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“Snowflakes are one of nature’s most fragile things, but just look what they do when they stick together.” Verna Kelly

Volume 10, Issue 3, February 5, 2014

Supplier Freezes Lakewood’s Salt Reserve

by Colin McEwen
City of Lakewood’s
Multi-Media PR Manager

Lakewood’s salt supply is running precariously low, and the city’s streets have suffered as a result. Morton, the contracted company that provides the city’s salt, has failed to deliver the 1,000 tons back-ordered by the city. Lakewood has now placed orders with other vendors, but not being under contract means that the city isn’t high on companies’ priority list.

One of most the pedestrian-friendly cities in the state, Lakewood is dependent on the



photo by Jim O'Bryan

What our salt reserves looked like at 4:20pm 1.29.2014

salt to keep the roadways clear and safe. While the city waits for delivery, plow trucks have been on the streets around the clock to clear the accumulation of snow and ice. However, the removal of the final veneer of

snow requires salt.

Mayor Michael Summers said that keeping the streets safe is a priority, hindered by the short supply. “We are doing

everything we can do to ensure the safety of our residents,” he said. “And getting salt to clear our streets is a big part of that. Unfortunately, we have had

promises repeatedly broken by Morton.”

The issue has also been compounded by the frequency
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Liveable Lakewood Asks... Who Are You Sending A Postcard To?

by Jim O’Bryan
Liveable Lakewood Asks...
Who are you sending your first postcard to?

This week the first three postcards from Liveable Lakewood hit the streets and shops of Lakewood, Ohio. This project is to amplify just how good living in Lakewood is, and to spread the word through various means both old and new. The postcards are the first phase demonstrating a widespread approach both in target and delivery. A postcard is much like a T-Shirt, not only do you get the message or image, but all along the way others read it or see it, and then once it gets to its destination it is often enjoyed for a long time after the initial exposure.

So it is a tremendous opportunity to put a powerfully beautiful, inspirational message out, in a form that can be shared and enjoyed. Postcards might last even longer than any other form of advertising. Postcard collecting is a



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Deb and I sent our first Liveable Lakewood postcard to former Lakewood mayor Anthony Sinagra who is out of town.

massive hobby with thousands of shows and meetings all over the country. So who knows, maybe a hundred years from now someone will be looking through a postcard sale, and see, “Greetings from LAKEWOOD, OHIO,” read the back, see the picture and go, “hmmmmmm, looks like a nice place.” Already the project has been picked up and shared, tweeted, and emailed to others, the media has covered it, and through it all, there is one simple message: “Lakewood is a great place to Live.” Postcards go into albums, on refrigera-

Transition Plans In Place For Elementary Students

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education at its January 21 meeting approved transition

plans for students at Grant, Lincoln and Roosevelt Elementary Schools that will see those students in new homes

for the next two school years as the three buildings are demolished and rebuilt as part of the district’s final phase of its construction program.

Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, Grant Elementary School will be located at St. James Catholic Church, 17514 Detroit Avenue, Lincoln Elementary will be located at St. Luke Catholic Church, 1212 Bunts Road, and Roosevelt Elementary will be located at the former Franklin Elementary School, 13465 Franklin Boulevard. Also, Lakewood City Academy, which will be displaced by Roosevelt’s move, will be located in the former Taft Elementary School, 13701 Lake Avenue. These tem-



photo by Jim O'Bryan

group discussions about their expectations of the commission and other issues they deem important as they dined on delicious dishes brought by friends and neighbors and donated by some of Lake-

continued on page 5

Diversity Potluck - The World Lives In Lakewood Review

by Bernadette Elston

‘Our lives begin to end the minute we become silent about the things that matter’ ~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The city of Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission held its annual Diversity Potluck – The World Lives in Lakewood – on January 23rd, 2014, at the Women’s Pavilion in Lakewood Park. Community members in attendance braved arctic temperatures to share a delicious meal with dishes that represent the impressive diversity we have come to know and love here in Lakewood.

State representative Nickie J. Antonio (D-Lakewood) spoke with residents and guests about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s influence on her personal and professional lives; the origins, goals, and importance of the commission; and diversity from a global and local perspective. Other elected officials in attendance included Lakewood Council members Cindy Marx, Tom Bullock, and Mary Louise Madigan. Also in attendance was Emma Petrie Barcelona from Lakewood’s Board of Education.

Community members then participated in small-

This Valentine’s Day, Show Your Love Locally



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Karen Bosworth and Kendel Miller of KB Confections show us what they are offering for Valentine’s Day. We encourage you to stop by there or at any one of the many great local establishments to show your love to the person you love. Year round too!



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Lakewood Observer



photo by Jim O'Bryan

Last week the snow got the best of the crews and that pesky salt problem. But it can't keep Lakewoodites down as seen posted on the Deck.



photo by Jim O'Bryan

But when 4" of snow fell later in the week, the crews got up and got the better of it. Good work city crews!

Last week many people were talking about the snow, the streets and if the city did a good job or not. Funny like many things in America the views were split, but everyone appreciated the crews out there trying to keep up with it all. Isn't it time you stopped by and shared some thoughts on what you love about Lakewood. What your good idea is for Lakewood, Or..."



Hot Off The Deck
<http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum>
 Join the discussion online – visit the **OBSERVATION DECK**

LAKEWOOD DISCUSSION

Topics	Author	Replies	Member Views	Last Post
IMAGE-IN LAKEWOOD	Jim O'Bryan	206	16501	Mon Feb 03
Common Core Explained - Part 2 of 3		6	241	Mon Feb 03
Liveable Lakewood© Series Unveiled		8	796	Mon Feb 03
A Beautiful But Troubling Morning	Jim O'Bryan	8	470	Mon Feb 03
Drive -Good Work Crews!				
Giant Eagle	Bill Cal	8	690	Mon Feb 03
City snow plows	Ryan Salo	116	5102	Sun Feb 02
Shameless Plug for LHS Basketball	Michael Deneen	2	109	Sat Feb 01
Vote for LHS' Wes Gerhardt as State Player of the Week!	Christine Gordillo	2	118	Sat Feb 01
Lakewood is Exciting!	Scott Meeson	2	164	Sat Feb 01
It's winter, It gets cold, get used to it, DUH ...	russell dunn	5	508	Sat Feb 01
From City Hall - Bad Boys, Bad Boys Whatcha Gonna Do?	Matthew Markling	0	190	Thu Jan 30
Water Main Break @ Mars & Athens	Margaret Brinich	0	115	Thu Jan 30



Supplier Freezes Lakewood's Salt Reserve

continued from page 1

of snowfall (and the frequency of the need for salt) and the extreme cold, which requires more salt than usual. Lakewood's typical storage capacity is 1,500 tons, but the supply has dwindled to about 250 tons. "We're not getting deliveries," said Summers.

The city is focusing its remaining salt on hills and intersections until more arrives. Officials from Morton salt have promised that more salt is coming this week.

Meanwhile, the city is looking into its contractual remedies against Morton and is also trying to purchase salt from other government agencies. Other cities, such as Canton, have found themselves in similar situations with Morton, which won a statewide public bid for salt supply. The Ohio Department of Transportation is also still waiting on 1,500 tons from Morton.

"And until our suppliers come through for us, we've got to be careful about how we drive," added Summers.



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Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
Sunday, February 9, 2014	Wednesday, February 19, 2014
Sunday, February 23, 2013	Wednesday, March 5, 2014

www.lakewoodobserver.com – 216.712.7070
14900 Detroit Avenue, Suite 205, Lakewood, OH 44107

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 ILLUSTRATIONS - Rob Masek, Nicka Petruccio
 PRODUCTION - A Graphic Solution, Inc.
 CONTRIBUTING WRITERS - State Representative Nickie Antonio, Christopher Bindel, Kristin Broka, Mike Coleman, Mike Deneen, Bernadette Elston, Marge Foley, Christine Gordillo, Chuck Greanoff, Emmie Hutchison, Eric Knapp, Eric Lowrey, Colin McEwen, Dale Miller, Leana Donofrio-Milovan, Dave Norton, Gary Rice, Natalie Schrimpf, Angela Smith Eric Smith, Paul Stratoti, Kathryn Tatnall, and Sara Zolinski.

City News

Council Appoints Sam O'Leary As Ward II Councilman

by Christopher Bindel

The January 21, 2014 meeting of Council was called to order at 7:40 P.M. by Council President Mary Louise Madigan. The first order of business was to appoint a Ward II Councilperson. Councilwoman Madigan (Ward IV) read a report from the Committee of the Whole regarding Council's process and deliberation on deciding who to appoint. After lots of deliberation they decided to appoint Sam O'Leary to the position. Councilwoman Madigan introduced a substitute ordinance appointing Mr. O'Leary as the Ward II Councilman, and Council passed it unanimously.

Judge Patrick Carroll was on hand to then swear in Mr. O'Leary. Having recently passed the Bar, this was the second time Mr. O'Leary took an oath from Judge Carroll in just a few short months. After taking the oath Councilman O'Leary took his seat with the rest of Council and the meeting resumed.

Councilwoman Madigan then read another report from the Committee of the Whole, this time regarding Council appointments to certain boards and committees. These appointments were for Council members' positions on these committees. Council agreed to appoint Councilman Tom Bullock (At-Large) to the Lakewood Hospital Board, Councilwoman Madigan to the Lakewood Hospital Association

Governing Board, and Councilwoman Cindy Marx (At-Large) to the Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board. Council then passed resolutions confirming those appointments.

Next Council President Madigan announced her appointments to the Council Committees. The Chairs of each are as follows: Councilman Ryan Nowlin (At-Large), Chair of the Finance Committee; Councilwoman Cindy Marx (At-Large), Chair of the Health & Human Services Committee; Councilman David Anderson (Ward I), Chair of the Housing Committee; Councilman Bullock, Chair of the Public Safety Committee; Councilman Shawn Juris (Ward III), Chair of the Public Works Committee; and Councilman O'Leary, Chair of the Rules & Ordinances Committee.

Councilwoman Madigan then introduced a resolution to fill the vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals vacated by Councilman O'Leary. Council referred the resolution to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

Fire Chief Gilman then asked Council to approve a resolution that would allow the Fire Department to trade in equipment for credit towards new replacement equipment. The Fire

Department will be purchasing new vehicle extrication equipment and their potential vendor is willing to give the City a credit of \$5,500 toward the purchase of the newer model with the trade-in of their old one. The current equipment that would be traded in is made by Hurst and the new one would come from Howell Rescue Systems of Kettering, Ohio.

Council passed the resolution, approving of the trade-in.

Director of Planning and Development, Dru Siley, then asked Council to consider passing a resolution that would support the City's application to the Cuyahoga County U.S. EPA Brownfield Removing Loan Fund. The fund provides grants for asbestos abatement and a variety of other brownfield clean-ups. The City is applying for a grant that would help fund the asbestos removal from the McKinley school property in preparation for its demolition. Director Siley added that no matching funds from the City are required to receive the grant.

Councilwoman Madigan said that the discussions surrounding McKinley school have been around since the fall, including the potential for this grant. Therefore she moved to approve the resolution instead of sending it to a committee to be discussed. Council

then passed the resolution.

City Engineer, Mark Papke, then ask Council to pass a resolution approving the CUY-Lakewood Signals, Phase 4, which includes the replacement of the traffic signals and poles along Madison Avenue between McKinley Avenue and Ridgewood Avenue. The plans, specifications and estimates have been completed on the project and are ready to be sent to ODOT's Columbus office for bidding; however Council needs to pass a resolution approving them first. Mr. Papke submitted a resolution for Council's consideration and said that the latest it can be approved is by the February 3, 2014 meeting.

Councilman Juris asked Mr. Papke if Council would still be able to have a chance to review the project and make changes after the resolution was made. He said he understands the importance of getting it passed and to Columbus but would still like to review it in the Public Works Committee. Mr. Papke said he was under the impression that Council had already reviewed the project and approved of it before sending it to the consultants for estimates. Councilman Juris said that he thought there were some uncertainties regarding some of the aspects of the project, and due to some conversations about things on Madison he wanted to make sure everything was **continued on page 19**

Rep. Nickie Antonio Announces House Passage Of Athletic Parity Bill: Would Allow PE Waivers To Include Club Sports Like Rugby



by Nickie Antonio

I am pleased as your State Rep. to announce the passage of House Bill 113, the Lakewood lawmaker's legislation to allow schools to offer a waiver from Physical Education to students who participate in a school sponsored club sport. The bill passed out of the House 82-9.

I told people, "Allowing school sponsored club sports to fall under the definition of interscholastic athletics will provide schools and students the opportunity to focus on core classes, electives, and advanced placement courses to better prepare them for college and or career."

This bill was inspired by the Lakewood Girls Rugby team who advocated for its passage and brought the issue to me in 2011 after discovering that the remedy was in the hands of the Ohio Legislature.

Excused students must also complete an additional 0.5 credits, of instruction in another course of study to meet the requirements for graduation. Currently, waivers are eligible to students who participate in interscholastic athletics, marching band, cheerleading-- for at least two full seasons --and Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps for at least two full years.

Winter Tips for Warding Off Hip and Knee Pain



Jesse Templeton, MD

Winter's cold and damp weather seems to trigger hip and knee pain for many of the 46 million Americans suffering from arthritis. According to a recent poll, about 42 percent of participants blamed chilly temperatures for their hip and knee pain. However, scientific studies are conflicting. Some show a strong relationship between short, cold damp days and arthritis flare-ups, while others find little or no link between weather and joint pain.

Can weather really make joints ache?

"Research suggests changes in barometric pressure that come with changing weather may worsen knee pain in people with arthritis," says Jesse Templeton, MD, orthopaedic surgeon at Fairview and Lakewood hospitals.

As weather changes, the small air cavities in joints can actually have a lower pressure than the barometric pressure outside. If the body doesn't have adequate time to adjust, these small spaces will be exposed to a severe pressure difference that will cause pain in the surrounding tissue. In addition, colder temperatures can cause painful changes in joint fluid thickness, especially for arthritis sufferers.

"The key is to stay active," says Dr. Templeton. "Movement helps keep the joints lubricated and results in less pain."

"Cold weather doubles stress on joints if they are not warmed up properly," says Dr. Templeton. "Synovial fluid at our body's joints provides a slippery surface so that bone ends don't rub together and cartilage doesn't wear away. As we age, the body needs to be stimulated by movement to produce lubrication."

Unfortunately, many of us become less active when the weather turns cold. As a result, our body isn't triggered to produce the fluid needed to adequately lubricate our joints.

"The key is to stay active," says Dr. Templeton. "Movement helps keep the joints lubricated and results in less pain."

Choose low-impact exercises that are easy on the joints, such as walking, yoga or tai chi. Lifting weights can also build joint-supporting muscles. Spend 10 minutes warming up your joints by stretching your body, from your fingers and toes to your wrists and ankles.

Here are additional tips to ward off pain when the cold weather hits:

- Consider water exercise. Swimming will get your joints moving with less stress.
- Eat a healthy diet. Salmon, nuts and other foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids will help curb inflammation. Foods containing vitamin K, such as spinach, kale and cabbage, have pain-soothing properties. And foods with vitamin C, such as oranges, red pepper and tomatoes, can halt cartilage loss and pain.
- Avoid foods high in omega-6 fatty acids, such as corn oil, as they may trigger inflammation.
- Keep warm. Dress in layers. Keep the house warm. Use an electric blanket. Remind yourself that spring is just around the corner.

"See your doctor if you are experiencing increased hip and knee pain with the cold weather," says Dr. Templeton. "He or she may have some other suggestions, such as increasing your pain medicine, specific to your situation."

For more information or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Templeton or any of our orthopaedic physicians at Fairview Hospital or Lakewood Hospital, please call 866.733.6363.



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County News

County Council 2013 Year in Review

by Dale Miller, County Council District 2

Thanks again for the privilege of serving on the inaugural Cuyahoga County Council for the new County government. Having completed our third year, it is a good time to review what happened in 2013 and do some looking forward to 2014.

I'll start with the three areas I was most involved with personally and then move on to other areas.

Passage of the Health & Human Services Levy: Review of the County's finances showed plainly that the County had a structural deficit of about \$24 million annually, resulting from state and federal cutbacks and reduction of property tax revenue following the last reappraisal. We gave consideration to placing a separate mental health levy on the ballot, but decided on a renewal of the broad Health and Human Services Levy with a 1 mill increase. The levy passed in November, providing funding to keep existing programs and make some additions.

Passage of the 2014-5 Biennial Budget: The County Council unanimously passed the 2014-5 budget in early December, and Executive FitzGerald signed it with no line item vetoes. The budget contained new initiatives from both the Council and the administration, including providing on-going funding for the Council's scholarship programs, providing a long overdue increase in assigned counsel fees paid to attorneys representing the indigent, and initiation of re-entry services for inmates in the County Jail. The budget also provided additional funding for mental health services, early childhood education, and MetroHealth hospital.

The Charter Review Commission spent nine months studying the County Charter and made 15 recommendations. The County Council placed a version of four of them on the ballot and all four passed. I was very much involved in developing each of the four charter amendments, which did the following:

Provided that the Council has 60 days, not 30, to review Executive

appointments, and also allowing the Executive to make an interim appointment for up to 120 days without Council confirmation while deciding on a permanent appointment.

Lists actions that the Council may take without submission to the Executive for approval, such as setting our own schedule and rules of procedure, creating committees, hiring Council staff, and contracting for services needed for the Council office, consistent with the approved budget.

Provides that the Personnel Review Commission, which hears employee grievances, will be appointed by the Council, rather than the Executive, providing more independence in the hearing process on employee grievances. This amendment also clarified the responsibilities and duties of the Commission, and gave charter status to the position of Human Resources Director, as a position appointed by the Executive and confirmed by Council.

Clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Revision and hearing boards, which hear cases regarding the value of property for tax purposes. This amendment will save taxpayer dollars by enabling the Board to better align the number and terms of the hearing boards with the workload of cases.

New Administration Building: The County considered four alternatives and decided to build our new administrative headquarters on the site of the old Ameritrust Complex. We sold the Ameritrust Complex to the Geis Companies, who will build the new headquarters on the site and lease it to us. The old Rotunda and other historic aspects will be preserved. The headquarters is expected to be ready for occupancy on July 15th of this year. By consolidating offices from about six different buildings, we are expecting to save about \$3 million per year in operating costs while having new facilities. The County is also working a consolidated storage facility, but the decision on a site has been deferred pending more information on how best to preserve the

archives.

Headquarters Hotel: The Executive and Council decided to provide for the building of a convention center headquarters hotel at the site of the old County administration building at Ontario and Lakeside. The County will own the hotel but contract for the operation. We do not expect to make a profit on the hotel when construction costs are factored in; however, we expect that the convention center and hotel combined will do better than the convention center would do without the hotel. To facilitate early construction of the hotel, county operations in the old administration building had to move to temporary quarters in October, and demolition of the old administration building is now underway.

Council approved a new program, initiated by the County Executive that will provide a \$100 college savings account for every kindergarten child in Cuyahoga County, starting with this year's class. We will be the largest community and the first county in the United States to undertake such a program. We believe that the program will create dynamic effects in which more children will have collage aspirations and more families will save for their children's education. The program is unproven at this point, but the potential benefits of reversing Greater Cleveland's long-term underperformance on college completion are so great that it's worth the effort.

Cuyahoga County is in the process of conducting a disparity study, which will determine how well we are doing on equality of opportunity in contracting for county work. By making greater use of in-house data collection and an innovative bidding process, we will complete an excellent study for \$250,000, compared to the \$500,000 to 1 million that other communities are paying. The study will show us how well we're doing and how best to make progress on being fully inclusive.

Politics can't be ignored. Executive FitzGerald announced his candidacy for Governor of Ohio. Even though he is a candidate, he has continued to take a hands-on approach to County government. The biggest impact has probably been in the departure of directors and other key staff, as job security is in question. Most significantly, we lost all three of the key people in the Fiscal Office, Fiscal Officer Wade Steen, Budget & Management Director Matt Rubino, and Treasurer Rich Sensenbrenner. County Councilman Julian Rogers also announced his departure at the end of January, 2014, for a new position with Cleveland State, making him the first member of the original County Council to move on. Just as 2014 opened, Council President C Ellen

Connally announced that she will not run for another term on County Council. This means that in addition to having a new County Executive in January, 2015, County Council will choose a new Council Present. I am interested, but time will tell as to who else is interested and what the wishes are of my colleagues.

Challenges for 2014:

Implementation: There is a lot in works: administrative headquarters, hotel, storage facility, scholarship program, disparity study, emergency operations center, jail consolidation, dispatch center consolidation. Sometimes, having a good idea is one thing, but completing it takes a lot more.

Sin Tax: The Council just voted the issue onto the May ballot, and the voters will have to decide whether to extend the sin tax to maintain our sports facilities.

Transitions: Since the County Executive is moving either up or out, there will be more people leaving for job security, and we will need to prepare to work with a new Executive, who will bring in new people and have a different style of leadership.

More Charter Amendments: Last year, we didn't want to put too many charter amendments on the ballot at one time, and we will consider more of the issues that the Charter review commission raised last year. Some of the issues are straightforward; but other issues will provoke considerable debate, such as making the sheriff's office more independent, giving the Inspector General charter status, and improving the process for filling vacancies in the positions of County Executive and County Council.

Moving time: Many County agencies will move to the new headquarters in July. I'm sure it will take some getting used to.

Council President Race: There's always the potential for a few sparks to fly. Unlike at Cleveland City Hall where leadership is typically decided within three days after the November election, the discussion can go on at County Council for months before and after the November election.

Downtown Planning: There is a lot of discussion about downtown upgrades, focusing on three parts: improvements to Public Square, improvements to the malls, and a bridge from the mall to the lake at the Science Center. Details of the improvements and how they will be paid for are still to be worked out.

Housing and land use planning: I've saved the most important for last. This is the area that County government is not doing a whole lot with and should be. I expect more discussion and possibly some action this year and certainly more next year in the new administration.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve you. Please contact me at dalecta@gmail.com if I can be of any assistance.

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DAILY SPECIALS

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- TUESDAY - Martini Madness: \$4 Martinis
\$5 Flatbreads/\$3 House Wine
- WEDNESDAY - Taco Night: \$2 Tacos/\$2 Coronas/\$3 Margaritas
- THURSDAY - Irish Night: Live Music
\$3 Guinness/\$3 Jameson
- SUNDAY - 1/2 Price Wings/\$6 Slider Plates
\$4 Bloody Marys/\$5 Mimosas • 5 for \$9 Domestic Bottles

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Lakewood Public Library

compiled by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

Tuesday, February 4

Learning Lab Classes: One-on-One Job Search

Spend thirty minutes with a staff member polishing your resume, brushing up on computer skills and exploring employment websites. Whether you need a new job or just want to explore your options, we want to get you started with personal attention.

Appointments are available between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 6

Documentary Film: "Flag Wars" (2003)

Directed by Linda Goode Bryant and Laura Poitras

Shot over a four-year period, Linda Goode Bryant and Laura Poitras' Flag Wars is a poignant and personal look at a community in Columbus, Ohio, undergoing gentrification. What happens when gay white homebuyers move into a working-class black neighborhood? As the new residents restore the beautiful but run-down homes, black homeowners must fight to hold on to their community and heritage. The inevitable clashes expose prejudice and self-interest on both sides, as well as the common dream to have a home to call your own. Winner of the Jury Award at the South by Southwest Film Festival, "Flag Wars" is a candid, unvarnished portrait of privilege, poverty and local politics taking place across America.

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

Saturday, February 8

Learning Lab Classes: Internet Skills

Learn the skills you need to teach yourself. We begin with PC basics, navigate through the Internet and finish with web searching. We recommend that all students practice using a mouse before class. Ask the Technology Center staff to show you how.

3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

Saturday, February 8

Western Films: The Golden Age Part 2: "Forty Guns" (1957)

Directed by Sam Fuller

Barbara Stanwyck plays a powerful landowner who runs things her way, not only on her

ranch but also throughout Cochise County, Arizona. If you think Stanwyck was strong and sexy in other films wait until you see her lead a band of forty gunmen across Sam Fuller's rugged, wide-screen western canvas. When U.S. Marshal Griff Bonnell arrives to restore law and order, sparks fly. Jessica prepares for battle, even as she fights her own attraction to Bonnell. The director's outrageous, kinetic style in this film has been admired by the likes of Jean-Luc Godard, Quentin Tarantino and Martin Scorsese.

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

Sunday, February 9

Sunday with the Friends: Callas on Callas

Celebrate the life and art of the modern era's most influential operatic artist, Greek-American soprano Maria Callas. Using excerpts of radio, television and print interviews given by Madame Callas and transcriptions from her famous Julliard Master Classes, the revelers of Wordstage illustrate the power and the elegance that transformed a diminished opera world of pretty singing exhibitions into the vital theatrical force it has become today. Rare video clips sprinkled throughout the piece provide glimpses of the legendary Callas in concert and reveal the woman behind the performance.

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

Tuesday, February 11

Zentangle

Channel your aimless doodling into beautiful art and find a little peace of mind at the same time. Zentangle designs are repeated patterns that are combined to create beautiful art. Everyone can do it! Zentangling helps some people to focus on what they are hearing and helps others to tune out distractions in their environment. Find your calm center and enjoy the sense of accomplishment that comes with each finished piece. Judy Montgomery will demonstrate the design process step-by-step and show you how much fun it can be.

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

Saturday, February 15

Learning Lab Classes: Basic Software Skills

Take this simple overview of the three most popular and useful programs around. Word processing skills come in handy almost everywhere. Spreadsheets help you get organized and powerful presentations get your ideas across with style.

3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

Saturday, February 15

Five Star Films: "The Spanish Prisoner" (1997)

Directed by David Mamet

Mathematician Campbell Scott invents a system projected to make millions for his company. He takes a vacation and gets acquainted with multi-millionaire Steve Martin. Soon afterward, he's trapped in the vortex of a conspiracy and murder connected to his formula. The company has conned him. With nowhere left to turn, his assistant Susan Ricci advises a phone call to the FBI.

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

Sunday, February 16

Sunday with the Friends: SLAP Jazz Trio

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Transition Plans In Place For Elementary Students

continued from page 1

porary locations will be the new homes for our students and staff at the affected schools until the newly constructed buildings are ready for occupancy, which is estimated to be Fall 2016.

District officials have gone through a painstaking and deliberate process in selecting the best learning environments for its students and staff. Several priorities were shared by the community in regards to transition, the most important being the ability to

keep students and staff together in one location for each school.

"We are confident that these new sites will provide an excellent educational setting throughout the transition period," said Superintendent Jeff Patterson.

The Superintendent will be holding meetings with the affected school communities to discuss the design and construction of the new buildings and to gather parents' and neighbors' input on the process.

LPL Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Saturday, February 8

Tail Waggin' Tutors - For school-age children

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

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

September 2 - May 23

Homework Help - For students in kindergarten through eighth grade

Need a little extra help with homework or just a cool place to study? Come to the Homework ER room for help and resources. No registration. Homework ER closed for school holidays and vacations.

Ongoing Monday - Friday, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Main and Madison branch Children's and Youth Services.

Family Weekend Wonders

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

Main Library Activity Room and Madison Branch Auditorium

Weekends With Wee Ones - For families with children under 2 years old

Spend a part of your family weekend time clapping your hands, tapping your feet, singing nursery rhymes and, of course, sharing books. 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.

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Lakewood Public Library

Family Music And More:

Presents Magic Fun With Zap The Wonder Chap

by Kathryn Tatnall

If you have never seen Zap the Wonder Chap perform, I have one question for you; why not?

Bob Durante, aka Zap, has been performing magic for the last 36 years. As a youngster he worked at the Yellow Barrel of Magic Store, which is the oldest magic shop in this part of the country. There, his talents were fostered by the owners who helped many a fledgling performer by holding competitive magic conventions during the 70's and 80's. Later, Durante had the good fortune to work with Tony Slydini, whom he considers one of the greatest magicians of the last 100 years. Durante also spent a lot of time honing his craft with Frank Meleki, a magician who worked exclusively mentoring performers.

"There is an underground group of magicians who are the true masters of magical arts," says Durante. "They never perform for lay people; they just travel around to share with other magi-



Zap the Wonder Chap will appear as part of LPL's Family Music and More series on Saturday, February 22nd at 7p.m.

cians. Frank guided me for 20 years, teaching me how to be a magician."

You may have seen Zap at the library in one of his many incarnations as "Zap the Magician" or "Zap the Merry Wizard." He is a familiar face in children's entertainment here

in Northeast Ohio. He loves to entertain and that shines through all of his performances. His shows are geared

towards a family audience, so you can count on good clean fun, and they are so full of silly slapstick humor that you just can't help but laugh. When asked what he likes best about performing for children, Durante says, "It's the moment you see the wonderment shine in their eyes. They know that what they are seeing is something that could not possibly happen and yet it does. That is magic."

So join us for the last performance for Family Music and More this season as we present, Magic Fun with Zap the Wonder Chap. We will meet in the Multipurpose Room in the Main Library on Saturday, February 22, at 7 p.m. The performance is free and open to the public and is generously provided by the Friends of the Library. If you would like more information about Zap the Magician visit his website, www.ZapHQ.com.

Have You Discovered Lakewood's Secret?

by Eric Knapp

The Madison Branch of the Lakewood Library is a modest neighborhood branch located in Lakewood's Birdtown area. The brick building that houses the library was originally built in 1929 to serve the diverse population of the southeastern portion of Lakewood. Madison is a warm and comfortable place to visit; our building is all one floor, making it great for people with mobility limitations. We have a small staff so there is always a familiar face to assist you.

Because of our close relationship to our patrons, we are able to gear our collection to their interests and needs. While the collection at Madison is limited, we have access to Main's items. The LPL van delivers daily between locations. We offer computer internet access, e-reader classes, a meeting room that can be reserved for public use and a quiet room for reading. After school homework help and computers offering 14 different fun

and educational games for children are readily available.

Only at the Madison Branch:

Weekends With the Wee Ones, a program designed for toddlers 2 and under. Come and enjoy rhymes, songs, books and fun with your little one.

Family Fridays in the Madison Learning Garden, enjoy stories, songs and activities about vegetables, fruits and flowers. All programs are at 10:30 a.m. on the following Fridays: June 13, July 11, August 8 and September 12.

Madison Branch Bright Days, a program of seasonal crafts for children in Kindergarten through fifth grade. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00 pm now until March 27.

Where in the Library...?, an interactive search and find game that helps the children explore the library while they hone their observation skills. There is a new search every two weeks.

Come and Check us out!

Jungle Bob's Reptile Show

by Marge Foley

An enthusiastic group of children and their families weathered snow and cold temperatures on a recent Saturday evening to come to the Lakewood Public Library for Jungle Bob's Reptile Show. Jungle Bob shared his collection of animal facts and stories but the real stars of the show were his reptiles.

The audience enjoyed meeting "Leo" a leopard gecko, "Big Mac" a red foot tortoise, "Smiley" an alligator snapping turtle, plus an assortment of snakes. Without a doubt "Slappy" the iguana brought the loudest squeals of laughter as he whipped his tail back and forth while Bob tried to remove him from his animal carrier. To the delight of the crowd, Slappy continued to express



These children had the opportunity to pet a red foot tortoise.

his feelings by flailing his very long tail at his owner who, wisely, kept the iguana at arm's length.

Jungle Bob reminded the youngsters to keep pets at home warm in the winter and to never touch a wild animal they may encounter outdoors.



Sharing The Dream

by Marge Foley

These beautiful handmade cards were crafted by students attending a program at the Lakewood Public Library on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. After stories and a song celebrating King's life and legacy, the participants had fun making a greeting card to warm the hearts of nursing home residents. The cards are being distributed to folks living at Lakewood Senior Health Campus. Each child took home a booklet about the life of Dr. King to cut and color, a song sheet, and a bookmark.

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Lakewood Schools

Garfield Student Takes Power Of Pen Title

by Christine Gordillo

The successful legacy that the Lakewood City Schools has built in the Power of the Pen competition continues as Garfield's Izzy Ostrowski captured first place among 8th graders and Harding's 7th grade team captured third overall at the district-level competition held January 18.

This is the second straight time a Lakewood student has won the overall district championship as Kent Adams won the 8th grade trophy last year for Harding.

More than 250 writers from 21 schools were part of the creative writ-

ing contest at Heskett Middle School in Bedford. The competition is made up of three rounds where the writers are given prompts to jump-start a story. The writers only have 40 minutes to finish their essay or short story. Some of the prompts the students had to tackle were: "You've been sent to your room to suffer in silence. Describe yourself at this task," and "Once upon a _____. Fill in the blank, but do not use the word time."

At the end of the rounds, awards are given for the top 15 individuals as well of "Best of Round" awards for the top story in each round. Garfield 7th

grader Era Bakia earned a Best of Round award for her third-round story and Harding 7th grader Ella Calleri and 8th grader Veronica Lee each were awarded Director's Choice, Best of Round awards. Harding 8th grader Micah Inak had a story earn Superior Honors.

In addition to Ostrowski's first-place finish, the following writers earned a medal or trophy by placing in the top 20:

9th place: Micah Inak (8th, Harding)

13th place: Samantha Stone (7th, Harding)

14th place: Nate Bilski (7th, Harding)

The next step for the statewide competition is the regional tournament at St. Joseph Academy on March 15. The top 50% of writers at the district level advance to regionals. Lakewood teams will move 18 of its writers on to regionals.

The following are the schools' Power of the Pen team members (regional qualifiers with asterisk):

Garfield Teams:

8th Grade: Sarah Bene*, Grace Cooper, Abbey Miller, Izzy Ostrowski*, Lizzie Shuga* and Mira Vainis*



Garfield's Izzy Ostrowski with her champion Power of the Pen trophy.

7th Grade: Era Bakia*, Nicholas Cleary*, Corrina Cooper*, Clara McGuan, Solana Petrone, Declan Rohrs

Garfield Co-Coaches: Haley McDonough & Maggie Bacher

Harding Teams:

8th Grade: Casey Chanter*, Micah Inak*, Veronica Lee*, Sophia Parker*, Saige Rook and Claire Walkosak*

8th Grade Coach: Ruth Pangrace

7th Grade: Nate Bilski*, Ella Calleri*, Emily Perry*, Lalia Williams-Riseng*, Samantha Stone* and Nina Zanghi*

7th Grade Coach: Pam Sheils

Harding Team Dominates In Classroom Of Champions

by Christine Gordillo

The Harding Classroom of Champions team convincingly won its preliminary round in the the Academic Challenge-style tournament held at St. Edward High School on January 15.

The Harding team of 8th graders Kevin Cush, Abe Dalisky, and Captain Veronica Lee sailed to victory against St. Mark of Cleveland and St. Charles of Parma. The final score was Harding, 460; St. Mark 120; and St. Charles 80.

The scholastic competition, hosted each year by St. Edward, is in

its 25th season and draws 21 teams of 7th and 8th graders from across Northeast Ohio. The teams compete in first-round competitions and then the three top-scoring teams advance to the Finals, which are held in April.

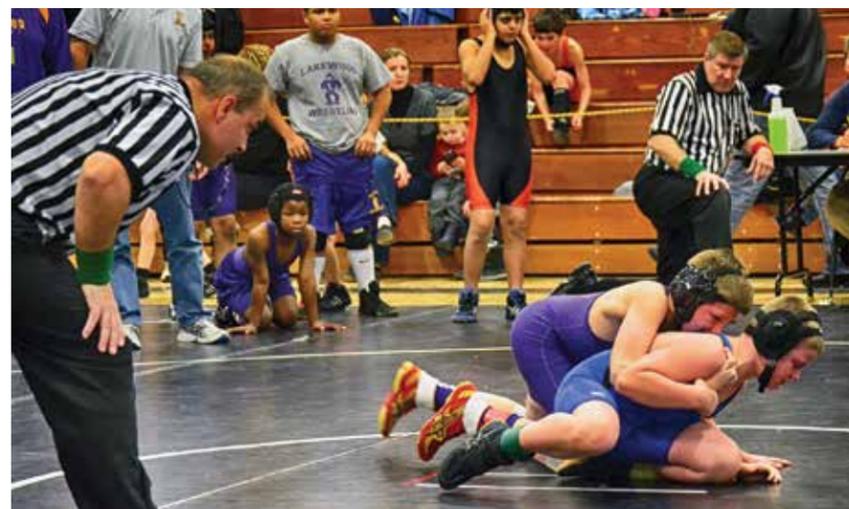
The contest features questions from across all academic fields including history, literature, math, science and also includes cultural and current event questions. The team is led by advisers Ruth Pangrace and Mary Kay Ryan and also includes alternates Zachary Howe and Calvin Dolatowski.

Lakewood Grapplers Grab Wins

by Mike Coleman

The Lakewood Mini Rangers wrestling squad advanced 10 wrestlers at the Ohio Youth Wrestling Association's North Olmsted Sectional Championships on January 27 at North Olmsted High School.

The top four in each weight class at sectionals advanced to the Garfield Heights District Championships, where berths in the state championships will be on the line. Earning sectional championships for the Rangers were: Billy Murphy, Milan Jackson, Shamique Bryant and Yousef Awad. All four champions finished the regular season undefeated. Also placing for the Rangers were Gavin Hatfield, Logan Kresevich, Pete Pat-



Billy Murphy takes down an opponent.

souras, David Coleman, Othman Awad, and Jayden Jackson.

The Rangers are coached by Sean Jackson.



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Lakewood Schools

Lakewood Resident John Litten Receives St. Edward High School MLK Award

by Natalie Schrimpf

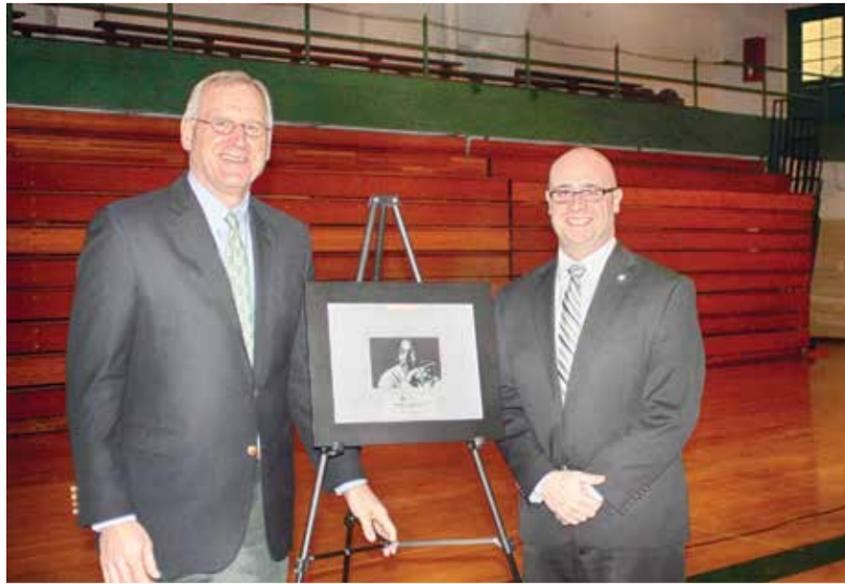
John Litten, executive director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Cleveland, was recently honored by St. Edward High School with its MLK Award.

Presented each year at an all-school prayer service during the week of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the award recognizes an individual or group of individuals within the St. Edward High School community whose work or activities have spread Dr. King's message of nonviolence, love and human dignity.

Litten, a 1997 St. Edward alumnus, received the award not only for his accomplishments to date at SVDP – where he started his leadership role in early 2012 and continues to serve the poor – but also for his previous work as director of Camp Christopher, Catholic Charities Community Services of Summit County, and as program coordinator, CYO Camp Christopher.

"We don't always choose an alum, but as one, it's important to show our students that someone who went to St. Ed's is using his Catholic education and the Holy Cross values they were instructed with here to go out and make the world a better place," said Liam Haggerty, the school's vice president of Mission Effectiveness.

"We wanted to honor John's work, not only with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, but also to go back and look at the great work he has done at Camp Christopher and really highlight what it means to celebrate human dignity and administer to a variety of different populations."



James Kubacki (l), president of St. Edward High School, presents John Litten, St. Vincent de Paul Cleveland executive director, with the school's MLK Award.

Many associate Camp Christopher as a summer camp for children, which in and of itself is a valuable ministry of the Diocese of Cleveland, he explained.

But it also partners with the diocese's disability services and ministries to conduct camps for children and adults with special needs. Additionally, it holds camps in conjunction with area hospitals, such as MetroHealth Medical Center's burn unit and Akron Children's oncology and pulmonary units, said Haggerty.

Litten's work at both SVDP and Camp Christopher exemplifies Dr. King's message that we are all created in God's image, we possess dignity and value and should be cared for, Haggerty added. "It wasn't something that was just important 50 years ago. It's something that's important now, and there's still work to be done."

Litten echoed this sentiment in his thank you speech to approximately 1,000 attendees, comprised of faculty,

staff and students, noting that the award is "at least 30 years premature."

"This award stands as a constant reminder of the work that I must do in order to truly follow in someone like Dr. King's footsteps," he said. "He didn't and shouldn't feel as though we have reached a peak. We simply need to continue climbing. This award is a beginning and a journey, rather than a final destination."

Litten told the St. Edward community that he accepts the award as an IOU.

He challenged the youth to form the first student SVDP volunteer group within the diocese, offering not only to moderate, but to have the Society dedicate \$1,000 to the cause.

"But there's one catch," he added. "Every dime of that money must go to help someone in need. Let's turn this award into something that truly makes a difference."

District Announces Open Enrollment Procedures

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools' elementary and middle school open enrollment period for the 2014 – 2015 school year will be from March 3 through April 4, 2014. Applications will be processed on a first-come, first served basis.

Open enrollment requests for all registered students may be submitted beginning Monday, March 3, 2014. On March 3, 2014 only, requests will be accepted from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. at Franklin Elementary School, 13465 Franklin Blvd.

Forms will first be available at Franklin Elementary the morning of

March 3. After 11 a.m. on March 3, the form will be available at the school buildings and at the Board of Education. You may submit the form at your neighborhood school or at the Board of Education, 1470 Warren Road.

Please note: Elementary open-enrollment approvals will be extremely limited due to construction and transition. If open-enrollment is granted, your child must continue at the school through grade five.

Families will be notified prior to the end of the 2013-2014 school year whether their request has been approved or denied.



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Sports

Ranger Girls Hoops Team Seeking Conference Repeat

by Mike Deneen

As it enters the final few games of the regular season, the Lakewood Rangers' Girls basketball team is in first place in the West Shore Conference. The team is aiming to repeat its conference title from 2013. That championship was the first for the program since 1996, when it won the Lake Erie League.

The season started with a great deal of uncertainty. Last year's leading scorer, Junior guard Mikayla Harper, was lost to major injury before the season even started. Head Coach Mike Harper (Mikayla's father) has relied on a balanced offensive attack to compensate for her absence. Senior Guard Maggie Rowell reflects on the loss of McK-

ayla, "It was tough at first, but we were able to adapt." No Ranger player averages double-digits in scoring, but three players – Ryann Greenfield, Madison Clause, and Tori Milicevic – average nine points per game. "Any night any one of our top six or seven scorers can bite you," says Harper.

The team entered February with only one conference loss, and

has been consistently ranked in the Plain Dealer's Top 25 throughout the season. They hope to complete their repeat championship on Senior Night, a February 12 home matchup with Rocky River. River is the only WSC conference team that beat Lakewood during the January portion of the schedule.

The regular season will be followed by a trip to the OHSAA tournament, where the team hopes to go deep into the bracket this season. However, it will be a tough task, as their district will likely include other ranked teams such as Berea-Midpark, Magnificat, St. Joseph and Westlake. However, the team has confidence. "As long as we play our game, we can compete with anyone," says Senior Captain Megan Barrett.

Rangers Rounding Up Record-Setting Season

by Christine Gordillo

The Ranger varsity boys' basketball team has turned a penchant for the perimeter into a record-setting season that has the squad known as the "Runts on Bunts" sporting a 13-2 record that has earned the team a top 25 ranking and command of the West Shore Conference.

Propelling the short-in-stature Rangers (only three players top 6 feet) to its lofty record has been the team's 3-point proficiency, led by senior Mike Angers and junior Wes Gerhardt. The two are shooting 45% and 49%, respectively, from behind the arc. The team is shooting almost 41%.

"For high school basketball that

is phenomenal," said head coach Phil Argento. Typical high school teams usually average in the mid- to low 30s, he said. The team's strategy of pressing its opponents then shooting 3-pointers in transition is unusual as well, but it plays to the Rangers' strength.

Earlier this season, Angers set a school record for 3-pointers made when he sunk 10 in an overtime loss to Westlake. Gerhardt promptly broke that record 10 days later when he hit 11 3-pointers in a rout over Bay Village. Gerhardt's 36-point performance that night earned him 8th place in the state record books for most 3-pointers and the honor of being named JHuddle.com's Best Player of the Week for the state of Ohio.

The team's 19 total 3s against Bay earned the Rangers 5th all time in the state for 3-pointers made. Overall the team is shooting 53% from the field.

Argento also attributes the Rangers' success this season to a healthy and injury-free squad. After losing three of his starters during the course of last season, the hardiness of this group has been a boon for the team, giving them time to gel with each other. This has been important as Argento lost seven players from last year's 14-9 team due to graduation or moves out of district.

The team, which is currently

ranked 20th in the Plain Dealer Top 25, also has five seniors that have provided leadership for those who have moved up the ranks from JV and freshmen teams, led by senior starters and co-captains Angers and Jacob Schmidt. Shawn McDonald, Logan Swift-Stewart, Jamie Fesko, Nick Porter and Dan Matthews have also been key contributors to the team.

Beyond the healthy players and plethora of 3s, Argento sees the team's boost in assists this year as part of the recipe for its success. That success has also brought the team a level of attention not seen in the past. Sitting atop

the West Shore Conference is a great place to be, but it also means everybody is preparing extra hard for the Rangers.

"We're the biggest game for everyone we play in the conference," Argento said. "It's a good place to be."



Junior Wes Gerhardt earned Player of the Week for the entire state for his game against Bay that included 11 3-pointers.



Senior Mike Angers is part of the one-two punch along with Wes Gerhardt in 3-point shooting for the team.



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Lakewood Cares

Peace Corps The Gambia Camp GLOW

by Sara Zolinski

"I love Camp GLOW because you taught me to become a good leader in the future and you made me more aware in life."

Camp GLOW (Girls and Guys Leading Our World) took place January 12-18, 2014 at the Regional Education Office in Janjanbureh, Central River Region (CRR), of The Gambia. Organized by U.S. Peace Corps-The Gambia, in partnership with the Nova Scotia - Gambia Association (NSGA), the camp aimed to equip young Gambian women and men with leadership skills and build their confidence. In addition, students were encouraged to work together as equal partners and become active leaders in their communities.

Twenty four Grade 10 students and six teachers were invited from six Senior Secondary Schools in the Central River Region of The Gambia. Students and teachers represented the four major tribes, coming together from different villages and economic backgrounds to work together and form lasting friendships.

The U.S. Peace Corps - Gender and Development Committee (GAD) wanted to continue the leadership and equality camp after the success of Camp GLOW 2013. The focus of leadership and working together as equal partners (both men and women) was the main focus of Camp GLOW 2014. The traditional roles of women and men in Gambian society do not allow for much cooperation or collective decision making, with men taking on most leadership roles and women submitting to them. Camp GLOW 2014 had a large focus on Malaria, treatment, prevention, and control. Malaria is the leading cause of death in children under five years of age in The Gambia and is also one of leading causes of adult death.

Within the setting of Camp GLOW, Peace Corps Volunteers envisioned an environment where both male and female students and teachers could collaborate and learn to respect each other's opinions. The camp was modeled after "Camp Girls Lead-



Students and Peace Corps Volunteers at Camp GLOW

ing Our World", which was initially developed in 1995 by Peace Corps Volunteers in Romania and has since been successfully replicated in 22 other countries around the world. The Peace Corps Volunteer in The Gambia kept the acronym "Camp GLOW" but included boys in the title - "Girls and Guys Leading Our World."

The Central River Region (CRR) was chosen as the camp location due to the high prevalence of teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and STIs among youth and lack of educational opportunities. Camp GLOW received support from the CRR Governor's Office, the Chief of Janjanbureh and the CRR Regional Education Office.

Local businesses within The Gambia contributed in-kind donations to supplement camp materials, such as t-shirts and stationary supplies. Peace Corps Volunteers also donated crafts supplies, sports equipment and prizes.

Throughout the planning and development stages, Peace Corps volunteers also worked alongside NSGA to develop the camp curriculum and individual lesson plans. Four curriculum topics were selected: Malaria, Healthy Lifestyles, Gender Equality and Community Engagement.

During the camp, both students and teachers actively participated in sessions - asking questions, debating amongst themselves and performing role-play dramas. In order to promote

gender equality in the camp environment, students encouraged to mix instead of segregating themselves to their own gender. Boys and girls prepared and performed dramas together, played sports together and took part in games and activities together.

Throughout the week, students also answered specific questions related to each session in journals. The questions aimed to encourage the students to think critically and relate what they had learned in the sessions to their own lives. Teachers were also given their own journals to complete, which contained questions about the interactive teaching methods and assessments used in each session. The teachers also served as coordinators of each school group and facilitated group discussions. Peace Corps Volunteers met with the teachers daily to discuss and evaluate sessions, highlighting teaching methods that were most effective in the classroom.

One of the objectives of the camp was to equip the participants with tools and knowledge so they are able to share what they learned during camp with their peers and community members. Lessons on community engagement taught students creative ways to share information, such as dramas, visual aids and puppet shows. School groups worked on creating puppets throughout the week - using paper maché with baobab glue, oil paint, cardboard

and local fabrics. They decorated the puppet costumes with craft supplies donated by Peace Corps Volunteers - fabric paint, pom poms and pipe cleaners - resulting in creative art pieces. This creativity and imagination also become evident in the dramas they performed during the sessions and talent show.

Despite the busy camp schedule, both students and teachers still had time to play sports, from kickball to football, as well as team-building games. After dinner, everyone gathered for evening activities that included movies and popcorn, a bonfire with s'mores and songs and a final camp program with a DJ.

In addition to the informative curriculum sessions, role models were brought to camp each day to speak to the students about their own personal stories. Role models were both Gambian and from the U.S. Embassy. The role models spoke to the students about personal challenges they faced, and how they overcame those challenges. One role model, Mr. Yoneoka, Charge D'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy Nevertheless, had a particularly compelling story. He told the students that by having good role models he was able to accomplish his goals as a young person and as an adult. He also encouraged the students to not only search for role models, but also be a good role model to others in their lives. "Paying it forward," is the best way to better yourself as well as the people around you. The role models were an important aspect of Camp GLOW.

On the last day of camp, school groups developed action plans, selecting one message to share with their peers and planning how they would disseminate the information in their communities. Student representatives from each group had the opportunity to practice their public speaking skills by presenting their schools' action plan to the entire class and answering questions and comments from their peers. Both Peace Corps Volunteers and the CRR-representative for NSGA plan to check up on each group throughout the school year and support them in their efforts.

Camp GLOW ended with a closing ceremony, attended by the U.S. Embassy, U.S. Peace Corps Country Director, Leon Kayego and U. S. Peace Corps Staff and Regional Education Office staff. Students and teachers presented their action plans and dramas and were awarded certificates for their hard work. Students and teachers celebrated later that evening with an all-camp talent show and program, which included school and individual acts such as songs, dances, dramas and puppet shows. Their talents and creativity had no boundaries!

Before the students returned back to their villages, students took the post-test, the same test as the pre-test taken

continued on next page



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February 11th & 25th
March 11th & 25th
Stay tuned for future dates

Lakewood Cares

H2O's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Of Service

by Emmie Hutchison

H2O, the "Help to Others" youth volunteer program, hosted its 4th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service on Monday, January 20th. This event is part of a larger, national movement to turn the holiday into a "day on" instead of a "day off" to honor the legacy of Dr. King. Forty one high school students spent their time off from school engaged in meaningful volunteer work. Student leaders in the H2O program gave input about service sites at which they would like to work, and then helped promote and recruit for the event, and organize groups into their assignments.

Volunteers participated in a wide variety of volunteer projects to benefit the community. One group went to Medwish International to help sort unused medical supplies that have been donated and will be distributed for humanitarian aid. Another group traveled to the Ohio City Bicycle Co-op to work on various projects, including basic bike maintenance and



The students participating in H2O's 4th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

moving equipment to make room for new racks. Kids who went to Crestmont Nursing Home played games with the residents. My Best Friend's Bowl staged a pet-sorting event at the Westerly senior apartments, and had enough time left over to deliver the food to residents who have pets. The volunteers who went to Youth Challenge were part of a bigger team who worked on their huge annual mailing. The final service

site was planned by student leaders and involved creative activities for English-language-learning students from the ASIA (Asian Services in Action) program. They made crafts, played games, and ate snacks together, providing a fun, educational, and enriching day off

school for the kids who attended.

Upon returning to the Women's Pavilion after a morning of service, volunteers were treated to a lunch provided mostly by local restaurants, which this year included Taco Tonto's, Angelo's Pizza, and several pans of food from Barocco Grill. We are so grateful for the generosity of these restaurants and their support for this special day! Providing lunch allowed our volunteers to mingle and socialize, and stay for some reflections on the morning of service and on the history of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. It was a great day, full of new experiences, the satisfaction of helping others, and pride for being part of such a great community.

H2O is sponsored by the City of Lakewood's Division of Youth Office. H2O receives tremendous support from the Lakewood City Schools, generous donors and a dedicated group of adult volunteers.

Diversity Potluck - The World Lives In Lakewood Review

continued from page 1

wood's finest restaurants. It was a fine evening. The commission currently sponsors three annual events including the Diversity Potluck, 'Welcome to Lakewood,' and the Community Conversation.

The commission would like to extend an extra-special thanks to the fine restaurants that donated food. Donating restaurants include Angelo's Pizza, KB Confectioners, India Garden, Cozumel, Italian Creations, Mr. Salters at Trinity Lutheran Church, Deagan's, El Carnicero, and Coffee Proper. We appreciate and thank you!

The Community Relations Advisory Commission is "Charged to advise, educate, and promote community relations. The mission of the Commission is to foster participation in the community; to encourage and promote respectful conversations and collaborative efforts among and between residents and city officials; and to promote equity, respect, and diversity within the city." Participation on the commission is voluntary and contingent upon appointment by the mayor and the City Council. There are currently seats available.

Peace Corps The Gambia Camp GLOW

continued from previous page

upon arrival to camp, to quantitatively measure what they learned over the course of the week.

The result?

Overwhelming improvements! Camp GLOW was a success!

This is just one way that we can prove that Camp GLOW made an impact. Those who attended camp were able to witness the close network that formed among all of the participants, enabling them to support each other regionally in post-Camp GLOW activities.

As one student wrote, "Camp Glow has done a wonderful job, so now the improvement is in our hands – that means we should share the information with others who have not yet learned it."

Camp GLOW planning was lead by two Peace Corps and GAD Committee members, Sara Zolinski and

Kelsey Johnson.

Sara Zolinski is a 2006 graduate of Lakewood High School. And a 2010 graduate of The Ohio State University where she earned her B.S. in Animal Science with a minor in Public Health. Upon graduation, she began her MPH-Master's of Public Health at Tulane University in the International Public Health and Global Development Program. Peace Corps had been one of Sara's long-term goals, and after completion of coursework at Tulane, began her 27-month service as a health volunteer in The Gambia, West Africa. Sara began her service in March 2012 in the Upper River Region where she was partnered with UNICEF as a sanitation and nutrition specialist. In addition to working with her village to build a garden for nutrition supplementation, Camp GLOW was a primary focus of her service. Sara will return to the US in March to complete her MPH.

BayComm Looking For Volunteer Members From Lakewood

by Jim Kettren

BayComm is a group of residents from the westshore suburbs who volunteer their time training to provide communications to their families and other residents within a 10 mile radius. We all know that power goes out frequently, and that standard forms of communications can go down as well. That can be a scary time for residents who need assistance, but can't reach their local police or fire department. Working in coordination with CERT, another volunteer first responder organization, under FEMA, BayComm is working to develop a network of wireless communications amongst residents from all of the westshore suburbs, and beyond. Formed in 2012, we have

members from Bay Village, Westlake, Rocky River, and Olmsted Falls, but we would like to expand our coverage to cities such as Lakewood, Fairview Park, and North Olmsted.

No radio experience is necessary. We meet monthly, and operate on the airwaves during one designated night per week. Residents within Lakewood would be asked to set-up a base station at their home, and make a modest investment in recommended radio equipment. No license required.

If you would like to explore becoming a member of BayComm, please contact Jim Kettren, BayComm Operations Manager via email at jim.kettren@hyland.com. Approved application required for membership.



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Lakewood Is Art

So Who Is The First Person You Are Sending A Postcard To?

tors, office walls, and into scrap books.

Lakewood, Ohio, is a city that has won people over nationally and internationally in recent years with our great love of food, small family businesses, unique places to drop in and shop, visit, buy art or just walk around and have fun. Is certainly becoming a "destination city," and we all know that destination cities need postcards to be taken seriously. Plus, teaming up with two other groups that I have worked with in the past to make this happen



Lakewood's legendary service station Ralph Miller Sunoco was the first drop off point.

made the project even more appealing. These partners include North Coast Litho, one of the top color print houses in Northern Ohio, and Human Tribe, Inc., a non-profit dedicated to amplifying the real parts of life, and getting humans off their asses, computers and phones, and back into enjoying real life.

We are making the cards available to local small businesses and non-profits FREE of charge. We are encouraging them to leave them out and let people take them. You can charge money for them if you want, and we are encouraging non-profits to sell them during large Lakewood events, but we would ask for some of the money be given to a Lakewood-based charity that helps those in need. When you have friends in from out-of-town, get them to pick up postcards and mail out how much fun they are having here in Lakewood, Ohio. We are betting that the quality of the cards, images and messages will make these perfect for everyone to

share, enjoy, and mail!

Liveable Lakewood is hoping to have many more Lakewood postcards out in the coming months. We are looking for the high-quality Lakewood image, art or words, that not only capture Lakewood life, history, events, etc. but would make the receiver truly wish they were here in Lakewood, Ohio.

So let us start this story and thread (on the Deck), "Who Are You Sending a Lakewood Postcard To?"

After unloading the truck with all of the cards and delivering them to Lakewood businesses that have asked for them, I sat down and filled out my first postcard. I sent it to my friend and ex-Mayor of Lakewood, Anthony (Tony) Sinagra. Tony, often called "The Best Mayor Ever in Lakewood," has once again come afoul of the law and is spending a short period of time out of Lakewood. So Deb and I filled out a heartfelt, "Tony, Wish you were here... Best regards, Jimmy and Deb O'Bryan." I think it is only fitting that the city he helped to build and define keeps his spirits up until he comes home.



Lakewood's favorite Goddess, Kathy Sinatra-Curran at Goddess Blessed on Madison Ave. shows off her cards!

So who do you know that would love to get a card from their friend, relative, or classmate? The person who always talks about how much they miss Lakewood or a person you know who just forgot how good it is here. I bet if you send a card to a friend in LA or New York, they will put it up in their office cubicle and look at it now and then. Friends will ask, "What is that?" and the lucky recipient sits back with a sigh and says, "Ahhhhh that is where I grew up..." and the visitor says, "Wow, that sounds great!" And the owner of the postcard says, "You know, it is, maybe I should move back." And they both walk away with another positive re-enforcement of Lakewood and what it is like.

continued on page 15

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Wellness Watch

VeloSano Registration Opens To The Public

by Angela Smith

Registration for VeloSano, the annual cycling event to raise money for cancer research at Cleveland Clinic, is now open to the public.

Cyclists can choose either a one- or two-day cycling experience. The one-day rides range from 25 to 100 miles, while the two-day rides total 173 to 230 miles and include overnight accommodations. Each cyclist will commit to raising between \$1,000 and \$2,000 depending on the length of the ride selected.

Opening ceremonies will be held July 18, featuring a "Celebration of

Cleveland" downtown. All riders will depart July 19. Routes will take all cyclists east along the lakeshore and through many of the scenic Cleveland Metroparks. The two-day ride will take cyclists into Erie, Pa., and back to Cleveland on July 20 with a stop at the SPIRE Institute in Geneva.

"Looking at the snow, it's hard to believe we're just six months away from the inaugural VeloSano ride when we expect to raise \$3 million for cutting edge cancer research" said Stewart A. Kohl, Co-Chief Executive Officer of The Riverside Company

and Event Chairman of VeloSano. "Over that weekend, thousands of riders and volunteers will not just complete an amazing event; we will launch a perpetual revenue source for research. Anyone comfortable pedaling on two wheels or willing to roll up their sleeves to lend a hand and eager to fight cancer and save lives should join this movement."

Since its inception in 1921, Cleveland Clinic has been at the forefront of cancer breakthroughs. Cleveland Clinic physicians and scientists have developed new surgical techniques, discovered new treatments and uncovered key information about cancer cells that has resulted in significant changes in the way patients are screened, diagnosed and treated.

Cancer remains one of the most pressing health concerns in the United States. Approximately one in three women and one in two men will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. Despite these statistics, government funding for cancer research has remained flat in recent years.

"Funds raised by VeloSano and its riders will help our physicians and researchers generate discoveries and explore novel therapies for treating cancer," said Brian J. Bolwell, M.D., FACP, chairman of Cleveland Clinic's

Taussig Cancer Institute. "We encourage all Northeast Ohioans to join the movement and consider participating in the event as a cyclist or a volunteer."

VeloSano's inaugural founding partners include the Cleveland Indians and The Donna M. and Stewart A. Kohl Fund at the Cleveland Foundation. Supporting partners are MCPc Family Charities, Inc., KeyBank, Jones Day Foundation and Horseshoe Casino Cleveland. The support of these partnering organizations ensures that 100 percent of funds raised by participants directly benefits cancer research at Cleveland Clinic.

For more information or to register as a rider, virtual rider or volunteer, log onto <http://www.velosano.org>.

About VeloSano

VeloSano, Latin for "swift cure," is more than another fundraising event. It's more than a bike ride. VeloSano is a movement with the goal of bringing an entire community together to help one another. Dollars raised by VeloSano participants will provide sustainable funding to support cancer research. It will depend on the passion and energy of thousands of people who wish to advance our knowledge around cancer and ultimately, help caregivers provide

continued on next page



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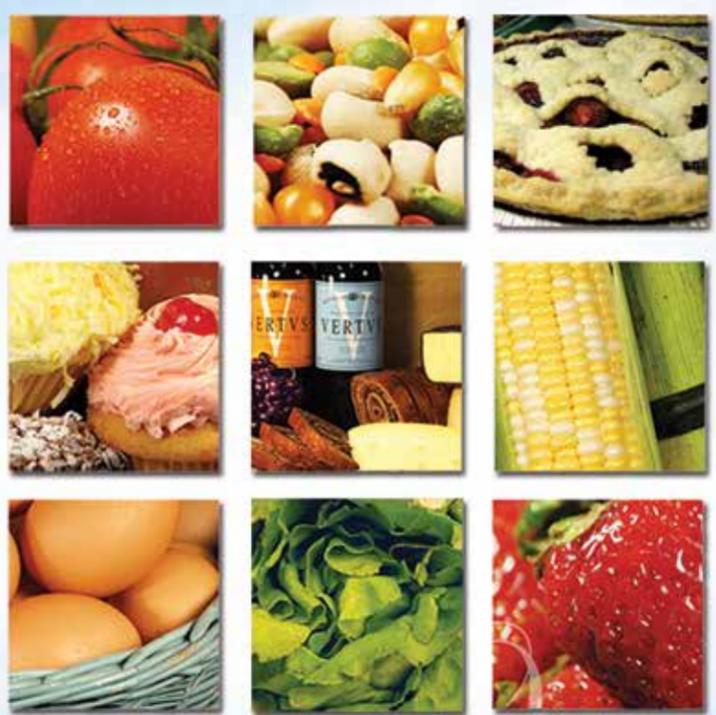
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Business News

The Lalla Cafe Now Open In Lakewood!



by Paul Stratoti

In late 2014 Chef Badr Aljufry Jr. (You may call me Brad) opened his first restaurant the Lalla Café at 11816 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, Ohio 44107 where he serves affordable Middle Eastern, Greek and Mediterranean cuisine including Vegetarian dishes from different areas around the mid-

dle east influenced by various regions.

Shish-Ka-Bob comes in smoked or non-smoked Pistachio, Chicken or Beef.

Did You Know?

Lalla in Morocco means “Lady” in English and “Dona” in Spanish. It’s a very gentle and polite word a title to add before a woman’s name, either out of respect, or if she’s superior.

VeloSano Registration Opens To The Public

continued from previous page

the most personalized care to cancer patients and families. Whether you are an avid cyclist, a compassionate crusader, or a spirited fan, you can be

a part of the VeloSano family. Thanks to the dedication of our sponsors, 100 percent of the proceeds raised through VeloSano will be carefully applied to cancer research at Cleveland Clinic.



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Common Core Explained In 3 Parts

The Common Core: Part 3

by Chuck Greanoff

The Common Core is an elitist, bi-partisan attack on public education posing as a cutting edge curriculum. The forces behind it have wealth and power and seek more of both, and are anxious to eliminate neighborhood schools and local control to achieve their ends. The assault is occurring simultaneously on many fronts—charter schools and vouchers, rigged school “rating” systems, evaluations tying teacher job ratings to test scores, etc.

The key to their shock and awe strategy is to cultivate a sense of inevitability, to make teachers and parents throw up their hands in frustration. The hope is that we will just give in, and perhaps fight for marginal changes in the curriculum while missing the bigger picture. It’s a powerful spell, but it’s built on a house of cards that is already crumbling.

No one is giving in; in fact, resistance is growing all over the country. Seems Americans like democracy, local control and their public schools. (See what’s happening in New York State and Connecticut. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2013/11/18/who-are-the-enemies-of-common-core/>)

This brings us to Lakewood. The “crisis” presented by the Common Core is actually the greatest educational opportunity we have had in years. When the smear campaign goes into full mode next year, we will have clear choices. We can accept the Jeb Bush concocted school rating system, complete with letter grades and a phony aura of legitimacy. Or, we can look to our own experiences. It’s time to trust ourselves.

Will we continue to value the arts, a robust curriculum with electives, vocational education (now called career tech) and the unique interests and talents of children K-12? Will we judge ourselves based upon the Lakewood ethic of aspiring to educate all students, and recognizing that students have unique needs and talents?

Or, will we judge ourselves on President Obama’s empty “college and career ready” rhetoric, accompanied with neat, expertly packaged invalid tests? Will we accept the reductionistic imperatives of the Common Core and its mandated tests and push teachers to become glorified test prep technicians?

Lakewood citizens past and present have created an opportunity-rich environment for our students, and while we have room for improvement, our offerings and results are quite impressive. From the Lakewood Project to our Construction Trades Program—to name a couple—we offer an impressive range of curricular and co-curricular opportunities. We do indeed make strong efforts to educate all students, and recognize that students have unique needs and talents.

As a result, we generally like our schools. But as Rick Hess of the American Enterprise Institute said, the goal is to get us not to trust “our lying eyes” and to put our faith in the Pearson Corporation and their political puppets. Lakewood is too

astute to fall for this scam.

Will we celebrate the fact that we are a very cosmopolitan community—a close microcosm of our broader, culturally rich society? Will we recognize that Lakewood public school students have a unique opportunity to learn in a real-world environment?

Or, will we bemoan the fact that our school and district “grades” are low because, surprise surprise, non-English speaking kids, including refugees, don’t do well on exams after being in the country for a couple of years? Will we accept the assessment framework of those deeply invested in our failure? We should never outsource the evaluation of our local institutions.

This brings us to the heart of the matter for teachers—what should they do? Our elementary school teachers, upon whom the greatest burden now falls, need to realize—if they don’t already-- that they know better how to serve the educational needs of the kid in the first row than does Arne Duncan, David Coleman or the Pearson Corporation.

Temperamentally, elementary school teachers tend to be trusting and nurturing, and have a tough time imagining that the designers of the Common Core have a very different agenda. A frank recognition of the forces at work is a good place to start. For that, again, I would highly recommend: “Reign of Error: the Hoax of the Privatization Movement and the Danger to America’s Public Schools” by Diane Ravitch.

The good news is that the teacher is still by far the most powerful in-school agent of education, much more so than any technology or curriculum, including the Common Core. Teachers who enter and stay in the profession do so to help create confident, creative, compassionate kids. They will continue to do so. It’s their calling.

In her book “Taking Back Childhood, A Proven Roadmap for Raising Confident, Creative, Compassionate Kids” Nancy Carlsson-Paige makes the case for child-centered play, in which kids make up stories, manufacture problems and negotiate solutions. Reading this book and/or Edward Miller’s “Crisis in Kindergarten: Why Children Need Play in School” would further equip parents and teachers with a positive alternative to the narrow precepts of the Common Core.

The irony is that the Common Core, with its spectacular neglect of the socio-emotional aspects of development, will serve as a reminder to all of us that children develop at different rates, that to fully develop they need to play a lot, and that socio-emotional development is vital to cognitive development. If ever teachers needed a reminder that children aren’t data points, they are about to get a big dose. This brings us to one final Common Core irony.

The Common Core apologists have appropriated the term “data” while actually having contempt for the highest principles of research. They ignore

controlled studies that actually make public schools look good, or that present a more nuanced picture of our educational achievements and shortcomings. Instead, they rely on years of distorted and outright fraudulent “data” produced by think tanks and state agencies that somehow never find their way into referred professional journals.

I say embrace data, but only that which honestly rendered. If “data” on child development had actually mattered, we wouldn’t have the Common Core.

Parents and teachers indeed feel the effects of the multi-pronged assault in public education, with the latest warhead being the Common Core. We are marginalized at every turn in service of more testing and, of course, more profits. When President Obama and Arne Duncan wanted advice on ways to get low-income kids into college, they invited executives from none other than the Pearson Corporation to the White House for a discussion. When more testing of low-income kids happens, no one should be surprised.

In writing this series, I have consulted with a handful of parents, one more so than the others. This parent has a family full of the compassionate,

creative confident kids that Carlsson-Paige discusses. Here is her take: “Thanks for bring up the inappropriate nature of K-3 classrooms. Common Core and more testing is trying to create an entire society of robots paying no attention to student strengths or unique skills or learning styles....”

I trust her infinitely more than I would a testing company, but the President and his Secretary of Education do not. Here in Lakewood, we don’t have an array of lobbyists to do our bidding, nor do we have a hotline to Bill Gates, Arne Duncan or David Coleman. “We”—our democratically elected school board, our administration, teachers, parents and students have something much more valuable: each other.

The Common Core is the best opportunity I have yet seen to once and for all reject phony narratives about our schools and judge ourselves based on our own values and standards. I am confident that we will emerge from this struggle as a more confident community that doesn’t look elsewhere for validation.

Whatever local disagreements we have, the fact is we care and know more about our students than the opportunists that are pushing the school “reform” movement and the Common Core. We simply need to proceed based upon that truth. Long Live Lakewood.

So Who Is The First Person You Are Sending A Postcard To?

continued from page 12

This month in California 24 million people have been told there is no water. Reservoirs are empty, pipelines dry, and water will be rationed in bottles until they get over the drought. They are saying even 14 days of rainfall of a 1/2 inch an hour will not get them out of rationing, and there is no rain coming! Imagine sending your friend in California a beautiful postcard of Lakewood, Ohio and Lake Erie. The Great Lakes represent 24% of the world’s fresh water, and 84% of North America’s fresh water. At what point does someone say: “Cost of living— one third here, good weather, great schools, great entertainment, great parks, great choices in housing, open office space and storefronts that are affordable and WATER!

So, who are you sending your first postcard to?



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Pulse Of The City

Testing...Testing...Testing? (NCLB? Common Core? Common Sense...Please!)

by Gary Rice

Once upon a time, little Gary Rice walked into a Pennsylvania first grade classroom that was preparing students for a readiness examination. The boy took one look around, took a good look at the paper on his desk, and then walked back out the door to his parents. "I'm not going to stay here!" said he, and he did not. It was another year before little Gary would be persuaded to return to school. For the next 12 years of his life, Gary would be at war with America's educational system. In many ways, he still is, even though he spent more than 30 years teaching in the public schools, and continues to volunteer from time to time as a retired teacher with your Lakewood Schools.

Little Gary was a pioneer in what has become the school testing refusal movement. Let's face it, testing could be so... Well, I distinctly remember getting a question "wrong" on that same readiness test the following year...We were shown a picture of two umbrellas- one having a curved handle, and the other with a straight one. We were asked which was a "man's" and which was a "woman's". I picked the "wrong" choice. Give me a break. At home, my parents used whatever umbrella was in the stand. Frame of reference governed my response, and not some artificial cultural or governmental expectancy, yet I was penalized for something totally beyond my control.

(Which was the "right" choice? I honestly don't remember, and for that matter, I wonder just how many "right" choices on some of today's tests might not be so "right" tomorrow?)

Perhaps the hottest hot potato in America these days would be the discussion about our public schools. While our excellent Lakewood schools continue to receive great accolades and widespread community support, a debate is raging nationwide as to just what really makes a "good" school...good.

In the State of Ohio, school district ratings were primarily based on three factors: standardized testing outcomes, overall attendance, and graduation rates. In recent years, state and national pressures have standardized curriculum to the point that virtually every teacher's lesson plans must directly relate to those standards...or else. As we are all aware too, with the newly proposed (and currently being implemented) national "Common Core" standards, there is a nationwide governmental push for even more state and national uniform standards and accountability. In other words, public education, once directed by our local communities, is now largely being either directly or indirectly dictated by your government at the State and Fed-

eral levels to a degree that many foreign dictators would be proud of.

Beginning around WWII, the national government felt that it would be in the national interest to discover and cultivate the "smartest" children in the nation, and it was principally for that reason of national security that the testing movement began. Originally, testing centered around competency in major academic areas, as well as in order to determine each child's IQ, and there were no penalties whatsoever for lower scores. Those scores were also a personal matter between the student's family and the school. These days, your children are being measured again and again, and they MUST measure up, or face greater and greater potential social or academic penalties, perhaps even including exclusion from graduation. As a result of your children's test scores, they may also be referred to special interventions, the school psychologist, or even to special separate public facilities.

Over a decade ago, the national "No Child Left Behind" law came along, ostensibly to raise the standards of excellence in the public schools. Thanks to NCLB, state and national governments have exceedingly stuck their noses into virtually every aspect of a local school district's operations. All of that happened sort of like this: Our public schools needed more money than local property taxes could provide, and there was also a call for more stringent academic standards, so the Feds got involved with public education, and along with their money, came plenty of strings attached.

The "No Child Left Behind" law was originally fashioned to be an accountability law in order to improve the public schools. Many of our political leaders from both parties originally agreed on the fundamental premise of the NCLB law. Conservatives wanted greater accountability and more testing for both students and teachers (a stand surprisingly inconsistent with their usual principles, since they usually prefer LESS governmental encroachment into people's individual lives) Liberals, on the other hand, were happy with at least the hope of greater funding and attention being paid to public education. (Although more and more un- and under-funded mandates were instead heaped upon the public schools.)

Almost no one is happy about the current state of public school reform and accountability.

In fact, more and more, across our country, a revolution has been not-so-quietly brewing against the current conception of all of our public schools and students being under such rigid Federal or State guidelines. The overall results of NCLB have been disastrous. All schools were supposed to achieve a level of measurable perfection by 2014 under NCLB, and now it seems

that virtually none of them will do it. That's just one reason that so many states across our nation are presently attempting to opt-out of the NCLB mandates and jump onto the "Common Core" bandwagon. Students and schools, it would seem, are much like the rest of us...individuals having different abilities, strengths and interests. A number of students, teachers, and administrators across the country have also been taken to task for cheating on those standardized tests. To describe the current state of American public education as chaotic would probably be an understatement. Elementary students are often being asked to pass one-size-fits-all tests that would challenge many parents and politicians.

Academic testing for the purposes of measurement & evaluation can certainly be a useful tool, particularly when its purpose is of a diagnostic and prescriptive nature. Testing was once a very private matter between the teacher, the student, and their parents. Nowadays, testing has blossomed into a national, and even international industry, and untold pressure has entered the lives of all involved in the never-ending quest for higher academic standards. (although there is still very little political agreement in our country as to exactly WHAT those standards should be! Is higher math REALLY for everyone? How "high" should it go? What should be taught in history classes? What about those science classes? Do we include creation with evolution? Then there's the question of sex education...Who agrees about THAT topic?)

America's public schools have traditionally been a bright cornerstone of hope, offering opportunities for millions of children to learn, grow, and participate in the American dream. Still, a number of Americans continue to be bitterly divided as to what should even be discussed in our classrooms, much less taught in them. Accordingly, and perhaps not surprisingly, an increasing number of parents and students are simply refusing to participate in standardized testing, or even with government-run schooling. That those decisions might be controversial, there would be little doubt in my mind. At the same time, there may always be some parents who, in response to their personal consciences, will resist what they feel to be an unreasonable governmental intrusion into their personal lives, and the lives of their children.

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Notes From Afghanistan

Dispatch 3.5: Gators And Balloons

by Eric Smith

Over the past few years I have developed quite a fixation on two pieces of military kit that have changed the course of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan: gators and balloons.

The gators are the Army's version of the John Deere lawn care vehicle designed for semi-urban agriculturalists. The balloons are the "aerostats." Large, blimp-sized, inflatable behemoths that hover patiently over any combat outpost big enough to support the tether point, control trailer, and helium stockpile.

Gators entered the war almost from the start, arriving with the first ground units in Afghanistan. Light infantry units (my particular specialty) have long complained about "sustainability" – our ability to manage logistics. When you have to carry everything on your back, and the mountains are very high, your ability to operate for extended periods of time is limited. Enter the gator.

I don't know who it was that decided it was worth buying thousands of gators for the Army, but I hope history gives him the credit he deserves. The bottom line is there is nothing bad about a gator. They bring you water when you're thirsty, they carry your rucksacks when you're on an extended foot movement, they pick you up from the landing zone when you've arrived in a strange place and they help you get your bags to the pick-up zone when it's time to go home. Gators evacuate your wounded, deliver extra ammunition when you're almost out, bring mail and take away garbage.

They've entered the pantheon of



The balloon at rest, undergoing maintenance.

Army urban myth. There's the story about the guys who were stranded in Jalalabad with their gator and when a smaller-than-expected helicopter came to pick them up they decided to make the dangerous 154km drive to Kabul rather than leave it behind. I had a sergeant in Iraq that became so associated with his gator he picked up the nickname "centaur" – because he was "half man, half gator."

They've evolved over the past decade. Now we have gators that have windshields, winches, and water tanks; gators that refuel generators and gators with machine-gun mounts. On the base I'm stationed at now we've had to specifically define the traffic rules for gators because we have so many.

Someday, when I get out of the Army, I'm going to get my own gator.

The balloons have been equally impactful, though probably less familiar to the general public. The concept is simple: take a large balloon, hang some high-powered cameras from it, raise it on a tether several hundred meters into the air, and now you have the best observation post imaginable. The feeds from the cameras can be displayed in multiple command posts allowing us to remain in our defensive positions while looking around for untold kilometers, identifying and targeting those who would do us harm.



Our aerostat keeps watch over us.

slalom course as the pilots gently banked back and forth, following the river and dodging the balloons. South of us we have a balloon that's tethered to the top of a mountain. When it comes down it looks like it's sitting in a concrete nest – a bulbous bird waiting awkwardly for the winds to die down so it can return to its proper place in the sky.

When I was in Afghanistan a year ago I could look in any direction and count a dozen balloons. Now I see three. I like to see our draw down reflected in the lack of aerial clutter but the shrinking security blanket the balloons represent makes a part of me nervous.

Like the gators, there's nothing bad about the balloons. They're good to have around and the only time people complain is when they come down. I've grown very attached to them.

I do think I will be able to convince my wife to allow me to buy a gator. It's a lot cheaper than a sports car and more useful. The balloon, however, is going to be a tougher sell. But I'm going to work on it.

Eric Smith is a Lieutenant-Colonel in the US Army, currently stationed in Afghanistan. A lifelong resident of Lakewood, he went to Grant Elementary, Harding Middle, and graduated from Lakewood High School in 1990. If he could order pizza from Angelo's and have it delivered, he would.

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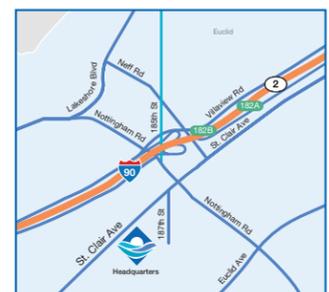
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Lakewood Living

2014 Kiwanis Pizza Bake Off Results

by David Norton

The results of the January 16th, 2014 annual Kiwanis Pizza Bake-Off are in and are as follows:



Best Pepperoni Pizza Overall

- 1st place- Angelo's
- 2nd place- Pepper's
- 3rd place- Italian Creations

Best Specialty Pizza Overall

- 1st place- Pepper's
- 2nd place- Dewey's
- 3rd place- Italian Creations

People's Choice: Your overall favorite

- 1st place- Dewey's

- 2nd place- Pepper's
- 3rd place- Italian Creations

Best Franchise Pepperoni Pizza

- 1st place- Hungry Howie's
- 2nd place- Pizza BOGO
- 3rd place- Domino's

Best Franchise Pizza

- 1st place- Pizza BOGO
- 2nd place- Hungry Howie's
- 3rd place- Geppetto's

Tri-C's Brain Lecture Series Looks At Love

by Kristin Broka

The Westshore Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) continues its FREE lecture series on The Brain with "The Brain in Love" on Wednesday, February 12, 2014, at 7 p.m.

Guest speaker Dr. Michael Dwyer from Baldwin Wallace University's Department of Psychology will engage attendees to explore what love is, learn how the brain changes in love, understand the chemistry of love and more.

The lecture is free and open to the public. No reservations are required.

The Westshore Campus is at 31001

Clemens Road in Westlake.

For more information on this event, please contact Bhavna Thakkar at 216-987-5803 or visit www.tri-c.edu/YearOfTheBrain.

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Lakewood Living

What Am I Doing?

by Eric Lowrey

What Am I Doing?

So often we find ourselves uttering this phrase. Usually these are inconsequential moments, staring into the refrigerator, about to click "Purchase" on that late night TV gizmo, signing up for Clown College. These are the beginnings of stories you may tell for

the remainder of your life, or may soon fade from memory. Our foibles and follies are the stuff of great drama.

"What am I doing?" is not something you want to be saying as you hand over a large certified check and sign on the many dotted lines to commit to a thirty-year mortgage and the purchase of a home. Your home will

Council Appoints Sam O'Leary

continued from page 3

being considered. Mayor Summers then interjected that the conversation for these plans has been in the works for about two years, however he thinks it is important that Council's points of views and all up-to-date information is included, so he asked Councilman Juris to set up a Public Works Committee Meeting so that they might discuss these points.

Councilman Bullock thanked Councilman Juris for bringing up that point. He said there is a lot of research and technical evaluation that comes in planning public works projects, however he said he thinks it is important that Council has a say, and that the public is notified. He continued saying he understands that because of that, planning of these projects can take months, however he thinks Council needs more of a direct briefing about a project then passing remarks made over that time span. He said he has not had a chance to fully com-

prehend the scope and specifics of the project and that he knows it is important for residents in specific neighborhoods, and believes it is worth their time, focus and attention to ask questions, since they will face questions from their residents.

Council referred the resolution to the Public Works Committee to be considered further.

Coming to the end of the meeting with no members of the public signed up to speak, Council President Madigan asked if there were any statements from members of Council. Councilman O'Leary wanted to thank his family and friends for coming to see him take office, Council for carrying out a difficult application process, and giving him the opportunity to serve.

With nothing else from Council or the administration, Council President Madigan adjourned the meeting at 8:14 P.M.

be the source of many stories, most of them happy ones, but you do not want to regret, from the start, something you are unprepared for, and do not really know what and why you are buying.

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Before you find yourself in this situation ask yourself these questions.

1.) Who represents and advocates

for me? The Seller's Agent????

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To find out more there will be a Home Buyers Seminar on Thursday, February 27th, at 6:30 p.m. at Jammy Buggars. For more information please email Info@NorthEastOhioAgent.com.

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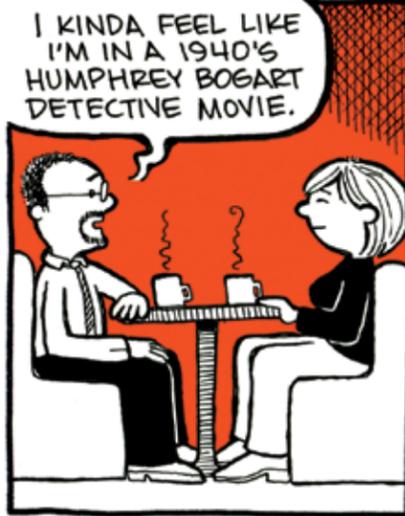
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