admission fee.

Started in November 2008, Cleveland Handmade Markets are an on-going series of art and craft sales which feature only handmade art, goods, and edibles. Cleveland Handmade Markets are committed to showcasing creative entrepreneurs and contributing to the local economy while also partnering with community groups and local non-profit organizations to help them raise funds and awareness for their causes.

The Lake Erie Building is a massive, historic building in Lakewood,



photo by Martin Patton Sr.

an inner-ring suburb on the west side of Cleveland. Built in the early 1900s by the Templar Motors Company, it now houses a diverse group of industrial businesses and artists’ studios. It is affectionately called “The Screw Factory” and fasteners of all types are still

manufactured there on the first floor. The Last Minute Market & Screw Factory Open Studio is on Saturday, December 15, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Lake Erie Building at Templar Industrial Park, 13000 Athens Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107.

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2012 Light Up La

It Takes A Village To Party Like This!

by Ken Brand

Light Up Lakewood is now over and we could not have pulled off such a huge event if it was not for the countless efforts of our amazing volunteers and participants. This list speaks volumes about the great spirit of community that Lakewood enjoys! Everyone on this list has helped to further LakewoodAlive’s mission to maintain the vitality of Downtown Lakewood and to promote the great sense of community that is at the heart of our City.

Thank you for everything you have done to create one of the largest and most incredible festivals Lakewood has ever seen!



A low level aerial photo of the crowd at the corner of Belle and Detroit Avenues at the moment that the trees were lit up in front of Lakewood Hospital.

- | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Tamara Karel | Suzy Peters | Phil Florian | Sandy Sauder | Patricia Wenneman | Tommy's Pizza | Plantation Home |
| Mary Bond | Pam Smith | Jessie Holland | Susan Wagner | Lynne Meluch | Cleveland State University | Aramark Catering |
| Becky Martin | Liam Haggerty | David McCallum | Sharon Gazdik | Mary Pat Ellert | Menchies | Vincent Lighting |
| Heather Johnson | Michael Ribar | Joann Riordan | Larry Gazdik | Cathy Livingston | Bath Fitter | Zenith Corporation |
| Lauren Mueller | Teresa Costa Borick | Bob Taylor | Bob Bond | Girl Scout Troop 281 | Alex Wedmedyk | Giant Eagle |
| Christine Staviscak | Dave Sharosky | Jen Wynn | Trish Rooney | Maria Shinn | Kelly Wright | Erie Design |
| Lisa Cimino | Mary Miranda | Laird Wynn | Joe Hildebrandt | Derek Funderburk | Chris Allen | Dollar Bank |
| Judy Szentkiralyi | Connor Cimino | Bill Knittel | Tom Leatherman | Jason Smith | The Ohio City Singers | Convey360 |
| Brian Weisman | Victor Cimino | Marley Swift | Joe Beno | Alyssa Smith | Alan Sell | Cleveland Cycle Tours |
| Julie Sweany | Paul Szentkiralyi | Shannan Ritchie | Trish Hendy | Mary Dunne | Paul Kokinda | Bikini Bottom Logs and Lumber |
| Melanie Eyerman | Joe Hildebrandt | Mayor Mike Summers | Rich Biesle | Michelle Smith | Holly (the Reindeer) | Lakewood Observer |
| Kevin Wenderoth | Walt Miller | Dr. Bob Weil | Max Gazdik | Anthony Royce | Newbe (the Reindeer) | Barnstormers |
| Jennifer Goetchius | Chris Kowalski | Chris Vance | Zach Sanderson | Bridget Royce | Buddy the Elf | H2O |
| Judy Grzybowski | Tracy Antos | Lee Martine Lucas | Matt Shestina | Adam Mihalic | The Grinch | Lakewood |
| Julie Strunk | Chris Karel | Ivy Rook | Danny Zagaria | Joni Mihalic | Cindy Lou Who | Public Library |
| Torey Worren | Cindy Lowrey | Jordyn Haycroft | Tommy Fuller | Kevin Cornell | Santa Claus | Lakewood City Schools |
| David Stein | Shawn Warren | Kevin Kelley | Ryan Gierman | Laura Jaissle | Lakewood Fire Dept. | City of Lakewood |
| Susan Grimberg | Julie Warren | Rachel Ritter | Eric Roder | Brendan Smith | Lakewood Dept. of Public Works | Vance Music Studios |
| Suzanne Metelko | Christine Gordillo | Pete Nelson | Jacob Antel | Mike Jaissle | Fire Marshal | Seasoned Brands |
| Heidi Paul | Laura Sangree | Megan Barrett | Brian Hrdlicka | Katie Baher | Tim Dunphy | Levey & Co. |
| Brenda Budzar | Lynne Hammes | Tyler Krebs | Liam Sullivan | Eric Baher | Tyler Jansen | Sherwin Williams |
| Lynn McMahon | Steve Asprey | Peter Hampton | Joe Czechanski | Anna Barrett | Pandora Sinon | Masonic Temple |
| Lisa Fortner | Mike Stanek | Saucy & Gizzard Coup | Marty Hartsel | Michelle Barrett | Jordan Wyatt | New Life Church |
| Emmie Hutchison | Dru Siley | Chomps | Wayne Naida | Ed Gallagher | Jacob Matthew | Beck Center for the Arts |
| Vanessa Lange | Tyler Norris | Zippy | Alain Mika | Michael Banks | Lynnette Craig | Campbell's Sweets Factory |
| Heather DeJesus | Julie Sweany | Patty Ryan | David Antz | Lieutenant Warner | Matt Prah | Roman Fountain |
| Emma McKeon | Marissa Mandel | Cara Harmon | David Kemp | Lieutenant Sprague | Emily Hericks | Jimmy John's |
| Bethany Toth | Grace Pugliese | Alex Mohar | Sean Weddell | Captain Hassing | Irfan Khan | Earth Fare |
| Lynnette Craig | Joel Dixon | Dana Paul | Evan Aldrich | Lakewood Police Dept. | Abbey Hrndt | Pat Catanis |
| Cashay Mitchell | Jeff Campbell | Kevin Hegarty | Matt Kerrigan | Bob Wascheck | Paige Brunan | Lakewood |
| Abdellatif El-Ashram | Judy Towner | Dave Gannon | Aaron Donahue | Nicole Lee | Alyssa Sharrer | Congregational Church |
| Omar Mahmoud | Mariana Stockman | The Barnstormers | Zach Farenbach | Tony Pepe | Silvio Islamanj | St. Luke the Evangelist Parish |
| Irfan Khan | Cole Karel | Jeremy Staviscak | Andy Toth | Kayla Rutkowski | Jaleh Matthews | ProFile Discovery |
| Diana Maliqi | Isaac Karel | Victoria Wilhelm | Mary Lou Nagy | Andersen Windows | Kent Dockus | Souper Market |
| Kent Dockus | Mary Brent | Robert Mitcham | Attila Nagy | Dollar Bank | Bethany Toth | Pacers |
| Silvio Islamaj | Clare Brent | Alex Berte | Attila Nagy Jr. | Pacers | Emma McKean | Mary Lou Call |
| Alhyssa Sharrer | Jason Staviscak | Scott Clark | Zoltan Nagy | Eddie & Eddie | Ali Al-Qershi | Ted York |
| Devon Chodzin | Josh Staviscak | Jessica Navis | Emma Nagy | MF Cachat | Sheila McMahon | Becky Martin |
| Argisa Deda | Jim Staviscak | Allison Fensel | Olivia Nagy | Hinkley Lighting | Audria Savone | Standard Parking |
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| Tatyana Washington | Missy Olsen | Rick Uldricks | Muhammad Amawi | Amy Forkins | Daisy Sinon | Brennan's Floral |
| Ali Al Qershi | Nate Olsen | Paul Howard | Shawn McDonald | Elaine Furlich | Liam O'Donnell | Gift Shop |
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| Audria Scavone | Leanne Prindle | Aaron Roos | Gary Bish | Church of the Ascension | Quaker Steak & Lube | CVS |
| Beth Brand | Taharia Ahmad | Melissa Meehan | Hayden Bish | Stitch Cleveland | Discount Drug Mart | Buyeris Outlet |
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Lakewood Review



The best fireworks in town this year!



The way Peter Grossetti saw the lighting this year through his eyes and image manipulation.



You know what is great? Lakewood, a dog-friendly, family sort of a town. Here Ben Taddesse with Vinnie.



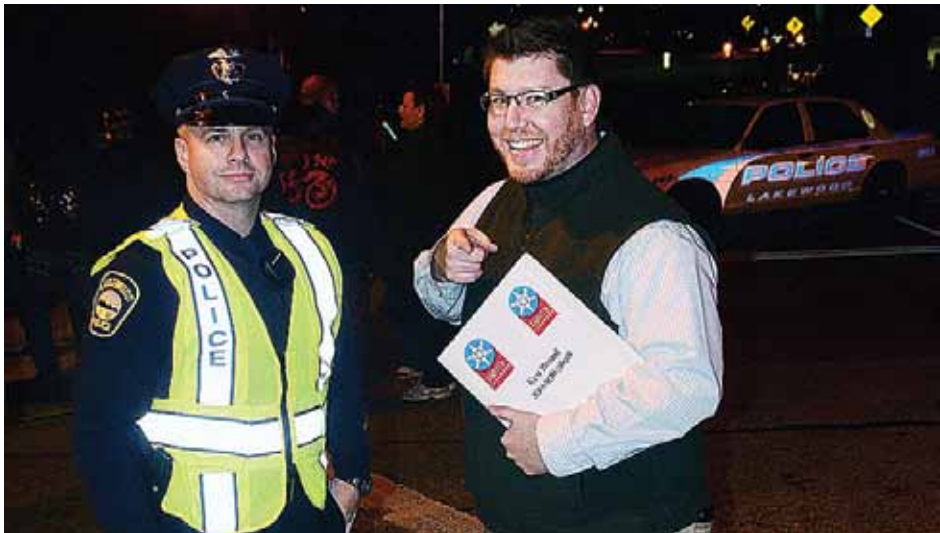
One of the best reasons for these events is to run into good friends and neighbors. Here Ruthy Malinak Davis runs into good friends and neighbors Judge Patrick and Bonny Carroll.



Greta and Marley want to know when it is happening in 2013!



Hundreds of more photos from 6 photographers online. Both at our website, <http://lakewoodobserver.com> and on our Facebook page LIKE "Lakewood Observer"



It reminds me, none of this would be possible without the help of Lakewood City Services and Police. Det. Patrick Foye, with LA Event Coordinator Ken Brand, nice work guys!



The parade was fun for all, here, Pee Wee Hockey skates on by.



Mary Lou Call gets a ride from Lakewoodite Daniel Dominic, owner of Ride On Cleveland Pedicabs. Daniel is featured in the new issue of the Great Lakes Courier.



Susan Grimberg, President of Lakewood Hospital, Robert Weil, MD, Zippy, and the University of Akron, Lakewood's Campus Director, Suzanne Metelko.

Gift Guide

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Lakewood Is Art

From Paris To Lakewood:

European Depth Graphology Via Betty Rozakis

by Kenneth Warren

“Everyone should be able to benefit from receiving an objective blueprint of their self and of those they care about,” (37) writes Lakewood graphologist Betty Rozakis in *Coffee with the Subconscious* (2011), a hybrid account of personality stories bound to wisdom codes used to analyze personality and psychic health for over two thousand years. From Hippocratic humorology to Jungian typology, from enneagram to graphology, Rozakis has done her homework across esoteric systems of human personalities to make *Coffee with the Subconscious* a functional fiction of archetypal modalities. Intelligently probing elemental vocabularies for structural insights into human process, Rozakis fashions a charming prose-poem of life experience, mystery, romance, and self-confrontation within the conceit of “an objective blueprint” (37).

Coffee with the Subconscious is, above all, a love story clad in graphology—an assessment practice which proposes that handwriting reflects the psychological structure of the person. Plotted through Lily de Mani’s attraction to Jack Sterling—her husband-to-be and future thoracic surgeon—is a psycho-dynamic quest to join love with scientific purpose. Jack Sterling’s scientifically inclined consciousness calls narrator Lily de Mani to explore the subconscious more deeply and to embark upon an intensive exploration of various schools of graphology.

“You are an enigma” (22) declares American graphologist Q. Jackson to Lily de Mani early in the book. Not satisfied, Lily de Mani needs to know more: “I sensed that there was more to this tangible evidence of personality and character” (25). Challenged by “enigma” (22), Lily de Mani answers the call to voyage over raw script and character shadow in search of “an objective blueprint” (37). “So I set out on my quest to learn this strange art or science of graphology” (25). Seeking to penetrate the “enigma” (22) of her own complex character, Lily de Mani realizes quickly that only a particular stream of graphology can provide access to “an objective blueprint” (37) essential to her self-discovery.

European depth graphology, which advanced a Gestalt approach to handwriting interpretation, provides Lily de Mani with answers to “enigma” (22). Although orthodox science may reduce graphology’s “objective blueprint” (37) to Barnum effects subjectively strung out across meaning hungry brains, the Gestalt approach holds that handwriting must be analyzed as a totality. Hence the dance of scripted rhythm invites Lily de Mani to participate in unconscious movements that when observed reveal not only the character types of others but more crucially the relational field demanded by her own psyche. In this way, the Gestalt approach of European depth graphology permits Lily de Mani to satisfy expectations for regularity,



Author Kenneth Warren speaks with Betty Rozakis about her book at Blackbird Bakery in Lakewood, Ohio. Watch for Betty’s upcoming articles, next year in the LO.

symmetry, simplicity, and completion needed to underwrite “an objective blueprint” (37) of personality. By dint of desire for totality, then, *Coffee with the Subconscious* offers a telling transmission of psychological concepts and philosophical conflicts traceable to nineteenth century French graphologist René Le Senne as well as to twentieth century German graphologists Ludwig Klages and Walter Benjamin.

In 1927 Benjamin commenced *The Arcades Project* (1999), a book that studies the rise and fall of Parisian shopping arcades in light of “the phantasmagoria of capitalist culture” (7). Benjamin pointed to the starry similitude in the shopping space that informed the Paris Arcade. “The ring of Saturn became a cast-iron balcony, upon which the inhabitants of Saturn take the air of an evening” (18), wrote Benjamin in “Paris, Capital of the Nineteenth Century.” From astrology and graphology, Benjamin attributed domains of correspondence, resemblance, and similitude to “the mimetic faculty” (Walter Benjamin: *Selected Writings*. 1931-1934, 1999, 720-721). Linked to graphology, says George Steiner, is Benjamin’s “concept of image and trace . . . , with his meditations on the act of scripture and writing, with enigmas of similitude” (“To Speak of Walter Benjamin” in *Perception and Experience in Modernity* edited by Helga Geyer-Ryan et al, 2002, 16).

“Enigmas of similitude” (16) percolate through “the mimetic faculty” (720) in *Coffee with the Subconscious*. Planets roll subtly across the hand and pulse through script. Writing makes visible the personality’s enslavement to planetary archons. Fingers attributed to planets stress the character of the person picking up the pen. Taken up by the hand of a writer, the pen rests on the middle finger of Saturn, the Lord of Karma. With aspirations channeled through Saturn, Lily de Mani wants first to study law before turning to graphology wherein archaic, planetary residue unfolds rhythmically in gestures expressive of similitude.

“I’m the emotive Saturn who internalizes all the pain...and seeks to understand,” (16) Lily de Mani confesses. The negative emotions of Saturn—doubt, pity, sympathy, and

worry—are embedded in Lily de Mani’s karmic script.

Saturn rules the dubious grounds that graphology evokes in her father’s skeptical mind.

Daddy once wrote that graphology was baloney.

His attitude didn’t stop me.

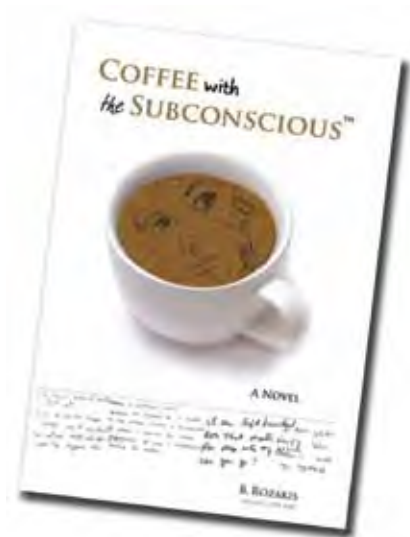
My mother encouraged my journey. (171)

In order to know for herself, Lily de Mani must trump Daddy’s gnosis with the feeling for similitude that wells from the maternal principle.

Astrologically speaking, the title *Coffee with the Subconscious* can be located in the Zodiacal Fourth House ruled by Cancer and the Moon. Both “coffee” and “the subconscious” are keywords associated with the emotional matter of the Fourth House. According to Dane Rudhyar, “the fourth house can be said...to refer to the basic psychic function which Carl Jung called feeling” (*Astrological Houses: the Spectrum of Individual Experience*, 1972, 78). Just as hot water is necessary to make a cup of coffee, feeling is necessary to make a marriage.

Marriage, suggests Rozakis, is both cup and crucible. According to Jewish angelology, the cup is a symbol of archangel Anael’s and the planet Venus. As Jack Sterling’s image sets Lily de Mani’s watery feeling function on fire with intuition, Cupid’s arrows of projection are fired from the Venusian quiver:

My college friend thought that Jack was the type that made a good friend. But I knew that he was so much more. I didn’t know anything about him. I didn’t even know his major. It



was something that I couldn’t explain. But I knew. (27)

Taking place in the chapel of European depth graphology, marriage to Jack Sterling is the self-reinforcing container that grounds Lily de Mani’s reach for similitude. Marriage to Jack Sterling is a karmic opportunity to confirm her feeling for similitude with diagnostic power. A relational space must be made by the marriage between Jack Sterling’s left hemisphere-driven empirical science and Lily de Mani’s right hemisphere-driven intuitive science. The rite of hieros gamos is thus folded into neuroscience.

For the twenty-first century Lakewood reader, *Coffee with the Subconscious* may stimulate the mind to contemplate “enigmas of similitude” experienced dimly at the local neighborhood level. The transmigration of Benjamin’s Parisian reflections on “the phantasmagoria of capitalist culture” (7), “elements of the department store” (10), and “the ring of Saturn” (18) yields marvelous context for understanding the devolution of mayoral fever dreams from “Shops at the West End” to “The Miracle Mile of Dollar Stores.” As common “enigmas of similitude” are twisted by Saturn into registered trademarks and proprietary schools, Lily de Mani’s journey through graphology yields considerable insight regarding the conversion of occult wisdom into scientific domains, professional fields, and commercial enterprises. Indeed, the rare European blend of philosophical sources and psychological insights that Rozakis delicately serves in *Coffee with the Subconscious* supports the popular claim that Lakewood, Ohio is the Paris of Cleveland’s inner ring suburbs.

Another Great Gift Idea

“Coffee With B” is a great gift idea. Local writers make for great holiday presents. Another great present from another local writer is “Captain Poetry’s Sucker Punch - A Guide To The Homeric Punkhole, 1980 - 2012” by LO’s Kenneth Warren, 25 year director of the Lakewood Public Library. The book makes a great read for anyone interested in music or poetry. Ken has taken some of his stories over the past 30 years and combined them with his amazing powers of observation and understanding of myth and mirth in a collection of short essays.



Available online at: blazevox.org, and Amazon.com also out for Kindle.

Lakewood Cares

LCAC And Volunteers Spread Holiday Cheer

by Chris Crawford

Hundreds of volunteers came to the Lakewood Masonic Temple November 16-17 with one thing in mind—helping needy families in Lakewood! Three hundred turkey dinners with all the fixins were distributed to Lakewood families in need during the annual Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. (LCAC) Thanksgiving Food Bag distribution. All this could not have happened without the generosity of local sponsors, donors and volunteers.

Students helping neighbors came

in all shapes and sizes. Food drives at St Edward High School, Grant, Horace Mann and Lincoln Elementary Schools collected over 10,000 pounds of non-perishable food.

The LHS Hope for the Holiday campaign brought in over \$3300 to help purchase the turkeys and other perishable foods needed. St Edward High School freshman classmen even hit the streets, delivering bags to 400 homes in Lakewood neighborhoods. Each bag contained information about LCAC and suggested food donations.

The bags were then picked up a

week later filled with donations.

Once all the food was gathered, the “human chain” of over 350 volunteers sorted, filled bags and delivered the meals directly to the families in need.

“We were overwhelmed with the generosity of Lakewood students and volunteers for the Thanksgiving distribution,” commented LCAC President, John Hunter. “Now we need to do it again on December 14-15, for the Christmas distribution.”

Lakewood City Schools are holding food drives now through December 14th at Emerson, Harrison, Hayes and Roosevelt Elementary schools. Both Harding and Garfield are teaming up to raise money for the turkeys and perishable foods for the Christmas Food Bag event.

Interested in Helping? Here are 3 great ways:

1. You can drop off cans and boxes at Beck Center and Lakewood Board of Education collection sites or the following Lakewood schools—Emerson, Harrison, Hayes, and Roosevelt. (mac & cheese, soup, tuna, peanut butter and canned fruits are especially needed)

2. Join the “human chain” and help get all the bags in motion. Volunteers are needed!!!

Friday December 14th- 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. to collect and sort cans

Friday- 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. to bag non-perishable foods

Saturday December 15th- 8:30 a.m.



Volunteers bag food to make deliveries to 300 Lakewood families.

- noon to bag perishable foods and make deliveries to families (outside--dress for the weather)

All events take place at the Lakewood Masonic Temple, 15300 Detroit Avenue- rear parking lot.

3. Make a monetary donation through the website www.LCAC.info or mail a donation to LCAC PO Box 771421 Lakewood OH 44107

Join us as little or as much as you would like...better yet, bring a friend or neighbor!

Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp (LCAC) is a non-profit all volunteer organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of Lakewood's families in need. For more information visit us at www.LCAC.info or at our Facebook page.



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Prelude

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11 p.m.

Choral Eucharist



CHRISTMAS DAY

Tuesday, December 25

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CCLAS Furry Angel Tree Fund

by Helene Gaidelis

The Citizens Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter (CCLAS) will hold its annual Angel Tree fundraiser. Honor or commemorate your family pet by donating \$5.00 to the CCLAS (Citizens Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter) Furry Angel Tree. We will add an ornament with your pet's name and display it at one of our Angel Tree locations.

CCLAS Angel Trees will be on display in the windows of Pet's General Store at 16821 Madison Avenue and Lakewood Public Library at 15425 Detroit Avenue in downtown Lakewood, throughout the month of December.

Two ways to donate: either stop by one of the locations above, com-



Thelma and Louise were nursed back to health and adopted out by CCLAS.

plete the donation form and mail your check to CCLAS, Furry Angel Tree Fund, P.O. Box 771323, Lakewood, OH 44107 or you can donate via PayPal at our website www.cclas.info.

Contributions help with adoption efforts, spay and neuter costs and foster care programs.

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Happy Holidays!

Lakewood Cares

Puma Yoga Encourages Seva (The Selfless Act Of Giving) Through Giving Tree

by Maria Reyes

This holiday season, Puma Yoga will be working with two local organizations to help the less fortunate. The goal is to encourage both yogis and local residents to practice Seva, or “the selfless act of giving.”

Maria “Puma” Reyes explains, “I began the Puma Yoga Giving Tree as a way to give back to others who are experiencing financial difficulties during the holiday season. For the past several years, we specifically chose organizations that are close to home so we can help families (and pets) right here in our own backyard.”

The City of Lakewood Division of Youth is one such worthy organization. Stop by the Puma Yoga studio (15602 Detroit Avenue) and choose an ornament from the Giving Tree. A specific child’s wish list is included with each ornament to make shopping easier. All you have to do is make a purchase, wrap the gift and deliver it to Puma

Yoga by noon on December 17. This is a simple way to make this holiday season special for a local child in need.

Are you a pet lover? Puma Yoga recognizes that the furry friends at the Lakewood Animal Shelter also need our help at this special time of year. There is a specific list of items that the shelter needs posted on the bulletin board at the yoga studio. This list can also be accessed online at the Citizens Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter website. New, unused items for the four-legged pals should be delivered to Puma Yoga by 5:30 p.m. on December 22 for proper distribution.

On behalf of Puma Yoga, Reyes thanks the community in advance for their support of this charitable effort. “I can only imagine the look on a child’s face as he/she opens the gifts that are so generously donated by the Puma Yoga community. It is gratifying to think that with our help, a cat will find comfort in a new blanket or a lonely dog might get



excited about a new chew toy.”

“The act of giving selflessly, whether by providing monetary donations, giving our time or serving with our talents is called Seva,” explains Reyes. “We at Puma Yoga are thrilled to be a part of making someone’s life more joyful and happy!”

For additional information or to pick up an ornament from the Giving Tree, please stop by Puma Yoga or call the studio at 216.221.6265.

Holiday Gifts With A Purpose Available In Lakewood

by Jeff Weber

In November and December throughout the United States, including here in Lakewood, the Huntington’s Disease Society of America (HDSA) sells amaryllis bulbs that bring joy and hope into homes, offices and stores on cold winter days. Proceeds help support the HDSA programs of research, education and family care.

The amaryllis bulb has long been considered to be one of the most spectacular species for indoor growing. These specially cultivated Dutch bulbs delight with their bright colors and their immense blossoms within 6-8 weeks of planting. Blossoms are bright red, deep pink/white, red/white striped or white. Priced at only ten dollars an amaryllis bulb kit consists of bulb, pot and planting soil. These kits come in colorful boxes in cases of sixteen for a total of \$160 and are shipped directly to the buyer without extra shipping cost. Smaller orders of \$10 each can be

purchased by special arrangement. The well-packaged bulbs make low-cost gifts that keep on giving during the holidays.

The Huntington’s Disease Society of America NE Ohio Chapter is an integral part of the HDSA national non-profit organization headquartered in New York City. In Cleveland its NE Ohio Chapter partners with Case Western Reserve University, University Hospitals, Cleveland Clinic and MetroHealth Medical Center. Huntington’s Disease (HD) is an inherited degenerative brain disorder that results in progressive loss of control of both body and mind. As of yet there is no cure or effective treatment, which makes research vitally important. The combination of emotional, cognitive and motor symptoms in Huntington’s Disease contributes to an unusually high cost of care.

To learn more about local HD activities and to order these bulbs, please call, Eva at the Amaryllis Campaign Office: (216) 226-6633.

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Little Ones Ministry: 440-465-2755 Monetary donations appreciated - to the above address. Please note “for Little Ones”. Little Ones distribution day and time will be announced soon.

Women’s Ministry: 216-406-1208 Stay tuned for cooking class, blood drives, and other events.

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Wellness Watch

Making Holidays Sweeter For Those With Food Allergies Nature's Bin Welcomes Amanda's Own Confections

by Jana Christian

Making accommodations and learning to live without special treats is an unfortunate part of life with food allergies and Celiac disease. Thankfully, Westlake resident Beth Cherico created Amanda's Own Confections to make life a little sweeter for people who have to watch food labels.

Cherico is a true Mompreneur. When her daughter, Amanda, began experiencing severe allergic reactions to dairy and eggs as a toddler, Beth began experimenting in the kitchen. "Life with food allergies can be very socially isolating," Cherico explains. Although many entrees and side dishes can be adapted for food allergies, sweet treats are not so easy to find. "We wanted Amanda to have the same experiences as her non-food allergic peers and to not miss out on any of the holiday fun." As a result, creating a safe and tasty chocolate for Amanda became Beth Cherico's passion.

Amanda's Own Confections began as a home-based business in 2006. Now, this full-scale commercial operation sells products online and maintains several wholesale accounts across the country. Despite the company's growth, they maintain the highest standards of quality. This commitment is reaffirmed on the website, "The purity of Amanda's Own dairy-free, tree nut-free, peanut-

free, egg-free, gluten-free chocolate is of the greatest importance to us, as the safety of our child and yours depends on it."

This month, Amanda's Own Confections marks a new milestone as Nature's Bin begins selling the allergy-friendly sweet treats at their Lakewood, Ohio store on Sloane Avenue. Cherico is happy about the partnership for two reasons. "Personally, I'm very excited to have our products at Nature's Bin because they are well known for having very high standards. The fact that

they are willing to sell our products reaffirms the quality of Amanda's Own Confections." Professionally, Cherico is eager to have her products "readily available to local customers." Rather than ordering online, holiday shoppers can simply purchase allergy-friendly chocolate santas, holiday bars, foil wrapped coin bags and chocolate lollipops at their local natural and organic food grocer.

"We are delighted to be bringing in Amanda's Own Confections," commented Barb Spargo, Grocery Manager

at Nature's Bin. "We like to work with local businesses and, in fact, we seek them out. Amanda's Own offers a quality product that provides a delicious treat, free from many allergy-producing ingredients that so many people have to be careful about consuming. Another plus for our vegan customers is that these chocolates contain no animal products."

Beth Cherico's holiday wish came a little early this year which makes holiday shopping for those with food allergies a little easier!

Journeying Into 2013 In A Different Way; Are You Ready?

by Janice Litterst

2013! It's soon to be here, are you ready? Are you ready to try something that may be very different for you?

Once upon a time in Lakewood, Ohio, where everything is really good, there was a really good lady with a dream of bringing people together for the good of all. Many people have that dream, but Pat Uhr made it her reality and created Harmonic Journeys, a place where like-minded people come together to help learn and grow with one another forming a feeling of connectedness and a sense of freedom that comes from understanding oneself and others, cre-

ating a new world where everyone wins! Wow! That is a pretty lofty goal; but Pat took it further and found a way to really continue bringing people together through her Holistic Fairs.

Drawing people from all over Northern Ohio, the Holistic Fairs are constantly growing and learning along with the people who Pat wanted to bring together. And, it's working! To kick off 2013, the Harmonic Journeys Holistic Fair on January 19th at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Rocky River will feature vendors, speakers, and readers and healers. It is a time to learn about new products as well as new holistic areas that you may love or will learn to love.

You can learn about herbs, essential oils, supplements, spirit dice, metaphysical clothing, jewelry, art, gem stones, and organic clothing with such names as Kika Paprika. You can meet a local Medical Intuitive and Healer, who has appeared on Fox TV in Cleveland, Cindy Yoakum; or you can meet Judith Eugene who, among many other things as an energy practitioner, does Reiki on pets (but not on the 19th, sorry!)

If you would like a Numerology Reading, a Psychic Palm Reading, an Astrological Reading and many other types of readings and healings, the list for the day includes: Tim Brainard, Robin Arnold, Christine Gregor, Wil-

liam Tuma, Carole L., Gay Heaven, and Merry Numbers!

Plus, and this is included in the minimal \$5 admission price, you can learn about Addictive Patterns from Marilyn Wise of Astara Holistic Recover; Jan Litterst of EMPOWER Excellence speaking on Personal Sustainability; and Reverend Tim Brainard, a jack of all trades and well known in Lily Dale for his Mediumship abilities, will speak on Predictions for 2013; and many more topics that will fill out the schedule.

It is time to mark your calendar for Saturday, January 19th from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Bring your friends, make a day of it learning and growing with practitioners and speakers, enjoying learning about alternative healing products, raw foods, health products, aromatherapy, candles, soaps, and, of course, unique jewelry. The spot to be at is the Unitarian Universalist Church at 20401 Hilliard Road. And remember, \$5 covers the day, including all of the guest speakers. This truly is a heart-based work that Pat has created, and she is bringing people together for the good of all. Be part of the Harmonic Journeys wonderful year of 2013! Further information about Harmonic Journeys and the Holistic Fairs can be found at the website www.harmonic-journeys.net or by calling Pat Uhr at 216-221-8076.



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December 10 @ 6:30pm
Seminars held at our office

Business News

Plantation Home Will Soon Have A Sibling

by Andrew Harant

Ten years ago, David Stein took a chance on Lakewood when he opened Plantation Home on the corner of Detroit and Lincoln Avenues. He transformed a building that had been vacant for five years into a regional destination for unique home furnishings, gifts and accessories. And just as one good turn deserves another, Stein is betting on Lakewood again as he prepares to start a second store. This spring, Stein will open a store that sells sheets, duvets, table linens, and oven-to-table diningware located directly across the street from his current store, in what is currently an office of Dennis Kucinich--literally putting politics to bed.

Stein has been in the furniture and interior design industry for all of his working life, a career that has spanned more than 30 years. Prior to opening Plantation Home, he rented a small retail space on Lorain Avenue near St. Ignatius of Antioch church. Amidst news of an impending sale of his building, Stein decided to move and opened Plantation Home in a spot that he'd been eyeing close to home.

From opening day until now, his goal has been, "to have merchandise that you are not going to see in other stores." To accomplish this, Stein and his team attend furniture shows throughout the year, searching for the perfect pieces and items to sell. At the annual show in

North Carolina, which is great for furniture, and the annual show in Atlanta, where Stein finds many gifts and accessories, 85 to 90% of the world's vendors are showcased. Being a veteran in this business, Stein acquires many pieces from tried and true vendors, but he's always looking for something fresh and new. With his new endeavor, Stein finds himself in uncharted waters, but he's been busy with research.

Tentatively, Stein is thinking of opening in early April. And while he does have a name in mind, he's not quite ready to reveal that just yet. However, he does want people to know that Plantation Home is not going anywhere and that this new store will have the same caliber, same feel and same price point as Plantation Home. "I wanted to provide people in this part of town with an option to purchase their bedding from somewhere other than Target," said Stein.

Over the past ten years, Plantation Home has grown into a success story. It draws many customers to Lakewood from places such as Kirtland, Medina and Catawba. In fact the majority of the store's customers come from outside of Lakewood. Being a founding member of the Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance, and having his home and soon-to-be two businesses in Lakewood, Stein would love to know more of his fellow Lakewoodites as customers.

John Celebrates 40 Years Of Ownership Of John's Diner



Forty years ago this spring John purchased Still's Diner from the Still Family that lived in the first house on Park Row. It would then become John's Diner- now a Lakewood landmark.

Congratulations John! (right) Read the full story next issue.
18260 Detroit Ave
Lakewood, OH 44107

photos by Jim O'Bryan



Quaker Steak & Lube Light Up Lakewood Parade Sponsor

by Ken Brand

Quaker Steak & Lube is fast becoming a favorite family dining location in Lakewood. As a way to give back to the community, they were the Official Sponsor of the 2012 Light Up Lakewood Parade. Below is a note from the leadership team at Quaker Steak and Lube.

"Quaker Steak & Lube is excited to be here in Lakewood and be a partner of LakewoodAlive. We wanted to get involved with LakewoodAlive and be a

part of the Light Up Lakewood Parade in hopes to give back to the community that so greatly supports us. Our mission is to ensure our guests will have fun, feel the energy, experience unique tastes, and know we care. The Lube strives to be heavily involved with all activities Lakewood has to offer. We are proud to be involved with the parade and plan on making an impact this year and years to come. The Lakewood natives will definitely understand The Lube's Mission Statement and feel it firsthand."

University of Akron Lakewood LUL Fireworks Sponsor

by Ken Brand

Fireworks were once again the highlight of this year's Light Up Lakewood celebration!

Light Up Lakewood has become a staple in Lakewood to kick off the holiday season and celebrate winter. This year, the nearly 10,000 people who filled Detroit Avenue in Downtown Lakewood were thrilled and surprised with a fireworks display from the Lakewood Center North Parking Garage. Thanks to The University of Akron Lakewood for their support last year and their incredible sponsorship of this year's display. LakewoodAlive is

thrilled to collaborate with such a wonderful partner.

"The University of Akron Lakewood is proud to sponsor the fireworks display for Light Up Lakewood. We are happy to be part of the Downtown Lakewood community, and excited to be able to participate in such a great event. We hope that you enjoy the festivities, and know that we truly enjoy being here in the great city of Lakewood. We encourage you to take time to stop in and visit our campus to pick up a course catalog and learn how you can become a part of University of Akron in Lakewood."

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Pulse Of The City

The Story Of Dirty Town Guitar & Amps

by Gary Rice

No question about it, our own Lakewood has been a hotbed of music, musicians, and musical development, ever since we hung out our city’s shingle over a century ago. Those ubiquitous bars and night spots spilled music into Lakewood’s red brick streets since well before you and I were born, and that music mixed and mingled with the numerous high church organs and carillon bells that marked the evening Angelus chimes and Midnight Masses. The schools too, have long echoed Lakewood’s eclectic musical experiences with a long and continuing tradition of instrumental and vocal music excellence. The list of Lakewood’s musical educators, performers, and inventors is a long one indeed. From the legendary baton of Lakewood Schools Director Arthur Jewell, to performers and entertainers like bandleader Sammy Kaye, steel guitarist Alvino Rey, (Alvin McBurney) legendary guitar and electronics designer Dan Armstrong, (who had been one of Mr. Jewell’s students) to so many others, Lakewood has experienced, supported, and developed more musical talents than I could ever list in one column. Local performance venues like Mahall’s, The Phantasy, and the Winchester, continue to support our effusive local music scene. Lakewood retail music establishments like Marrell’s Musical Instrument Repair, Educators Music, and Vance Music Studios, also all contribute to the ever-present-and-mighty musical pulse of this city.

To that vibrant list of retailers comes yet another store. Dennis Bielinski and partner Alan Ross officially opened Dirty Town Guitar & Amps back in August of 2011 with the goal of providing expanded professional guitar and amp repair, service, and support to the musical community. Dirty Town Guitar & Amps deals with used and vintage guitars, amps, and sound re-enforcement equipment, as well as having several lines of accessories. Guitar, amp, and electronic adjustment and repair remain a primary focus of the business. (The name “Dirty Town”, by the way, came from the old CB radio days, when that was considered a slang name for Cleveland. In no way whatsoever does Dennis feel that Lakewood is dirty!)

In fact, there’s no doubt about it-



Dennis Bielinski and his DT-18 guitar amp.

Dennis LOVES Lakewood. Coming from the Sandusky area music scene, where he once had a store, Dennis felt that Lakewood was an ideal location to hang out his own new shingle. Dennis is absolutely passionate about supporting our local music scene, even to the point of dedicating an entire display cabinet to the sale of local artists’ music. Dennis truly feels that Lakewood is indeed the heart of Northeast Ohio’s music. Dennis relates that he has never seen so much great musical talent in one community. To hear Dennis talk about our city in such glowing terms helps one to appreciate the fact that we do indeed have so many positive and oftentimes little-known aspects of our city to discover and appreciate.

Dennis and his partner Alan Ross are also joining the ranks of Lakewood’s inventors and innovators by coming out with a brand-new professional guitar amplifier. In a highly competitive market, and during these challenging economic times, that would seem to be a daunting task indeed, but Dennis was already a co-designer of an innovative guitar stand, so the Dirty Town amplifier line is simply an extension of Dennis’s ever-creative mind.

Unlike relatively neutral and clean sounding stereo equipment, guitar amps naturally tend to “color” the total output of a guitar’s musical sound, particularly in the world of rock and roll. Generally speaking, guitarists often purchase an amp that they perceive will match the sounds that they want for certain styles of rock, blues, or country music. I had the pleasure to try out Dennis’s home-grown first prototype Dirty Town amp. Unlike many other amps, this one is fully capable of playing very clean tones for jazz or church use, yet is also more than capable of clean tones in a country music venue, crunching

in a blues club, or full-blown in-your-face distortion in a rock and roll venue. The prototype comes with a gorgeous figured maple cabinet with matching extension speaker. A variety of cabinet and finish styles, speakers, tubes, and transformers will reportedly be available to match the individual customer’s wishes. So far, the amp is planned to soon be available in 3 sizes; having either 5, 18, or 50 watts. The one I tried was the 18 watt version, and it was more than loud enough for anything that I might want to use it for.

Amps like these, being very labor

intensive, hand-made, and being point-to-point wired on a turret board, do not come cheap. Expect to pay starting prices in the neighborhood of \$500 for the 5 watt model, \$1450 for the 18 watt amp, and \$1750 for the 50 watt model. Expect to wait awhile too, but, as Dennis points out, amps made like his can often last a lifetime- and just as importantly, can be readily repaired and serviced by professionals. Dennis feels that many less expensive amps cannot be serviced as easily, and often end up being virtually disposable. He reminds anyone who purchases a less expensive amp to be sure to fill out their factory warranty cards, in the event of trouble later on. He hopes that anyone considering the purchase of musical equipment will look for fine quality and value first.

Dirty Town Guitar & Amps is, in fact, a warranty repair station for several major companies.

Dennis is currently offering a private lesson deal where, for the cost of 8 guitar lessons, (\$200) the student will receive a free guitar, personally set up to play well by Dennis himself! Store hours are 11:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Friday, 11:30-4 Saturday, and Sundays by appointment. Dirty Town Guitar & Amps is located at 15230 Madison Ave. Phone (855) DT-4 TONE

Welcome to the pulse of our city, Dirty Town Guitar & Amps!

2013 Board Leadership Named For Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

by Frank Colosimo

The Board of Directors of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is pleased to announce newly elected members and appointments of executive officers. Joining the Board of Directors are Douglas Schosser, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Key Corporate Bank and resident of Avon, Ohio; Todd Rosenberg, Senior Manager, Federal Tax at KPMG LLP and resident of Avon Lake, Ohio; Jeffrey M. Whitesell, Attorney at Tucker Ellis and resident of Westlake, Ohio; William P. Watkins, Group Head, Business Development, Harris Williams & Co. (subsidiary of PNC) and resident of Bay Village, Ohio.

Colleen Lowmiller was appointed to a second term as President. Colleen is Senior Actuarial Consultant for Findley Davies and a resident of Lakewood, Ohio. Stephen Fink, PhD was appointed to a second term as Vice President. Dr. Fink is Research Instructor at Case Western Reserve University’s Department of Medicine and a resident of University Heights, Ohio. Jerry Rudowsky was

appointed to a third term as Treasurer. Jerry is a Partner with Ernst & Young LLP and a resident of Avon, Ohio. Gary Garling was appointed as Secretary. Gary is Program Manager for Lubrizol and a resident of Bay Village, Ohio.

“Lake Erie Nature & Science Center gives people opportunities to discover and appreciate our natural world with hands-on programs, live animal exhibits, a planetarium and direct access to Lake Erie. The talented professionals elected to the Center’s Board of Directors provide vital leadership and support for our nonprofit organization and this important mission,” said Executive Director Catherine Timko. “The officers and all of the Board Members serve as key advisors and ambassadors to the community.”

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center’s mission is to educate and inspire the community to understand, appreciate and take responsibility for the natural universe. Visitors enjoy free admission seven days a week, access to more than 100 live animals on exhibit and a wide variety of educational offerings, including space science programs in the on-site Walter R. Schuele Planetarium. The \$1.2 million nonprofit organization annually serves more than 160,000 children and adults and is an independent affiliate of the Cleveland Metroparks. The Center is located at 28728 Wolf Road in Bay Village. For more information, visit www.lensc.org or call 440-871-2900.

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Lakewood Living

Why You Should Write

by Gene Murphy

A friend recently asked me about my passionate drive to write. To compose original short stories. Pure fiction.

So, let me preface my reply with a succinct response. Writing seems to be a dying art. Too many art forms are in jeopardy.

We all know why. It's the computer. It robs us of simple pleasures. When did you last receive a handwritten letter? One written by a former student once taught by the Nuns? A work of art. It takes the author extra time and effort to give you the "gift" of their effort. President Ronald Reagan wrote many such letters. He never forgot to write our brother-in-law a congratulatory note on his birthday. You see, they both shared the same birth date. (Our brother-in-law was then Clerk of the House of Representatives.)

You may not know or remember that President Reagan had written notes to the Chairperson of his Movie Fan Club for over 30 years.

So I say, don't let the computer become your crutch, your reason to adopt the lexicon of "computerese" to become the excuse for loss of your most personal gift. To give respect to a friend or newly acquired acquaintance, a handwritten note is very special!

We once went to the convenience mart for milk and bread and the cashier could not make change from a \$10 bill because the register was down. So, if your computer breaks down, you may become inarticulate.

Now, to continue my primary theme, I was never a book reader. I was a musician and had little time for book reading. English 101 and English 201 were not my cup of tea.

Fast forward through college and

law school and suddenly I was retired. I still had golf and my music; but I also had many stories about animals, birds and politics lurking in the recesses of my mind.

I can't recall the exact trigger that sparked my first stories about various animals and politics, but I was a beginner- at age 80!

At first I wrote children's stories for adults. For the elderly. For grandfathers and grandmothers to tell their grandchildren. For inmates in the warehouses where so many seniors seem to end up.

I initially wrote true stories. Then fictionalized versions. Then fantastic stories of animals, who became "heroes," in numerous imaginary exploits of fantasy.

However, I then found I could create beauty out of pure imagination. Often my heroes are downtrodden but end up performing heroic acts. They became literary heroes of the mind.

Next, I went to a restaurant one evening with nothing in mind but a title. In 45 minutes, I created a heroic person, whose name was "Mike." Poor Mike was downtrodden because he had a funny name, which inhibited his confidence. But along came his heroine and as a result, Mike became a movie star and jazz pianist.

I was then on my way. I began to write compulsively. I tried to write something every day. Practice does tend to produce near perfection.

And so, I have written fictional stories about police officers, soldiers, politicians and many other heroes.

My stories have become like children. They are my "kids." My "heroes" and my pure pleasure. To know them is to love them.

Now, I can sometimes write an original story in one sitting, e.g., from a police officer in the Second District of the Bronx, to Chief of Security for the U.S. President, and then the Director of the F.B.I.

I have and do continue to challenge myself to write extended stories of 60 to 70 pages.

While I do not intend to write books of hundreds or thousands of pages, I do feel my next best story or stories would be withheld or never would see the light of the printed page.

To devote full time to write a lengthy best seller of 950 pages is not my objective.

If I live long enough, I feel I still have many stories that can be digested in minutes, not in days.

So, I challenge everyone to write, compose, invent and entertain your

audience. Even if you have no audience, you are sure to entertain all who might listen to your dramatic reading of your work of art.

I guarantee you will at least entertain yourself. You will watch less TV and turn off the computer more often. You will be forced to think, create, imagine and release the sleeping giant lurking just within the recesses of your mind.

So try it. Not only is it possible you will find relaxation, but you may even startle your friends and family with a "best seller." One on the New York Times list of the most read literature of the Day.

So, it is up to you to begin to write. What do you have to lose? I guarantee I will savor it. Make it your best effort. Give us a real treat!

Grief Recovery Work Group: An Action Program For Moving Beyond Loss

by David Wenger

One of the least acknowledged and least addressed concerns in our society is grief, the normal and natural reaction to loss. Many events cause human beings to experience grief and the range of emotions that accompany it; death of a loved one, divorce, loss of career, loss of hopes and dreams, health issues, and significant changes head the list. Losses can limit us and get in the way of investing emotionally in relationships and life.

Grief Recovery Workgroups teach a step-by-step process that will allow participants to address the pain of loss, and complete the unfinished business of the relationship, so that hope and trust can be restored, and you can feel whole again.

Area hospital Chaplains have been trained in the Grief Recovery Method® and Certified as Grief Recovery Specialists®. They are available to offer workgroups that teach basic skills that will help you face life's losses, and move beyond them.


The next 10 session Workgroups are scheduled for:

Thursdays: January 17- February 21, 3:30-5 p.m., Lakewood Hospital

Tuesdays: February 5-April 9, 5-6:30 p.m., Lutheran Hospital

Wednesdays: April-17-June 25, 10:30 a.m.-Noon, Gemini Center in Fairview Park

Call the Rev. Dan Wenger at 440-233-8024 for more information. Registration is requested. A \$25 donation is asked.




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"Medication Allergy - A Growing Challenge"

Presented by:
Todd Rambasek, MD
Clinical Allergist/Immunologist
ENT and Allergy Health Services



Lakewood Living

Create Your Own Art Experiences At Beck Center

by Fran Storch

For nearly 80 years, Beck Center has been offering area residents the opportunity to discover their creativity and experience the arts. For the fourth consecutive year, Beck Center for the Arts has been selected Best of the West in Dance Instruction and Theater Instruction by WestShore live well magazine. Hundreds of readers voted for the best places to eat, shop and have fun on the West Side. After the final votes were tallied, Beck Center once again came out on top in dance and theater education.

Beck Center's Dance Education program is one of the most comprehensive and well-respected in Northeast Ohio. Students train with highly qualified dance instructors who have a combined 250+ years of teaching experience in the classroom. Programming is available for early childhood students, youth, teens, and adults in a various genres including ballet, contemporary, hip hop, jazz, modern, pointe, and tap; as well as health and wellness classes such as Gyrokinesis® and Tone & Stretch.

The Theater Education program provides training as eclectic as the stu-



Preschool children have fun learning the fundamentals of music making at Beck Center.

dents who study at Beck Center. Each semester, "core" classes are offered which focus on theater fundamentals including acting, dance, improvisation, and singing. Students then expand their repertoire by selecting unique electives such as Audition Techniques, Scene Study or Dance Performance for Musical Theater. Beck Center's theater curriculum incorporates a variety of acting approaches and methodolo-

gies to aid the beginning, as well as the experienced actor, in discovering their true talents.

Beck Center also offers classes in music and visual arts and early childhood programs and creative arts therapies sessions for special needs students. The Music Education program at Beck Center fosters a love for music in students of all ages. From music classes, to private lessons in all

band and orchestral instruments, to ensembles, students have many opportunities to explore the joys of making music. The Beck Center Music Education faculty is an accomplished group of instructors who have years of experience helping musicians of all ages discover their true potential on a wide variety of music instruments and in singing.

A variety of visual arts classes and workshops are offered through Beck Center's Visual Arts Education program including cartooning, drawing, painting, pottery, watercolor, and multi-media classes. Many professionally recognized artists and teachers are on staff at Beck Center to share their artistic knowledge and talents with students. Select from a variety of offerings including Art Discovery Studio, Clay & Glass Mosaics, Family Clay Time, Figure Drawing, Watercolor Botanical Painting, and many more. Choose from one-day and 4-week workshops as well as classes in two 8-week sessions or register for the full 16-week semester and receive a 10% discount off Session 2 tuition.

The first of its kind in Ohio, Beck Center's Creative Arts Therapies program offers music therapy, art therapy and dance/movement therapy, as well as adapted theater and yoga programs for individuals with special needs. In addition, the CAT staff leads a wide variety of early childhood programs for children with and without special needs. Through the use of the creative arts therapies, individuals with special needs, which include mental, physical, or developmental disabilities, are encouraged to maximize their potential. Using music, dance and the visual arts as a therapeutic tool, individuals address cognitive, motor, emotional, and social skills as well as talents in the fine arts. Each participant receives individualized treatment with personally designed goals tailored to meet his/her needs. An assessment is required prior to registration. For more information or to schedule an assessment, contact Brittany Lesch, MT-BC, in Creative Arts Therapies at 216.521.2540 x34.

Create your own art experiences at Beck Center. Registration is now open for winter/spring 2013 semester. Classes begin the week of January 28, 2013. A complete course catalog including over 200 classes, lesson, and programs and easy online registration is available at beckcenter.org. For more information, Beck Center's website (click on Arts Education tab) or call Customer Service at 216.521.2540, ext. 10. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood.

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 free gallery exhibits featuring local, regional, and international artists.

Relay For Life 2013

by Paula Reed

While most people are busy planning their holiday celebrations, Louis Wenner and Kelsey Solarz are busy planning a very different kind of celebration, and it's not even happening until June. On June 1 & 2, Lakewood will host the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life at the Lakewood High School stadium. After a nine year hiatus, Relay returned to Lakewood last June, and saw approximately 500 people attending over its 18 hour duration to cheer on more than 160 relayers, 70 cancer survivors, and their caregivers. The 2012 event raised \$22,000 to help fund programs that battle the dreaded disease.

Live Well Lakewood was the top fundraising team, earning the silver award for contributions over \$3500.

H20 had the most spirited presence



with 34 participants and a couple of dozen volunteers who helped with decorations as a part of their summer camp.

Professional musicians and Vance Music Studio students provided entertainment, and bagpiper Kevin Kelley led the otherwise silent, emotional memorial lap, lit by hundreds luminaria in honor loved ones who have vanquished

cancer; those currently fighting it; and those who lost their battle.

Cancer survivors and their caregivers enjoyed a dinner in their honor, with food provided by local restaurants, caterers and businesses. While the subject they all had in common didn't dominate the lively conversations in the dinner tent, it was plain to see the camaraderie born of common experiences and fears.

The goal of Relay is to have walkers on the track at all times, even throughout the night. Each team tent hosts an activity for fun and fundraising, creating a festival atmosphere that offers something for the whole family.

If you are interested in helping with this wonderful event, please get in touch with the organizers. They are looking for more committee and sub-committee members and volunteers.

If you are a cancer survivor, a caregiver or you know someone who is a cancer survivor, they would love to hear from you. If you would like to start a Relay team or want information on Relay for Life, please contact them at LakewoodRFL@gmail.com.



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Lakewood Living

New Shelter At Lakewood Dog Park

by Ryan Giermann

On November 11th, 2012, my crew of volunteers and I finished the new ramada shelter at Lakewood Dog Park. The weather was beautiful and it was a perfect day to finish the construction.

This project was the last requirement needed for me to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. Planning, development, fund raising, working with the City of Lakewood, Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park and managing volunteers were all responsibilities I managed which led to the creation and completion of the shelter.

I encourage everyone, whether they own a dog or not, to visit Lakewood Dog Park to see and enjoy the shelter. It is 10 feet by 10 feet and is very spacious for any park visitor seeking protection from the elements and will be used by Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park for events and multiple uses in the future.

I would like to thank Lakewood Mayor, Michael Summers, Lakewood Director of Public Works, Joe Benoit, the City of Lakewood Building Department and Architectural Review Board and numerous City of Lakewood Public Works departments and employees for



Some of my crew members and I under the completed shelter. (Left to right) Paul Knaggs, Pat Lamson, Bob Giermann, Mike Shors, Ronald J Giermann, Ronald R Giermann, Ryan Giermann.

their time and effort in assisting me with bringing this project to completion.

My thanks to the Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park (President, Alanna Faith), all the volunteers and everyone involved in the process of making this

great addition to the park a reality.

I could have never completed this task without the support of family, friends, fellow Boy Scouts and leaders of Troop 293. Also, I would especially like to recognize Bob Giermann and

Mike Shors for their knowledge, skills and invaluable help throughout construction of the new shelter.

I'm looking forward to seeing this building being used for years to come and I am truly proud of this accomplishment and achieving my goal of Eagle Scout.

Special thanks to the sponsors:

Lakewood Animal Hospital, Friends of Lakewood Dog Park, Inc., Sherwin-Williams, Home Depot, Karen Karp, Cindy Friedmann, Robert and Laura Bohrer, Mr. and Mrs. Coyle, Barbara Ebright, Slife Heating & Cooling, Inc., Louis Sala, Marlene and Jeff Tobin, Lorrie Ann DeLuca, Ian Andrews, Lakewood Firestone, Donna and Dale Converse, Laurie Sekeres, Trenea Rohde, Judi McMillin, John Shepley, Pete and Laura Nelson, The Santiago Family, Patricia Shapaka, and Tamara and John Cunningham.

Special thanks to the volunteers:

Bob Giermann, Mike Shors, Paul Knaggs, Ronald J Giermann, Ronald R Giermann, Scouts of Troop 293, Doug DeWerth, Pat Lamson, Sam Arendec, Dan Coyle, Jim Bichl, Laurie Sekeres, and Micki Beran.

Own A Piece Of Lakewood History

Vintage Benches At Lakewood Dog Park To Be Liquidated

by Alanna Faith

Vintage park benches at Lakewood Dog Park will soon be liquidated to make room for new benches.

Lakewood history buffs, antique collectors, gardeners, DIYers and those with a flair for eclectic design will find the aged and worn wooden and steel benches of interest. Less than 20 benches will be available, so anyone interested should contact Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park (FLDP) at TopDog@LakewoodDogPark.com

"At this time, anyone who's interested in purchasing a bench should submit their contact information and bids to FLDP so they can be notified of the liquidation process. It will be a first come, first pick situation. We're coordinating delivery of new benches with the sale of the old ones. We're also seeking sponsors for the new benches," explained a spokesperson for Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park.

The vintage benches were originally supplied by the City of Lakewood for the dog park nearly 10 years ago. In 2011, the city officially donated the benches to FLDP, the non-profit volunteer organization that supports the dog park, so they could sell them to defray the cost of purchasing new benches.

Ten new benches are soon to arrive to Lakewood Dog Park, thanks to FLDP and the City of Lakewood.



ship Options from which to select," explained Alanna Faith, President, Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park.

The benches have been locally sourced from an Akron area business and are a "green" choice, using recycled HDPE plastic lumber. Each 6' bench utilizes the equivalent weight of 749 one-gallon milk jug containers (117 lbs).

The benches are built to withstand the rigors of dog park activity and year-round weather in Northeast Ohio. High quality stainless steel fasteners will never rust or corrode. The highest quality colorants and UV stabilizers are added to the all-weather-engineered lumber process to ensure the highest performance against color fading in outdoor weather. The benches are designed and constructed with metic-

ulous attention to craftsmanship with strength, stability, durability and the environment in mind and are made in the US.

There are three Bench Sponsorship options. These will appeal to various business or personal needs and financial commitments:

Bench Sponsor Option #1: 1 bench, \$650.00

1 business, individual or family donor can sponsor an entire bench. Sponsor receives two 15" by 4 1/2" plaques recessed and mounted on each side of the bench back slat. For example, one plaque may have a business logo and the other a message. Or, a memorial plaque may be used for one and a poem or message for the other. Some size, font and character limits

apply.

Bench Sponsor Option #2: 1/2 bench, \$330.00

2 businesses, individuals, or family donors can sponsor 1/2 a bench each, receiving a 15" x 4 1/2" plaque, recessed and mounted on the right or left side of the bench back slat. For example, the plaque may have a business message or be a memorial plaque. Some size, font and character limits apply.

Sponsor Option #3: 1/4 bench, \$170.00

4 businesses, individuals or families can sponsor a bench together. Two names will be listed on each 15" x 4 1/2" plaque, recessed and mounted on right or left side of the bench back slat. Some size, font and character limits apply.

For further information, contact TopDog@LakewoodDogPark.com.

To join Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park or to make a generous donation, visit: www.LakewoodDogPark.org.

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