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To the extent that we are all educated and informed, we will be more equipped to deal with the gut issues that tend to divide us.  
Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 9, Issue 4, February 20, 2013

## Rangers Ring Up Championship Season - Girls Basketball Claims First Title In 17 Years

by Christine Gordillo

You wouldn't blame the members of the girls varsity basketball team if back in November they were a bit skeptical about how their season would turn out. Coming off an 8-15 season last year, some of the Rangers would be seeing their third coach in three years, which means learning their third system in three years. It was anyone's guess how the season would unfold.

What unfolded is the first conference championship in 17 years for the team, with only one league loss, an overall record of 19-3, a spot in the Plain Dealer's top 25 rankings and the fourth seed in the postseason sectionals.

"If you had told me at the beginning of the season that we would (have 18 wins) at this point, I would have said

you're crazy," said Coach Mike Harper.

The team started off with a loss to perennially ranked St. Joe's, but after that, the Rangers were off! A string of

14 straight wins ensued until they were tripped up by Rocky River for their second loss and then fell to No. 6-ranked Magnificat last weekend.

Coach Harper, who

coached the JV squad last year, attributes much of the success to a major improvement on defense and the incredible balance the team has.

"On any night, any of our five starters can be our lead scorer," he said.

While many teams only go about 7 or 8 deep on their roster for playing time, Harper often plays 10-12 girls a game. A good example is the team's February 7 win over Midview, **continued on page 17**



Junior Tori Milicevic takes aim during the Rangers WSC championship season.



Coach Mike Harper led his team to a league title in his first year as varsity coach.

## North Coast Health Ministry Achieves Recognition As A Patient Centered Medical Home

by Elizabeth O'Brien

North Coast Health Ministry has achieved recognition as a National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Patient-Centered Medical Home 2011, level 3, becoming the first free clinic in Ohio to attain this distinction.

The NCQA Patient-Cen-

tered Medical Home 2011 standards emphasize the use of systematic, patient-centered, coordinated care that supports access, communication and patient involvement.

"The NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home is a model of 21st century primary care that combines access, team-

work and technology to deliver quality care and improve health," said NCQA President Margaret E. O'Kane. "NCQA's PCMH 2011 Recognition shows that North Coast Health Ministry has the tools, systems and resources to provide their patients with the right care at the right time."

A substantial body of evidence demonstrates that medical homes improve clinical outcomes and reduce costs. Putting in place the standards required for PCHM recognition was one of NCHM's highest strategic priorities of the past year.

"Achieving recognition as a patient centered medical home is an important validation of the steps we have taken to ensure comprehensive, continuous care for our low-income uninsured patients," said North Coast Health Ministry Executive Director Lee Elmore. "Most of our patients have chronic diseases, and the standards and procedures required for recognition as a patient-centered medical home **continued on page 17**

## Help To Others (H2O): Drops Of Kindness Create Ripples Of Change



Celia Dorsch and H2O are synonymous.

by Chrissy Kadleck Pursifull

This is the final story in a three-part series featuring special people and organizations that have a unique relationship with Help to Others, H2O, a Lakewood institution that is celebrating its 20th year of teaching and inspiring middle- and high-school students to volunteer and do what they can to make the world a better place.

Thousands of people have been touched by H2O's service learning program during the past two decades. Here is just one of those stories.

For close to 19 years, Celia Dorsch and H2O were synonymous. The two remain inextricably linked.

As H2O's founding coordinator, Dorsch has often been described as the heart and soul of the nationally recognized youth volunteer program. But if you ask her, she'll argue that she was one of many who made it successful and that H2O benefited from a little help from

the universe.

The stars aligned at its inception when the City's Division of Youth proposed to create and staff a unique new program that would provide a framework for students to volunteer and make a difference in their community. The idea was embraced by Lakewood City Schools and a partnership was formed, allowing H2O staff to launch its initial program at Lakewood High School.

"When I look back on it I can't help but feel honored and humbled that I was able to be a part of the program's development," said Dorsch, who retired at the end of 2011 but remains one of H2O's most committed champions. "Just imagine going to work every day and being with kids who are excited about volunteering and doing great things in the community."

That original collaboration is stronger than ever today, expanding to include **continued on page 2**

## Is This The Best Chocolate Chip Cookie In America?



Is Blackbird Baking Company's Chocolate Chip Cookie the best in America? Food and Wine Magazine believes it could be, and has named it one of the ten best. We take a look and a taste on page 18.



# Lakewood Events

## LakewoodAlive To Be Observed March 16

The Lakewood Observer Project is pleased to announce its new public forum series Lakewood Observer Know Our Lakewood Series (LOKOL, get it? Kind of like “local”?). These monthly, interactive forums are designed to help us reach our mission and goal: to attract, articulate, and amplify civic intelligence and community goodwill in the city of Lakewood and beyond (mission) in order to help Lakewood residents and neighbors learn as much as possible about the city. (goal)

Our first forum—scheduled for Saturday, March 16 from 10:00 a.m.

to 11:30 a.m. in Lakewood Public Library’s Multipurpose Room—will feature Ian Andrews of LakewoodAlive who will provide an expanded report on 2013 activity priorities, as well as an extensive Q&A and Discussion session. All are welcome.

Any Lakewood civic group interested in participating in one of our monthly public forums should contact Peter Grossetti, Associate Editor for Community Engagement at [petergrossetti@lakewoodobserver.com](mailto:petergrossetti@lakewoodobserver.com). Be sure to follow the growth of our LOKOL Series at [lakewoodobserver.com](http://lakewoodobserver.com).

## LakewoodAlive’s Ian Andrews Addresses Finance Committee

by Peter Grossetti

Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive—Lakewood’s nonpartisan economic development corporation—was recently invited by City Council’s Finance Committee chair Mary Louise Madigan to update the committee on its 2012 activities and 2013 priorities.

At the February 4 Finance Committee meeting, Andrews presented a broad overview of LakewoodAlive’s 2012 accomplishments, including events such as Light Up Lakewood, Spooky Pooch Parade, Lakewood Chocolate Walk, and Summer Melt Down, all through its volunteer-based programming in conjunction with Downtown Lakewood, as well as the various home maintenance programs spearheaded by Housing Outreach Director, Hilary Schickler.

He also gave a quick comparison of City of Lakewood funds allocated toward LakewoodAlive for 2012 and 2013:

General administrative support: 2012: \$25,000 / 2013: \$0

Housing outreach: 2012: \$42,000 / 2013: \$43,000

Paint Program: 2012: \$15,000 / 2012: \$16,000

Andrews listed the following among the organization’s priorities for 2013:

- moving the Kauffmann Park Master Plan from dream to reality;



LakewoodAlive Executive Director Ian Andrews addresses City Council’s Finance Committee at its February 4 meeting.

- continuing the downtown way-finding signage project;
- increasing Downtown Lakewood Business Alliance programming;
- strengthening overall economic development partnerships;
- offering more educational programs so that well-intended homeowners who do not have the know-how obtain the know-how in order to maintain and improve our housing stock;
- attracting additional volunteers; and, seeking new funding sources

## Help To Others (H2O): Drops Of Kindness Create Ripples Of Change

continued from page 1

middle school students throughout Lakewood. H2O student volunteers serve at 60 community events and more than 40 non-profits in the Cleveland area. In 2011, 333 high school volunteers logged 3,682 hours of service, 222 middle school volunteers logged 899 hours, and 198 middle summer campers logged 3,960 hours of service.

“We make it easy for students to get involved, especially at the high school level. They can come and go into projects. They can do it with friends. Ninety-nine percent of the time it’s fun,” she said. “And in the summer camp, the counselors instructing the middle school students have all come up through the program creating a beautiful progression of mentorship.”

National studies have shown that the teen years are a critical time for developing empathy, awareness and a broader perspective of the world.

“It’s been a blessing to me personally to work with the program and these amazing youth. I feel it’s been a blessing on the community. I know how much being able to be involved in the community has blessed the kids,” Dorsch said.

She expressed her gratitude for having Nora Steele as a partner for 18 years during the development of the program and for all the critical support provided by the staff at Lakewood Division of Youth under the leadership of Mary Hall.

“One of the most gratifying things at the end of my career was to see it

go into the capable, caring hands of Emmie Hutchison,” she said. “To have a person from within the community who had a child in the program, who totally gets what H2O is about, and to see that that program has such strong legs to move into the future -- that’s awesome. Emmie and H2O Assistant Coordinator, Vanessa Lange, are working with the kids to create wonderful new projects and frontiers for H2O.”

Join the celebration as H2O kicks off its 20 years of service to the Northeast Ohio community with a night of fun, festivities, and philanthropy at the H2O Tributary Bash, Saturday, February 23, 2013, 7 to 11 pm, at the Lake Erie Screw Factory, 13000 Athens Avenue in Lakewood. Tickets for the main event are \$50. Sponsorship opportunities, starting at the \$100 level, are also available. For more information, to purchase tickets, or to sponsor the event, visit [www.thelakewoodfoundation.org/H2O/](http://www.thelakewoodfoundation.org/H2O/) or call 216.529.6870.

Follow this QR Code with your computer or smartphone to order tickets or get more information! See you there!





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City News

# Kauffman Park Gets More Than A Facelift: Lakewood's Downtown Destination

by Betsy Voinovich

This past Wednesday, Kauffman Park Friends and LakewoodAlive presented their Master Plan for Kauffman Park. Urban planner and Lakewood resident, Brian Evans presented an ambitious proposal that had as its goal celebrating every aspect of Kauffman Park, taking it from a park that many don't know about, to a major reason to head into the center of the city. The rebranding reads like this: "Downtown Destination for Education, Exploration, Entertainment-- Kauffman Park."

The plan includes trails for running and walking (1/2 mile), individual reading and meeting areas with chairs and tables, along with more natural earthworks for sitting and playing, a natural amphitheater for music, theater, lectures, a "splash pad" with jets where children can play by day, which doubles as a stage at night.

It honored the history of Lakewood, with plaques describing the park's history, both civic (like one of popular mayor Amos Kauffman) and natural (describing Farmer Andrews' fruit orchard.)

It celebrates the community gardens already there, with ideas for more programming involving the study of indigenous plants, and has some inspired touches that incorporate history, agriculture, nature and leisure all in one: a pedestrian entrance at



Andrews, lined with cherry trees like the ones that were originally there.

The packed house applauded the plan. The floor was then open for questions.

One of the first was, "How will you pay for all of this?"

Evans said that the city had some money set aside for Kauffman, and beyond that, there is grant money available for public parks and areas that promote hands-on education, appreciation of local history, public art and entertainment, and what the park already has: civic gardening and sustainability projects. Their plan celebrates all of these, along with the larger "green" idea, shared by many larger city's like New York and Chicago, of preserving natural public space in the middle of an urban center.

A push was made by soccer sup-

porters to change the baseball field into a soccer field, or to add one. Evans stressed that stakeholders and residents had made it clear that they wanted to update the current ballfield, and said that it was not likely that there would be money to configure a soccer field.

Some said they were frustrated with the current state of the playground equipment, and the fact that the restrooms are always closed, even during games, while others praised recent clean-ups and better grooming and security.

Mayor Michael P. Summers, Director Dru Siley and Councilman Tom Bullock were present for the unveiling. Councilman Bullock, who, as a representative of Ward 2 is Kauffman Park's Councilman, rose to compliment the plan describing himself as "wearing his resident's hat" when he said he was



Use this QR Code on your smart phone to see the entire plan, and/or stop by the Lakewood Observer Observation Deck to see it and discuss it with your friends and neighbors.

looking forward to spending time in the impressive park that he saw presented that evening.

Overall, the discussion was gratifying because it proved that residents are paying attention, and are excited about the use of the park.

I talked to Brian Evans afterward and asked him how he dared propose things like private spaces for reading, with the controversy about "activities in the park after dark." He laughed and said that the spaces weren't "that private," and that safety issues had been discussed but the planners weren't overly concerned. They feel that as the park is developed, and it becomes a destination point, with more people gathering and using the park, these issues will resolve themselves.

I asked about the recent closing of the park at sundown, making use on

**continued on page 17**



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## City Council News

# Council Receives An Update On Ranger 360

by Christopher Bindel

Council President Brian Powers called the February 4, 2013 Council meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. The first order of business was to excuse Councilwoman Monique Smith who is on maternity leave. Council did so.

Director of Human Services, Dorothy Buckon, then asked Council to consider a resolution declaring the month of February "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month" in Lakewood. Director Buckon said that one in four teenagers have been in a relationship that is verbally abusive while one in three girls have experienced physical, emotional and verbal abuse from a dating partner. In 2011 the Lakewood City Schools received a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against

Woman to address the different kinds of violence in our schools. The Ranger 360 program was the result. It works with students, parents, teachers, administrators and the community to develop a school and community-based response to sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. Director Buckon asked Council to pass the resolution to reinforce these efforts in the community.

Abby McGinty of the Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center and Katie Kurtz of the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, who are coordinators for the Ranger 360 program, were at the meeting and addressed

Council regarding their efforts. They are working out of Harding and Garfield Middle Schools, Lakewood High School and Lakewood City Academy. The program is nearly complete with its initial phase of collecting information from students, parents, teachers, administrators and the community members regarding dating violence. Once all the information is compiled they will present it to the community along with the program's plan of action.

Councilman Powers (At-Large) said that there are around 1,000 students in Lakewood that are home-schooled or do not attend schools in Lakewood and he asked how this program may reach out to those students and be available to them.

Ms. Kurtz said that the program will be designed and implemented to reach all students in Lakewood. As a part of the creation of the program and working with the sub-groups they will work to design programs that will reach all students, including those who attend part-time or are home-schooled.

Councilman Powers followed up asking about the outreach to the students at St. Edwards and Lakewood Catholic Academy. Ms. Kurtz said that though the grant only sets up bases in the middle schools, Lakewood High and Lakewood City Academy, and students of all of the other schools are able and allowed to participate in all activities connected to the program.

Council then passed the resolution.

Next Councilman Powers brought the resolution regarding the Tree Task Force appointments out of the Committee of the Whole. Council had agreed unanimously in Committee to appoint Sheila Neli-gen-Riley, Marianne Quasebarth, and Bob Rensel to the Task Force. Since the Committee of the Whole consists of all members of Council, Council then passed the resolution as well.

Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan then asked Council to consider changing the name of a portion of Athens Avenue to Templar Motors Way. She said it will allow the city "to recognize [its] industrial history and highlight the innovation currently going on throughout the east end."

Council submitted the proposal to the Public Works Committee to be considered.

Next on the agenda, Mayor Mike Summers, and his administration, gave a presentation to Council about the Lean Lakewood Initiative they have been working on. The objective of this initiative is to analyze everything the city does to try and find faster, cheaper and more efficient ways to do things. In preliminary investigations they were looking for areas of waste, which includes time, productivity, and physical products. They identified the top culprit of waste as "things in motion." This includes people and objects needing to move about but also a large amount of time spent searching for things, both physically and digitally. The next big waste is waiting. There are many situations, in all aspects of City Hall where work is delayed because something else needs to happen first. Also an issue is defects, or things done incorrectly the first time. Rounding out the top of the list were issues in inventory, processing, over-production, and utilization of staff's other talents.

To start the Lean Lakewood program members of the administration and other city employees went through a training session which helped them learn the basic aspects of the Lean Initiative. Upon completing this training they jumped into two projects, one in the Department of Aging and the other in the Department of Housing and Building. In the Department of Aging they looked at the complete process of services for an individual, from referral to completion of service. They looked at ways to consolidate the amount of information being collected and the number of times it is being entered. Using software that allows them to use data across different programs and agencies has helped shrink the amount of time needed to enter someone's information. Though it currently looks like a small gain, they add up. This is also just one of a few changes already made, with many more to come.

After the fairly long and in-depth presentation, Council members Tom Bullock (Ward II) and Shawn Juris (Ward III) thanked the Mayor for his leadership on this initiative and for his efforts to make City Hall as efficient as possible.

With no other items on the agenda and no one from the public wishing to speak, Council President Powers adjourned the meeting at 8:06 P.M.



## Second Annual Welcome To Lakewood April 24th

by Barbara Schwartz

The second annual Welcome to Lakewood event is planned for Wednesday, April 24th, 7 – 9 p.m. at Garfield Middle School. Last year's event was very well attended, and had such an enthusiastic response, that it was decided to make this an annual event. Lakewood is a great community, and by coming to Welcome to Lakewood, new residents (old ones are welcome, too) can find out about local civic organizations and ser-

vices, and ways to get involved in the community. In a friendly, informal atmosphere, come and get great information, enjoy delicious treats, find fun activities for the kids, and leave feeling a greater connection to the people and place where you live. Save the date and watch for more information. Welcome to Lakewood is being sponsored by Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission and the Lakewood Family Collaborative.

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# Lakewood Public Library

compiled by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

## February 19

### Great Lakes Theater Festival “DOUBLE HEART” by David Hansen

An imagined prequel to “MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING,” David Hansen’s “Double Heart” envisions the early courtship of Beatrice and Benedict, providing a fascinating back-story to Shakespeare’s timeless tale. Written in poetic verse, this one-hour touring play is appropriate for audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Tuesday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

## February 20

### Health and Wealth: Numerology: A Three-Part Journey to Self-Discovery - Part 3

Numbers are the foundation of society and civilization, but they also have a profound spiritual aspect that is rarely discussed in business meetings. Laura Varcho steps out of the shadow of Navarre G. Devureaux to show you how to cast your own chart and interpret the results for personal success.

Wednesday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

## February 23

### Lakewood Art House Cinema “All the Real Girls” (2003), Directed by David Gordon Green - Rated R

Paul is a womanizer and a loser who has slept with every girl in his small, isolated town. When Zooey Deschanel returns home, much more grown up than he remembers, he is thrown for a loop. She might be his best friend’s sister, but he won’t miss the chance to add a notch to his bedpost. The thin line between what he might gain and what he thinks he could lose becomes a wide expanse as beautiful as the surrounding Appalachian Mountains.

Saturday, February 23 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

## February 27

### Civil War 150 Opening Reception with Women in History

Women played a crucial role in the Civil War, taking over farms and businesses, serving as nurses for the wounded and even becoming spies for both sides. Elizabeth Van Lew, a prominent member of Richmond, VA society and Mary Elizabeth Bowser , a freed slave working in the Confederate White House, passed Confederate secrets to the Union. Ruth Pangrace and Vernice Jackson star in this dramatic presentation.

Wednesday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Grand Reading Room

## LPL Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

## Saturday, Feb. 23

### Outback Ray’s Amazing Animal Show For the whole family

Have you ever seen a blue tongue skink or been hugged by a 13-foot python? Well now is your chance! Outback Ray wants to show off his friends like the hissing cockroach, a hairless rat, a fennec fox, several boas, an alligator and a chacoan horned frog.

7:00 P.M. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

## Tuesday, March 5

### Morse Code and the Telegraph in Action! For students up to twelfth grade

Samuel Morse’s dots and dashes put an end to the pony express and changed the course of the Civil War with long-distance communication! Build your own beeper and try your hand at using Morse code to talk to your friends. Supplies are provided!

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

## Wednesday, March 6

### Games Children Used to Play For students first through fifth grade

Games sure were different during the Civil War. Spend an hour trying something different!

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

## Thursday, March 7

### Crafts of the Civil War Era - For students first through fifth grade

Ever wonder what toys were like back during the Civil War? Make your own and take them home.

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

### Family Weekend Wonders

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

Main Library Activity Room and Madison Branch Auditorium

## March 4

### Meet the Author of Behind Bayonets: The Civil War in Ohio

Local historian David Van Tassel passed away before he could complete this definitive work on the Civil War’s impact on Ohio. Building on his research, author John Vacha finished this absorbing book filled with firsthand accounts from the Buckeyes who were there. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Monday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

## March 2

### Lakewood Public Cinema “Ondine” (2009), Directed by Neil Jordan - Rated PG-13

In Irish myth, the ondine is a spirit of the water whose lilting voice calls over forest pools, waterfalls and the ocean. When Colin Farrell, a poor fisherman, finds a hauntingly beautiful young woman caught in his net, he doesn’t know what to believe. As a hard-luck, single father and the town fool, he’s known a lifetime of disappointment. He knows better than to swallow his own stories. And yet...

Saturday, March 2 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

## March 3

### Sunday with the Friends: Kent Dockus: Violin on Fire

No instrument stirs the hidden recesses of the soul quite like the violin, but Lakewood’s own Kent Dockus wants more. He likes to add a little juice with a five-string Viper electric, playing everything from classic rock to modern pop with a fiery, classical flourish.

Sunday, March 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

## March 5

### Preserving Your Legacy for Future Generations

“How will I be remembered by future generations?” We all want to leave behind a positive legacy. What is the best way to ensure that our descendants will remember our contributions after we’re gone? Hospice of the Western Reserve presents an informative and surprisingly lighthearted program on creating an ethical will to preserve the stories, lessons and values that we cherish most. Imagine coming across an ancient yellowed parchment that held the best stories and life lessons of a distant ancestor. Or wouldn’t it just be nice to find a memoir from a dear, departed grandparent? Janice Lovelace wants to help you turn your story into a lasting family heirloom for the benefit of those who will carry on after we’re gone.

Tuesday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

## March 7

### “Glory” (1989)

Based on the novels and letters of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, the epic story of the all African-American 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry blazes onto the screen, fighting prejudice on both sides.

Thursday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

## March 9

### Hitchcock Comes to Hollywood “Rebecca” (1940)

Hitchcock’s first Hollywood project was an adaptation of Daphne DuMaurier’s novel. Beautiful young Joan Fontaine marries English nobleman Laurence Olivier but lives in the shadow of his first wife who died under mysterious circumstances. She arrives at Manderley looking forward to a life of wedded bliss but instead comes under the scrutiny of sinister housekeeper Mrs. Danvers. Selznick got his Oscar, but Hitch was denied Best Director.

Saturday, March 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

## March 10

### Sunday with the Friends: Vibrant Wind Dancers Midwinter Night’s Dream

“There sleeps Tytania, sometime of the night / Lul’d in these flowers, with dances and delight.” The Vibrant Wind Dancers bring a Middle Eastern flavor to Celtic and Spanish music as they float over the frozen ground with silk scarves, longing to throw their ringlets to the whistling wind of thawing spring.

Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

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Lakewood Public Library

Civil War 150: Exploring The War And Its Meaning Through The Words Of Those Who Lived It

by Andrea Fisher

Lakewood Public Library will soon host Civil War 150: Exploring the War and Its Meaning through the Words of Those Who Lived It, a national programming initiative. A traveling paneled exhibition will be on display February 25 through March 18 in the Main Library Second

Floor Gallery. As part of the initiative, the Library will also present a series of public programs exploring the impact and contested meanings of the American Civil War.

Civil War 150 is a national traveling panel exhibition organized by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in partnership with The

Library of America. The project, Civil War 150: Exploring the War and Its Meaning through the Words of Those Who Lived It, has been made possible in part through a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the Human Endeavor.

The official opening of Civil War

150 will be Wednesday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Grand Reading Room. Women in History present a dramatic re-creation of Elizabeth Van Lew and Mary Elizabeth Bowser, two female spies during the Civil War. The library is also holding the following programs in conjunction with the exhibit:

Civil War 150 for Adults  
Meet the Author of Behind Bayonets:  
The Civil War in Northern Ohio

Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.  
Monday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Civil War Movie: “Glory” (1989)

The novels and letters of Union Colonel Robert Gould Shaw tell the epic story of the all African-American 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, blazing onto the screen to fight prejudice on both sides.  
Thursday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Clevelanders in the Civil War

Historian Marjorie Wilson traces Cleveland history as it unfolds during the Civil War.  
Monday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Music of the Civil War with Bob Ford

Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

The Secession and Union: a Discussion

Join a discussion of the issues that led to the Civil War and receive a free copy of Team of Rivals: the Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln by Doris Kearns Goodwin just for attending. Participants can pick up a reading packet in the Main Library’s Technology Center. Space is limited. To register, call 216-226-8275, ext. 127.  
Monday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Civil War 150 for Children

To register, stop in or call 216-226-8275, ext. 140

Morse Code and the Telegraph in Action!

For students up to twelfth grade  
Tuesday, March 15 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Games Children Used to Play

For students in first through fifth grade  
Wednesday, March 6 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

Crafts of the Civil War Era

For students in first through fifth grade  
Thursday, March 7 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room

Paper Making

For students in fifth through eighth grade  
Monday, March 11 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room

Register Now For The Spring Season

by Philistine Ayad

Allow your child’s interest in reading to blossom and grown during Lakewood Public Library’s Spring Storytime Season. Registration is simple and easy. You can stop in at the Children’s and Youth services desk anytime to sign up. You can also call us, or register online at <http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth/>.

The storytime season begins the week of Monday, March 11th, and continues for eight weeks. Several options are available for different age groups: Just Baby ‘n Me has babies 9-24 months bubbling up with laughter; Children from 2-3 ½ years in age are in for a treat with our Toddler Treats Program; Storylore provides a more traditional storytime for children 3 ½ -6 yrs of age; Children anywhere from 2-6 yrs of age can participate in our Shake Rattle and Roll (a more movement-based



Miss Katie reads to children at the Lakewood Public Library

storytime) and/or our Pajama Party program.

Spring into reading at the Lakewood Public Library! Storytimes will take place in both the Main Branch and the Madison Branch. For more information, refer to the Lakewood Public Library Program Guide, the Children’s page online, or call us at 216-226-8275 ext. 140 (Main Branch) and 216-228-7428 (Madison Branch).

The Lord Of The Books

by Eric Knapp

Attention Hobbit & Lord of the Rings fans in grades 5-8! Join the armies of Middle-Earth in a great quest for the One Ring! As players in the Fellowship of the Library, you will outsmart trolls, save the land from the great red dragon Smaug, and embark on the dangerous journey to throw the One Ring into the Crack of Doom. Role-players will take on many exciting challenges in this program inspired by J.R.R. Tolkien’s fantasy novels!

Can’t remember who Smeagol is? Then check out copies of “The

Hobbit” and The Lord of the Rings trilogy at the library. Serious knowledge of all seven books in the Lord of the Rings series will be useful! How can we top six exciting weeks in Middle-Earth? The final night of the program will be a celebration feast with games, prizes, and a costume contest! If you’re ready for your epic adventure in Middle-Earth to begin, please stop in to register, or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Wednesdays, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., from March 20 to May 8 in the Main Library Multipurpose Room

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Saturday, Feb. 23

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Lakewood Schools

Lakewood Schools Kindergarten Registration Begins March 4

by Christine Gordillo

Kindergarten registration will take place at the Lakewood Board of Education, 1470 Warren Road, beginning Monday, March 4, 2013. Students must be 5 years old on or before September 30, 2013 in order to be age eligible to enter kindergarten.

If you would like to have a kindergarten packet sent to your home, please call 216-529-4203. If you have

friends or neighbors who have a child eligible for kindergarten in August but do not currently have a child attending Lakewood City Schools, please share this information with them.

Registration will be by appointment only from 8:30 a.m.– 3:30 p.m. Extended registration hours will be available March 4-7 when walk-ins with completed packets will be accepted from 4- 7 p.m.

After collecting all the required documents and completing all registration forms, you may schedule an appointment to register your child. To schedule an appointment, please contact the registration secretary at 216-529-4279 or by email at [kyna.eldred@lakewood.k12.oh.us](mailto:kyna.eldred@lakewood.k12.oh.us).

You will need to provide the following documents at registration:

**Child's Information:**

Birth certificate, original or certi-

fied copy; Passport or Visa

Immunization record, doctor's name and phone number

**Parent Information:**

Valid driver's license or state ID with current address

**Residency (provide two):**

1. Current gas/electric bill – portion showing your name & address (Faxed confirmation of new utility service to: 216-529-4104 Attn: Mrs. Eldred)
2. Fully executed lease: includes landlord contact information
3. Owner Affidavit (completed in full and notarized by landlord/property manager - only when numbers 1, 2, and/or 3 cannot be provided)
4. Residency and Custody Affidavit completed in full and notarized

Popular Author Visits Garfield Middle School

by Evelyn Jenkins and Kira Marjanovic, 6th grade, Garfield Middle School

Have you ever become obsessed with a book or series? So obsessed with it, you can't put it down and you're dying to know what happens next? Sometimes you love the author's books so much you would love to meet him or her? Well, that happened to the students and staff at Garfield Middle School.

On Friday, January 25 the students and staff at Garfield Middle School got to meet Margaret Peterson Haddix. She is an extremely popular author for young adults with 31 books and 2 series. Mrs. Haddix writes very fascinating, on-the-edge-of-your-seat books like the ones in her series called The Shadow Children and Missing. Margaret Peterson Haddix presented at an assembly for sixth grade students and had a writing workshop for indi-



Garfield students flocked to the LRC after school to have author Margaret Haddix Peterson sign their books.

vidual classes. During the workshop, she did writing activities working with the students to develop characters, plot,

and setting for stories. After school, over fifty students brought their personal copies of Mrs. Haddix's books to

the LRC where she autographed them.

Margaret Peterson Haddix was invited to the school by April Georgius and Mary Pat Ellert. She came with help from the Lakewood Alumni Foundation's Margaret Warner Educational Grant, Garfield's PTSA, and proceeds from the Scholastic Book Fair held in November 2012.

Overall the students were happy and excited to have her at their school. Personally, as sixth grade students who have read a couple of her books, we really enjoyed having her at Garfield Middle School and thought it was an amazing experience.

Hayes Students To Sing In Oberlin Honor Choir

by Christine Gordillo

Hayes Elementary will be sending 13 fourth and fifth graders to perform in the Oberlin Choristers Children's Honor Choir on Sat. March 2, 3 p.m. at the Stocker Center, Lorain County Community College. The event is free. The 13 vocalists were chosen by their choir director Lisa Van Scyoc for the talent, dedication and commitment to excellence they have shown throughout the school year.

The concert is free and open to the public. The guest conductor of this 200-voice choir will be Dr. Sandra Mathias, who is retired from Capital University where she served as Professor of Vocal Music Education for 29 years and the

Columbus Children's Choir, where she served as Founder/Artistic Director for 25 years.

"This is an amazing experience for our students and one in which they will grow vocally, musically, and in confidence as they stand with 200 like-minded singers in a culminating performance for their friends and family," said Van Scyoc.

The Hayes students who will be part of the honors choir are: Terence Checkett, Kate Dyke, Holly Eubanks, Cara Harmon, Morgan Harper, Deirdre Healy, Noel Herakovic, Sara Jarecke, Cate Joyce, Maxine Mayer-Mack, Emma Nagy, Olivia Patterson, and Ava Wahl.



Alumni Foundation Wins Big At The 2013 Big Chili Cookoff

Chef Darren Toms (right), representing the Lakewood Alumni Foundation, hoists the winning trophy at the 2013 Big Chili Cookoff. This annual event, hosted by Around the Corner's Ryan Krivosh (left), benefitted Pillars of Lakewood and Lakewood Alumni Foundation.

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## Lakewood Schools

# Seann Flynn's Legacy Lives On At LHS

by Missy Toms

"Seann just knew that he had the willpower to accomplish anything." That's how Martin Hannon describes his friend and Lakewood High School Class of 2000 alum Seann Flynn.

We lost the talented drummer and sound designer on December 5, 2011, when he was hit by a truck while riding his motorcycle to work. Seann was just shy of his 30th birthday.

But Seann's passion continues today through the Seann Flynn Lives Endowment Fund. Seann's friends and family established the music scholarship in his name through the Lakewood Alumni Foundation. They are committed to preserving his passion for music and his spirit of goodwill and joy.

In many people's memories, Sean was the most amazing drummer they have ever witnessed. He had an unparalleled drive and passion for music and an uncanny ability to bring people together for positive collaboration. He composed music and designed sound for small independent films in Los Angeles. He also created a group to bring other sound designers in the movie industry together to share ideas and further their professional skills in an altruistic way.

But it was in the Lakewood schools where Seann got his start. His first gig was a Horace Mann Middle School dance



playing mostly Nirvana covers: Seann on drums, his brother on guitar, and a friend on vocals. Seann went on to rock out in many venues with a very diverse repertoire, from punk to metal, big band jazz to fusion, rock to progressive.

Seann could play it all with grace and style. He was also well versed in Tabla Indian drums and African drumming. He played in the Lakewood High School Jazz Band and studied performance and recording at Bowling Green State University, where he graduated in 2005. He would practice for hours on end until he had mastered a skill with machine precision.

While at Bowling Green, Seann

took a summer trip with the music and dance departments to Ghana in west Africa. There he learned new drumming techniques and really grew as a person. He also commissioned local craftsmen to make a set of traditional African drums. On a cross-Atlantic flight, luggage is limited. How Seann was able to get seven large wooden African drums back to the United States is still a mystery...especially the Atsimevu, which measures more than four feet tall!

"Seann showed me what it was like to attack life with a high level of enthusiastic inspiration, and I never heard him complain," says Hannon. "He also very clearly told me that it was impor-

tant for him to consciously show up in life with 'goodwill and joy.'"

Through the Seann Flynn Lives Endowment Fund, the Lakewood Alumni Foundation will award one Lakewood High School student with the funds for music lessons, instrumentation, or other opportunities to advance in music performance. Through this memorial fund, Seann's determination, drive, and commitment to achievement in music will always be remembered.

To learn more about establishing or contributing to an endowment fund, please contact Ellen Galmitz at 216.529.4069 or [ellen.galmitz@lakewood.k12.oh.us](mailto:ellen.galmitz@lakewood.k12.oh.us).

As Seann would have said, "Rock on!"

Since 1984, the Lakewood Alumni Foundation has aimed to support the Lakewood City Schools' tradition of providing an opportunity-rich environment for its students through advocacy and financial support. Through the generosity of its donors, the foundation has provided significant funds for student scholarships, teacher grants, and school programs. Become a donor today! Help every Lakewood student reach his or her potential by making a tax-deductible gift online at [www.lakewoodalumnifoundation.org](http://www.lakewoodalumnifoundation.org), or by mail at Lakewood Alumni Foundation, 14100 Franklin Blvd., Lakewood, OH 44107.

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To get started, you first have to register. After you register, we will let you know if you are selected. We will then work with you to make sure you meet certain requirements and take you through an orientation process so you'll be more prepared for the jobs available.

For More Information go to  
[YouthOpportunities.org.](http://YouthOpportunities.org)

**Register Online**  
**Feb. 1 THRU**  
**Mar. 29**  
**AT NOON**

**WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO PARTICIPATE:**

- Certified Birth Certificate
- Picture ID
- Social Security Card
- You may need to meet family income requirements

**Youth Opportunities Unlimited**

## "Youth Opportunities Unlimited" Announces Call For "My Summer Job" Applicants

by Rebecca Suhny

**Annual Program Matches Eligible Local Teens with Companies for Summer Employment**

Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.), the Cleveland-based organization that provides services that youth need in order to achieve success in the classroom and workplace, announces a call for registration for its 2013 My Summer Job program. Registration is available now through March 29 at 12:00 p.m. and can be completed at [www.youthopportunities.org](http://www.youthopportunities.org).

My Summer Job matches eligible teenagers, ages 14-18, living in Cuyahoga County, to employers with available jobs. Since its inception in 1982, Y.O.U. has placed 152,000 teens in summer jobs that have given them the confidence and tools to transform their lives. Teens will benefit from the following:

Taking pride in earning money to use, build a savings account or help their family.

Learning new skills that can help with school, life, college and career choices.

Meeting new adult role models.

Forming connections that can lead to part-time jobs during the school year, to internships and to jobs after

graduation.

To be considered for one of the jobs available through My Summer Job, it is mandatory for teenagers to register online at [www.youthopportunities.org](http://www.youthopportunities.org) using a smartphone or computer that is connected to the Internet. The number of job openings is currently to be determined; however, once registered, teens will ultimately be selected randomly for employment.

In order to register, teenagers must be able to provide the following information:

Home address

Phone number

Email address (create a free email address through Google, Yahoo, AOL or Hotmail)

Social security number

Emergency contact information

Medical information (any medical conditions medications currently being taken)

If selected to participate in the 2013 My Summer Job program, teenagers will need all three of the following documents:

Certified birth certificate

Picture ID

Current school ID

**continued on page 14**



Sports

# Pair Of Rangers Snag Athletic Scholarships

by Christine Gordillo

Sporting sweatshirts from their respective future teams, Lakewood High seniors Amanda Sacha and Marquise Tyus signed Letters of Intent on National Signing Day Feb. 6 to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Sacha will attend Ohio University and Tyus Ohio Dominican University.

Sacha will be part of the track and field team at Ohio University. She was All-Conference, District Champion, and Regional runner-up in the 400-meter dash on the way to qualifying for the State Track and Field Championships last spring. Sacha is the school record-holder in the 400 at 56.71, which she set at Regionals last year.

Track coach Mike Schreiner is not surprised at Sacha's success and looks forward to seeing her finish up her LHS career with a bang this spring season.

"Amanda's work ethic is second to



Football and track stars Marquise Tyus and Amanda Sacha are ready to play at the next level after agreeing to compete for Ohio Dominican and Ohio University, respectively.

none, and she has spent the offseason preparing to lead the Rangers with her best season yet," Schreiner said.

Tyus will be on the football field next fall for Ohio Dominican University. Tyus was a unanimous selection

by league coaches as First Team All-West Shore Conference at defensive back during the 2012 season. On defense Tyus had 78 tackles, 2 tackles for loss, 3 forced fumbles, 1 fumble recovery and 1 interception which he returned for a touchdown. On offense and special teams Tyus accounted for over 300 yards as a wide receiver and a kick returner. Tyus was a 3-year letter winner, having started for the Rangers early in his sophomore year.

Head football coach Ron Lewis attributed Tyus' success to his work ethic and natural leadership skills.

"Marquise has been a true leader during his time here at LHS. He has worked hard in the classroom and on the playing field and that hard work is paying off," Lewis said. "The team and the coaching staff are very proud of him and we wish him the best as he continues his football career. Marquise is a true ambassador for LHS and we hope that more kids will follow his example."

# Fourth & Fifth Graders Jump For Heart Health

by Christine Gordillo

District fourth and fifth graders jumped at the chance to fight heart disease and stroke, our nation's No. 1 and No. 3 killers, this past Saturday, Feb. 9 in Lakewood High's East Gym. Around 100 students from six elementary schools participated in the 15th annual Jump Rope for Heart event.

Students jumped their hearts out to the DJ's music for two hours to raise funds for the American Heart Association, which funds cardiovascular disease research and public and professional education programs. In the last 10 years, the Lakewood Schools have raised over \$120,000 for the American Heart Association. Jump Rope for Heart is co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

The average heart beats 100,000



Lake Erie Monsters mascot Sully joined in the fun to pump the students up.

times each day. One of the best ways to take care of your heart is to make exercise a regular part of your everyday life. Jump Rope for Heart teaches students

how exercise benefits the heart and shows students that volunteering can be fun and beneficial to the whole community. They learn how they can make

a difference by providing important community service and having a great time at this fun-filled family event.

The students won giveaway prizes and got to mix it up with Lake Erie Monster's mascot, Sully, who provided an added burst of energy to an already energetic event. Parents and families got to join in the jumping as well, as did the Lakewood High cheerleading squads.

Money raised by the event, spearheaded by district phys ed teacher Genni Lach, will go to fund potentially lifesaving research and educational and community programs.



Lakewood elementary students spent Saturday morning, February 9, jumping rope for heart health.

# St. Edward Swimming Honors Its Seniors

by John Litten

The St. Edward Swim team recently honored their seniors prior to their final home meet at Lakewood High School. President Jim Kubacki, Athletic Director Paul Michalko and Br. James Everett were on hand to congratulate the seniors and their parents. Led by senior captains Will Ryan, Conor O'Sullivan and Nick Racchi, the Eagles have had tremendous success this season with huge wins over St John, Walsh Jesuit, Gilmore and rival St Ignatius. The swimmers are looking forward to another great run at the State finals in March.

Since senior night, St. Edward's swim team finished second in the sectional meet at the Cleveland State



Seniors pictured with their parents are (R-L) Angelo Girardi, Will Ward, Dominic Bruno, Conor O'Sullivan, Dan McManis, Nick Racchi, Will Ryan and Joe Gyorky.

Natatorium, advancing 16 of the 19 swimmers it took to the meet to the district meet out at Bowling Green.

The Eagles qualified at least two swimmers in every individual race and are taking all three relay teams to dis-

tricts. In most races they are taking three individuals.

"I'm really happy with the way our guys swam in this meet," St. Ed's Head Coach Eric Dennis said. "A lot of guys swam personal bests."

Kyle Shurmur won the 100-yard back stroke and Mason Beck won the 500 freestyle race.



Lakewood Cares

Kiwanis Pizza Bake-Off: A Successful Evening

by Gordo Brumm

Lakewood children and families profited to the tune of \$3,500 from the January 17 Kiwanis Pizza Bake-Off, announced Dave Norton, manager of the event. Norton saluted participating vendors for their civic dedication in making the event possible by setting up shop in the LHS cafeteria and serving samples of their products to all customers.

Also contributing were the Kiwanians who donated over 130 hours of

labor and the Lakewood High students from Key Club and H2O, who provided 70 hours.

This year's Bake-Off was attended by more students and young people than last year's Bake-Off, Norton said. In commenting on the reason for this, he mentioned that the event was held on a Thursday evening, but especially praised the PTA council presidents, in particular Christina McCallum, Lakewood PTA Council president, for their help in spreading news of the

Bake-Off.

Customers at this year's Bake-Off voted for their favorite establishments in three categories. Winners are as follows:

PEOPLE'S CHOICE (OVERALL BEST):

First place: Angelo's Pizza

Second place: Roman Fountain Pizza

Third place: Donatos of Lakewood

BEST PEPPERONI PIZZA:

First place: Pepper's Italian Res-

taurant

Second place: Hungry Howie's Pizza

Third place: Nunzio's Pizza

BEST SPECIALTY PIZZA"

First place: Dewey's Pizza

Second place: Jibarro's Pit Stop Pizza

Third place: Players on Madison

These other establishments also participated: Dominos Pizza, Georgio's Pizza, Papa John's Pizza, Pizza Hut, Tommy's Pizza and Chicken.

Lakewood Residents Invited To Tour Ames Family Hospice House

by Laurie Henrichsen

The public is invited to tour the house and grounds at Ames Family Hospice House on Friday, March 8 from 2 to 3 p.m. at a free Community Open House sponsored by Hospice of the Western Reserve. The new 40,000-square-foot Craftsman-inspired house opened last summer, and is tucked away on a hidden 30-acre site in the woods near Porter Creek, just north of the I-90 Crocker Road exit, between Holiday Inn and Bonne Belle. Refreshments will be provided. Reservations can be made by visiting the hospice's website or calling 216-486-6645. For those unable to visit on March 8, a second open house is slated for Friday, June 14, also from 2 to 3 p.m.



Ames Family Hospice House

"We are part of the fabric of the community, so we encourage residents in the surrounding West Shore suburbs to bring their friends and stop in during one of our open house events," said Bill Finn, chief executive officer. "It's a great way to see first-hand the distinctive range of services we offer as a non-profit agency with 35 years of history in Northern Ohio," Finn said.

Locations people will see on the tour include the great room, the family living room and study, screened porches, courtyards and al fresco patios for patients and families, art and music therapy studios, the exercise room, spa room, meditation room, family kitchen, café, Tribute Walk,

Tranquility Garden, the Veterans Garden and the Veterans Walk of Honor. The house's many "green" and technologically advanced features will also be showcased.

The site surrounding the house is home to abundant wildlife, and includes the walking trails formerly built by Bonne Belle, which have

been refurbished by community volunteers and reopened for the community at large to enjoy. The public is also welcome to stroll through or meditate in the many gardens on the grounds. Bricks are available to inscribe and place to memorialize loved ones.

Finn said Ames Family Hospice

House was built to provide West Side residents with easier access to state-of-the-art symptom control for seriously ill patients. "We've designed it to be very homelike and non-institutional," he added. "We want it to be a home away from home for our patients and their families." The new house has been well received because of its convenient access right off I-90, and its ability to handle even the most complex cases, including pediatric hospice patients, ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), COPD, HIV/AIDS and patients coping with multiple diseases.

"There are differences, so it's important to do your homework when the time comes to choose a hospice provider," Finn said. "As a non-profit agency, generous funding from our donors allows us to provide a comprehensive range of care at Ames that incorporates music, art and massage therapy, life enrichment activities and an integrated, customized plan of care tailored to each patient's specific needs."

"Put Your House In Order"

by Carolyn Rummery

You are invited to a special presentation to be made at Lakewood United Methodist Church on Sunday afternoon, March 3 at 12:15 p.m."Put Your House in Order" is the topic, which

will focus on plans for leaving your estate and personal affairs in order at the time of death. There is no charge for this event, and there are no reservations necessary.

Leader for this seminar will be Dr. William McFadden, a retired United Methodist pastor. Dr. McFadden frequently serves as an adviser to indi-

viduals and local churches on matters of Christian stewardship.

The church is located at 15700 Detroit Ave., at Summit, in Lakewood. For additional information, call 216-226-8644.

Carolyn Rummery is in charge of publicity for Lakewood United Methodist Church.

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## Lakewood Cares

# Students In Lakewood Participate In Respect Month 2013

by Molly Scheetz

One in 5 teens in a serious relationship report being hit, slapped or pushed by a partner; this adds up to nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide who experience physical abuse from a dating partner every year. Because teen dating violence is an important issue in our community, the Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center (DVCAC) and Bellefaire's Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) Student Leadership Council have developed an awareness campaign to support Respect Month, which runs in conjunction with National Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month in February.

DVCAC and SAY released a video and kicked off a social media campaign on February 1st to educate teens about healthy relationships and the warning signs of abuse. The Respect campaign and video carry the slogan "AreYouThe1?" and urges teens and young adults to be the one to help a friend in need or reach out for help if they are the one in an unsafe relation-

ship.

Students from area schools, including Lakewood, have organized awareness and fundraising events in their individual schools to further the message about dating violence. The events in Lakewood are working in conjunction with the Ranger 360 Program, a collaborative program that is working with students, parents, teachers, administrators and the community at large to develop a school and community based response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking in the Lakewood City School District. During February, students in Lakewood will be taking part in a cell phone drive to collect used phones for DVCAC. A non-violence pledge for Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month will also be circulating for students to sign and adhere to during February and throughout the rest of the year. Informational homeroom announcements about teen dating violence, including the AreYouThe1? video, will

be played during February to further awareness and education about the issue. Lakewood Public Library also took part in this month's activities by making a special book display about dating violence as well as providing resources and information for those in need.

In addition, at the beginning of February, Lakewood City Council passed a resolution that the Mayor and Council, on behalf of the City of Lakewood, designate the month of February 2013 as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. This Resolution calls upon the people of Lakewood including youth and parents, schools, law enforcement, state and local officials and interested groups to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities to promote awareness and prevention of the crime of teen dating violence in the Lakewood community.

The Respect campaign during February kicked off on a special day for DVCAC's teen education program; February 1st has been proclaimed Johanna Orozco Day by the agency in honor of the teen dating violence survivor and advocate. Johanna Orozco is a Cleveland native whose story of abuse is nationally known. In 2007, Johanna was shot in the face by her abusive ex-boyfriend. After her recovery, Johanna became an advocate for DVCAC's teen education program and while here, impacted the lives of thousands of teens in the community who heard her story. Johanna was also pivotal in passing legislation to allow teenagers in abusive dating relationships to get protection orders. Johanna's story is one of courage, hope and recovery and DVCAC is pleased to honor the hard work and passion she showed in the Greater Cleveland community by declaring February 1st Johanna Orozco Day.

The Cleveland Cavaliers have also teamed up for Respect Month. At the March 8th Cavalier's game at Quicken Loans Arena, outstanding students will be recognized on court for their awareness and fundraising efforts.

The Cavaliers are also collecting used cell phones at the gates before the game which will be given to domestic violence victims to be used in emergencies or recycled to raise funds for DVCAC. Fans are urged to bring a used cell phone to the March 8th game and receive two tickets to a future Cavalier's game! In addition, \$5.00 of every ticket to the game purchased through DVCAC will be donated to the agency. Ticket information can be found on the website at [www.DVCAC.org](http://www.DVCAC.org).

The community is encouraged to help raise awareness and create dialogue this February by participating in Respect Month. By using social media, starting an event or attending the Cavalier's game on March 8th, concerned citizens can "be the one" to help impact teen dating violence. More information about all of these ways to be involved can be found on the DVCAC website at [www.DVCAC.org](http://www.DVCAC.org).

DVCAC provides emergency intervention as well as long term support for victims. More information about the services provided can be found at the agency's website: [www.DVCAC.org](http://www.DVCAC.org). Victims needing emergency assistance can call the 24 hour Domestic Violence Helpline: 216-391-HELP.

DVCAC is a proud member of United Way and Community Shares.

## Calvary Spring Arts And Crafts Fair

by Shari Page

Hello... Happy Spring to all our fine Lakewood Observer readers! Technically it isn't spring till March 21st, but many of us are experiencing cabin-fever and are ready for Spring. Calvary United Methodist is hosting a "Spring Arts and Crafts Fair" on Saturday March 2, 2013. We will be showcasing a unique variety of local artists and crafters who will have their work on display and for sale. Whether you're looking for a special gift for a birthday or maybe something wonderful for your Easter baskets, there is no doubt you will have a distinctive selection to choose from.

Keeping in line with our outreaches and mission to reach out to the spiritually and physically hungry, we will have a raffle, which will benefit two great Lakewood charities! You can get a ticket by donating a canned or dry food good or pay \$1.00 for a raffle ticket. Donations of canned and dry food goods and proceeds will benefit the Lakewood Community Service Center and North Coast Health Ministries. Both of these charities are great services to so many who are going through challenges in their lives.

This event is free and open to everyone. We will have lunch available for purchase in addition to a Spring plant and bake sale. Proceeds will help us continue our many local ministries and bless our great community! Parents will have free childcare with arts and crafts available for their children.



So come out and relieve your cabin-fever or inspire your creative side. We really look forward to seeing you!

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“Next To Normal” Onstage At Beck Center

by Fran Storch

After last season’s highly acclaimed “Spring Awakening,” Beck Center for the Arts partners once again with the Baldwin Wallace University Music Theatre program to present three-time Tony Award winner and Pulitzer Prize-winning rock musical, “Next to Normal,” March 1 through April 21, 2013 in the intimate Studio Theater. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. There are no performances on Sundays, March 31 or April 14. Tickets are now on sale.

“Next to Normal” is an emotional powerhouse of a musical featuring a compelling pop rock score that shatters the façade of a suburban family dealing with the traumatic effects of mental illness. This intense, emotional, yet ultimately hopeful musical makes a direct grab for the heart with a story that takes us inside the lives of a typical American family that is anything but typical. The New York Times said “Next to Normal” is “A brave, breathtaking musical...It is something much more than a feel-good musical. It is a feel-everything musical.”

Directed by Victoria Bussert, director of the Baldwin Wallace Music Theatre program, “Next to Normal” stars BW alum Katie DeBoer as bipolar manic depressive Diana, BW faculty

member Scott Plate as Dan, Diana’s steadfast husband, and Phil Carroll as her rock star psychiatrist; as well as an ensemble of nine talented actors from BW’s nationally recognized MT program. Carroll and Plate appear courtesy of the Actors’ Equity Association. With musical direction by Nancy Maier and choreography by David Zody, “Next to Normal” features music by Tom Kitt and book and lyrics by Brian Yorkey (2009 Tony Award for Best Score).

“Not only is ‘Next to Normal’ a powerful, startling, ground-breaking work in the American musical theater repertoire,” remarked Bussert, “it is an experience that compels all of us to really look, listen and feel. At times it is astonishing, at other times agonizing -- but ultimately it honors the beauty and ferocity of the human spirit -- no matter the flaws.” “Next to Normal” contains strong adult language and themes and may not be suitable for

audiences 17 years and under.

Tickets are \$28 for adults and \$25 for seniors (65 and older) with an additional \$3 service fee per ticket applied at time of purchase. Student tickets are \$15 with valid I.D. (includes service fee). Preview Night on Thursday, February 28 is \$10 with general admission seating. Group discounts are available for parties of 13 or more. Purchase tickets online at [beckcenter.org](http://beckcenter.org) or call Customer Service 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.

Opening night patrons are invited to Marquee Friday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Cleveland Artists Foundation gallery. Guests may enjoy complimentary appetizers from Cozumel Restaurante Mexicano, free musical entertainment by Lounge

Kitty and happy hour priced drinks; as well as a free gallery exhibits throughout Beck Center including The Left-Handed Line of Mike Guyot and works by artist and composer Jing Jing Luo.

This production of “Next to Normal” is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTIshows.com) and is sponsored by the residents of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Ohio Arts Council. 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.

Ukulele Craze - Join In The Fun

by Sharon Marrell

The popularity of the Ukulele has exploded in the last few years. It’s an instrument that has gained popularity from songs sung by Train, Jason Mraz, Pink, Glee’s Mathew Morrison and the list goes on. Ukulele orchestras are huge in the UK! Google ukulele orchestras and you’ll be amazed at what you see and hear. Its popularity is bigger in Europe than it is in the United States. Vendors are telling music stores that they are waiting on backorders because Europe is supplied first since their demand for ukuleles is greater than in the US.

The Ukulele originated with the Portuguese immigrants introducing the ukulele to the Hawaiians in 1879. As the Portuguese got off the boat the Hawaiians were impressed by the musical sound and how fast their fingers flew over the strings. They named the instrument, “Ukulele,” which means “jumping flea.”

They come in four sizes from small to large, soprano – the typical size people see the most; concert, tenor and baritone. Many manufacturers are providing electronics to amplify, more body styles, and colors that appeal to anyone. Compared to the traditional 6-string guitar, the ukulele has only four strings that are made of nylon, which makes the chords easy to reach and it’s easy to press down the strings.

Books such as, The Ukulele 3 Chord Songbook, has 3 chord diagrams at the beginning of each song that allows you to instantly begin playing. If you’re not comfortable learning on your own, take a few lessons. More teachers are now offering ukulele lessons. The basic models are affordable, starting under \$40. It’s fun watching the 4 year olds look up, point at the ukes and ask if they can have a “guitar.” They’re excited like a “jumping flea” when they walk

out the door carrying their very own “guitar.” Too cute!

Sharon Marrell, a Lakewood resident, owns Marrell Music and is an Eddy Finn Ukulele dealer.

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# Business News

## Lakewood Public Library Hosts First Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce Business Book Club

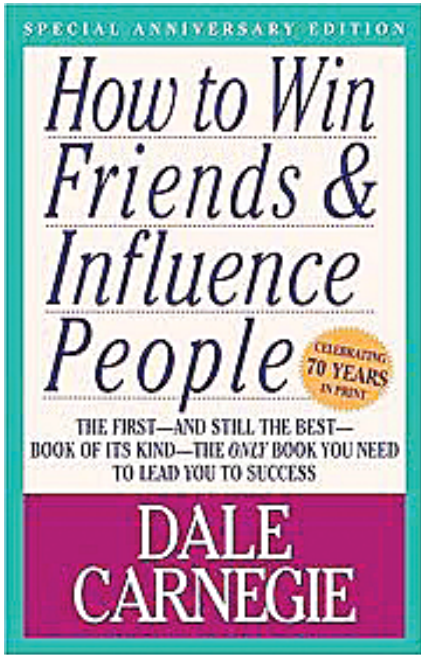
by Val Mechenbier

How do you make people like you? How can you win people over to your way of thinking? How do you challenge and change people without arousing resentment? The answers to

these questions lie within a book written over 75 years ago. The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce's first Business Book Club was held on Tuesday, January 22nd at Lakewood Public Library. The semi-

nal self-improvement book "How to Win Friends and Influence People" by Dale Carnegie was reviewed and discussed by panelists Andrea Fisher (Lakewood Public Library), Ian Andrews (LakewoodAlive), Diane Helbig (Seize This Day Coaching), and Suzanne Metelko (UA Lakewood), along with a number of intrepid citizens who braved single-digit temperatures to attend the event.

The discussion was moderated by Patty Ryan, CEO & President of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce. The consensus of the participants was unanimous: Yes, the principles and rules outlined by Dale Carnegie are still relevant today, and are even more important in the social media age. Dale Carnegie's suggestions and guidance in the book's major sections titled "Fundamental Techniques in Handling People", "Six Ways to Make People Like You", "Twelve Ways to Win People to Your Way of Thinking" and "Be a Leader: How to Change People Without Giving Offense or Arousing Resentment" are especially timeless. Many people have taken the Dale Carnegie course as part of traditional Sales training (often paid by the employer), but the challenges of face-to-face



communication really affect everyone, regardless of job title or type of business. It was also agreed that high-school students could certainly benefit from reading and discussing Mr. Carnegie's book.

Thank you to all who participated in the discussion of "How to Win Friends & Influence People," and special thanks to Marilee MacAskill from Dale Carnegie of Northeast Ohio who supplied a copy of Dale Carnegie's Golden Book for each participant.

### Member Spotlight:

## Becky Mitchell, Vision 21

by Val Mechenbier

Vision 21 is an entrepreneur resource center, offering services to small businesses, aspiring entrepreneurs and sales people to help them achieve success. From Virtual Assistant services to structured networking to office space rental, Vision 21's services are designed to be available to business leaders when they need them.

Becky Mitchell serves as the center administrator and fulfills the VA services for Vision 21 clients. She has a long history of executive administra-



tion experience, outstanding customer service skills, and a strong desire to help others. Becky is also an artist and loves to paint and draw in her spare time. She has in the past even had her artwork displayed. Check out the events, programs, and services offered at Vision 21 by visiting [www.visiontwentyone.com](http://www.visiontwentyone.com).

## Upcoming Lakewood Chamber Events

**Friday, February 22nd**  
**February Breakfast Meeting: Outstanding Work Ethic Awards**

**Brennan's Catering & Banquet Center**  
**13000 Triskett Road, Cleveland**  
7:30am Registration & Networking, 8am Breakfast & Program  
\$15 members, \$20 non-members  
Sponsored by Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club

### Did You Know...

The "Chamber Connection" February e-newsletter is online - along with past issues - at [www.lakewoodchamber.org/chamber-connections-newsletter/](http://www.lakewoodchamber.org/chamber-connections-newsletter/).



**Friday, March 22nd**  
**March Luncheon Meeting**  
**Sweetwater Landing**  
**1500 Scenic Park Drive, Lakewood**  
11:30am Registration & Networking, 12pm Lunch & Program  
\$15/members, \$20 non-members  
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For more information on these and other Lakewood Chamber events, visit [www.lakewoodchamber.org](http://www.lakewoodchamber.org).

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Business News

# Jeff Broestl Honored By Sunrise Rotary

by Larry Faulhaber

At a recent Rotary International Foundation event, Jeff Broestl, owner of Broestl & Wallis Fine Jewelers of Lakewood, pictured here with his wife Maureen, received the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow Award of the Rotary International Foundation. Paul Harris was one of the founders of Rotary International in 1905, and its first International President. The award represents a one thousand dollar donation to the Foundation which helps fund major health, hunger and humanity projects by Rotary Clubs around the world. The Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club selected non Rotarian Broestl for the award because Jeff has crafted a beautiful jewelry item, and donated it for a Sunrise Club fund raising raffle each year for the past 6 years. Over \$10,000 has been raised through the raffles, and used for support of the Club's many Community and International service projects.

Jeff Broestl joined his cousin, Dan Wallis in the jewelry business

in 1974. Since Wallis retired in 2008, Jeff has continued to use the skills he was taught, and operates a full service jewelry store on Madison Ave. in Lakewood, providing repair, design and sales of fine jewelry products. The Paul Harris Fellowship was made available to the Sunrise Club by the Rotary District Governor because it was one of six Clubs in the 55 club Northeast Ohio Rotary District to qualify for the Annual Fund Banner Recognition from The Rotary Foundation by attaining "Every Rotarian Every Year" status, with 100% participation, and \$100 per capital being gifted by its members to the Rotary International Foundation during the 2011/2012 Rotary year.

The Sunrise Rotary meets every Wednesday morning at 7:15 a.m. at the Rocky River Civic Center. Its sister Rotary Club meets on Monday at noon, also in Umerley Hall in the Center which located behind Rocky River City Hall at Wagar Rd. and Hilliard Blvd. For information on how you can join Rotary, contact Kathy Berkshire at [sloopyohio@cox.net](mailto:sloopyohio@cox.net).



Jeff and Maureen Broestl pose with the Paul Harris Fellow Award at Sunrise Rotary.

## “Youth Opportunities Unlimited” Announces Call For “My Summer Job” Applicants

continued from page 8

- Current local recreation center ID (from a city-run recreation center)
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- Current state of Ohio ID
- Current driver's license
- 18 year olds must have a valid State of Ohio ID, driver's license or passport
- Social security card

With summer right around the corner, many teenagers hope to secure a job and earn their own money. My Summer Job offers an advanced opportunity to navigate the summer job search, secure employment early and preparation support.

Registration is easy. To register and learn more, visit [www.youthopportunities.org](http://www.youthopportunities.org)

ties.org or email [summerjobsprogram@youthopportunities.org](mailto:summerjobsprogram@youthopportunities.org).

### About Youth Opportunities Unlimited

Youth Opportunities Unlimited is a youth workforce development non-profit organization that empowers at-risk youth, ages 14-19 to succeed in school, in the workplace, and in life. Over 150,000 youth have received services from Y.O.U. since 1982. Through school and community-based programs, Y.O.U. helps youth: obtain entry level, summer jobs, and internships; learn to set goals; manage conflict; distance themselves from negative influences; explore career paths; and prepare for higher education and workplace success.

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Opinion

# Our School Board Needs An Outside Audit Committee

by Woody Calleri

For the second year in a row I have found errors in the 5 year financial projections our School Board is using to determine our financial policies, needs and budget recommendations. As many of you know, in October of 2011 I reviewed our school's 5 year financial projections and found approximately \$2 million in errors. I reported the errors and the School Board, to its credit, corrected their forecasts to account for the errors. I had hoped this would be the last time errors were found in the 5 year forecasts and that the School Board would act on my request and the written recommendations of our own independent, unbiased auditors to create an outside audit committee. This committee would be composed of Lakewood residents with a financial or accounting background. The committee would then provide an outside/independent review of the School Board's finances, internal controls, forecasts and budgeting process. It would also provide an outside/independent forum to report concerns of fraud, abuse or mismanagement. Unfortunately, the School Board has not acted upon the recommendations to create this independent committee. This is especially disappointing given that our City Council has just such a

committee in place.

In October of 2012 the School Board released an updated 5 year forecast. Since the School Board did not put the committee in place I decided to review the forecast (similar to what I had done in 2011) to ensure that the School Board was being a good steward of our tax dollars. During this review I found numerous inconsistencies and areas of concern that led to a list of questions concerning the forecast.

My questions included issues ranging from how they calculated interest on our cash balances (\$60,000), to an inconsistent use of inflation rates, to why there had not been recognition of the casino revenue (\$1.2 million) among other issues. Based on my past dealings with the board and former treasurer (which actually resulted in the correction of various errors in 2011), I assumed there would not be a problem getting my questions answered and the forecast updated. However, this was not the case. Instead, I spent all of November, December and January trying unsuccessfully to arrange a meeting. I did finally have a meeting on Monday, February 4, 2013. To say this meeting was a disappointment would be an understatement. Almost none of my questions were answered and at one point I was even told that the casino revenue of over \$1 mil-

lion was "not significant." I'm pretty sure that none of the taxpayers in our school district would find adding this amount of money to our budget to be "not significant."

Given the lack of response and poor meeting, I decided to present my concerns to the School Board directly that night (Feb 4, 2013). At that meeting I presented my concerns, detailed what had happened and asked the board to look into the forecast issues I raised. I also renewed my request for the School Board to put in place an outside/independent audit committee to review the School Board's finances based on my knowledge and understanding of the difficulties and complexities involved in compiling this type of budget/forecast.

Our budget is too large at \$70 million and the forecasting too complex for one individual to have to do it alone. I know from experience that because of the difficulties and complexities involved, honest mistakes can and will occur. In addition, remember that I am not the only one who thinks this outside financial accountability is important. This has been the recommendation of our own independent, unbiased auditors and a policy that our own Lakewood City Council has adopted. While I did receive an apology about the less than fruitful

meeting from one of the board members, I have not heard anything from the School Board concerning either of these topics.

So where do we go from here? - Going forward, our School Board needs to take action to ensure that our future finances, forecasts and budgets do not continue this trend of containing errors. While I have no desire to embarrass anyone at any level, I do want to ensure that our \$70 million budget is managed accurately and effectively. As it stands now, I have raised several important issues which, taken collectively, can have a significant impact on the budget, any levy and the success of my own children's education. I take this matter seriously and I will continue to look for answers to my questions.

If you want to get involved and get answers, let me know. Alternatively, please consider coming to the School Board meetings - attendance is, to put it bluntly, pathetic. Additionally, if you have a financial or accounting background, consider becoming part of a watchdog group to help ensure that our money is being spent wisely and accounted for accurately. Call the School Board and ask why we don't have an independent audit committee in place. Get involved and demand answers! I can be reached by e-mail at gcalleri@yahoo.com or you can email the School Board president at edward.favre@lakewood.k12.oh.us

Mr. Calleri was the founder and CEO of ELMS Research, LLC. The company provided proprietary, independent, unbiased, fundamental research and financial due diligence on public and private companies to the top US and Global institutional investors and investment professionals. He retired from finance in 2010 after 12 years and now runs Burning River Lacrosse ([www.brlax.net](http://www.brlax.net)) which in addition to providing lacrosse instruction runs two charity events that raise money for Breast Cancer Research (Stephanie Spielman Fund) and the families of wounded veterans (Greater Cleveland Fisher House).

## Letter To The Editor Lakewood School Levy Madness

Dear Editor,

The Lakewood Board of Education's recent approval of a motion to place a new 3.9 mil operating levy on the May 2013 ballot is yet another example of a well-intended effort to treat the symptoms, not the problems we face in funding public education.

Funding the increased cost of education through property tax increases is becoming a short-sighted and reactionary solution to the problems of ever-increasing expenses coupled with declining tax collections and State of Ohio funding. Nonetheless, justifications abound. Superintendent Patterson has proclaimed, "It is needed to maintain excellence." Co-Chair of the levy campaign committee Christina McCallum has said she believes, "the levy is essential." Who are we to believe? As recent as June 7, 2012, in a Sun Press cover article titled "Schools Revise Financial Forecasts, Lakewood Treasurer Rick Berdine is quoted as saying,

"for fiscal years 2012 through 2016, real estate taxes which had been predicted to increase to 8% will not change."

Additionally, Superintendent Patterson's statement that the 3.9 mills is the smallest Lakewood school operating levy request in decades, may be true but irrelevant. Since 1998, annual mill rates have increased 28%, from 120.8 to 154.6. Residential property market values have increased on average 25% and reduction factor credits have decreased 6%. Compounding these percentages, net property taxes have increased approximately 59% for this period. It really doesn't matter to Lakewood homeowners how big or small each levy has been or when each occurred. What matters is they are writing increasingly larger checks each year to pay their property taxes, and beginning to wonder if they will be priced out of their homes when decisions are made to retire.

Lakewood property taxes, currently 2.96% of market appraisal value,

are among the highest in the nation. Lakewood and other Cleveland ring suburbs also have lower than national average property values coupled with extremely high delinquent payment ratios.

Also, in Lakewood, the ratio of dwelling values to students is against us. Let's compare a 20 unit apartment building valued at \$500,000 to an upscale home valued at \$500,000. Both dwellings have the same property tax liability. The home has no children in residence. The apartment building has 35 children, all enrolled in the Lakewood school system. We compound this problem by recognizing that Lakewood has over 45% residential rental property, a characteristic of many ring suburbs. And, for the most part, renters don't have a dog in the fight. They get to vote on levies, but are cognizant of the fact rents in Lakewood are for the most part inelastic to increases by landlords.

I commend those who are striving to think outside the envelope in tackling the ever-growing problem of funding public education. It's time, however, to look at changing the game, not the rules to the game. Everyone should pay their fair share of the tax burden, not just property owners.

Robert Bade  
Lakewood, Ohio



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By Gary, With Robert Rice

by Gary Rice

Timing is everything, or so they say.

You know what people say about the truth being stranger than fiction sometimes?

I had JUST completed a twelve hundred word column, expressing in the strongest possible terms, why I felt that it was high time that we took a hard look at doing something about those supposedly “temporary” modular classrooms currently in use across the street from Lakewood High School. For six years, going on seven now, our students have needed to cross busy Franklin Blvd. several times daily, in all kinds of weather, in order to complete their high school education. Both Dad and I have felt for a long time that having so many students out of the building, multiple times during a school day, continues to be a very serious concern. Thinking of possible short term solutions, we even wondered whether Franklin Blvd. could be closed off during the school day, or whether an enclosed over-the-street walkway might improve the immediate situation? Hopefully, our school district is taking a hard second look at all aspects of school safety and security, particularly these days.

Anyway, I had that column all ready to run- in THIS VERY issue in fact, and then... the school board decides to ask for an operating levy in May. After a few second’s reflection, Dad and I decided to pull that column out of the in-bin for now, and instead, to write a new one in support of the school levy.

Why? Simple.

Because the schools need our help again, and it’s time for us all (using that time-honored baseball metaphor) to step up to the plate and swing for the fences. While it would be great to see a building campaign begin that would



photo by Gary Rice

complete the high school, and improve other elementary schools, our present community need is to focus on our school system’s day-to-day operations, and that’s where this levy would be used.

Whether you are a big fan of private schools, home-schooling, the charter school movement, or whether you support any of a dozen other philosophical points-of-view regarding the public schools, the fact remains that an excellent, and well-supported public school system is perhaps the strongest asset that a community has. Strong and well-maintained public schools exponentially increase a community’s “curb appeal,” as well as being a proverbial “canary in the coal mine” indicator as to how a community is responding to the world around it. If a community’s public schools are not doing well, then... flat-out truthfully? Neither is the community. Property values suffer, public perception of that community suffers, and generally speaking, that community just starts going down the tubes, big time.

At the same time, yes, some public school districts have been known

to sometimes mess up and mismanage things. As with any of our governmental bodies, our churches, and other public institutions, our schools always need continual public input and oversight in order to function well, and they will only be as responsive to the community, as a community is responsive to them. Adding to all of this has been the continual difficulty that all public school systems have with responding to increasing Federal and State mandates, and with responding to the ever-changing demographics of a society on the move.

This past year, the Lakewood City School District has truly reached out to our community in a request for feedback regarding many present and future aspects regarding its plans and operations. Through that process, much good has been achieved, while much remains to be done.

What is currently being asked for on the May ballot will be a basic 3.9 mil operating levy. No, as indicated, this levy WILL NOT fix the high school’s building issue, because operating funds can’t

be used for building funds. The levy WILL instead be used to help manage the ever-present class size issue, update texts and technologies, help to increase attendance and graduation rates, and help to develop local community business partnerships for the schools.

Our Lakewood Schools have a long history of providing excellence, even, and perhaps especially, under adverse conditions. The collapse of the American economy in 2008 certainly did not help Lakewood’s plans to complete the high school, or pursue other construction dreams. At the same time-- a singular great community determination, based on Lakewood Schools’ traditional “tough-it-up, we-can-do-it anyway” attitude, has come into play. Our schools continued their pathway to excellence even through the Great Recession, and they continue on that pathway even today.

Dad and I have both taught in the Lakewood Schools in the past. I also went through the schools as a student from the second through the twelfth grades. We both presently continue to volunteer with Lakewood’s schools. As we pass through the hallways of the various buildings, we see professional and committed staff members, dedicated students, and a positive learning environment throughout our school district. We’ve observed neither excess fluff, nor excess luxury in the process. Lakewood has an extremely business-like, and very well-run school district, that equals or surpasses any other public school district that we have worked in.

For these reasons, Dad and I would like for you to join us in full support of the upcoming May Lakewood school levy. This is a crucial time in the history of the Lakewood City School District. It’s time for us all to step up to that plate and start swinging.

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Lakewood Living

# Lakewood Family YMCA Spring Youth Basketball League

by Chris Switzer

Families of Lakewood, it's almost time for Spring Sports! Look no further than the Lakewood YMCA for your youth sports needs in March. The Westside YMCAs of Greater Cleveland's Spring Basketball League registration is now underway!

YMCA youth basketball league is for boys and girls ages 3-14. Fast paced, 5 on 5 games are played every Saturday morning, for an 8-week-

long season. League games begin MARCH 9th. We will group participating children by the following age groups: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-11, and 12-14. We also are hoping to continue our Girls' Only league, POWER IN PINK, Age groups are 7-8, 9-10,11-12yrs old (this is contingent on number of participants registered). Registration deadline is March 2nd with a \$5 late fee charged after that date. The league is for members of the YMCA Lakewood,West Shore, and West

Park. All games will be held at the Lakewood YMCA.

Cost will be \$45 for YMCA members and \$85 for YMCA program members. Price includes a reversible mesh jersey, and one free ticket to a Cleveland Cavaliers game on April 7th! Further details will be distributed after registration is complete.

Again, the registration deadline is Saturday, March 2nd, with a \$5 late fee after deadline. So, get your child



signed up today!  
Chris Switzer is the Program Director at the Lakewood YMCA.

## North Coast Health Ministry Achieves Recognition As A Patient Centered Medical Home

continued from page 1

ensure that the care we are providing for them results in the best outcomes and reduces unnecessary costs."

Earning the recognition as a patient centered medical home was a process that involved the entire NCHM clinical team and was supported by practice transformation coaches provided by Better Health Greater Cleveland.

"The patient centered medical home is a team-based model of care," said NCHM Medical Director Philip Tomsik, MD. "While we have always considered ourselves 'patient-centered,'

this distinction validates that the care we are providing to some of the most vulnerable in our community is of the highest quality possible."

### About North Coast Health Ministry

NCHM is a faith-based clinic that provides and optimizes access to health care for the medically underserved on Greater Cleveland's West Side. A vital part of the community health care safety net for the past 27 years, NCHM provides primary care, prescription assistance, specialty referrals and health education to low-income individuals and families.

### About NCQA

NCQA is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. NCQA accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations. It also recognizes clinicians and practices in key areas of performance. NCQA is committed to providing health care quality information for consumers, purchasers, health care providers and researchers.

by Andrew Harant

On February 14, a brand new Get Go opened at the southwest corner of Detroit and Bunts Avenues, transforming a property that has sat vacant for the past few years. Along with what appear to be 16 gas pumps that will offer both unleaded and diesel fuels, Get Go will feature a more expansive market than its last location a few blocks to the west.

## Kauffman Park Gets More Than A Facelift



LakewoodAlive and Kauffman Park Friends have come up with a great plan to make Downtown Lakewood more enjoyable for all.



### continued from page 3

a summer night impossible. He said again, he thought that would take care of itself. As the park becomes a jewel to celebrate, utilizing it for more hours will come up naturally.

Next steps include refining the

presentation and the group's going to the Planning Commission for review and approval. On Wednesday night, a resident asked whether the public would continue to be included in the discussion. Evan's answer? Absolutely.

## Girls Basketball Claims First Title In 17 Years

continued from page 1

when six players were in double digits.

The ever-important team chemistry has played a big part in the success as well. "They like and respect each other," Harper said of his crew. What sets them apart, he says, is that each is willing to play whatever role is needed to win. "They each respect the different pieces and parts they bring to the game," he said.

Added junior Erin Hoffert, who played under Harper on JV last season, "We are fortunate that everyone is on the same page. Plus, we laugh and have a good time together."

The Rangers continued their winning ways in their first postseason game against Berea on February 16 at Valley Forge High School, winning 67 to 42 making their current record 20 wins, 3 losses. High scorers were Tori Milicevic with 17 points; followed by Erin Hoffert with 14; Maggie Rowell with 12; and Megan Barrett with 10.

While this season has been a great success, Harper sees even more success in the future as he is losing only one senior this year.

Members of the 2012-2013 Rangers are: Megan Barrett, Simone Brown, Madison Clause, Christin Donahoe, Mikayla Harper, Erin Hoffert, Allison Mazzeo, Victoria Milicevic, McKenzie Nekl, Maggie Rowell, Yasmeer Shafik and Taylor Shaw.

## New Get-Go Now Open



photo by Craig Lovejoy, Lovejoy Low Level Aerial Photography

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## Lakewood Living

# Blackbird Baking Co. Home To The Best!

by Jim O'Bryan

Lakewood is lucky we have many good places to eat, some of them even rise up to great, and are such stand-outs they deserve mentioning, and especially when kudos are heaped on them from extremely credible outside sources like "Travel and Leisure" or in this case "Food and Wine."

This is the case for bringing up Blackbird Baking Company on Detroit and Sloane Avenue. In a recent copy of "Food and Wine" magazine, Blackbird was called out for having one of the best Chocolate Chip Cookies in America, if not the best. This not only brought great satisfaction to Tom and Adria Clark, the owners who have been bakers for so long they cannot remember when baking was not a serious part of their lives, but also to the writer of this story. Many times I have had a Blackbird chocolate chip cookie in my possession when talking with a friend or acquaintance and I have described it as "the best chocolate chip cookie they will ever have tasted."



A delicious sticky bun with a beautifully poured cup of Rising Star Coffee by Barista Theresa Szentendrei.

What usually follows is "BS!" and a story about their favorite chocolate chip cookie. To which I normally give them my cookie or buy them one, with a promise, "If you do not think it is the best, I'll buy you lunch, dinner or drinks." I have never lost this bet. So for this to be reaffirmed by national media is very satisfying.

But it does not stop with the cookies, not even close. Blackbird Baking Co. is the home to some of the most fabulous French-style pastries and breads in the region.

So how did we end up with another star of the food world in Lakewood? Well, it was easy, because we are Lakewood, and the story starts here.

Tom Clark was born in Lakewood and grew up here. After school he, like so many, wanted to see some of the world and travel around, and headed west to seek his fame and fortune. Landing in ultra hip Portland, Oregon, Tom took up working in a bakery where he apprenticed and studied the fine art of



Adria and Tom Clark, the very happy heart and soul of Blackbird Baking Company. Happy to be recognized as the best, but even happier to be selling in Lakewood, Ohio.

baking, specializing in breads and pastries. His morning would start early and he would work hard all day, and head home just to get up and start again the next day. It is not easy to become a world class baker, just listen as they pound the butter every morning, and watch as they lift hundreds of pounds of dough, and then bread every day, and you will see, it is not as easy as the Cooking Channel makes it seem. Still, he was learning a trade, and thinking of his next move, probably back to Lakewood, the city he now missed. We are lucky in Lakewood: there is a stickiness that draws people in, and brings people back.

Well, this is where it gets complicated-- in a good way. A mutual friend who would have liked to see Tom stay in Portland, talked him into a blind date. To this day he is not sure how he was talked into a blind date, something that he would never have seen himself doing, but he did, and it must have been some great date as they started to date seriously, and then Tom dropped the bombshell to his girlfriend Adria, "I am headed back to Cleveland, Ohio. Do you want to come along?"

Well Adria said it was strange, "I



Some of their daily breads.

had never even thought of Cleveland before." She had grown up in Portland, and had been comfortable in what was becoming one of the "cool" cities to live in. Though the cool factor was quickly disappearing as more and more people came out, cost of living went through the roof, and she experienced a real



Blackbird Baking Co., (216) 712-6599  
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lack of feeling that she was at home, so she said, "sure!"

So they came to Cleveland, and started working on the Eastside, but this time it was different, Adria and Tom had fallen in love with each other, and with baking. "There is a good feeling that comes from making a product that people line up for and really appreciate. Who doesn't love good bread and great pastries?"

So even when hired, Tom and Adria made it clear to the owners that this was just a temporary stop on the path to owning their own bakery on the Westside in Lakewood. The owner was happy to help facilitate this step, after all two very knowledgeable hard-working bakers are a plus in a business that has long hours and hard work.

In the meantime, Tom's mother, who is still in Lakewood, kept an eye out for a suitable location on the Westside for their bakery. She kept driving by a location on Sloane and mentioned it to Tom and Adria. Then Tom and Adria kept driving by thinking, "Is this the home for our dream, the place to start a business?"

Lakewood has many great bakeries, and they each offer specialties that really do not compete with each other, and no one was offering the menu their business would. So they sat down with Lakewood's top restaurant entrepreneur, Mickey Krivosh (Around the Corner, Georgetown, Vosh) and struck a deal.

Blackbird Baking Co. opened four years ago, with a slow start as all businesses do, but the client-base grew and continued to pick up steam. Bakeries are not get-rich-quick schemes. Everyone I know who owns a bakery, and I know many, are in love with every aspect of the lifestyle: Early hours, long hard work, and the daily scorecard of what sold and what goes to the disadvantaged at the end of the day. It is truly a labor of love that keeps them going, and the occasional smile from a customer and kudos from others who have come in to buy.

The food business is tough, it is much like show business, and like show business you have to be tough, especially in those early days. Bake 100 loaves of bread sell 60. Next day bake 60 have 100 more asking why you ran out. Some days you are a star, some days, it takes the hug of a wife, and the smiles from your kids to make it all worthwhile. And the core belief you are doing what you love, and that when others find out, happier days are ahead.

As I said that was 4 years ago. Today, it is not so up and down, often there is a line out the door, and more and more the café part of the bakery is filled, and it is filled with one of the most diversified groups I have yet to see in any coffee shop or bakery. It seems to be very heavily traveled by some of the finest writers in this part of the state, politicians, civic leaders, and most of the people who work in other coffee shops and bakeries. Hmmmm, makes one think, why here? They serve Rising Star Coffee, one of the hottest roasters in town, so that is not it. They have really good and extremely pleasant and knowledgeable baristas, as do other places--so it must be the pastries, and it is.

When I first ordered a "Sticky Bun" I found it to be very different from any "sticky bun" I had ever tasted, nothing like Miller's Dining Room, but they were not really as good in real life as everyone remembers them. Nothing like Cinnabon, hell, it was 1/2 the size of the Cinnabon, but what I found was the light flaky pastry that is a hallmark of Blackbird, and a taste that was incredible. It was the perfect sticky bun, and perfect in size. Any more would have been overkill.

The croissants are real croissants, as good as anything in France. "The scones are as good as anything in the UK or on The Queen Mary II," claims School Board President Ed Favre.

And here we are at the end of the story, I am out of space, and we have not even spoken of the breads--which are fantastic, the galettes--a joy to taste, or the savory tarts that are a perfect lunch or snack. You will have to review those for yourself.



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Lakewood Living

2012 Real Estate Review: Part 2, Condos

by Chris Bergin

Part 2 of our series will take a look at the State of the Market for Lakewood Condos.

Last year there were a total of 110 sales of Condos in Lakewood. This is the highest amount since 2006 when 127 condos were sold.

The average sale in 2012 was a 2 bedroom, bath and a half condo with 1100 square feet selling for \$74,400. They were listed for an average of \$86,300 and took about 200 days to sell. Looking at the benchmark year of 2006, the average condo sold was a 2 bedroom, 1 bath unit with 1000 square feet. It was listed for nearly \$95,000 and sold for \$89,000. Market time averaged 160 days.

The lowest priced sale in 2012 was \$12,000 for a 1 bedroom, 1 bath 560 square foot condo in the Kirtland House on Warren. The highest sale price was \$240,000 for a 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1800 square foot condo in the Winton Place. Needless to say it had the most amazing views of the downtown skyline and the lake!

2012 sales were up compared to those in 2011. Sales increased by 28 units, an increase of about 34%, and the average sales price increased by \$10,000.

Currently there are 66 condos for sale in Lakewood with an average Listing Price of \$115,900. Seven units are under contract, with an average Listing Price of \$300,000. This includes several of the new condos being built at Clifton Pointe on the West End of the City. A total of 6 units have transferred thus far in 2013. The closed transactions averaged 120 days on the market, were listed for \$54,600, and sold for an average of \$51,900.

The Lakewood Condo market will continue on a slow path to recovery. Keep in mind that the recovery will be clouded with the sale of higher priced units at Clifton Pointe, as well as fantastic pent-house-type units on the Gold Coast. Each condo and each building should be looked at on a case-by-case basis to determine a true market value. Additionally, keep in mind the recovery of the condo market will trail that of the Single Family Market. As always, residents may track property values and neighborhood activity at [www.HomeValuesInLakewood.Info](http://www.HomeValuesInLakewood.Info). For a complete copy of the report email "Lakewood Condo Report" to [Chris@ChrisBergin.com](mailto:Chris@ChrisBergin.com).

Chris Bergin is a licensed real estate agent with Prudential Lucien Realty in Lakewood.

Home Repair Workshop for Seniors

Take The Hassle Out Of Finding A Contractor

by Hilary Schickler

How to Hire a Contractor for Home Repairs

Your home is your most valuable asset, and it's important to be cautious when finding a competent and reliable contractor to complete home repairs.

This 90-minute workshop for seniors takes the hassle out of home repairs by focusing on the basics of planning and bidding out projects: obtaining and reviewing bids, specifying what is to be done, selecting a contractor, avoiding common pitfalls and monitoring the work. While this workshop is geared for seniors, the information can be used by anyone regardless of age. All are welcome to attend.

Transportation for Lakewood seniors will be available to and from the event for a suggested donation of \$3 round-trip. There will also be a lunch prior to the event at 11:45 a.m. for a suggested donation of \$1. Suggested donations may be waived for individuals unable to pay for transportation and/or lunch.

**When:** Thursday, March 7, 2013, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

**Where:** Kathleen and Robert Lawther Center, Lakewood Department of Human Services, Division

of Aging, 16024 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107.

Cost: \$5 age 60 and older; \$15 age 59 and under.

Reservations must be made by Wednesday, February 27.

Call LakewoodAlive at (216) 521-1554 or go to the Lawther Center (16024 Madison) to make reservations.

Presented by the Home Repair Resource Center and brought to you by LakewoodAlive in partnership with the Lakewood Department of Human Services, Division of Aging.

Hilary Schickler is a lifelong resident of Lakewood and Housing Outreach Director for LakewoodAlive.

Lakewood Old House Fair - Save The Date

by Mel Page

The 5th annual Lakewood Old House Fair will be Saturday, April 27th, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Harding Middle School as usual. It serves as a home-improvement informational one-stop shop of about fifty-five businesses and services.

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

This event is steered by a small team of Lakewood resident volunteers. However, it could not be brought to the community free of charge without the resources of private and nonprofit devoted partners: Lakewood City Schools Community Recreation & Education Department, The Lakewood Observer, and Lakewood Hardware. Stay tuned to future Lakewood Observer

newspapers and online for more details.

Are you a home-improvement or home-related business or service? For more exhibitor information visit Lakewood Hardware at 16608 Madison Ave., Lakewood, Ohio; [www.lakewoodhardware.com](http://www.lakewoodhardware.com); or by phone at 216-226-8822.



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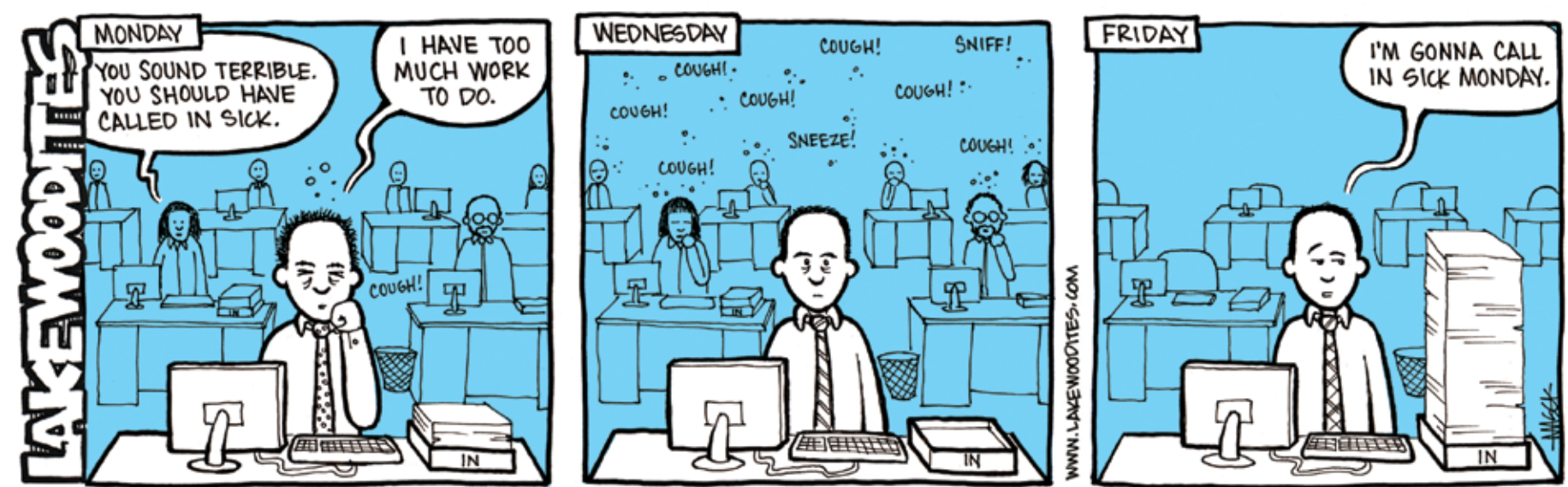
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