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I am very proud of our city and our schools. Lakewood graduates are, as a whole, uniquely prepared for life in a diverse and changing world.”  
Stephen Davis, Observation Deck, 9-5-2011

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Proud Member Of The Observer Media Family Of Community Written And Owned Newspapers & Websites

Volume 9, Issue 5, March 6, 2013

## 5 Schools Excellent, 2 Schools Excellent With Distinction - Report Card In

by Betsy Voinovich

After some delay, the official 2011-12 State of Ohio Report Card was released, proving that even with ever-mounting economic challenges, Lakewood City Schools are doing well:

Harding Middle School and Lincoln Elementary have been designated with the highest award – Excellent With Distinction.

### Lakewood Public Library Ranked Among Best In The Nation

by Leana Donofrio-Milovan and Ben Burdick

Lakewoodites can take pride in the fact that, once again, Lakewood Public Library has been recognized for excellence on a national scale. In fact, a look at the numbers reveals that the city's small, independent library system provides a level of service that outcompetes larger institutions across the nation.

The latest accolade to come the library's way is a 4-star rating from the prestigious Library Journal (LJ). LJ Index scores measure the levels of library service delivery relative to peer libraries nationally. Lakewood Public Library did very well in its weight class, the \$1 million to \$5 million expenditure category, but scores for circulation of materials, public program attendance and simple foot traffic would be the envy of much wealthier institutions.

Overall, Northeast Ohio did very well in the latest Library Journal report. You can see how Lakewood's numbers stack up against other local systems by reading the Director's

Five schools were rated by the State of Ohio as Excellent: Garfield Middle School, Grant Elementary School, Hayes Elementary School, Roosevelt Elementary School and Lakewood High School.

Three school buildings were rated Effective: Emerson Elementary School, Harrison Elementary School and Horace Mann Elementary School.



photo by Jim O'Bryan

*Tranversion* by Peter Diepenbrock Letter in the Spring and Summer 2013 Program Guide.

Library Director James Crawford encourages feedback from Library patrons and credits them with much of the Library's success. "As the world changes around us, faster and faster, and our information needs grow, all of our libraries must constantly innovate. With a small staff, most of whom serve in multiple capacities, Lakewood Public Library is uniquely positioned to listen to its patrons and anticipate their needs. And as an independent library, we have an unrivaled freedom to use this insight to find new ways to make the most

**continued on page 5**

### Friends Of Lakewood Public Library Book Sale!

by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

The centerpiece of the Friends operation is the old-fashioned Book Sale. When you purchase books, movies, magazines and other items at these events, you are participating in a grand experiment, now celebrating thirty years of service to the Library and the

community.

Join the Friends and receive entrance to a special, members-only preview sales on Thursday, April 4 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Memberships may be purchased at the door for as little as two dollars.

The Friends of Lakewood **continued on page 2**

Lakewood City Academy is rated separately from our District – rated Continuous Improvement. In comparison to other community/charter schools this is very good.

The District value-added rating has been above expected growth for the fifth consecutive year.

Six individual schools met above expected growth (Harding, Garfield, Hayes, Harrison, Roosevelt and Lincoln). High Schools are not measured by value-added.

Our District Performance Index Score has improved for the 5th consecutive year.

Even though these scores are impressive, the overall District rating was of "Continuous Improvement."

Superintendent Patterson explained how this could happen with 7 excellent schools, and 3 effective ones. The Federal rating system uses Adequate Yearly Progress measures to rank school systems. If the District fails to meet even one, it affects the overall rating. Lakewood City Schools did not meet "AYP" in the category of students with Disabilities in reading, and Asian/Pacific Islanders in reading and math.

Board President Ed Favre explained that the rating system is not well-designed and does not create an accurate picture of the academic health of Lakewood's District. He said that the system, "Favors wealthy, homogeneous communities at the expense of inclusive, diverse communities such as Lakewood. This sound-byte labeling system requires looking below the surface to see what is real."

He addressed the issue of the subgroups that did not pass, making the point that it was a handful of kids, out of the 6000, who passed in more than 24 different subgroups, otherwise Lakewood would have received an Excellent rating.

"We value those kids with all others, so we take the hit **continued on page 3**



### LOKOL Public Forum Series Debuts March 16

by Peter Grossetti

Our new LOKOL (Lakewood Observer Know Our Lakewood) Public Forum Series will kick off with LakewoodAlive Executive Director, Ian Andrews, presenting a report on 2013 activity priorities. Mr. Andrews will also entertain community feedback

and input during a Q&A and Discussion session.

All are welcome to this free event on Saturday, March 16 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Lakewood Public Library's Multipurpose Room.

LOKOL (the acronym purposely sounds like "local") **continued on page 2**

### LEAF To Host Open House On March 10

by Lisa Hofmann,

President- LEAF

**Learn about this season's CSA options, community gardens, 2013 education programs and more**

LEAF (Lakewood Earth and Food) Community will host an Open House on Sunday, March 10 from 4-6 pm. Stop by the multi-purpose room at Lakewood Public Library to find out more about its programs that promote a healthy, sustainable community.

#### Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Programs

Be healthy, be green and eat local! Consider signing up for a "share" in a CSA this season, which provides you with a weekly supply of seasonal produce each week. LEAF Community coordinates with several farms and programs that provide fresh, locally produced products each week at LEAF Community Farmers' Markets. The Open House will host several CSA programs that

will be offered in Lakewood in 2013. Representatives from the various programs will be available to answer questions and talk about their farm or program and register members.

The "LEAF CSA Payment Plan" will also be available at the Open House. This is a payment plan offered to limited income individuals who are interested in participating in a CSA, but are deterred by the lump sum payment required at the start of the season. An application is required. LEAF will pay the upfront cost of joining the CSA, and then the member will pay LEAF back weekly. Payments to LEAF can be made with cash/check/EBT (Ohio Direction). The member participating with the payment plan will receive all of the same benefits from the CSA program as other members.

#### Community Gardens

Community gardening allows you to know where your **continued on page 2**



# Lakewood Events

## Panel Discussion On Lessons From Newtown

by Larry Keller

A Community Discussion on the Lessons that Can

Be Learned from the Tragedy in Newtown, CT

Sunday, March 3, 2013, 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Sponsored by: Cove United Methodist and Lakewood Christian Churches

12501 Lake Avenue – Lakewood  
This event is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Limited lot parking and street parking are available. We encourage carpooling / ride sharing. Questions? Please call the office of Cove United

Methodist Church at 216-521-7424 or email: ddmmhh@cox.net.

Donna M. Holland - Chair, Cove/LCC Newtown Discussion Committee

## LPL Book Sale

continued from page 1  
Public Library Spring Book Sale will be held on Saturday, April 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Membership is not required.

Visit [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/friends](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/friends) for membership information.

This free event will be held in the Lakewood Public Library's Book Sale area in the Basement. Call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127 for more information.

## LOKOL Series Debuts March 16

continued from page 1

forums are intended to be interactive and are designed to help The Lakewood Observer Project reach our mission and goal: to attract, articulate, and amplify civic intelligence and community good will 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).

Any Lakewood civic entity, non-profit organization, or special interest

group interested in participating in one of our monthly public forums should contact Peter Grossetti, Associate Editor for Community Engagement at [peter-grossetti@lakewoodobserver.com](mailto:peter-grossetti@lakewoodobserver.com). Peter is also taking input and suggestions from Lakewood residents on possible topics to be presented. Any and all suggestions are welcome and we will try to find the appropriate community resources (the right-sized venue, program moderator, etc.) to accommodate your input.

## LEAF Open House March 10

continued from page 1

food is coming from, have the pick of the crop when your produce comes in, gets you outside and in LEAF's community gardens you are likely to make new friends, learn new gardening techniques and feel like a bigger part of the community at large!

LEAF coordinates community gardens at four of Lakewood's parks and at the Westerly. For a \$25 fee, Lakewood residents are welcome to "rent" a 10' x 10' organic garden plot for the season. Learn more about this opportunity from LEAF garden coordinators at the Open House.

### Education

Curious about beekeeping? Want to learn about how to build better soil for your garden? Is food dehydration a topic you'd like to know more about? These are just a few of the education programs LEAF has planned for 2013. Find out more about the learning opportunities for the season.

### Cookbooks for Sale

The LEAF Cooks cookbook is a collection of recipes submitted by vendors, farmers, gardeners, market shoppers, community supported agriculture shareholders, chefs and friends of LEAF. All recipes include local ingredients, available seasonally around Ohio. It will be available for purchase for \$15 at the Open House—or online at [www.leafcommunity.org](http://www.leafcommunity.org).

### Guest vendors, seed swapping and more

Select guest vendors will be at the open house, and some bulk dry goods will also be available for purchase. LEAF is hosting a seed swap again this year; bring extra seeds you'd like to trade (in clearly marked envelopes or bags).

In addition, LEAF volunteers will be on hand to share information about the organization and answer your questions.

To find out more about LEAF, visit [www.leafcommunity.org](http://www.leafcommunity.org) or email [leafcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:leafcommunity@gmail.com).

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Your Independent Source for  
Lakewood News & Opinion

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

Become an Observer!

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

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

Upcoming Submission Deadline

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Sunday, March 24, 2013

Publish Date

Wednesday, March 20, 2013  
Wednesday, April 3, 2013

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City News

# Council Considers Automated Recycling And A Parking Ban

Council President Brian Powers called the February 19, 2013 Council meeting to order at 7:32 P.M. The first order of business was a report delivered from the Public Works Committee. Councilman Shawn Juris (Ward III), chair of the Committee, read the report which discussed the proposed automated recycling program, continuing the conversation the Committee previously held on the topic. Councilman Juris had asked the Public Works Department to provide data estimating how long it would take the city to recoup the cost of instituting the automated recycling, and how much savings it would earn them in the long run.

The Director of Public Works, Joe Beno, said that the up front cost of the program would be about \$953,000 for the recycling bins and \$250,000 for specialized trucks to lift the bins. Considering the ease to recycle because of the bins, and also Lakewood's mandatory recycling policy, they expect an increase in recycling which would save the city \$100,000 to \$200,000 in fees to a landfill. In addition to this, they estimate that the efficiency would allow them to reduce personnel cost by 25%, saving the city somewhere between \$160,000 to \$180,000. With those numbers they estimated that it would take about seven years to pay off the program, based on savings. When looking at the long term viability of the program, they do not expect there to be much additional upkeep cost for 20 years, allowing for 12

years of substantial savings.

The second topic they discussed in regard to the recycling program is the issue of being able to get the trucks' lift arms to the bins. With the large number of cars that park on the streets in Lakewood this is a substantial issue. A parking ban between 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. was proposed, however they are trying to collect data to see who parks on the street during those hours, and if alternative parking options cannot be sought out. Alternative suggestions were made such as having a second person in the truck to move the bins, or having the bins placed in driveway aprons, but these were not thought to be optimum solutions.

Next Councilman Powers (At-Large) introduced a resolution. In November Council passed a resolution opposing Ohio House Bill 601 which would drastically change the state's tax code unifying all cities under the same rules. In the process of doing this Lakewood, and many other communities will be hurt by the amount of tax they are able to collect, drastically decreasing their operating budget and their ability to do a lot of the things they do. With the passing of the year House Bill 601 expired, however it was reintroduced as House Bill 5. Continuing to oppose the proposed law, Council reintroduced its resolution to reaffirm their opposition.

by Christopher Bindel

Council passed the resolution.

Mayor Mike Summers then asked Council to consider allowing the administration to apply for a grant from the Local Government Innovation Fund from the State of Ohio. When Governor Kasich reduced the Local Government Fund a program was created that would allow money to go to cities that show initiative and progress in making government run more efficiently. Having just demonstrated to Council at the last Council meeting the strides the administration has made with their Lean Lakewood initiative, they wish to apply for this grant to hopefully recoup some of their cost on consulting services and training for the program.

Council passed a resolution allowing the administration to apply for the grant.

Finance Director Jennifer Pae then introduced a number of items that are seeking the approval from Council, allowing the City to sell bonds to help pay for capital improvement projects including the resurfacing of several streets, the replacement of a salt storage facility and park improvements. Council referred all of the items to the Finance Committee to be considered.

Fire Chief, Scott Gilman, then asked Council to pass a resolution proclaiming the week of March 3, 2013 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Lakewood.

He said that "this is Lakewood's opportunity to join the national effort to test the Emergency Alert System and other appropriate components of emergency management." He also said that this week will help raise community awareness of the dangers of severe weather such as tornado and floods, and help them plan how to prepare for such situations, saving lives and injury.

Council passed the resolution.

Coming to the end of the Council meeting, Council President Powers adjourned the meeting at 7:55 P.M.

## Excellent Schools

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and continue to do the best we can for all Lakewood's children."

Overall, he is pleased with our schools and all of our kids: "We have excellent schools, excellent teachers and staff, great kids, and a great town. Our kids advance at or above expectations year after year, despite a flawed and unconstitutional state funding system that rhetoric does not change."

Superintendent Patterson also felt good about the report: "I am very pleased with the progress that our students made last year," he said. "I am also very proud of the work that our teachers do to improve student achievement each and every day. To have seven schools rated Excellent with Distinction or Excellent is outstanding."

Advance Your Career Open Houses

### Saturday MBA

The Saturday MBA program is now registering for Fall 2013. The program is designed for working professionals and can be completed in two years -- every other Saturday -- one course at a time.

Learn more at Open Houses:  
Saturday morning March 16th, 8:30 a.m. and  
Monday evening March 18th, 6:00 p.m.

### RN-BSN

RN-BSN, Completer degree, is now registering for May 2013. The RN-BSN program allows RNs to advance their career and earn a Bachelors of Science in Nursing.

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Preregistration is not required.

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# School Board Meeting

## Feb 25th Joint Meeting Of The School Board And City Council

by Woody Calleri

The February 25, 2013 Joint Meeting Of The School Board and City Council was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by School Board President Edward Favre and Council Brian Powers.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence, and the Roll Call (all present for school board, councilman Bullock absent for council.)

First up, representatives Skindell and Antonio gave a quick review of the Governor's budget proposal. They indicated that there was nothing new to report but that they would report back to both organizations with updates on a regular basis.

Next up Treasurer Penton gave a presentation on the School Board's finances and 5 year forecast. The vast majority of the presentation was a review of his prior presentation for the benefit of the City council members who had not seen it. On the revenue side the highlights included commentary on expected revenue sources (65% local, 35% state) with a discussion of the impact of the 2010 levy, the 2012 property value reappraisal, and state aid expectations. The only new information in the presentation was the increase in the estimated decline in property values from 3.9%/4.0% (residential/commercial) in the last presentation to 5.0%/5.5% in this one.

On the cost side the highlights included commentary on cost as a percentage of expenses (wages 61%, benefits 21%), expense assumptions (base wages flat, staffing levels, and benefits, and the SERS 'catch up'). He also noted that healthcare costs increased 11.9% in FY 12, 13.7% in FY 13 and are expected to grow at a 12%-14% rate for the next 5 years. The end result is that our costs are expected to grow from 69.4 million this year to 77.9 million in FY 17.

Mr. Penton finished his presentation with a review of the school's cash balance (depleted in FY 16 based on the projections), a summary of where we are now and a summary of where we are going.

Note: in the presentation the estimated decline in property values was increased from 3.9% res /4.0% commercial to 5.0 res/5.5% comm. No explanation of this change was given.

However, the decline in property values has little impact on the forecasted revenue because of HB 920. HB920 which holds taxes flat when values decline by increasing the millage.

Next, Mayor Summers presented a detailed review of the 2013 City of Lakewood Objectives. The nine objectives ranged from finishing Phase 1 of the Housing Forward strategy, to strategic conversation with Lakewood Hospital, to improving our financial position (LEAN initiative, Six Sigma, SharePoint, GIS) to strengthening investment along Madison Avenue (similar to Detroit Avenue).

Following the Mayor's report, Jennifer Pae, Lakewood's Finance Director, gave a review of the City's finances. Ms. Pae started with an overview of the laws that govern how governments report their finances, appropriate uses of funds (city has 60 accounts with specific purposes), and how the city can have sufficient funds in one account but a deficit in another.

Ms. Pae then gave an overview of revenues and expenditures for the city's general fund noting the negative impact of the recession, declining property values (unlike the schools the city bears the full impact of declining values), cuts in state funding, and the loss of the Estate Tax. She then provided details on the three largest impacts: internal stressors resulting from years of deficit spending prior to 2008 (improved finances and cash balances in 2012), the recession (tax receipts have recovered but property values have not), and the state budget (cut of 50% in local gov't fund, elimination of CAT tax, Estate tax). Finally, Ms. Pae reviewed the city's plan to be good financial stewards of the city's finances. This included focusing on the City's 2013 objectives.

Next on the agenda, Jim Reitenbach presented on security in our schools. Mr. Reitenbach reviewed 1) safety and security in the school buildings - staff, camera entry, police/fire training, 2) the need to be proactive not reactive on abuse, violent behavior and bullying, and 3) the need to create a positive climate of respect of individual differences. He then detailed the programming and training being employed at Lakewood schools (e.g MARC program, Ranger 360, etc).

Dr. Palumbo reviewed the School Board's future plans to teach positive behavior interventions and improve Mental Health First Aid. She then detailed education programs for our youngest learners indicating that the school board plans to expand pre-school options by offering preschool for all on a sliding fee scale. At the Elementary level she reviewed the reading response program which provides reading intervention to those not on track to read at grade level. Finally, Dr. Palumbo reviewed the school board's Special Education programming noting that 1) evaluation begins as early as two and a half years old, 2) programing at the preschool level is delivered in Lakewood school, in home or in local child care settings, 3) services are offered in all buildings and include Intervention Specialists, Speech and Language, Occupational and Physical Therapists and 4) services are also offered in two non-Lakewood schools (LCA and St. Edward).

Mark Gleichauf then presented on technology, foreign language programs and the Lakewood City Academy. On technology Dr. Gleichauf discussed the School Board's future goals including being 100% wireless throughout all buildings and embedding technology in all courses and instruction. On foreign languages, he highlighted current offerings (4 languages), immersion trips (trip to Spain), dual enrollment options (U of Akron), and the High school's language clubs outreach program. He also indicated that the schools would begin offering Chinese next year. Finally, he touched on the Lakewood City Academy with 143 students and offerings including traditional courses, online electives, and credit for Work and Volunteer programs.

Up next was a report on the English Language Learner Programming. Details included having 213 refugees and 25 languages spoken in our schools.

Our Music programs were reviewed next. Bright spots include being rated 'superior' for 16 consecutive years, the class of 2012 receiving over \$500,000 in scholarships and having 2 All State 2013 Orchestra Champions.

Next up was a review of our Gifted and Talented program. Highlights

include the fact that we are 1 of only 2 districts in the area with Gifted classes in the 3-5 grades, we are the only district with a self-contained middle school program, and that we offer 12 AP classes at the high school level.

Dr. Bright then presented on the dual enrollment program with the University of Akron. The program is starting this year with 2 Spanish classes. The enrolled students received college credit for passing the course. The cost of the program is shared between the student (\$100), the schools (\$175) and third party donors (\$100). The classes are taught by Lakewood teachers who are also U of A adjunct professors. Dr. Bright indicated that the goal is to add 4 additional course offerings in 2013/14 and an additional 4 programs in 2014/15.

The joint committee then heard presentations on West Shore Career Technical (28 students earned ODE Award of Merit), a Review of Ranger Athletics (combined GPA 3.45, 5 conference champions), an update on the Recreation Department, and a review of Student Activities (65 clubs).

Superintendent Patterson then reviewed the accomplishments of H2O (333 HS students tallied 3,682 volunteer hours), noted our National Merit Scholars (3 finalist, 2 Semi Finalist, 6 Commended), and included a brief review of our Hall of Fame Inductees.

After those presentations, the joint committee moved to the communications portion of the meeting. Council President Powers discussed the need of both committees to share services, facilities and ideas. He reminded everyone that both sides needed each other and committed the council to working together to find solutions. He also noted that the two committees needed to have a discussion on the recreation department to ensure that it was funded, managed, and delivered services in the best way possible.

School Board President Favre discussed the need of both committees to work more cooperatively and efficiently. He agreed that there should be more joint meetings. He also noted the need to have open communication, small group meetings, and shared ideas to improve fiscal results and improve services.

School Board member Linda Beebe noted that she was happy that the two groups were coming together.

Councilman Anderson thanked the School Board for the presentation and noted the positive impact the schools have on the community

Councilman Bullock seconded the notion of working together in difficult times. He asked for more information on the loss of state funding, the proportion of the loss that was due to property tax declines, and wanted a better understanding of the School Board's financials. School Board members noted that they would reach out to him concerning his questions.

A Lakewood citizen noted it was heartwarming to see the two sides working together, gratifying to learn

**continued on next page**

# AROUND THE

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# Lakewood Public Library

## Lakewood Public Library Spelling Bee

by Eric Knap

Vivify yourself with expeditiousness—the Lakewood Public Library Spelling Bee is coming! All youth in 5th through 8th grade are invited to experience the ardor and exhilaration, blunders and bloopers, triumphs and disappointments of a competitive spelling bee.

Preliminary rounds begins Thursday, March 14th in the Main Library Multipurpose Room. During each of the next three Thursdays, the tension will mount as the number of competitors dwindles. All spellers still standing on April 11th will be invited to a friendly meet and greet reception before facing off in the championship on April 12th.

The championship round will be a Scripps Howard-style bee held in

the Main Library Auditorium, with a stage, lights, and microphones. Don't miss your chance to shine in what is sure to be one of the highlights of the year at Lakewood Public Library!

To register, stop in at the children and youth services desk, use our online event registration system at <http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth/>, or call (216) 226-8275 ext. 140.

Preliminary Rounds: Thursdays, March 14-March 28, 4 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Competitor's Meet and Greet: Thursday, April 11, 4 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Spelling Bee Championship: Friday, April 12, 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.



## Go Behind The Scenes Of Cleveland Play House At The Library

by Elaine Rosenberger

Do you harbor secret dreams of being a famous actor, an acclaimed director, or an award-winning playwright? Did you ever want to be a fly on the wall at rehearsals, or to experience the staging or costuming process? For those with thespian ambitions, Cleveland Play House offers a unique opportunity with its new series of Behind the Scenes programs at the Library. The series kicks off on Wednesday, March 20 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium, with a chance to sit in the director's seat of David Lindsay-Abaire's *Good People*.

Nominated for a 2011 Tony Award for Best Play, *Good People* looks at the working class of Boston's Southie District, where Margie, a once-pretty single mother of a disabled child, has just gotten fired from the Dollar Store after being late for work once again. She decides to track down Mike, an old high school boyfriend and medical school

graduate, in the hopes that he will give her a job. Frances McDormand won a Tony for her portrayal of Margie on Broadway. Learn how a director takes a play such as *Good People* and brings it to the stage, from collaborating with actors and maintaining artistic vision to coordinating stagecraft, sets, lights, sound and costume design.

Cleveland Play House's Behind the Scenes series continues at the Library with programs on new playwrights (April 23), the 2013-14 Season (May 23), the costuming process (June 19), staging a concert (July 24), and secrets of the season (August 21). Each program will be held at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. For more information, visit [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/playhouse](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/playhouse).

Put on your director's cap for an exploration of *Good People* on Wednesday March 20 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Admission is free and open to all.

## Know When To Fold 'Em

by Nicka Petruccio

Fun fact: "origami" literally means folded paper. Well, I suppose that's not that surprising. What is surprising though, is how incredibly easy it is to make beautiful origami pieces with just a bit of practice.

This spring, Lakewood Public Library is hosting an Origami program for teens. Sixth through twelfth graders can come once a month to try their hand at the art of paperfolding. But it's not just for beginners- all skill levels are welcome! Novices will be introduced to basic folding terms and techniques, and

we will create a simple piece together as a group. Afterward, it's origami open-studio, with books and supplies at your disposal to try and create whatever you like. Here, the more seasoned origami artists can shine, and show off their skills to their peers.

Three one-hour sessions will be held on Sundays this spring: March 10th, April 7th, May 5th, in the Lakewood Public Library Multipurpose Room. Registration is recommended but drop-ins are welcome. Call to register (216)226-8275 (x140), or register online at [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com).

## Vibrant Wind Dancers Return

by Amy Kloss

Winter may be ending soon, but you can fall in love with the season one more time when the Vibrant Wind Dancers take the stage at the Lakewood Public Library on March 10 at 2 p.m. to perform *Midwinter Night's Dream*.

This will be the fourth time that founder and director Mary Bodnar and her dancers have enchanted an audience at the library with mesmerizing movements of rib, neck, hip and hands in a performance of Middle Eastern interpretive dance. The dancers move to a soundtrack of traditional Middle Eastern, Celtic, medieval and classical fusion music, wearing costumes of flowing skirts, decorative hip scarves, and ankle bells. Nine-foot silk veils flow as the Vibrant Wind Dancers move to music and poetry that enhance their fluidity and grace.

All programs are free and open to the public.

## Joint Meeting - Board/Council

**continued from previous page**

about the dual enrollment program and the other presentations and congratulated everyone for starting to meet.

A member of the community asked the joint committee if they would consider moving the individual committee meetings to different day/times so that they did not overlap.

At this point there were no other speakers or items on the agenda. Therefore the meeting was adjourned.

Bottom Line: It is good to see the two committees starting to work together but this should have been happening all along. In the future, the two councils need to meet to discuss shared services, best practices, and cost savings ideas at least quarterly. To help the process along the two committees should stop bickering and agree to move their

monthly meetings, which both meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, so that they don't overlap - one possible solution would be for each of them to agree to move 1 meeting to a Tuesday.

This would allow members of each committee and the community to attend both meetings. Each committee could then have one member attend the other's committee meetings and report back on what is happening. This would promote communication, sharing of ideas and have a positive impact on the community.

In addition, the School Board should take a hard look at the cost saving initiatives (LEAN initiative, Six Sigma, SharePoint, GIS) the City Council is currently implementing and see if they could help the School Board with their budget issues.

## Lakewood Public Library Ranked Among Best

**continued from page 1**

of our resources. Are we doing enough and are we doing it well? Only you can tell us."

The Library is popular around the region for its late hours and seven-day-a-week service. In fact, the Lakewood Public Library is open more hours than any public library in the nation. Our popular Children's and Youth Services set the standard for imaginative learning opportunities and just plain fun programs for kids, ranging from infancy through graduation day. Our adult programs continue to innovate with films, concerts, lectures, dramatic presentations and more as attendance figures continue to rise. Nearly all of this programming is supported by the volunteer Friends of Lakewood Public Library. And the Library itself is supported by the strength of the Lakewood Public Library Foundation.

According to Library Journal, "If you need more evidence that public libraries are delivering despite economic hard times, consider this: our analysis also revealed that, for example, the two most long-established per capita measures—circulation and visits—rose dramatically compared with pre-recession years. Considering the anecdotal evidence of branch closures and reduced hours and staffing, such statistical evidence of ris-

ing demand for public libraries is all the more impressive."

The LJ Index of Public Library Service 2012, created by Keith Curry Lance and Ray Lyons and sponsored by Baker & Taylor's Bibliostat, is based on 2009 data released by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in July 2012. The top libraries in each group get five, four, or three stars. All rated libraries, starred or not, can use their scores to learn from their peers, inform their stakeholders of achievements and service opportunities, and improve library awareness and funding.

The LJ Index ratings and the data on which they are based are readily available for download from the Library Journal website. In addition to the data, national and state rankings and national percentiles may be accessed and analyzed graphically and interactively by those with access to Bibliostat Connect, which offers customized analyses linking LJ Index data to other data from IMLS, the Public Library Data Service, the state library agency, and the US Census. Visit [lj.libraryjournal.com](http://lj.libraryjournal.com) to learn more.

For more information about the Library <http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org>.

# Lakewood Public Library

compiled by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

## 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

## LPL Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

### Spelling Bee

For students fifth through eighth grade  
Grab a dictionary and spell your way to the top. There are three preliminary rounds available, and students must choose one of the three to enter this contest. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Preliminary rounds take place in the Main Library Multipurpose Room. Choose one: March 14, March 21, or March 28.

### Lord of the Books

For students fifth through eighth grade  
Attention Hobbit & Lord of the Rings fans! Join the armies of Middle-Earth in a great quest for the One Ring! As players in the Fellowship of the Library, you will take on many exciting team-based challenges in this seven-week program inspired by J.R.R. Tolkien’s fantasy novels! To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Wednesdays, March 20 – May 8, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

### Origami Go

For students sixth through twelfth grade  
Origami Go is for those who have never made a crease to seasoned pros who want to show off their skills. Each session begins with basic fold techniques and transitions to a group project. After that, it’s origami free-time. Supplies and project books provided. Attend any or all three sessions. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Sundays, March 10, April 7, and May 5, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

### Paper-Making

For students fifth through eighth grade  
During the Civil War, it was often difficult to access basic materials like paper and ink. Learn to make your own tea-stained paper and take it home.

Monday, March 11, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

### 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.

Thursday, March 7, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

### Tail Waggin’ Tutors

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

Saturday, March 9, 11 a.m. – 12:30 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

### Weekends With Wee Ones

For families with children under 2 years old  
Spend a part of your family weekend time clapping your hands, tapping your feet, singing nursery rhymes and, of course, sharing books. We will provide materials and ideas for those wishing to continue the fun at home. Programs are offered every weekend throughout the year and there is no need to register in advance.

Madison Branch Children’s and Youth Services

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

## 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

## March 11

### Clevelanders in the Civil War

Historian Marjorie Wilson traces Cleveland history as it unfolded through the Civil War with stories of local war heroes and other folks..

Monday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

## March 12

### Music of the Civil War with Bob Ford

Bob Ford sings it like he was there! Sit back for stories and songs from the Civil War that bear a distinct Buckeye flavor.

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

## March 14

### BOOKED FOR MURDER: Queens of Crime

“Murder at the Vicarage” by Agatha Christie

The greatest collection of crime-solving, lady detectives from yesterday and today will keep you up late, turning the pages. Unburden yourself once a month and share your sleepless ponderings with this friendly, law-abiding group of mystery lovers. Visit [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/bookclubs](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/bookclubs) for more clues and full book descriptions.

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

## March 16

### Five Star Films

#### “Chicago” (2002), Directed by Rob Marshall - Rated PG-13

Ranking cell block diva Catherine Zeta-Jones has been upstaged by newcomer Renee Zellweger. When she goes to trial, slick defense lawyer Richard Gere performs his best courtroom tap dance for the jury. But corrupt prison warden Queen Latifah has a trick up her sleeve that could tip the scales. Who ever thought that murder and musical numbers would mix?

Saturday, March 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

## March 17

### “Holiday”

St. Patrick’s Day – Open Normal Hours

### Sunday with the Friends: “Darby O’Gill and the Little People”

#### Directed by Robert Stevenson Rated G

The King of the Leprechauns is over five thousand years old and he’s learned a new trick every day of his life. Has he finally met his match in Darby O’Gill? You don’t have to be Irish to enjoy this Disney classic. Sean Connery sure isn’t and he’s so happy to make his film debut that he breaks out into song!

Sunday, March 17 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

## March 18

### 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 reading packet in the Main Library’s Technology Center. Space is limited. To register, call 216-226-8275, ext. 127.

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

## March 19

### Knit and Lit

#### “The Help” by Kathryn Stockett

Gail Eaton hosts a social club for multitaskers—a combination book club and stitchery group. She’s looking for readers who can enjoy intense discussion of modern classics while relaxing with their latest project. Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery and quilting works-in-progress. Visit [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/bookclubs](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/bookclubs) full book descriptions.

Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room

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# Lakewood Schools

## Culinary Students Place Second In State



The Pro-Start team (from left): Sahana Petras, Andrea Gross, Alisha Miller, Sabrina Fernandez and Alyssa Smith.

by Christine Gordillo

A team of five students from West Shore Career-Tech's Culinary Arts program captured second place out of 22 teams at the Annual 2013 Ohio ProStart Invitational in Columbus held on February 17. Students are required to plan the menu, cost the recipes and prepare a three-course meal using only two portable burners within one hour in a 10x10 foot space in this very intense, demanding and difficult competition.

The five students were: senior Alyssa Smith (team captain), prepared the entree; senior Alisha Miller (team co-captain), prepared the dessert; junior Andrea Gross prepared the appetizer; junior Sabrina Fernandez assisted in preparing the entrée; and junior Sahana Petras participated as the team's alternate.

"I am so happy and proud of our team and how well we could perform

## "Power Of The Pen" Qualifiers Compete At Regionals

by Gretchen Bulan

Lakewood Catholic Academy's first-ever Power of the Pen teams made their mark at the program's District competition on January 19. Many LCA students, including the entire eighth grade team, qualified to compete in the Regional tournament, which took place on Saturday, February 23, by scoring in the top 50% of writers at Districts.

Congratulations to the following students, who competed in the Regional tournament at Perkins Middle School in Sandusky, OH:

Seventh Grade Qualifiers: Claudia Becker, Emma Becker and Kiara Hoef-smit.

Eighth Grade Qualifiers: Lucy Kress, Olivia Heidorf, MaryCait Dolan, Annemarie Krawmer, Dominic Giebel and Jackie Grant.

Team moderators and LCA teachers Eileen McGuire, Mike Soderquist and Sue Seeds have worked with the middle school teams since the fall to prepare them for this year's competitions, which culminate with a state final tournament in May. These teachers have also served as judges, along with teachers from other participating schools, for the District and Regional competitions. Results from the Regional tournament will determine any state qualifiers from the school.

under such high pressure," said Alyssa Smith.

For the competition, the students prepared shrimp arepas for the appetizer, pan-grilled pork tenderloin for the entrée and a spiced chocolate torte dessert.

The students practiced 2-3 days (10-15 hours) a week after school, starting in November to prepare for the competition. It took a lot of dedication, passion, and hard work from the students and instructors to prepare for the notoriously intense competition.

"We couldn't have been more impressed and proud of these ladies; they truly showcased their talent and passion," said Chef Devan Sharosky, junior culinary instructor. "Look out for these students in the future, they are a force to be reckoned with in this

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Senior Emily Hericks proudly displays her new laptop along with (from left), Student Council adviser Alison Breckel, North Olmsted Best Buy regional manager Chuck Harold and North Olmsted general manager Matthew Romance.

## Tech Prizes Prop Up LHS Attendance Program

by Christine Gordillo

When Lakewood High senior Emily Hericks came to school on February 15, little did she know she would go home with a brand new HP laptop. All because she got herself up and out of bed and off to school every day of the second quarter.

The prize was the latest tech giveaway in LHS' attendance incentive program, sponsored by Best Buy. Each quarter, a prize is awarded from a random drawing to a student who has had perfect attendance for the quarter.

Hericks was randomly chosen as the winner for the second quarter out about 500 students eligible for the drawing. After each quarter, Best Buy

provides LHS with \$1,000 to go toward the incentive program and the giveaway prize. Past prizes have included a big-screen TV and iPads.

To celebrate those with perfect attendance, each quarter the North Olmsted Best Buy Tag Team comes to LHS to present the prize and play a game against a teams of LHS students. This time around it was basketball. Best Buy narrowly defeated LHS, 27-26.

The attendance incentive program is being coordinated by Student Council advisor Alison Breckel. Student Council members will decide what the final prize of the school year will be for the third quarter raffle.

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# Lakewood Sports

## IOC Wrestling Decision Hits Home In Lakewood

by Mike Deneen

Some things are just hard to imagine. Thanksgiving without turkey. The Oscars without the Red Carpet. The Olympics without wrestling. Last month the International Olympic Committee decided to do the unthinkable...drop wrestling from the games beginning in 2020. The sport of wrestling not only dates back to the first modern Olympic Games in 1896, but to the ancient games in 708 B.C. Along with track and field, wrestling has been a cornerstone of the Olympic movement and a sport with global appeal.

The IOC's decision is a blow to the greater Cleveland community, and to Lakewood in particular. Many Lakewood residents are aware of the 28 state championships (as of this writing) won by St. Edward High School. However, the sport's local history dates back much further, and the sport plays a major role in the community to this day. In addition to St. Ed's illustrious program, about 100 local kids currently wrestle in Lakewood City School and Recreation programs.

"I was in shock when I heard the news," said Vinnie Curiale, Head Wrestling Coach at Lakewood High School. In addition to the high school program, Curiale instructs wrestlers in the "Little Ranger" grade school recreation program, which has upwards of 60 participants. There are also about 25 kids in the Lakewood middle school program. He believes that the program teaches much more than physical fitness. "Wrestling is a great influence on kids because you get a discipline that no other sport can teach", says Curiale, who is an LHS alum.

Wrestling has a rich history in our town, as Lakewood High School's program dates back to the 1920s. The



Coach Curiale working with Ranger wrestler

Rangers delivered the city's first high school championship in 1948, sharing the state title with traditional power West Tech. LHS has also had seven individual state champions over the years. Greater Cleveland dominated the Ohio high school wrestling scene during the 1940s and 1950s, so much so that Lakewood High was chosen to host the OHSAA Wrestling Championships from 1955 through 1958. The following year the event was moved to St. John Arena on the Ohio State University campus in Columbus.

St. Edward High School, founded in 1949, did not form its first varsity wrestling team until 1958. The program was launched by football coach Joe Figlar, whose primary aim was to use wrestling as a way to keep football players in shape. These goals changed dramatically when real estate magnate Howard Ferguson became coach in the mid 1970s. The team won ten consecutive state titles from 1978 through 1987, and became nationally renowned as one of the best athletic programs in the

nation. Ferguson died suddenly of a heart attack in 1989, and long-time assistant Greg Urbas took the reins. Urbas, a math teacher and former Marine, has led the program to 17 state titles, including a dual-meet title

this February. The list of Eagle individual state champions (100 names long and growing) includes Andy Hrovat (Class of 1998), who competed at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Despite the statewide dominance of St. Edward, Lakewood High continued to produce quality wrestling. The Rangers have won seven conference titles since the 1970s, and Lakewood has continued to build its roster numbers in recent years.

The success of local wrestling has attracted plenty of attention from major colleges. In 2007, Ohio State University moved its dual meet with Northwestern from its home campus to the main gym at St. Edward. "Cleveland has and will always be a hotbed for US wrestling," says Northwestern Head Coach Drew Pariano, who has successfully recruited numerous athletes from St. Edward.

Lakewood's relationship with wrestling even spawned a critically-acclaimed motion picture. Former Ranger wrestler Mark Norman, a teammate of Curiale at Lakewood High School, produced a wrestling documentary with his brother Pat. The film, released in 2009, followed the story of two local wrestlers – one from Lakewood High (Matt Curley), one from St. Edward (Lance Palmer). The film captures the passion, drive and discipline that make wrestling a global favorite.

The IOC's decision potentially threatens the sport's future in the US. Many kids wrestle with the goal of making the Olympics. Some fear the

decision could damage institutional commitment at the college level. "It could have devastating affects in that athletic directors may choose to shut down wrestling programs because the sport has lost its focus on the ultimate goal: An Olympic Champion," says Pariano. Cuts at the college level would eliminate scholarship opportunities, adversely impacting high school participation.

The IOC executive board will meet again this May in St. Petersburg, Russia. The US wrestling community, including many people in Lakewood, remain optimistic that the IOC's decision will be reversed. For many, shock has turned to action.

"We had several news crews on site," said Pariano the day of the announcement. "We could at least utilize the exposure as a forum to discuss the value of international wrestling." Protests and petitions have flooded the IOC from every corner of the world, including Iran, Bulgaria, Turkey, Russia, and numerous former Soviet republics. If the IOC comes to its senses, wrestling will be restored. A positive outcome would help Lakewood to continue its strong tradition on the mat.

### Culinary Students Place Second In State

continued from page 7  
industry," she said.

Added Chef Rob McGorray: "We are very proud of our students and how our program has improved and placed higher each year we have competed in this competition. This is just an example of how West Shore Career-Technical District prepares students for success."

As a result of the second-place finish, team members earned scholarships from the following post-secondary institutions if they decide to attend: Sullivan University (\$4,000), Culinary Institute of America (\$1,500) and Johnson & Wales University (\$750).

Chefs McGorray and Sharosky want to thank everyone who helped with the competition. They reserve a special thank you to West Shore Culinary alumni Xylon Garay and Howard Kolondy, who assisted in training the team for competition.



LHS Varsity Head Coach Vinnie Curiale, LHS Wrestler Ralph Johnson (170 lb. WSC Champ) and LHS Varsity Assistant Coach Dennis

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Lakewood Cares

# Hoppy Paws To Appear At Pet's General Store In Lakewood

by Karen Karp and Kent Cicerchi

Hoppy Paws is happy to announce that he will make a repeat appearance at Pet's General Store in Lakewood, Ohio, on Sunday, March 10, 2013, for photo ops with all of his area canine friends and their peeps. Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park, Inc. (FLDP) invites you to participate in what has become an annual spring event.

Did you notice that Photos with Hoppys Paws occurs early this year? That's because on Groundhog's Day, renowned weather forecaster and film celebrity Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow. Phil immediately tweeted the news of a short winter to his friend "@Hoppy Paws." Thus, the happy hare had to hurry to schedule earlier-than-usual spring appearances.

Hoppy Paws ("HP" to his close friends) will be in Lakewood on Sunday, March 10, 2013, from 12 noon until 4 p.m. at Pet's General Store, 16821 Madison Avenue. Photographer



Deirdre Ruane will be on hand once again to capture HP's visit with each of his canine friends in the area. Participants will receive a 4"x6" photograph as a souvenir as well as online access to all photos taken with HP.

The cost for a photo session with Hoppy Paws is \$15. Members of Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park will receive a

\$3 rebate at the door. Non-members may join at the door and qualify for the rebate. FLDP and Greg Schnupp, owner of Pet's General Store, are pleased to support All Dogs' Heaven (ADH), an all-volunteer Lakewood non-profit, and the mission of that organization. ADH is committed to preventing cruelty to animals, increasing public

awareness about spay/neuter needs, reuniting lost dogs with their families, and providing medical treatment for dogs in their care.

In conjunction with the Photos with Hoppy Paws event, Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park and Pet's General Store will collect items that ADH needs to carry out its mission: dog bowls for food/water, unopened canned or dry dog/puppy food, clean towels/blankets, paper towels, automatic dish washing liquid or laundry detergent. For a complete list of items needed, please refer to the ADH website: [www.alldogsheaven.org](http://www.alldogsheaven.org). Many items on their list may be purchased right at Pet's General Store.

Photos with Hoppy Paws also benefits Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park, Inc., a volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit and tax-exempt organization that works with the City of Lakewood to care for the dog park, maintains a website and Facebook presence, and hosts various events of interest to dogs and their owners. This year, FLDP celebrates the tenth anniversary of Lakewood Dog Park and will mark this milestone with special events such as its popular annual dog-swim, periodic talks by area pet professionals, seasonal photo events, and outings to nearby Bow Wow Beach. FLDP also partners with and supports other local animal organizations, such as ADH, to raise money and promote awareness of rescue, health, housing and placement issues.

# Ohio's Top Child Care Center Administrator From Lakewood

by Missy Toms

The Lakewood Child Care Center (LCCC) is thrilled to announce that Director Holle Brambrick has been named the 2012 top program administrator by the Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children (OAEYC), the Ohio affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Lakewood Child Care Center, formerly Lakewood Hospital Child Care Center, is located in the Belle Avenue Medical Building in downtown Lakewood.

Each year the OAEYC recognizes one outstanding director, principal, or other administrator of early childhood programs. Awardees must be advocates for quality programming that meets the needs of staff and families while also providing administrative leadership and support to ensure developmentally appropriate practice.

Brambrick, a graduate of Ohio University, joined Lakewood Hospital Child Care Center in 1994 as infant lead teacher. She was promoted to assistant director in 1999, and then to center director 2010. In 2011, Brambrick lead LCCC through a major transition from a Cleveland Clinic-run center to a not-for-profit, independent facility. She has spearheaded the process of LCCC's national accreditation through NAEYC, the only center in Lakewood to have this distinction. Since Brambrick became director, LCCC has gone from a Two Star to a Three Star center through Ohio Department of Job and Family Service's Step Up to Quality child care rating program.

Brambrick is actively involved in OAEYC and in Lakewood's early childhood professional network. This May, she will graduate with a Masters of Science in Education and Allied professions Program in Early Childhood leadership and Advocacy from the University of Dayton.



LCCC Director Holle Brambrick

Lakewood Child Care Center, located at 1450 Belle Avenue in Lakewood, provides curriculum-based programming for children ages six weeks to eight years. Its mission is to provide exceptional, age-appropriate child care services to meet the needs of the families and children of Lakewood and surrounding cities and to provide affordable, high-quality care in a nurturing, stable and secure environment that fosters a child's social, creative, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. For more information, visit the website at [www.lkwdchildcare.org](http://www.lkwdchildcare.org).

The event is anticipated to be a sell-out, so hop to it, and book your appointment now! To schedule a photo session, visit the FLDP website [LakewoodDogPark.org](http://LakewoodDogPark.org). Walk-ins will be accommodated only as time permits. Remember that Daylight Saving Time begins March 10th, so spring forward and set your clocks ahead one hour.

Karen Karp, president, and Kent Cicerchi, treasurer, of Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park are co-chairs of Photos with Hoppy Paws – 2013.

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Lakewood Cares

# “Trials” Give Hope To Many

by Bill Fink

Thanks to Lakewood resident Jonathan Gray, those little trial-size bottles of shampoo, soap and toothpaste you see in your local store are a big help to financially-strapped families and the homeless. He recognized that after buying food and paying rent, many people can't afford basic toiletry items, which cannot be purchased with food stamps.

Jonathan collects and places these trial sized toiletry items along

with toothbrushes, an occasional roll of toilet paper and sometimes sweet treats like candy or a homemade cookie into sandwich bags that are distributed at free community meals in Lakewood and the near west side of Cleveland.

He calls this program “Trials for Hope,” signifying the glimpse of hope that people get when someone reaches out through their trials. The effort is funded by a grant from Neighborhood Connections, as well as private and

personal donations.

With thousands of hours of volunteer support “Trials for Hope” has transitioned into an organization that redistributes food, clothing, baby diapers, medical items, formula, bread and pastries, donated by organizations that have an excess. Over 50 bags of groceries are distributed each month to individuals or families in need.

There are over twenty-five organizations touched by “Trials for Hope,” including transitional housing sites,

homeless shelters, alcohol and drug treatment centers, churches, senior centers, and community meal providers. It is not uncommon to see Jonathan and his volunteers loading or unloading the pickup truck with smiles and a willingness to help wherever they show up, seven days a week! You may have seen them helping serve at many of these meals, always willing to help wherever they can.

This past Christmas thirty volunteers assembled over 600 “Christmas Stockings”, actually plastic bread bags filled with stuffed animals, coloring books, crayons, snacks, candy and a toothbrush, neatly tied with a colorful ribbon. These stockings were given to the children encountered in these various centers of “hope”. Socks replaced the coloring books for homeless men and women. What a blessing to those contributors and volunteers to know they made a difference for a moment in the life of a child or needy adult.

The need is endless, as are the opportunities to help!

To volunteer your or your group's time or donations please contact Jonathan at willowtear@aol.com. Find “Trials for Hope” on Facebook or at [www.trialsforhope.webs.com](http://www.trialsforhope.webs.com). Trials for Hope is a 501(c)(3) organization.

“Through Each Trial In One's Journey, No One Has To Walk Without Hope.”

## March Madness Event To Benefit Childhood Cancer Organization

by Jenni Baker

(W)in It Together, a March Madness event designed to raise funds for In It Together, an organization that provides support to families affected by childhood cancer and young adult

cancer, will be held on Friday, March 22 at 6 p.m. at the Market Garden Brewery, 1947 W. 25th St., in Ohio City.

(W)in It Together will feature the evening's NCAA action on multiple screens, along with a host of other

activities and fantastic food and drink. Tickets are \$35 in advance, or \$40 at the door. Founded in 2011 by dedicated medical professionals, local nonprofits, parents, friends and families, In It Together's mission is to raise awareness and provide resources for families affected by Pediatric and Young Adult (PAYA) cancer. Over the past two years, In It Together has developed a family mentoring program, brightened the lives of children through the Tree of Hope campaign, and mobilized the efforts of multiple groups serving families with childhood cancer through collaboration and support.

Shannon FitzGerald, Lakewood resident and founding board member of In It Together, conceived of the event after her son underwent successful treatment for cancer two years ago. “The March Madness tournament brought a degree of normalcy to our family's life during this time. Our amazing team of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals joined us as we watched games and rooted for our favorite teams,” she said. “Now, working with In It Together, we are so fortunate to be able to help other families going through the same challenging journey.”

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.neo4u.org](http://www.neo4u.org). Or, send an email with the number of tickets needed to [holly@cardiganevents.com](mailto:holly@cardiganevents.com).

## FitzGeralds To Serve As Honorary Co-Chairs For Society Of St. Vincent De Paul Fundraiser

by Natalie Schrimpf

Lakewood residents Ed FitzGerald, Cuyahoga County Executive, and his wife, Shannon, are serving as honorary co-chairs for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Diocese of Cleveland's first annual gala/fundraiser on Saturday, May 4 from 6:30 – 11 p.m. at St. Basil the Great Church, 8700 Brecksville Road in Brecksville, Ohio.

The event, “Gather, Give and Grow: A Celebration of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul,” will pay tribute to the organization's numerous volunteers from its 60 participating parishes who have helped Northeast Ohio's poor throughout the years by offering person-to-person assistance to those in need. Tickets cost \$50 (SVDP members) and \$75 (non-members). To order, call 216-696-6525, ext. 3150 or visit: <http://www.svdpcle.org/>.

Established in 1865, the Society

of St. Vincent de Paul, Diocese of Cleveland is a local human service and welfare organization of neighborhood volunteer groups residing in participating parishes (“Conferences”) throughout the Diocese of Cleveland's eight-county service area. Volunteers (“Vincentians”) provide immediate, temporary emergency direct assistance to those in need, regardless of their race, ethnicity or religious affiliation. Last year alone, some 200,000 low-income individuals received more than \$4 million in aid, which included food donations from SVDP's four food pantries (Ozanam Centers), clothing, furniture, back-to-school supplies and assistance with utilities. SVDP's central office is located at 1404 East Ninth Street, Cleveland. For more information, call 216-696-6525, ext. 3150 or <http://www.svdpcle.org/>.

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• March 30: 2pm - Community Easter Egg Hunt  
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• March 31: Easter Sunday

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Lakewood Is Art

EveryFan Night - Cavs vs. Miami Heat

by Tyler Wick

**WANTED: Cleveland's Unsung Hero**

*Cavs Begin Their Search for a Special Fan Who Deserves Their Own Tribute*

Just one person can make a difference in a community. They are everyday people who give back by giving of themselves, often with little or no recognition. Fans are invited to nominate someone they know who is deserving of an experience of a lifetime during EveryFAN Night on Wednesday, March 20th at 7:00 p.m. as the Cavs face the defending NBA champion Miami Heat.

The EveryFAN will have a night they'll never forget, tipping off with their own seat on the Cavs bench while the team warms up on the court! During halftime, the honoree will stand center court and be duly recognized amongst thousands of cheering fans for the significant role they play in making Cleveland great. Following the fourth quarter, they'll have exclusive access to the Cavs post-game press conference as Coach Scott addresses the media.

In addition to the unforgettable in-game experience, the EveryFan will also receive:

- Two premium seats to the March 20th game vs. the Miami Heat
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- Pre-game dinner for two at the Hard Rock Café
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Fans can submit their essay nominations for the everyday hero in their community by visiting [cavs.com/EveryFAN](http://cavs.com/EveryFAN) now through Thursday, March 14th at 11:59 p.m. Essay submissions must be 500 words or less to tell the story of the unsung hero and what makes them stand out as one of Cleveland's best. A panel of VIP judges will be looking for a unique candidate who has made a real DIFF in the lives

of others and is deserving of their own tribute. For official rules and to submit EveryFAN nominations, please visit [cavs.com/EveryFAN](http://cavs.com/EveryFAN).

To be a part of the EveryFAN Night celebration, fans can get their tickets to the Cavs vs. Miami Heat game on

March 20th by calling 800-820-CAVS (2287), on [cavs.com](http://cavs.com), all northern Ohio Discount Drug Mart locations and the Quicken Loans Arena Box Office. Tickets purchased by phone or at [cavs.com](http://cavs.com) will be delivered through Flash Seats, the primary method of ticketing for the Cavaliers and Quicken Loans Arena.

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Lakewood Is Art

Beck Center Dance Education Presents  
Comic Ballet “Coppelia”

by Fran Storch

Beck Center Dance Education proudly presents the light-hearted comedic ballet, “Coppelia,” March 16 and 17, 2013 featuring the Beck Center Dance Workshop and select dancers. Performances are 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, March 16 and 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, March 17 in the Recital Hall of the Music-Armory Building at Beck Center for the Arts. Tickets are now on sale and seating is limited.

“Coppelia” tells the story of Doctor Coppelius, a slightly mad inventor who has made a life-size dancing doll named Coppelia. Franz, a village boy, sees Coppelia sitting on the doctor’s balcony and falls deeply in love with her, even though he is already betrothed to Swanhilda. When Swanhilda sees Franz throwing kisses at Coppelia she decides to find out more about the mysterious beauty. After Swanhilda discovers Coppelia is only a doll, she impersonates her, in order to win the love of Franz. Doctor Coppelius returns and chaos ensues. Set in a small European village hundreds of years ago, the ballet contains favorite European dances such as the mazurka, czardas and waltz. This condensed version of the classic

comic ballet is suitable for audiences of all ages, including young children.

Beck Center’s production features a cast of 50 dancers from its Dance Education program and Dance Workshop, a performing company of select Beck Center dancers. The role of Swanhilda is performed by high school seniors Taylor Gerrasch and Julia Horner, with the role of Franz danced by Beck Center Dance Education faculty member, Jason Wang who has performed regionally with the Cincinnati Ballet and Louisville Ballet and locally with Verb Ballets. Doctor Coppelius is played by actor Timothy J. Allen who audiences may remember from past Beck Center shows such as Fiddler on the Roof (Motel) and Little Shop of Horrors (Seymour). With original choreography by Marius Petipa, the “father of classical ballet,” this production also includes additional choreography by Melanie Szucs, associate director of Dance Education at Beck Center.

Upon graduation, Gerrasch and Horner are both planning to pursue dance in their future educational careers. Gerrasch will be studying in New York City as a Jazz and Contemporary trainee with The Joffrey Ballet; and Horner, who has studied dance at Beck Center since age seven, has

been offered a dance scholarship at Mercyhurst University, which offers one of the nation’s top ballet programs.

Reserved seating tickets for “Coppelia” are \$10 for children (18 and under) and \$12 for adults and seniors. 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. Free onsite parking is available.

Beck Center’s production of Coppelia is generously funded by Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and is also sponsored by 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.



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# Wellness Watch

## Jazz Up Your Winter

by Paula Reed

While northeast Ohio winters keep us inside and less active than is ideal, there are options. Thanks to the Lakewood

Schools, you can still walk indoors at Garfield and Harding Middle Schools, Monday through Thursday, 6-9 p.m.

Or, you can take part in one of the

many fitness programs available in the community. There are several offered through the Lakewood Rec Department, and one of the most popular is Jazzercise. Live Well Lakewood's March program is targeted to get you out of the house and moving. Join us at City Hall Auditorium on Wednesday, March 13th at 7 p.m. for a

session of Jazzercise with Karen Kilbane, and sample some healthy snacks provided by Nature's Bin.

Karen is a dynamic leader who started Jazzercising in 1983 when looking for a workout that felt right for her. She found the hour flew by, and best of all, it was fun!

## Natural Remedies For Aching Joints

by Rachel Anzalone

Ahhh spring! It's finally on its way. Mother nature is teasing us with snippets of sunshine and warm(ish) breezes. For me, the first sign of spring is the returning itch to get outside and run. This is likely the result of years of junior high and high school spring track seasons. The smell of the earth thawing means it's time to start training. And I know I'm not the only one who feels this way!

Look out your windows and you'll

see that it's no longer just the diehard runners out there who have braved even the nastiest of snow storms in the ultimate display of commitment. Regular folks (like me) are returning to the streets after a long winter to walk, jog and bike.

As we return faithfully to our warm weather workout routines there's one problem that many of us will experience before too long: aching knees, ankles and hips.

"It's just part of getting older,"

you may say. Perhaps. But does it have to be? Perhaps not. Aching joints can be a sign of inflammation, the body's natural immune response. There are a number of factors that can contribute to an unhealthy inflammatory response in the body that may result in ongoing pain, discomfort, or lack of mobility.

A number of natural foods and herbs have been used throughout history

continued on page 18

Karen became an instructor in 1986, and is still teaching classes 27 years later. Not only has Jazzercise kept her active, it has afforded her the opportunity to own her own business, growing from 3 to 21 classes a week in Rocky River and Lakewood.

Jazzercise has been around for over 40 years and continues to stay on the cutting edge of fitness. Each 60-minute class blends dance and muscle toning movements choreographed to Top 40, jazz, country, funk, and classics. Every class includes a gentle warm up, 30-minute aerobic workout, muscle toning and strengthening segments with weights, and a stretch finale.

## Vegan Chocolate Cake Recipe

by Josie Duennes in collaboration with Live Well Lakewood

Everybody needs a treat now and then or a special occasion cake for someone allergic to eggs. This chocolate cake is moist and fudgy and easy to make in one bowl and one pan. Use the best quality cocoa powder you can find. It will make a difference. I'm including a simple white frosting recipe, but feel free to use your favorite frosting or glaze or just dust the cake with powdered sugar.

3 cups unbleached all purpose flour (not whole wheat flour)

2 1/2 cups sugar

2/3 cup cocoa powder

1 1/2 tsp. baking soda

1 cup corn oil (or any mildly flavored vegetable oil)

1 1/2 cups strong brewed coffee, cooled

1 Tbs. vanilla extract

1/3 cup white vinegar

IMMEDIATELY put it in the middle of the oven and bake for 35 to 45 minutes until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean or the cake bounces back when you pat it. Let it cool and turn it upside down on a platter or cake board and decorate it. You can also leave it in the pan and frost the top and serve it casually.

Vegan "Butter"cream Frosting

1/2 lb. vegan margarine, softened

6 cups powdered sugar

1 Tbs vanilla extract

1/3 - 1/2 cup vanilla soy milk (or your favorite non-dairy "milk" product)

With your electric mixer, beat the margarine until it is light and fluffy. Add the sugar, vanilla and 1/3 cup soy milk. Mix at low speed til combined. You don't want to be wearing that powdered sugar! Then shift to high speed and beat until light and fluffy again. It should not be stiff, so add a little more "milk" if it is. There is lots of frosting here for one cake so if you have too much, bake some cookies and make them sandwich cookies.

If you want to be really decadent, add 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter to the frosting.

Serves 12.

Jazzercise is a well-balanced total body workout that also improves coordination, flexibility and balance, and can be adapted to all ages and fitness levels. Karen cites as the best development in recent years the growth in male participants. Jazzercise is no longer your Mom's workout!

Karen's Motto: "You have to move every day." If you find what you love to do it's easy, not a dreaded chore.

**Karen's Tips:**

Aim for 10,000 steps a day, every day. (Jazzercise is about 4,000-5,000 steps and

continued on page 18

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a 9" x 12" cake pan. In the bowl of an electric mixer (or a large bowl) combine the flour, sugar, cocoa and baking soda until well blended. Pour in the oil, coffee and vanilla and beat until thoroughly mixed and smooth. Add the vinegar (it will foam a bit) and blend in on medium speed until the the batter is all one color again. IMMEDIATELY pour it in the prepared pan and smooth out the top so it is flat.



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Business News

# West Shore Career-Technical District Announces Outstanding Work Ethic Award Winners

by Valerie Mechenbier

The West Shore Career-Technical District's 2013 Outstanding Work Ethic Award winners were honored at a breakfast at Brennan's Catering & Banquet Center on February 22nd. The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and the Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club welcomed 75 Chamber members, Rotarians, students, parents, employers, work supervisors, and guests to the 7th annual awards event. Seventeen West Shore Career-Tech students, one representing each program at West Shore, were recognized for demonstrating professionalism, responsibility, and integrity in the workplace.

Linda Thayer, Director of Career-Technical Education at West Shore Career-Technical District, and Patty Ryan, CEO and President of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce presented the awards to the students. They were joined by Jeff Patterson, Superintendent of Lakewood City Schools, Dr. Michael Shoaf, Superintendent of Rocky River City Schools, Nancy Ralls, Career Development Program Facilitator, and Terry Vincent, President of the Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club. Each student received a certificate plus a door prize and a gift bag of items donated by local businesses.

Congratulations to the 2013 Outstanding Work Ethic Award winners:



Director of Career-Technical Education Linda Thayer, Lakewood City Schools Superintendent Jeff Patterson and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kevin Bright with the 2013 Outstanding Work Ethic Award winners.

- Tim Figueira: Automotive Technology
- Rachel Ritter: Biotechnology
- Musa Elkhatab: Business Management
- Lauren Valentine: Community Based Training, The Bonne Bell Company
- Charles Harris: Community Based Training, Cleveland Airport Marriott

- Ryan Williams: Community Based Training, Rae Ann Suburban Nursing Home
- Wonriccus Donat: Community Based Training, Transition to Work
- Jessica Maxwell: Construction Trades
- Alisha Miller: Culinary Arts / ProStart
- Rokeisha Smith: Early Childhood Education/Senior Services
- Krisjen Musai: Electronic Technology
- Veronica Nguyen: Health Careers Technology
- Amber Gano: Interactive Media
- Hiba Saman, Medical Office Management
- Zachary Gilchrist: Networking/Cisco
- Hannah Kiraly: Project Lead The Way
- Crystal Palmer: Service Occupations Training

## Giant Eagle Returns To Its Former Home, With A Twist

by Andrew Harant

Since 2007, when Giant Eagle moved into its present location, the southwest corner of Detroit and Bunts has sat vacant. Many plans for the space were proffered, including the construction of a fitness facility by

Urban Active, who at one point owned the property, but none of them came to fruition—until now. Old has become new again, as Giant Eagle is once again open for business at this location, not as a grocery store, but rather a GetGo gas station.

On February 14, Valentine's Day, the new 5,500 square-foot Lakewood GetGo opened, featuring 16 fuel pumps, four of which also offer diesel. Hours of operation are 6 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week. Besides the chance to use the fuel perks that customers accrue by purchasing food at the Giant Eagle grocery store across the street, the new and expanded GetGo, which is replacing the one currently at the corner of Detroit and Manor Park, features a market with a variety of fresh foods, such as subs, breakfast sandwiches, and burgers; beverages, such as fountain drinks, frozen sodas, milkshakes, coffee, tea, and cappuccino; a WiFi equipped café for enjoying said food and beverages;

and other convenience offerings, like surcharge-free ATM's, retailer gift cards, prepaid wireless cards, no-contract phones, and lottery. Through the remainder of February, special events celebrated the opening, including an appearance by Cleveland Browns QB Thad Lewis.

Could this new GetGo be just the start of a larger expansion of Giant Eagle's presence at this intersection? When news of the retailer's plans to reacquire their former property broke early last year and through the subsequent development and approval of plans for GetGo, other local news sources published articles speculating that Giant Eagle would soon be renovating and expanding its current grocery store, perhaps into one similar to their Market District store in Strongsville. No news has come out recently about this, but now that the new gas station has opened, Giant Eagle may well be evaluating further plans for their presence in Lakewood.

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Opinion

# Levy Needed To Keep Lakewood Schools Excellent, Accountable

by Michael Summers and Christina McCallum, Co-Chairs, Citizens for “Lakewood’s Children” levy campaign

Lakewood City Schools provide students with an excellent education. When students graduate from our schools, they largely do so on time and ready for the next phase of their lives, be that college, the military or the workforce. The district’s wide range of programming, such as its career-tech, fine arts and gifted/ talented curriculums are recognized around the state for their excellence and nearly 80% of Lakewood Schools’ graduates move on to some level of post-secondary education.

The district’s partnership with the University of Akron provides students with a competitive advantage by allowing them to earn college credit while still in high school—saving time and money on college tuition. Our schools’ advancements often did not come easy, and are

a testament to the hard work and determination of students, parents, staff, and the support of our entire community.

Our schools now face a challenge that threatens their progress and excellence. In the last two years our schools have lost over \$6 million in state funding—funding that was crucial for keeping class sizes reasonable, providing updated instructional material and technology, and continually improving high school graduation and college attendance rates. This funding is not likely to return, so it is up to us locally to protect accountable, excellent education.

Superintendent Jeff Patterson held more than a dozen community meetings throughout Lakewood to seek input from Lakewood residents about the situation. This process helped identify top priorities, potential budget reductions, and short- and long-term solutions that benefit both our schools

and our community. Our schools have been transparent in providing information to residents, in sharing financial information and outlining what is at stake for our community.

With the community’s input in mind, our district made tough decisions and cut over \$8 million from this year’s and future budgets. While difficult, the district reduced course offerings and eliminated 84 teaching, staff and administrative positions over the last three years. The district also secured base pay freezes and increased health care contributions from all Lakewood City Schools employees.

But, these efforts alone are not enough to address state funding reductions and maintain excellent schools in the long term. After careful consideration by the Board of Education, the schools placed a 3.9 mill operating levy on the May ballot, the lowest levy request in decades. The Board is committed to making this levy last at

least three years. The levy would mean reasonable class sizes, updated instructional materials to give our students the most current tools, up-to-date technology for every student to compete for today’s jobs, enhanced safety and security measures and continued partnerships with local businesses and organizations to maximize our community’s assets.

Our community has made great strides in recent years, and it is important to protect the progress we have made. The need for this additional funding is very real, but our schools and our community are worth the investment. Our schools have had clean audits from the State of Ohio for over 20 years and remain committed to accountability and excellence.

The latest census data shows that our city’s population is becoming younger and younger. It is important that we retain these twenty-something residents. Maintaining excellent schools is an essential ingredient in the ability to do so.

We are confident that the district will remain vigilant in its efforts to economize and identify opportunities to save money, and will continue to prepare our students for college and careers while remaining focused on providing accountable, excellent education for our city’s children.

# A Plague Of Gun Violence

by Helen Brinich

The shock of the shootings at Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut is fading and we have just passed the first anniversary of the school killings in our own neighborhood of Chardon. Thankfully the subject of gun violence is at last continuing to be debated.

Gun enthusiasts proclaim without shame that guns save lives. If this is true our country should be the safest, most secure in the world since we are awash in guns. In truth, we lead “civilized” nations in the rate of homicides and it is getting worse all the time. We have a culture of gun violence which

will soon disqualify us as being rated a civilized nation.

While mass killings shock us and demand our attention, the slaughter of our innocents goes on every hour and every day. Young people who live in certain parts of our cities have never known a life without fear. All too many of them have witnessed killings of friends and family members. What are the consequences of living in an environment little better than a war zone?

Violence breeds violence. Is it true that only a good guy with a gun can stop a bad guy with a gun?

A large percentage of homicides are committed by friends or family of

the victim. They are not necessarily bad guys. They are guys who get angry, hold a grudge, had too much to drink and a gun is at hand. The gun culture is part of their being. If you have a problem you solve it with a gun.

What’s to be done? Is this the price we pay for individual freedom? None of the regulations that are being considered or all of them together will stop gun violence. But they will be a step in the right direction. They will send a signal that we care, that we are dedicated to working toward a more peaceful environment, and we are recognizing that guns are a problem, not a solution.

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Megalodon was produced by the Florida Museum of Natural History with support from the National Science Foundation.



## Pulse Of The City

# Another World War II Story... The OTHER Veterans

*This column is dedicated to my father: Robert R. Rice, 336th Band, CWS, United States Army 1941-1945*

My father is a war veteran, a retired Lakewood teacher, a school band and orchestra director, and co-composer of "The American Veterans Last Salute March," showcased and conducted by Dad in 2011 with the American Festival Pops Orchestra in Manassas, Virginia. He recently got a call from someone who wanted to interview him about his WWII experiences. He has received a number of requests in the last few years, as students and archivers frequently want to document those pivotal times in American history. Like all soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, WACS, WAVES, and merchant marine sailors who participated in that superhuman effort to defeat what was then the greatest threat to democratic ideals that had ever been assembled, Dad has looked at his own participation in those events quite simply:

"I was just a soldier doing my job, nothing more, nothing less."

Dad, a Lakewood music teacher for many years, has historically declined to be interviewed about his own WWII experiences, primarily because most of the interviewers seem to want to hear from combat veterans. Whenever he goes to veterans' activities, people will inevitably ask him, "Where did you serve?" Implicit in their question, all too often, lies the thought that if he wasn't actually ever shot at, why did he bother showing up at the ceremony?

This column will attempt to answer that unspoken question.

For one, virtually all WWII Army veterans were, in fact, shot at. The three cross-firing machine guns (firing real tracer bullets) on those night-time infiltration courses may have been on fixed mounts, sighted in to fire above the soldiers' bodies, but when you crawled under those barbed wire obstacles on your back with explosive charges going off to your left

and right, there was always that question as to how high up you could lift your M-1 Garand battle rifle to support the barbed wire fence so that you could crawl under it before you got a finger blown off or you burst an ear drum due to a concussion from those explosive charges that had been pre-buried in the course. One day, a soldier near Dad lost his nerve, and was accidentally shot when he tried to stand up during the exercise. Dad was luckier; he only damaged the hearing in his right ear when one of those charges went off a little too close to his head... but there are no medals given for a evening's crawl on an infiltration course.

Look, let's face it, those "blood and guts" combat stories always seem to be what grab the public's attention, and while those combat veterans certainly have their own honored story to tell, it just seems there's a whole 'nother set of tales to be told about most of the other WWII veterans that are simply being ignored. Those would be the stories that come from the vast seldom-recorded majority of WWII veterans--probably 80%, who never saw actual combat but honorably served their country while supporting the heroes who were on the front lines of battle. Because without that support, there would have been no battles.

See, it was like this, according to Dad: "Every soldier was called upon to do the exact same thing, and that was to do whatever they were told to do--at ANY time or place, and at ANY hour of the day or night. They all went through the same basic training that I did. They all experienced the same fears, separation anxieties, and thoughts of home, as well."

Here are a few more of Dad's thoughts. I wrote them down after getting off the phone with another of those wanna-be interviewers who were "really just looking to interview combat veterans." For much of his time in service, by the way, Dad had been a

bandsman and an entertainer. Thinking about that latest phone call, Dad turned to me and started to speak:

"You know, Gary, there aren't too many of us WWII vets still around, and there are probably even fewer guys like me, who were actually in the peacetime service before the war, and stayed in the service from before Pearl Harbor all through the war until it was finally over. As far as the servicemen who supported the combat veterans go? Just ask any commanding officer, even today, and they will tell you that the single greatest enemy of a unit in the field is morale. In the service, and particularly during wartime, keeping the morale up was everything. Everything that the soldiers ever knew and loved was left back home. Those guys would have spent many a lonely night without us. After a hard day's work on the drill field, those GI's were happy to be able to be entertained and get to dance with some gals. That was my job. To be there for them. Believe me, that was just as important as getting shot at. Morale was a very important thing everywhere; keeping the right attitude, man! The right attitude was everything! They couldn't even have had a parade without us!"

Dad continued, "...and what about the cooks, the mechanics, the hospital orderlies? Everyone in the service had an absolutely essential job, otherwise they would not have been there, and 'there' was wherever the Army wanted them to be! Even in the band, our combat-related job would have been as stretcher-bearers. Someone had to go and get the wounded off the field, even if we became wounded in the process."

"Keeping up morale on the home front was equally important too. Our unit traveled hundreds of miles from town to town, giving big patriotic shows depicting combat situations. We even brought along fold-up aircraft and



Robert R. Rice (Photo by Gary Rice)

exploding pillbox bunkers to put into action in stadiums and on football fields. We also participated in giving private businesses "E for excellence" war production awards, and we even had a "Salute to Wood" caravan that rolled across the South extolling the virtues of forest conservation." Dad concluded: "Gary, for an army to succeed, every single part of it has to work together and work together well. Otherwise, the other guy wins."

Of course, there is always more to a veteran's story. In Dad's case, he was assigned to a Chemical Warfare unit. His unit was almost always in the presence of very nasty and toxic biological and chemical substances. There was generally some unusual smell wafting over the camp just about daily, and back in those days, HAZ-MAT suits, effective ones at least, had not yet been invented.

Gosh Dad, I guess you did finally give an interview after all. Thank you so much for your service. You, and ALL of the WWII veterans, truly helped to save our world.

Dad's 93rd birthday is coming up in April. I know that Lakewood joins me in wishing you a very happy birthday.

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Lakewood Living

# Lakewood Roller Derby Stars Play Rough At March 16 Bout

by Dana Shaffer

The four home teams of the Burning River Roller Girls, Cleveland’s premier flat track roller derby league, will face off for their first games of the season Saturday, March 16, at the Ohio Nets Sports Complex in Parma. Whether you’re cheering for the Hellbombers, the Cleveland Steamers, the Rolling Pin-Ups or the Hard Knockers, you will be well represented by some of the best athletes in Lakewood.

The first bout in this double-header event will be the Hellbombers vs. the Cleveland Steamers. Lakewood residents Nicole Sovizral (skater name, Sovizral) and Marissa Evans (Enemylou Harris) will be donning the black and red of the league’s reigning champs, the Hellbombers, while Amanda Leone (CupQuake), Ilona Westfall (Rainbow Fright), and Valerie Hearst (Ms. CréAnt) will rep-



Lakewood resident Rainbow Fright races around the track at a bout last season.

resent the Cleveland Steamers. Amy C. Hawks (Molotov Hot-tail) will make Lakewood proud when her team, the Hard Knockers, takes on the Rolling Pin-Ups, captained by Jessica Constantine (J.Poww!).

Doors open at 5 p.m., and the bout begins at 6 p.m. Arrive early for preferred seating. Trackside seating available for those 18 and older who want to be right on top of the action. Tickets and season passes are available at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/244691>. Advance tickets are \$12 for adults. Discounted tickets available for children 12 and younger. Special VIP packages are also available. Adult tickets will be for sale at the door for \$15, but due to the league’s first bout at Ohio Nets selling out, it highly recommends purchasing in advance.

## Hen Hopefuls, Business Spotlight: Lakewood Hardware

by Annie Stahlheber

The Hens in Lakewood Committee has featured several Lakewood families who support the notion of responsible hen keeping in Lakewood. Several businesses have come out to support this issue as well. The first business we interviewed was Glenn from Lakewood Hardware.

**Name of Business:** Lakewood Hardware.

**Please describe your business:** It is a hardware store of the type you remember before the hardware super stores came to town. When you go into our store and say, “How do I ----?” there is someone there who will tell you and show you exactly what you need.

**Where are you located?** 16608 Madison Ave.

**Why did you decide to open a business in Lakewood?** After 4 years of working outside the hardware trade and the huge void left by the 3 remain-

ing hardware stores closing their doors within a very short period of time it was painfully obvious to my wife and I that this town was in need and would support a hardware store.

**Why do you support hen keeping in Lakewood?** Supporting hen keeping seems as obvious to me as the opening of a hardware store. Residents seem to want to be involved in the remodeling and repairing process of their homes and property and that is the same mentality that drives the keeping of hens. Regardless of economic background our customers share many of the same character traits, some of them are: being hands-on, active and involved in all aspects of their life away from work and in this community.

**How would allowing hens impact your business?** I believe the keeping of hens would impact our business in a very positive way much like vegetable gardening has. Being in the supply

business we would have direct contact with people by supplying parts for the construction and maintenance of their coops as well as the ability to sell the feed and watering accessories for their hens.



Glenn Palmer, of Lakewood Hardware, is just one of many local business owners who are in favor of allowing residents to raise hens in Lakewood.

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# Lakewood Living

## Lakewood Division Of Aging Presents The Harlem Shake

by Barry Wemyss

The seniors at the Lakewood Division of Aging's Lawther Center have partnered with the Lakewood High School students in Mrs. Anne McQuay's Interactive Media class to produce their own version of The Harlem Shake. This internet dance craze has, until now, been the province of younger movers and shakers. Lakewood's seniors were happy to prove that they still had a few moves up their sleeves. Most importantly, for seniors and students alike, everyone had lots of fun.

View the Division of Aging's Harlem Shake at: [http://youtu.be/ie5RW\\_4Oz4E](http://youtu.be/ie5RW_4Oz4E).



## Jazz Up Your Winter

**continued from page 13**  
burns 400-600 calories per hour.)

Schedule your workouts every week like you would an important appointment. Consistency is important in achieving results.

Think about the health benefits of working out first. Weight loss and inches will follow.

Enlist a workout buddy to keep you honest.

This is your chance to try it out—don't miss it!

## Cats On Holiday And Chris Vance Trio For Lakewood Alive

by Jime O'Bryan

On Friday 3/3/13 Cats On Holiday (COH) will be a part of the "Beat the Winter Blues Concert." LakewoodAlive will present The Cats along with the Chris Vance Quintet at Mahall's 20 Lanes, 13200 Madison Ave.

The Swamp Poppin outfit will be bringing their roots/rock/Zydeco sound to the new Mahall's and promise to rock your Clevo Winter Blues away. COH will also be celebrating the

re-release of two of the band's previous full-length discs, "Cats On Holiday" and "Workin' Man." The Cat's latest disc, "Holiday in a Box" along with the re-releases will all be available for purchase at the show.

The Chris Vance Quintet, with their be-boppin jazz will start the festivities off at 7:30pm, followed by The Cats at 9. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Go to [downtownlakewood.org](http://downtownlakewood.org) for ticket info.



Denis DeVito from Cats on Holiday.

## Coffee With The Subconscious

by Betty Rozakis

*Life is about relationships...the resolved and unresolved.*

As I was preparing my lecture for a local library, I stumbled upon a handwriting that appeared out of nowhere. I didn't remember incorporating it into my last lecture, but here she was... promoting her presence...a presence that was beginning to haunt me!

The handwriting on this slide depicted the profound disappointment of an old acquaintance. Growing up, I found comfort with her energy. We had lost touch. A few years ago, I heard she committed suicide.

When I last saw SuicideM she

seemed happy, but the handwriting on her card declared otherwise. Will I find some serenity by writing about why she felt hopeless and how her suicide could have been avoided? Can my column prevent another from falling into a similar abyss?

Since childhood, I've saved every card and letter written to me. I searched my stash to locate her original sample and found a second card from SuicideM written 7 years later. My eyes filled with tears as I internalized what her handwriting revealed to me.

My earliest memory of SuicideM was as a collegiate beauty with long dark thick hair. She stylishly dressed to enhance her inner radiance. In her early forties, she appeared satisfied with the expected milestones of her life. She taught second grade and married a man who seemed kind.

When I first received SuicideM's Christmas cards, I focused on her positive words. Now I see that her handwriting revealed a totally different story... SuicideM was very sensitive...she felt

tired and very depressed. She had a progressive mind, but was too sympathetic and hospitable to others at the expense of her own needs. This was not the happy handwriting of a fulfilled elementary school teacher. Her deep thinking mind needed a more fulfilling vocation. Wanting the independence to fulfill her aspirations, she concealed this need from her relationships. She had trouble adapting a decisive stand and also felt like an imposter with her husband. I wish I could have helped her out of her seemingly hopeless situation to find happiness.

This pattern reminds me of another kind, sensitive soul whose recent suicide I wrote about in my Blog. [Coffeewithb@gmail.com](mailto:Coffeewithb@gmail.com)

Betty Rozakis is a Graphologist/author and resident of Lakewood. She earned her Advanced Diploma from the British Academy of Graphology and her BA in History from Baldwin-Wallace College. She enjoys walking her Golden Doodle, Ella along Clifton Beach.

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Lakewood Living

Abode Announces Phase Two At Clifton Pointe

by Justin Campbell

All 17 townhomes in the first phase at Clifton pointe were sold before construction had even begun.

Developer Andrew Brickman of Abode, Modern Lifestyle Developers recently finalized the sale of the last of seventeen residences of Phase One at Clifton Pointe, Lakewood's newest eco-friendly townhome community.

"My family and I have commented a few times about how we never thought we would be able to find the type of home you are building. It has definitely made us more content to keep Cleveland as our primary residence. Keeping people in the Cleveland area is not an easy feat but Clifton Pointe has done that for us," comments Toni Donaghue, Phase One, Clifton Pointe resident.

The first residents are scheduled to move in late summer. Groundbreaking on Phase Two will take place as soon as weather permits. One residence in Phase Two has already been sold



As Phase I of Clifton Pointe takes shape, Phase II on the other side of the road breaks ground and gets underway.

and contracts are out for two of the final four. Clifton Pointe along with 27 Coltman and Eleven River have all

offering a lifestyle suited for active individuals who value no-maintenance living, close proximity to outdoor recreation, restaurants and shopping, and want the latest in technological and eco-friendly design. Clifton Pointe, when finished will add \$10 million dollars of world-class real estate to Lakewood offering an alternative to the traditional century homes that make up the historic neighborhood.

*Abode Modern Lifestyle Developers - Cleveland-based real estate development company dedicated to providing exceptional levels of design and services across a variety of real estate sectors including residential, commercial, and hospitality. Our mission is to offer new levels of excellence, exemplifying the highest standards of social and environmental responsibility, while seeking out the extraordinary to facilitate the most spectacular living experiences and creating exceptional realty ventures by employing groundbreaking technological and eco-friendly practices.*

Sell My Lakewood Home Now?

by Eric Lowrey

"Why should I sell my house now?" That is a question we Realtors have been facing the past few years with frequency, and until recently, other than having to relocate or if the family is bursting the seams of our current home, there have been few honest and reliable answers. This year that situation is starting to change. Now you can command a decent market price, sell quickly, and under the correct circumstances, expect multiple offers. Market conditions in Lakewood have changed considerably in the past 12 months and now might be the time to consider selling your home.

As of this writing there are 94 active single-family homes listed in Lakewood. This is a considerable drop from the usual three hundred or so we have normally had. The cost of a mortgage is still in the crazy low range so buyers can buy more house than previously, and more importantly, in Lakewood at least, buyers are buying. Since January 1st 43 homes have sold, giving us an inventory of about four months. This means if no more homes come on the market it will take just four months to sell all the homes in Lakewood that are currently listed. This is a tremendous drop from the one year-plus of inventory we have experienced in the recent past.

Of course, not all of the homes sold are the top of the line cream puff I am sure you live in. Of the 43 total sales, 11 were priced at or under \$50,000, while only 2 were over \$300,000. There was a tremendous dump of bank-owned properties at the beginning of the year but they sold to people who are investing in these properties. They see this as a

worthwhile investment in the community and the housing market. If a professional investor sees opportunity in the current market what are you seeing?

What is driving this market? If one were to look at the numbers, and as a Realtor that is what I do, you see Lakewood as THE PREFERRED DESTINATION for those between the ages of 25 to 35. By almost 2 to 1 Lakewood is ahead of the next highest neighborhood, which is Downtown. There are many factors, and that will be another article, but people are choosing to move here in large numbers. By far the largest inventory of homes in Lakewood is starter homes in the \$100,000 to \$200,000 range. These are the homes today's buyers are looking for.

What to do if you are interested in being in front of this growth curve? There will be a home seller's seminar Thursday March 21 from 7:00 to 8:00 at Jammy Buggers Restaurant and Pub, 15625 Detroit Rd, Lakewood. Eric

Lowrey, Kathy Lewis, and Chris Bergin of Prudential Lucien will host and have information that can show you what your home can be worth and what to do to sell your home in a timely and profitable manner. Please email [Info@NorthEastOhioRealtor.com](mailto:Info@NorthEastOhioRealtor.com) to register or for more information.

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RSVP [Info@NortheastOhioAgent.com](mailto:Info@NortheastOhioAgent.com)  
Seating is limited.

Let's Talk.

Your house may be worth more than you think.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES. Since 2012, Lakewood became the preferred location in Northeast Ohio for homebuyers ages 25-35. This has resulted in increased competition, and increased sales. Come to our seminar to receive a free property market analysis. Find out what your home can be worth — in today's market.

Join the Discussion at: [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)



The Back Page



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