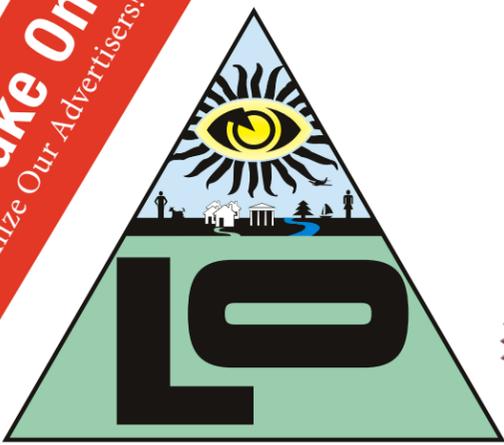


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Every government degenerates when trusted to the rulers of the people alone.
The people themselves are its only safe depositories. - Thomas Jefferson

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Volume 10, Issue 5, March 5, 2014

School District Architects Selected, Design Meetings Announced

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood Board of Education announced at its March 3 meeting that it has selected the key players on its design and construction team

who will be responsible for finishing the third and final phase of the district's Master Facilities Plan.

Acting as the Owner's Representative on the project will

be Ozanne Construction Co. from Cleveland. GPD Group of Akron has been selected to design the elementary buildings and URS Corp. of Cleveland will design the high

school. Both GPD and URS were architects for Phases I & II of the construction project.

Superintendent Jeff Patterson will be holding meetings with the affected school communities and any other interested residents to introduce the design team and discuss the design and construction process. Community members will also have a chance to offer input on what they would like to see in the design of the new schools. The meetings will be at 7 pm in each school's gyms. The Lincoln meeting will take place on April 8, the Grant meeting on April 10 and the Roosevelt meeting on April 16. A date has not yet been selected for a high school meet-

ing but will be announced once a date is finalized.

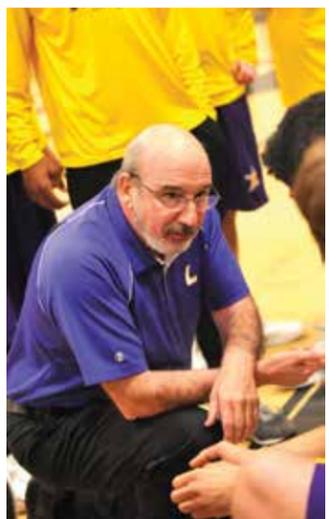
The tentative timeline for the project is as follows: Asbestos abatement of the buildings will begin in August and take approximately 3 months. Demolition is projected to start in November and finish no later than Feb. 1, 2015. Architects will be developing the designs during the abatement and demolition process and once the building designs are complete, groundbreaking is expected to take place in Spring 2015 for all buildings. Completion for the three elementary schools is expected for Fall 2016 and completion of the high school in Fall 2017.

Rangers Round Up Coach Of Year Awards

by Christine Gordillo

With all the great performances by teams and individual athletes this winter season, Ranger coaches were bound to reap some attention as well. Having led their teams to conference championships, boys' varsity basketball coach Phil Argento and girls' varsity basketball coach Mike Harper were both named West Shore Conference Coaches of the Year.

Argento led his team to the Rangers' first conference title in 40 years with no conference losses and at press time, the team (19-3 regular season) was vying for a Sectional title. Harper helped his team (17-4



Phil Argento

regular season) bring home its second straight conference title

and a spot in the District Final.

First-year swim coach Allison Davila also was named a West Shore Conference Coach of the Year as she saw 14 of her swimmers qualify for Districts. The team also won the Berea Midpark Invitational.

Finally, although not a winter season coach, varsity baseball coach Mike Ribar received his due recently when he was named the Greater Cleveland Baseball Association's Coach of the Year for the 2013 season, which saw the team finish 21-6 and advance to the District Final.

Congratulations, coaches!

Rotary Awards Over \$46,000 In Grants

by Lynn Donaldson

Over \$46,000 from the Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary Foundation will be used to provide scholarships, recognize student achievement, purchase dictionaries, and fund grant requests made by Lakewood and Rocky River community organizations.

• The awards focused on

three main areas – community health and wellness, food and nutrition, and programs that encourage and foster youth leadership.

The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River will award \$9,500 in scholarships to high school seniors, and \$4,500 to student winners in the club's annual speech,

music and art competition at the Beck Center on April 7.

The Beck Center's visual arts program also received \$2,500 for club-sponsored scholarships, and \$1,440 was used to continue the club's commitment to provide a dictionary to every third grader in Lakewood and Rocky River.

Magnificat High School received a \$2,500 grant for its Seeds of Service project. With construction of the "hoop house" greenhouse on Magnificat's property, the project is slated to involve over 150 students and deliver more than 200 pounds of fresh, organically-grown produce to Rocky River and Lakewood food banks.

Other grants for youth-related programs were awarded to: Mathew's Lending Library, Recovery Resources, H2O (Help to Others), Rocky River Education Foundation, Lakewood Schools Foundation, and the American Youth Foundation programs at Lakewood and Rocky River

West Shore Career-Technical District's Outstanding Work Ethic Award Winners



The 2014 Outstanding Work Ethic Award winners. Row 1, L to R – Tanya Kona, Hannah Chambers, Gabrielle Myers. Row 2, L to R: Brian Kolenz, Deena Mansour, Kevin Kruger, Nicholas Roche, Anthony Ferrone, Leaf Holland. Row 3, L to R: Samantha Byrd, Rachel Meek, Zachary Sanderson, Summer Williams, Morgan Reddy, Derek Bratsch. See story on page 10

Lakewood Photographer Billy Delfs And Blackbird Bakery Take Center Stage In "edible Cleveland"

by Jim O'Bryan

A month ago I walked into Blackbird Bakery and ran into one of my favorite Lakewood Photographers, Billy Delfs working. Lakewood is deep in photographic talent with names like Morgan, Warren, Lanza, and Ivor! to name a few. I asked what he was doing and he said, "Shooting a feature for 'edible Cleveland.'"

Well "edible Cleveland" is one of my favorite non-Observer publications, featuring the great food around Cleveland, and really good photos and production.

Noelle Celeste, Publisher, and granddaughter of our old mayor Frank Celeste said she would give me a head's up when the article came out. It's out this week.

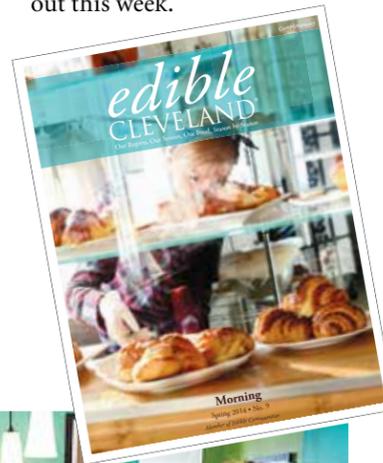
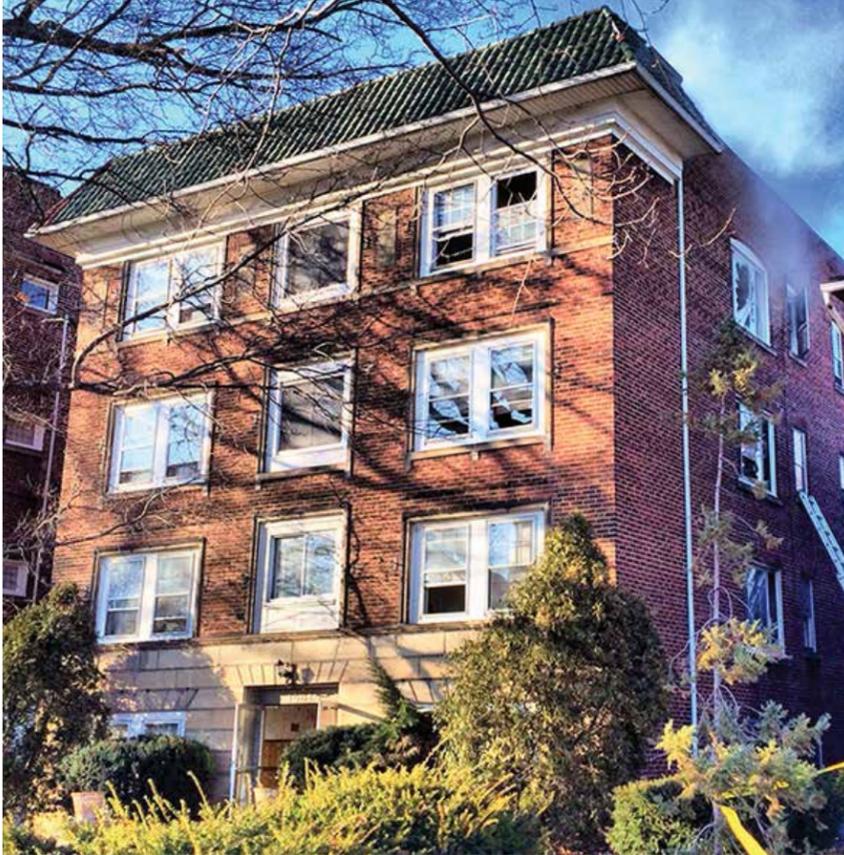


photo by Billy Delfs

Edible Cleveland is a national project headed up here locally by Publisher Noelle Celeste. It is FREE and published quarterly. Copies will be available at Blackbird Bakery and around town. She has done a great job with the project, and it should be on your must read list. Besides, this issue has two great Lakewood reasons: photos by Billy Delfs and Blackbird Bakery!

continued on page 4

Lakewood Observer



The Lakewood Fire Department was called to 14814 Clifton Blvd. on Friday, February 21 where a man who was reported as "upset" set the apartment building on fire. The fire was quickly extinguished. The "upset" man was severely burned and taken to the hospital. He is being charged with arson.

Hot Off The Deck

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

| LAKEWOOD DISCUSSION Topics | Author | Member | | |
|--|-----------------|---------|-------|------------|
| | | Replies | Views | Last Post |
| Charter Review - The Observations | Jim O'Bryan | 24 | 567 | Fri Feb 28 |
| Charter Review - The Reports | J. O'Bryan | 3 | 305 | Tue Feb 25 |
| Meetings On Design Of New Schools Set | Matt Markling | 0 | 13 | Mon Mar 03 |
| Replace Lakewood Mayor with City Manager | Tom Bullock | 48 | 6494 | Mon Mar 03 |
| End of the line for the Hilliard Theater? | Michael Loje | 0 | 63 | Mon Mar 03 |
| We The People and Move to Amend | Roy Pitchford | 14 | 705 | Mon Mar 03 |
| Accident! Nothing To See, Move Along, WAIT! | Jim O'Bryan | 0 | 337 | Sun Mar 02 |
| Is There A One Brick Law? Best Dollar Store? | Jim O'Bryan | 3 | 215 | Sun Mar 02 |
| Buyback ready to pack up? | Ryan Salo | 4 | 674 | Sun Mar 02 |
| Lakewood Hospital Update | Bill Call | 20 | 979 | Sun Mar 02 |
| Lakewood is Hoops Central | Mike Deneen | 5 | 330 | Sat Mar 01 |
| Fauna - In Lakewood | Jim O'Bryan | 78 | 8546 | Sat Mar 01 |
| IMAGE-IN LAKEWOOD | Jim O'Bryan | 223 | 17987 | Sat Mar 01 |
| Big fire at 14814 Clifton | Betsy Voinovich | 9 | 1020 | Sat Mar 01 |
| Lakewood Political History? | Mikel Deneen | 12 | 422 | Sat Mar 01 |
| Need house to rent | Mark Moran | 2 | 220 | Fri Feb 28 |
| 7 Years | Glenn Palmer | 13 | 423 | Fri Feb 28 |
| Cleveland Pickle West | Craig Lovejoy | 5 | 954 | Fri Feb 28 |

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4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
LAKEWOOD CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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As a product of citizen journalism, The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 3-100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers, and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help you through the process. Register to our website Member Center where you can submit stories, press releases, letters to the editor, photos. No need to register to post online calendar or classified ads.

Upcoming Submission Deadline
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Sunday, March 23, 2014

Publish Date
Wednesday, March 19, 2014
Wednesday, April 2, 2014

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City News

\$7.7 Million to Create 'Rainy Day Fund'/City Improvements

by Christopher Bindel

Council President Mary Louise Madigan called the February 18, 2014 meeting of Council to order at 7:33 P.M. The first order of business was to excuse the absence of Councilman David Anderson (Ward I).

Councilwoman Madigan then read a report from Mayor Summers, Councilman and Finance Committee Chair Ryan Nowlin (At-Large), and herself regarding a \$7.7 million dollar estate tax collection the City will soon receive. The money is from estates that were settled before the estate tax was eliminated on January 1, 2013. Since the tax has been eliminated, Councilwoman Madigan said that the money needs to be viewed as a last, one-time event in which they must exercise great care and restraint in the investment of the funds. Ideas, such as requiring that each dollar used must leverage or generate at least one additional dollar from other sources, are being considered.

Councilwoman Madigan continued saying that Lakewood needs to be careful and learn from the mistakes made by other cities when they have received similar windfalls. In some cases continued disputes in probate

courts have resulted in a recall of portions of the money. Therefore it would be smart to appropriate at least a portion of this money to be set aside. With this idea in mind, it was recommended that Council add a budget stabilization account, often referred to as a "rainy day fund," to the City's reserves. Under state law such accounts cannot be any larger than five percent of the previous year's revenues. With the money left over, it was suggested that it be put into a capital project fund so it can go toward thoughtful and effective investments in the future of Lakewood.

An ordinance creating the new account was referred to the Finance Committee for discussion.

Next Law Director Kevin Butler asked Council to consider a resolution that would ratify the collective bargaining agreement between the Mayor and the Fraternal Order of Police, who represent the City's dispatchers. The current agreement would last through 2016 and any changes made follow those made by other collective bargaining groups in the City.

Council passed the resolution.

Police Chief Malley then asked Council to pass a resolution accepting a grant of \$8,000 dollars from the Edward Byrne Memorial Grant through the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Ohio Criminal Justice Services Office. The money is used to cover overtime hours for officers to operate the Special Assignment Car during the summer months. The Car runs from April to September by assigning officers to patrol the City's parks on a nightly basis. In order to receive the grant the City is required to match \$888.89. Chief Malley requested the resolution be passed immediately due to a short turnaround required for the application.

Councilman Bullock said that this additional presence in the parks has been greatly appreciated and that he is glad that the City can continue it with this renewed grant.

Council passed the resolution.

Next, a letter from Planning and Development Director, Dru Siley, was presented by Law Director Butler, due

to Siley being at the School Board meeting. The letter introduced an ordinance updating the City's Historic Preservation Districts and Historic Properties legislation. In 2013, the Planning Commission began to review the code to see if they could find ways to improve it. Concerns arose during the nomination of the Heideloff property at 13474 Edgewater Drive earlier that year. The Commission held a public review at one of its regularly scheduled meetings and listened to testimony from members of the Heritage Advisory Board. After months of discussion and careful review the Commission unanimously agreed to recommend the changes presented to Council.

Council referred the ordinance to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

Coming to the end of the agenda and with no announcements from members of Council or the Administration, and with no members of the public signed up to speak, Council President Madigan adjourned the meeting at 8:10 P.M.

Charter Review 2014

Appointees Meet And Get A Civics Lesson

by Jim O'Bryan

Every ten years Lakewood's City Council and Mayor's office appoints nine residents to the Charter Review. The Charter is basically Lakewood's Constitution, and governs many of the aspects of government, laws, and how the government interacts with the rest of us.

A charter review is scheduled to meet over 6 months, as they go through every aspect of the current Charter while also looking to the future of Lakewood and what they see as needed. In the past two Charter Reviews only a few suggestions have been approved by City Council. At that time they are placed on the ballot and voters decide if they like the idea or not.

The first three meetings have happened, and some would say it is much like watching paint dry, at the same time it is watching our government on the most ground floor and basic level.

At the first meeting they decided to meet Mondays at 6:30pm at the Woman's Pavilion. They also selected ex-Lakewood Councilman Tom Brown as the Chairperson on the Commission.

The second meeting was an overview of the history of government and why cities have charters and various forms of government presented by Commission Facilitator Dr. Larry Keller.

After the lecture the group decided to spend at least one meeting going over the Charter and getting to know it before proceeding with what will be a systematic look at the Charter and what needs to be done.

The third meeting saw them going over the Charter while discussing their



Meet the Charter Review 2014 Commission: clockwise from 12 o'clock; Scott Kermode, Stephen Davis, Pam Smith, Tom Wagner, Jay Carson, Facilitator (back to us) Dr. Larry Keller, Tom Brown Chairperson, Allison Urbanek, Andy Meyers, and Ed Monroe.

real life experiences that can help bring perspective and knowledge to the process. Next week they will look at some concerns with the Charter by Finance Director Jen Pae.

I would like to thank all of the

members of the Review Commission for being willing to work on this for the next 6 months.

You can stay up to the minute on these meeting on the Lakewood Observer - Observation Deck.



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Lakewood Public Library

compiled by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

Wednesday, March 5

Meet the Author: "No Mopes Allowed" by David Oliver

Police Chief David Oliver's tell-it-like-it-is sense of humor and no-holds-barred opinions have made him (and the Brimfield Police Department) a Facebook sensation with 130,000 likes and counting from users across the country and around the world. Whether he's busting mopes (old-fashioned cop slang for criminal types), comforting a teen runaway or promoting school safety, Oliver's folksy and feisty style connects with readers. He tackles tough issues like crystal meth, drunk driving and school shootings while chastising politicians and championing personal responsibility. All proceeds from this book go to the Chief Oliver Foundation, a not-for-profit organization that distributes funds to police department charitable programs and assists juvenile survivors of sexual assault. Books will be available for sale and signing. This program is made possible by the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and Hospice of the Western Reserve.

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

Saturday, March 8

Lakewood Public Cinema: "Midnight Cowboy" (1969)

Directed by John Schlesinger

Anyone expecting a simple cowboy tale should be warned that this controversial and heartwarming gem was slapped with an X rating when it was first released. But when it smashed box office records anyway and won Oscars for Best Picture, Best Director and Best Screenplay (for the blacklisted Waldo Salt), it created a huge public discussion about censorship that forced the MPAA to re-rate the film an R. Dreaming of an easy life as a fantasy cowboy stud, cheerful Texas rube Jon Voight heads to New York City to become a gigolo, but he quickly discovers that hustling isn't an easy game. This cowboy has a troubled past behind his big grin, but he keeps it hidden. Almost immediately, he gets swindled by the tubercular grifter Dustin Hoffman. He swears revenge, but once society finally reduces him to the same gutter, they become the best of friends. Happy endings are hard to find in life. Your take on the ending will depend on how much you value dreams and selflessness.

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

Sunday, March 9

Hands-On Help with eReaders

Do you own a shiny, new eReader, but don't know how to download any of the thousands of free titles that are available through the Library? Make an appointment with a knowledgeable staff member who can show you around the bells and whistles of your device, whether it's a Kindle, Nook, iPad, iPhone or something else entirely. Let's talk.

Thursday Nights at the Madison Branch - Call (216)228-7428

Sunday Nights at the Main Library - Call (216)226-8275 ext. 127

Monday, March 10

Meet the Author: "League Park: Historic Home of Cleveland Baseball, 1891-1946" by Ken Krsolovic and Brian Fitz

Before the Indians played Municipal Stadium or Progressive Field, the place to see baseball was League Park, originally the home of the National League Cleveland Spiders. Cy Young pitched the first game in 1891 and, before it was replaced in 1946, its storied history included stints by the National Football League, Negro League baseball, college football,

boxing and an uncanny multitude of amazing events and people. This comprehensive chronicle establishes the park's place among the heralded and often better-known parks of baseball's past and present. Learn how the park survived to the modern day and what recent renovations hold for its future. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Tuesday, March 11

Meet the Author: "The Dead of Winter: How Battlefield Investigators, WWII Veterans, and Forensic Scientists Solved the Mystery of the Bulge's Lost Soldiers" by Bill Warnock

Sixty years ago, as Allied forces pushed across Europe, the Nazis launched a desperate, overwhelming attack that caught them unprepared, setting off one of the bloodiest, most brutal battles in human history—the Battle of the Bulge. More than half a century later, a group of forensic scientists, relic hunters and veterans teamed up to ensure that the fallen would be buried with all the honors they deserve. Written by a member of the expedition, this is a story of loyalty and the bonds of war, a compelling scientific mystery and a homecoming for families who waited decades for the return of their loved ones.

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

Wednesday, March 12

Meet the Author: "The Harlot's Tale" by Sam Thomas

It is August, 1645, one year since York fell into Puritan hands. As the city suffers through a brutal summer, Bridget Hodgson and Martha Hawkins are once again drawn into the path of a murderer. To appease God's wrath and end the heat-wave, the city's overlords launch a campaign to whip sinners into godliness. But for some lost soul, this is not enough. A prostitute and her client are found stabbed to death. A pair of adulterers are beaten and strangled. Bridget and Martha race to find the killer before he adds more bodies to the tally. The list of suspects includes the fire-and-brimstone preacher Hezekiah Ward, his intense son Praise-God and a devout former soldier whose taste for blood may not have been sated by his time in Parliament's armies. Bridget and Martha must uncover the city's most secret sins and hope against hope that the killer does not turn his attention towards their own. This follow-up to *The Midwife's Tale* firmly establishes Thomas as a master of immersive historical fiction and gripping mystery. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Saturday, March 15

Lakewood Public Cinema: "3:10 to Yuma" (1957)

Directed by Delmer Daves

Part of The Golden Age of Westerns Discussion Series Presented by Terry Meehan

During a severe drought, struggling farmer Van Heflin decides to solve his family's financial problems by taking an extreme risk. The job of escorting notorious outlaw Glenn Ford to the train that will take him to his trial in Yuma comes with some serious reward money. As the two men wait in a hotel room, Ford tries to rattle the farmer with psychic games and charm, even as the outlaw's gang inevitably approaches. If you're keeping track of train times, you might wonder if this is a second running of the High Noon express. It's not, but it's just as good a movie, with the added attraction of a villain far more fascinating than the one Tex Ritter sang about. Professor Terry Meehan continues his series of classic westerns, introducing each film with rare clips and original documentaries, followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion.

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

Sunday, March 16

Sunday with the Friends: Joe Rollin Porter's Celtic Roots

The spirits of Cuchulain and Finn mac Cumhal flow through nimble fingers, bidding us back to the indestructible land hidden beneath the Emerald Isle where our world is revealed as nothing more than a dream. Joe Rollin Porter is a fingerstyle acoustic guitarist and vocalist, specializing in reinterpreting traditional American folk songs and early rural blues tunes in dynamic new arrangements. Many of the traditional Appalachian songs in his repertoire have deep Celtic roots, having come to America with early immigrants from Ireland and Scotland. For this concert on the day before St. Patrick's Day, he will perform several of those songs, speak briefly about their history and play several traditional Irish songs, too.

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

Sunday March 16

Hands-On Help with eReaders

See March 9 for details.

Tuesday, March 18

The Domestic Use of Drones: Law, Policy and Culture

Look to the skies. Dean Boland is an attorney whose interests lie wherever the law and technology converge. As pilotless aircraft make the transition from science fiction to everyday life, Boland asks tough questions about individual privacy, the media's freedom to monitor the government and the aviation industry's integration of drones into civilian airspace. His insights will be supported by a mix of images, video clips, a history of the use of drones and an overview of their many domestic applications. He'll also preview the future of driverless cars, drone watercraft and even walking drones. The potential benefits are limitless, as are the possible pitfalls. The most responsible course is to begin our discussion now.

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

Rotary Awards Over \$46,000 In Grants

continued from page 1

high schools.

Lakewood Community Services Center received a \$2,000 seed money grant for its Net Works jobs program. Cornucopia Inc. (Nature's Bin) was awarded \$2,000 for its job training program.

• Additional community service grants were awarded to: North Coast Health Ministry, Lakewood Hospital Foundation, Barton Center, Rocky River Senior Center, Rocky River United Methodist Church "storm team," Trinity Lutheran Community Outreach, Rocky River Assistance

Program, Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp., and Meals on Wheels in Lakewood and Rocky River.

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

The local club was chartered in 1926. Rotary International is the world's first service club organization, with more than 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs in more than 160 countries worldwide. Rotary, along with its partners, has reduced polio cases by 99 percent worldwide since its first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979.

LPL Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Saturday, March 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.

Saturday, March 8

Doctor Who - For students in sixth through twelfth grade

Are you a Whovian? Join us for two hours of games, crafts, trivia, and fun. Come dressed as your favorite Doctor or companion for a photo opportunity with the TARDIS. For more information, stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Sunday, March 9

Origami Go - For students sixth through twelfth grade

Origami Go is for everyone! Each session begins with basic fold techniques and transitions to a group project. After that, it's origami free-time. Supplies and project books provided. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Main Library Activity Room.

Monday, March 10 – Thursday, May 1

Spring Storytime Season Begins - Various ages

Come by, visit our website (www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org), or call us to sign up for our weekday registered storytimes. Many programs for different ages, from 9 months to six years old.

See our program guide or call for times and locations.

Saturday, March 15

Nate the Great's Balloons and Magic - For the whole family

This talented entertainer presents a lively magic show that will have you howling with laughter.

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

Monday – Friday, 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.

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Lakewood Public Library

Judaism In Focus At Lakewood Public Library

by Leana Donofrio-Milovan

Over the past two millennia, Judaism has developed and spread across the globe, taking shape as a vast and complex system. Judaism in Focus is a brief series being held at Lakewood Public Library that offers a glimpse into four distinct areas of the religion. Each session will be led by a renowned local scholar. This unique educational opportunity is presented by Case Western Reserve University.

How Jews Read the Bible: A Literary Approach Presented by Dr. Rabbi Moshe Berger

The Bible contains laws, moral lessons and theological truths. It also contains numerous dramatic moments. In this session, we shall focus exclusively on the drama, as we read and analyze two famous seduction scenes: Samson and Delilah; and Joseph and Mrs. Potiphar. We shall consider character motivation, stage directions implied in the text, theological issues and the Bible's demand for reader participation.

Dr. Rabbi Moshe Berger has taught at Brandeis and Harvard Universities and has served as rabbi of the Harvard-Radcliffe Hillel program. Professor Berger was on the faculty at Siegal College for 25 years, and is presently a rabbi at Cedar Sinai Synagogue. He received his B.A. from Yeshiva University and his M.A. and PhD from Harvard.

This program will be held Thursday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

Jewish Ethics in Rabbinic Literature Presented by Dr. Peter Haas

Rabbinic Judaism is focused not so much on belief as on practice. It is about how to live a holy life in accord with the revelation. But translating divine revelation into human context is not easy. The bulk of rabbinic literature, from the Talmud forward, is dedicated to the intellectual task of determining how human beings ought to act in a way that makes the world a more holy place. Drawing on examples from Jewish ethical and legal discussions, such as abortion or euthanasia, Peter Haas will show how the rabbis' centuries long conversations created a way of thinking about right and wrong in the midst of the complexities of everyday life.

Dr. Peter Haas serves at Case Western Reserve University as Abba Hillel Silver Professor of Jewish Studies; Chair of the Department of Religious Studies; and Director of the Program in Judaic Studies. An ordained Reform rabbi,

Haas has published several books and articles dealing with moral discourse and with Jewish and Christian thought after the Holocaust. He teaches courses on Western Religion and on the religious, historical and social context of the current Middle East crises. He has lectured in the United States, Germany, Italy, Belgium and Israel. His most recent book is on human rights in Judaism.

This program will be held Thursday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

Judaism Confronts Modernity Presented by Dr. Brian Amkraut

This session explores the ways that Jews adapted their religion to confront the challenges and changes of the modern world. In this brief, but rich, survey, we will discuss the development of a spectrum of approaches that emerged in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, including Reform Judaism as it developed in Germany and the USA; the response from modern traditionalist forces that gave rise to Modern Orthodoxy; the reactionary approach that led to the formation of a specific ultra-Orthodox outlook; and a centrist approach, which gave rise to Conservative Judaism.

Dr. Brian Amkraut is the Executive Director of the Laura and Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program at Case Western Reserve University. He served on the faculty of Jewish history at Oberlin College and Siegal College prior to becoming Provost at Siegal College, a post he held for five years. His book *Between Home and Homeland: Youth Aliyah from Nazi Germany*, published in 2006, details the movement to bring Jewish teenagers from Germany to

Palestine in the 1930s. He has published articles addressing the impact of changing technologies in contemporary Jewish life.

This program will be held Thursday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

Jewish Diversity: Weddings Across the Globe Presented by Dr. Alanna Cooper

Over the course of their dispersed history, Jews across the globe have maintained similarities and connections to one another, while simultaneously adapting to the various cultural worlds in which they found themselves. In this session, join Alanna Cooper to attend Jewish weddings in North Africa, in Central Asia and in the

United States. Through photographic images and ethnographic depictions, we will explore the ways in which this rich life-cycle ritual provides a window into the ties that bind and the divisions that separate Jews from one another.

Dr. Alanna E. Cooper, a cultural anthropologist, is Director of Jewish Studies at Case Western Reserve University's Siegal Lifelong Learning Program. She is an educator, administrator and author. Her book, *Bukharan Jews and the Dynamics of Global Judaism*, was published by Indiana University Press in 2012, and

her articles and essays have appeared in scholarly journals as well as the popular press, including *Jewish Social Studies*, *AJS Review*, *Anthropology of*

East Europe Review, *The Jewish Daily Forward*, *The Jerusalem Post* and *Jewish Review of Books*. She has held research and teaching positions at Harvard University, University of Massachusetts, University of Michigan and Boston University.

This program will be held Thursday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

Geronimo! It's A "Doctor Who" Party!

by Kathryn Tatnall

Calling all Whovians who are in the 6th through 12th grade! The TARDIS is landing at the Lakewood Public Library on Saturday, March 8th from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Main Branch. Yes, we know we seem to be a bit late for the 50th anniversary of the Doctor, but if you think of that wibbly wobbly, timey wimey, time space continuum thing... well, we could be right on time!

We will be celebrating all things Doctor Who with festivities that include; watching the first episode featuring the tenth Doctor, creating a mini TARDIS, and or a mini fez, (because "Fezzes" are cool"), and teaching yourself the Gallifreyan alphabet. There will also be games such as; Doctor Who Jeopardy, and "Where in Time and Space is Doctor Who?"

Come dressed as your favorite Doctor or companion to compete in our costume contest. You don't have to dress up in order to participate in the fun, but you do need a costume to enter the contest. We are limiting you to just a Doctor or companion. And if your favorite companion comes with any weapon other than a sonic screw driver, we ask that you leave it at home. I'm sure that someone there will be more than willing to hold on to it for you. We will also be giving you an opportunity for a photo with the

TARDIS. Cameras are welcome for this purpose only during the party. We will be taking pictures so you can ask us to send on to you one in an email.

Though we do know that there are many Whovians out there of all ages, this party is strictly for teens in 6th through 12th grade, younger children and adults will not be permitted. Registration is required and space is limited. Please call 216-226-8275 ext. 140 to register by phone or you can go to <http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth/teen> to find the link to register online. Allons-y!

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Lakewood Public Library

Get Your Irish On At Lakewood Public Library With Joe Rollin Porter

by Elaine Rosenberger

A master of acoustic fingerstyle guitar and a lifelong Ohio resident, Joe Rollin Porter injects new life and energy into the folk tradition. Joe brings a Celtic theme with him when he takes the stage at 2 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium on Sunday, March 16. Before his concert, he takes a few minutes to discuss his art:

LPL: When did you start playing the guitar? Who were some of your memorable teachers?

JRP: In 1976, when I was 9 years old. I only ever had one teacher: Doris Moran, who gave lessons in the back of the local music store. She did a great job of teaching me the basics of chords and notes, but beyond that I picked everything up on my own.

LPL: When did you first hear folk music? What about it spoke to you?

JRP: When I was in college I started listening to classic bluegrass artists such as Flatt & Scruggs and Bill Monroe. I also discovered recordings of older acoustic blues artists, such as Lightnin' Hopkins and Mississippi John Hurt, and I noticed what a powerful impact this music had on the popular music that came after it. Eventually I started wondering what had influenced those older musicians, and I discovered recordings from the 1920s and 1930s of mostly rural African-American and Appalachian-American musicians. What really sealed the deal for me was when in 1997 the Smithsonian/Folkways label re-released a CD version of "The Anthology of American Folk Music." This struck me so profoundly that it's difficult to describe. Even though I was already somewhat familiar with this type of music, much of it sounded like it came from another world and/or

hundreds of years ago, even though it all came from my own country and was no older than my own grandparents. Perhaps the element that influenced me the most was the understanding it gave me of the interconnectedness of all music throughout all time.

LPL: How many guitars do you own? Which are your favorites?

JRP: I've got four guitars, two acoustic and two electric. My favorite is my Taylor 710CE, which is the only guitar I use when performing. My electric guitars have been sitting idle for years because I don't really enjoy playing electric guitar any more. I'm not at all a guitar fetishist, which is good because I can't afford to be.

LPL: Where do you find your inspiration; what influences you most?

JRP: The artists who influence me the most include Mississippi John Hurt, Charlie Patton, Clarence "Tom" Ashley, Dock Boggs, Dick Justice, The Carter Family, Earl Scruggs, Furry Lewis, Henry Thomas, and Uncle Dave Macon. Listening to their music, I realized that the idea of anyone composing an entirely original song without being at least somewhat derivative is ridiculous, conceited and naïve. However, rather than stifling my own creativity, this understanding of "the folk process" freed me up and inspired me like never before. I eventually found that my artistic calling is to plunge headfirst into the rich streams of the folk tradition and become a part of it, crafting my own new versions of age-old songs.

LPL: Tell us a little about your acoustic fingerstyle technique.

JRP: I developed the style on my own, slowly and gradually. I've never been good at learning to play things the way other people do, so I've turned that

weakness into an advantage by developing something unique. I think my style derives as much from some old banjo players as it does guitar players. Also, a significant element of my style is my attempts to play old fiddle tunes on guitar.

LPL: What are your current favorite folk tunes and why?

JRP: I like tunes where I've been able to work out an arrangement that lets me continually build upon and further my development as a guitarist. Some of these are "Black Jack Davy," "The Cuckoo Bird," "Henry Lee," "Cumberland Gap" and "Did You Ever See the Devil, Uncle Joe," which are all on my first CD, "Troubles Just Like Mine." Also "Little Lulie," "Flop Eared Mule" and "Sugar Baby," which will all be on my upcoming CD, "Dirty Mean Old Blues."



LPL: If you could leave your audience with one message after a concert, what would that message be?

JRP: Be nice to each other and yourselves.

Joe's concert takes place on Sunday, March 16, at 2 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium and is free and open to all. Copies of Joe's CDs "Troubles Just like Mine" and "Dirty Mean Old Blues" will be available for sale and signing at the event.

A Busy Week For Authors At The Library: Baseball, The Battle Of The Bulge And A Little Bit Of Historical Mystery

by Lisa Calfee

Here at LPL, one thing's for sure. We love books and we love authors. Having four authors coming to visit in only three days makes us feel that March is a very lucky month indeed. Join us March 10th through 12th for our Meet the Author series held at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Even luckier, all of these cold, gloomy days with blustery, howling winds are the perfect forecast for a good book and a good discussion...or three.

On Monday, March 10 at 7 p.m., we leave the topic of snow for that perennial harbinger of spring, baseball, as authors Ken Krsolovic and Bryan Fritz introduce "League Park: Historic Home of Cleveland Baseball, 1891-1946." The brilliant history of League Park, where Major League Baseball, the NFL, the Negro League, and a World Series Championship are only a part, called for a comprehensive book. Krsolovic and Fritz have delivered a winner stretching from the year 1869, when professional baseball first arrived in Cleveland, to the current renovations planned for this Cleveland landmark at 6601 Lexington Avenue. Copies of "League Park: Historic Home of Cleveland Baseball, 1891-1946" will be available for sale and signing at the event.

On Tuesday, March 11 at 7 p.m., author Bill Warnock discusses his novel about a compelling, real-life endeavor,

"The Dead of Winter: How Battlefield Investigators, WWII Veterans and Forensic Scientists Solved the Mystery of the Bulge's Lost Soldiers." Warnock was part of a team whose mission was to recover and identify the remains of soldiers who died in the largest battle on the Western Front of WW II, the Battle of the Bulge. Their duty was to bring them home to their families from Belgium's Ardennes Forest and honor their life sacrifice. The author interweaves past and present as he describes who some of these heroes were, who waited in vain for them to come home, battlefield details from surviving WWII veterans and modern day forensics to tell the story of this ongoing effort to honor the fallen soldiers.

On Wednesday, March 12 at 7 p.m., author and historian Sam Thomas takes us to York, England in the year 1645 as midwife Bridget Hodgson and her assistant Martha Hawkins untangle another mystery in "The Harlot's Tale." With a PhD in History, Thomas immerses the reader in the life of a midwife during the English Civil War. Vivid period details, a compelling mystery and robust characters make this follow-up to the much loved "The Midwife's Tale" an engaging read. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Get out of the cold and join us for a cozy agenda of books and authors March 10-12 at 7 p.m., Main Library Auditorium.

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Lakewood Schools



Judge Brendan Sheehan presides over a session of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court at Garfield Middle School.

Court Visit Brings Justice To Life For Students

by Christine Gordillo

Thanks to a mobile Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, eighth-graders at Garfield and Harding Middle Schools were able to see their government in action without ever having to leave school.

The Common Pleas Court, looking for new ways to reach out to the community and educate people on its workings, held two sentence hearings each at the schools. These were real-life cases that had real lessons for our students.

At Garfield on February 14, Judge Brendan Sheehan sentenced a 25-year-old who pled guilty to a misdemeanor charge of attempted drug possession and another 25-year-old man for disseminating harmful material to a juvenile when he posted an inappropriate photo on a 14-year-old's Facebook page.

Judge Sheehan took the time following the sentencings to speak with the students about making good choices and avoiding the kind of situations that the two defendants found themselves in. Darren Minor, the man who pled guilty to attempted drug possession, went even further, warning the students to think carefully about who they

choose as their friends and explaining the detrimental impact his choices have had on his family and friends.

The cases were chosen specifically for the Court's first-ever appearance outside of the Justice Center. "These crimes are relevant to what kids face every day," said Court Administrator Greg Popovich. "If this event could even get one kid to pause before they do something, it's worth it."

Garfield Principal Mark Walter was pleased that the Court brought this opportunity to his school. He told his students: "You read about our government in class, you hear about it, but I am thrilled that now you will get to see our government in action first-hand."

At Harding on February 21, Judge John J. Russo held hearings in front of the students on a 40-year-old who was found guilty by the Court after pleading No Contest to drug trafficking and possession of criminal tools and a 22-year-old who plead Guilty to attempted burglary.

Lakewood Schools was a pilot case for the Court, and with the success of the events, the Court of Common Pleas will look to bring its work to more area schools, said Common Pleas Community Outreach Coordinator, Darren Toms.

LHS Academic Challenge Team Repeats As Conference Champ



Pictured at right, members of the LHS Academic Challenge team (back row, L-R): Robbie Fehrenbach, captain Hugh Campbell, Laert Fejzullari, Fox Milenski; (front row L-R): Ben McKinsey, Ian Bell, Jonathan Pizzo and Maggie Pizzo.

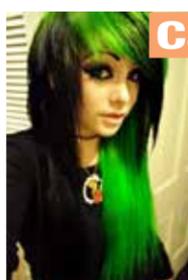
by Robert Sedlak & Peter Petto

For the second straight year the Lakewood High School Academic Challenge Team has won the regular season competition for the West Shore Conference. The team was able to showcase its knowledge in history, literature, science, mathematics, astronomy, art, geography, politics, current events, and the arts.

Captain Hugh Campbell had consistent support from all members of the varsity. It was evident throughout the season that all members of the varsity team bring varied strengths, which complemented each other. The team finished its season 6-1, tying

with Avon and Rocky River who had identical records, but because of tie-breakers based on points, Lakewood was awarded the championship.

Competing varsity members are senior Hugh Campbell, juniors Laert Fejzullari, Ben McKinsey and Maggie Pizzo, sophomores Robbie Fehrenbach and Fox Milenski, and freshman Ian Bell. This year, the junior varsity also competed all season long against the conference with equal success. Junior varsity members competing this year are junior Andrew Miller, sophomores Jon Pizzo and Alex Grunder and freshmen Lucy Kress and Steve Popovich.



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Lakewood Schools

New Board President Welcomes Challenges

by Christine Gordillo

Note: The following are the comments of Board of Education President Linda Beebe, made after her swearing in at the Jan. 6, 2014 Board meeting:

I appreciate the confidence and support of my fellow board members in electing me President of the Board of Education. I hope that I can be at least half as hard-working and diligent as Ed Favre has been this past year. It was a year filled with complex issues, and it looks like the coming year will be more of the same.

I know issues will arise which cannot be predicted but our primary focus this year has to be on three areas: building projects and transition issues; the Common Core and increased educational expectations; and contract negotiations with all three unions.

1. Building projects and transition issues: Eventually our students are going to get new buildings and better learning environments, teachers will have tools to teach more effectively, homeowners will see improved property values and neighbors who care about their children and the city. The burden is now on us to make it happen. There is work to be done – lots of it.

We are working our way through a new process of cooperation with the Ohio Schools Construction Commission. We need to be vigilant and make sure that those people we chose in this initial aspect of the process are right for the job: the owner's representative, the



photo by Jim O'Byrne

Board of Education President, Linda Beebe.

architects, the construction manager. These next few weeks will be crucial to the success of the projects and meeting our goal of building buildings that will serve this district for at least the next 50 years.

2. Common Core and increasing educational expectations: We have a stated goal of leading this district to being one of the top districts in the state by 2020. This means encouraging creative alternatives, providing adequate professional development to make sure our professional staff is up to the challenge, and maintaining an attitude that this is indeed possible and that all children can and will learn to the utmost of their ability.

3. This is a year of contract negotiation with the district's three employee unions. Our teachers and support staff are hard working and deserving. Our task is to balance their needs and interests and maintain fiscal responsibility and keep the best interests of our most crucial constituents - our students - always in mind.

My personal goals this year are **1.** Listen and learn and work with the Superintendent and administration to make certain that my fellow board members have the information they need to understand and participate in choosing and working with the professionals who are managing the building projects.

2. Make it clear to staff and the public that we are committed to supporting creative efforts to make sure that every child is learning and that high standards are being maintained and that we will support the administration and teachers' efforts in doing

so. Our biggest challenge is to integrate the new with the tried and true.

3. Encourage the use of Interest Based Bargaining to further the needs of the district as a whole and to continue Lakewood's history of labor management problem-solving. Our staff is well trained, hard-working and well-intentioned. I believe we can and will resolve all contract issues in a professional manner and with the interests of students and staff and community in mind.

To the community: This board is committed to providing this community with stellar schools; schools that provide a broad education to a diverse population- from AP English and a superb music and fine arts program to innovative approaches to alternative education to a

state of the art vocational school to up-to-date teaching techniques for children for whom English is a second language to new techniques for teaching children who, for whatever reason, find academic success more difficult to achieve. As President of the Board of Education this coming year, I will work to continue and improve our record of achievement.

To my fellow Board members: We may disagree; we have always had times when we disagreed, but if we hammer out a plan of action to which we can all be committed, we can do remarkable things. Lakewood Schools are historical proof that a board of education that listens to each other, respects each other and works together enhances reputation of a district and a community. Thank you.

Register Now For Lakewood City Schools' Preschool Program

by Christine Gordillo

Registration for the Lakewood City Schools 2014-2015 preschool program is currently underway. Students must be 3 or 4 years old before September 30, 2014, live in Lakewood and be potty-trained to be eligible for the program. You can download a registration packet on the district web site, www.lakewoodcityschools.org, under the Student Registration page, or pick up a packet at the Board of Education, 1470 Warren Road, in the Student Services Department on the second floor.

For more information, contact Cher at 216-529-4214.

Lakewood Catholic Academy To Host Kindergarten Readiness Program

by Mike Hudock

Lakewood Catholic Academy will host a special presentation for individuals who are interested in learning about the school's kindergarten program. The program will be held on Thursday, March 20 at 7 p.m. in the school library.

LCA's principal, Michael Fletcher and the kindergarten staff will lead the presentation. Tours of the kindergarten classrooms will be available.

The presentation will include an overview of LCA's kindergarten curriculum as well as information on preparing a child for this special year.

This event is for parents with children who will be entering a kindergarten program in the fall as well as those who have younger children and are considering a variety of programs.

For further information and to RSVP, please contact Paul Nickels at pnickels@lakewoodcatholicacademy.com.

Girls Slow Pitch Softball - It's Back

continued from page 9

11/12 year olds, 13/14 year olds and high school. Ages are determined as of May 1st and for the high school division is for participants who will be attending high school in the fall (freshman – senior). Participants are able to submit requests at the time of registration.

Registration is open for all youth softball and baseball leagues, but will

close on March 31st. All participants need a copy of their birth certificate and valid physical at the time of registration.

We are looking for any girl in Lakewood, and non-residents too, to come play slow pitch softball!

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Sports

Girls Hoops Delivers “February Madness”

by Mike Deneen

The annual NCAA tournament (and its millions of bracket-filling fans) have made the term “March Madness” part of the American lexicon. The Lakewood Rangers girls basketball team delivered an early taste of tournament excitement, with a late February run that included a big comeback win and a buzzer-beating game winning shot.

After earning its second consecutive conference title, the Rangers were rewarded with a first-round bye and home game for the second round of the OHSAA tournament. That game was against Rocky River, a fellow West Shore Conference team. The Rangers split two games during the regular sea-

son, each winning on its home floor.

After jumping out to a quick 4-0 lead, the Rangers fell behind in the first period, trailing at one point by double digits. “We fell behind by 10 but I don’t think we ever panicked,” said Ranger coach Mike Harper, “we tried throwing a 2-3 zone at them early and they shot us out of it quickly.” The Pirates led 16-10 after the first quarter, but Lakewood bounced back. The Rangers cut the lead to 24-23 at the half with increased pressure. “We picked them up full-court and I think the pressure wore on them,” Harper said.

Lakewood took command of the game during the third quarter, outscoring River 20-7 to take a 12 point lead. Defensive pressure led to two

quick baskets by guard Maggie Rowell early in the third quarter, totally shifting momentum to Lakewood. The Rangers pulled away even further in the fourth quarter for a 56-38 win.

Rowell finished the game with 12 points to go along with her steals and fine defensive play. Freshman Ryann Greenfield was dominant in the second half, finishing the game with 25 points. Harper was impressed with her performance. “She sees the floor well and she is very poised for a freshman,” he said. With three more years left of high school, he also likes her potential. “I believe she’s only scratched the surface on being a basketball player.”

The win over Rocky River set up

a game against Brunswick, which happened on a neutral court at Medina High School. That game played out far differently than the Rocky River matchup, and ended with a buzzer-beating shot. The Rangers and Blue Devils stayed close throughout the game, with Lakewood nursing a two point lead at the half. The Rangers extended the lead to five after three quarters, but were unable to shake off Brunswick.

The Blue Devils fought back to take the lead in the final minute of the game. All hope appeared lost for Lakewood when trailed by one point and committed a turnover with only 3.8 seconds left in the game. However, sophomore Christin Donahoe stole the inbounds pass and sank a 12-foot shot as time expired. Lakewood won 40-39. “All of this is happening so fast and I was just happy that Christin got a clean look,” recalls Harper, “that shot, at that moment, under those circumstances could not have happened to a better individual than her.”

The victory over Brunswick was representative of the team’s play this season. During the regular season, the team never relied on one or two scorers, but had a balanced approach on offense. Unlike the River game, scoring was balanced among six Ranger players, none of whom had more than 8 points. Donahoe, hero of the Brunswick game, was limited to only one point against the Pirates. The win advanced the Rangers to the District championship game against Wadsworth, which will also be played at Medina.

Rangers Bring Down The House In OT Win

by Mike Deneen

In what is expected to be the final varsity basketball game ever played in the LHS East Gym, the Rangers defeated Brecksville-Broadview Heights in 61-54 overtime thriller. The first-round OHSAA tournament win extended Lakewood’s memorable season, which included the team’s first conference title in 40 years. The team’s scrappy play and relatively small size has earned the team the nickname “Runts from Bunts.”

Lakewood entered the game with a 19-3 record, including a perfect 14-0 record in the West Shore Conference. That record earned the Rangers a first-round home game in the OHSAA tournament, giving the team one more chance to play for its home fans. A large crowd turned out for the event, many wearing white t-shirts as part of a “white out” promotion.

The magnitude of the “must-win” game may have affected the team. The Rangers got off to a slow start, falling behind 11-2 after the first quarter. After falling behind 13-2 in the first minute of the second quarter, Lakewood went on a

strong run to take a 26-21 lead at halftime.

Brecksville, which entered the game with a 12-8 record, did not go easily. The Bees tied the game after three quarters, putting pressure on the favored Rangers. The fourth quarter was a tight affair, with the teams exchanging leads in the final minutes. With the game tied in the final five seconds, Lakewood inbounded the ball with a chance to win, but the final shot missed and the game went to overtime. The Rangers won the game in overtime, led by Shawn McDonald’s 23 points. Tim Tupa, son of former Ohio State and NFL player Tom Tupa, led the Bees in scoring with 25 points.

The victory is likely the final game to ever be played in the East Gym. The gym is expected to be demolished this year as part of the Phase III school construction project, which was approved by Lakewood voters in spring 2013. It has not yet been decided where the team’s home games will be played during the reconstruction period. The location of the school’s new gym is also not yet decided, but will be announced by the district when plans are finalized.

2014 Summer Girls Slow Pitch Softball - It’s Back

by Leslie Favre

Just like back in the day when most of the leagues were sponsored by George J. Usher, Insurance (for those of you who remember like myself) and for the first time since 2006, the Lakewood Recreation Department is offering Slow Pitch Summer Softball for girls. The games will be played twice a week on Mondays through Thursdays and/or Saturdays at the Harding Softball field.

“The Lakewood Girls Slow Pitch Softball Program will offer a wonderful opportunity for girls of all ability levels and household income levels to come together and learn a great sport. Girls will build leadership skills, team skills, and foster friendships and memories that will last them [for] years to

come,” said Mia (Cash) Yost, a former Lakewood Recreation slow pitch participant and Hayes parent to 3 girls.

Laura Germaine, President of the Lakewood Recreation Department’s Youth Athletic Commission, was also very enthusiastic about the resurgence. “I am so happy that our Recreation Department has put together a good old fashioned “rec” softball league! So many people have shared with me their memories of playing in fun, relaxed summer leagues. I am glad we are going to be able to provide this for our girls. It will be a perfect way to hang out and create some fun summer memories!”

The leagues are divided into the following divisions: 9/10 year olds,

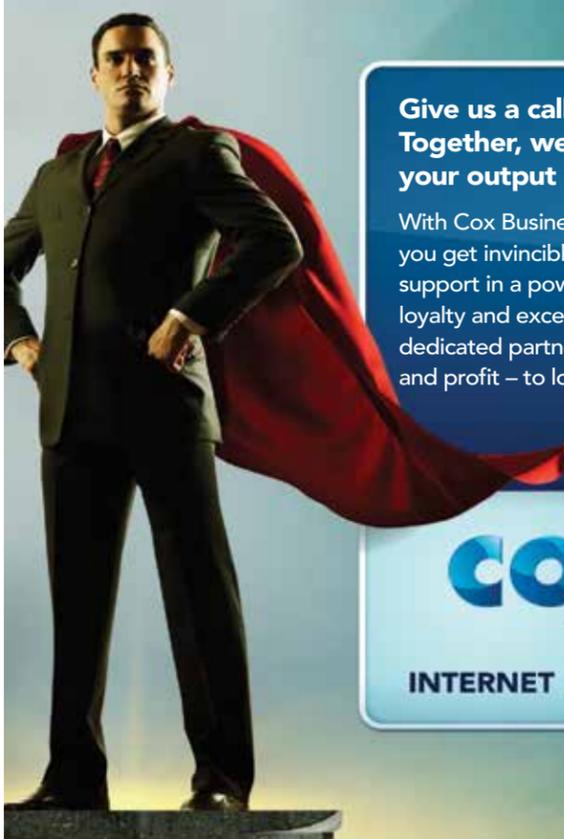
continued on page 8



Toby (left) and Hunter (right) rooting for the Rangers!

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Dorothy Silver And Laura Perrotta Star In Beck Center's Enthralling "night, Mother"

by Pat Miller

Beck Center for the Arts proudly presents its production of American playwright Marsha Norman's riveting drama "night, Mother," in the intimate Studio Theater, March 21 – May 4, 2014. Show times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. There are no performances April 18-20.

Nominated for four Tony Awards and winner of the 1983 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, "night, Mother" is an eloquent, enthralling and ultimately shattering play that explores the final hours in the

life of a woman who has decided that life is no longer worth living.

Directed by Scott Plate, this play tells the story of Jessie, an epileptic woman in her 40s who systematically prepares for her own death – and the frantic and touching efforts of her mother, Thelma, to stop her. "With humor, wisdom and keen insight, night, Mother celebrates the glory of the commonplace," remarks Plate. "Two seemingly ordinary women, mother and daughter, come to grips with the value of their own lives, and

express what many of us have felt at one time or another: why am I here?"

"night, Mother" marks the return of Cleveland's grand dame of theater Dorothy Silver as Thelma, and the award-winning Laura Perrotta as Jessie. Silver returns to Beck Center after her acclaimed performance in the regional premiere of Eric Coble's "The Velocity of Autumn." Perrotta returns to Beck Center after being named "Best Actress in a Non-Musical" in 2012 by the Cleveland Critics Circle for her role as the cunning Hollywood agent Diane in "The Little Dog Laughed." Perrotta appears courtesy of the Actors' Equity Association (AEA), the union of actors and stage managers.

Tickets for "night, Mother" are \$29 for adults, \$26 for seniors (65 and older), and \$12 for students (with valid ID). An additional \$3 service fee per ticket is applied at the time of purchase. Preview Night on Thursday, March 20, is \$10 with general admission seating. Group discounts are



available for parties of 13 or more. Purchase tickets online at beckcenter.org or call Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

Beck Center's production of "night, Mother" is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York. Programming at Beck Center for the Arts is made possible through the generous support of the Ohio Arts Council and the generous funding provided by the citizens of Cuyahoga County through

West Shore Career-Technical District's Outstanding Work Ethic Award Winners

by Valerie Mechenbier

The West Shore Career-Technical District's 2014 Outstanding Work Ethic Award winners were honored at a breakfast at Brennan's Catering & Banquet Center on February 21st. The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and the Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club welcomed nearly 100 Chamber members, Rotarians, school and school district administrators, members of the Lakewood Board of Education, students, parents, employers, work supervisors, and guests to the 8th annual awards event. Fifteen West Shore Career-Tech students, one representing each program at West Shore, were recognized for demonstrating professionalism, responsibility, and integrity in the workplace.

Linda Thayer, Director of Career-Technical Education at West Shore Career-Technical District, and Patty Ryan, CEO and President of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce presented the awards to the students. They were joined

by Keith Ahearn, Principal of Lakewood High School, Dr. Michael Shoaf, Superintendent of Rocky River City Schools, Debra Bernard, Principal of Rocky River High School, Ned Lauver, Assistant Principal of Westlake High School, and Chuck Drumm, President of the Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club. Each student received a certificate plus a door prize and a gift bag of items donated by Lakewood Chamber-member businesses.

Congratulations to the 2014 Outstanding Work Ethic Award winners:

Bay High School: Hannah Chambers (Interactive Media)

Rocky River High School: Summer Williams (Service Occupations Training)

Westlake High School: Derek Bratsch (Automotive Technology), Rachel Meek (Community Based Training: Rae Ann Suburban Nursing Home), and Kevin Kruger (Networking/Cisco)

Lakewood High School: Zachary Sanderson (Biotechnology), Tanya Kona (Business Management), Brian Kolenz (Community Based Training: The Bonne Bell Company), Nick Roche (Construction Trades), Anthony Ferrone (Culinary Arts/ProStart), Morgan Reddy (Early Childhood Education/Senior Services), Deena Mansour (Electronic Technology), Gabrielle Myers (Health Careers Technology), Sam Byrd (Medical Office Management), and Leaf Holland (Project Lead The Way).

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Lakewood Cares

Lakewood Teen Advocates For Brain Injury Awareness

by Michael Rice

Lakewood resident, Nick Ventura, a sophomore at St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland, has been playing a key role during Brain Injury Awareness Month and advocating for helmet safety the last few years. March is recognized as Brain Injury Awareness month and Nick's passionate involvement in brain injury advocacy is born out of his first-hand experience of the devastation that a traumatic brain injury can inflict. While in 7th grade, he suffered a traumatic brain injury while on a snowboarding trip with friends in Ellicottville, NY on February 19, 2011. Nick had to undergo

emergency brain surgery and spent 14 days in a coma and nearly six weeks in the pediatric intensive care unit. Coming out of a coma, he had to relearn everything from talking to walking, and feeding himself. At the time of his accident, Nick was wearing a helmet and this likely saved his life.

Since rebuilding his life, Nick has become a passionate advocate for brain injury awareness and helmet safety and has given speeches at schools about his experience. In 2014, filled with a desire to make an even greater impact, his family founded 11 Foundation, the state's only nonprofit organization working to help sup-

port families financially while a family member is recovering from a traumatic brain injury. As an active member of 11 Foundation, he sits on their board to help with fundraising, is involved with community outreach, and visits with families in the hospital who have been affected by a brain injury.

The 11 Foundation is holding its first inaugural gala event, "The Journey Back," which will be held in March during Brain Injury Awareness Month on Saturday, March 22, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. – 11 p.m. The 11 Foundation, along with its key sponsors, will present the "Nick Ventura Determination Award" to two young brain injury survivors.



This prestigious award will be given to Noah Venesile of Avon Lake, Ohio and Jake Miller of Blasdell, NY. Both honorees will also be presented with the Ohio Governor's Proclamation for the "Nick Ventura Determination Award." The Gala proceeds will provide financial assistance toward the family's share of the cost of medical services and incidentals during the rehabilitation phase of recovery. Patients with Traumatic Brain Injury and their families face very complex financial issues. Life changes instantly when someone experiences a traumatic brain injury, and the first thoughts and actions are focused on the patient, their survival and recovery. But with treatment comes costs and the 11 Foundation would like to help make a difference.

For more information about Nick Ventura and the "The Journey Back" Gala Event please visit: www.11Foundation.org.

Hen Hopeful: Lara Roketenetz

by Annie Stahlheber

The Hens in Lakewood Committee shares information about residents who are "hen hopefuls" so that Lakewood residents can learn about who would like to responsibly raise hens and why. In this installment we will hear from Lara Roketenetz.

What street do you live on? Alameda Ave.

How long have you lived in Lakewood? I bought my house on Alameda Ave. 13 years ago and lived in an apartment on Detroit and Nicholson Ave. prior to that.

Why do you choose to live in Lakewood? I moved to Cleveland about

20 years ago to finish my undergraduate degree at Case Western Reserve University in Biology. I completed my Master's degree in Biology at John Carroll University and am currently finishing my PhD in Integrated Biosciences at the University of Akron. I love the small neighborhood feel of Lakewood as well as its affordability.

Why do you want to raise hens in Lakewood? I want to raise poultry in Lakewood so that I can provide myself and my family with local, organic eggs. Organic free-range eggs are currently almost \$5 a dozen. We live a sustainable lifestyle by recycling, vermicomposting and growing our own food. I also think that hens and ducks can make great pets!



Hens and ducks are not "smelly, dirty or loud" as some people have proposed. They help fertilize the lawn naturally and eat lawn and garden pests. They will not be roaming the streets of Lakewood like many feral cats or stray dogs currently do.

Why do you think Lakewood is a community that should allow responsible hen-keeping? Lakewood should proactively encourage people to live more sustainably and more self-sufficiently. It is good for our community as well as NE Ohio as a region. Other communities such as Cleveland and Cleveland Heights have taken steps to allow poultry in their communities - Lakewood is lagging behind!

Do you want to mention anything else? I pay significant taxes to live in Lakewood. I could just as easily move to Cleveland or Cleveland Heights and may well do so if Lakewood continues to refuse to keep up with this movement!

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Camp Guide

Warm Thoughts Of The Coming Season

by Maggie Fraley

Yes, it's cold outside, and summer may be far from your mind. Yet, it's March already and parents are talking about the summer camps and classes that are available locally because they often fill up quickly.

One of my daughters just turned 30, and that milestone brings back many happy memories of summer days peppered with fun. Classes (or camps) 'spice up' the summer months with just the right amount of structure that helps our kids to grow.

Whether sports, swimming, art, music, museums, or classes with the Lakewood Recreation Department, there's something for everyone! Summer camps not only teach what the class is about, but stretch our kids to develop social skills in a more relaxed setting which can foster new friendships based on an enjoyed common interest. They spread their wings and fly over broader horizons -- maybe even landing on an unexpected life-long pleasure.

Parenting articles promote the benefits of trying something new to build confidence and resilience. We don't have to read it to know that it's true- we've all seen it happen.

Choosing a camp or class can create maturity and independence in a way that regular school can't, because a

child is autonomous in choosing their "subject" at camp. That personal commitment to a new adventure is a joy that they (and we!) won't forget. Since we're surrounded by snow and bundled up outside, it may seem an unlikely time to think of summer camp.

The Lakewood Observer wants to

help by featuring some ideas to start you thinking. So bring some sunshine and warmth to your family table and talk with your kids about their options. I share these thoughts from my heart and nearly 30 years of parenting: if you're considering summer camp, do it! You and your kids will be glad you did!

Greater Cleveland Aquarium Announces Exciting New Summer Camps

by Kelsey Cullen

The Greater Cleveland Aquarium has a very important mission this summer, and that's to use educational and aquatic adventures to make it FUN. Last summer, we created memories with trips to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and aboard the Nautica Queen Cruise Dining Ship. The summer camps, which sold out, were well received by parents and (most importantly) received great reviews from the camp kids.

We're excited to announce that because of last year's success, we've added two new summer camp options to the summer of 2014. Water Wonders was creatively developed for preschoolers entering kindergarten, and Weird and Wonderful was established for those entering grades 1 and 2.

The GCA also offers Aquatic Adventures for children entering grades 3-5, which includes a field trip to canal place and a field trip aboard

the Nautica Queen Cruise Dining Ship. Marine Scientist in Training, developed for kids entering grades 6-8, offers a "back of house scoop" on running the Aquarium.

Our Aquarium summer camps capture the imagination and interest

of each age group in week long adventures, including aquatic explorations around the city.

In Water Wonders preschoolers have the chance to meet aquatic animals, play

continued on page 14

Promote your Summer Camps and Programs in The Lakewood Observer!

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YMCA Summer Day Camp 2014 Summer Of Fun Lifetime Of Memories

by Rob Dent

YMCA Summer Day Camp registration is going on now!

Camp Dates: June 9 - August 22 (end dates vary based on site location)

- Toddler Camp (children ages 2-3)
- Preschool Camp (children ages 3-5)
- Kinder Camp (Kindergarten age)
- School-Age Camp (grades 1-5)
- Teen Camp (youth ages 13+)

The Lakewood Family YMCA is now accepting registrations for our 2014

Summer Day Camp Program. Join us for weekly adventures, which include field trips, swimming, arts and crafts, science and nature, physical fitness and nutrition, as well as new friendships and memories that will last a lifetime!

Contact the Lakewood Family YMCA (216-521-8400) or visit our website (www.clevelandymca.org) for more information.

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Wellness Watch

Cornucopia Celebrates Trainee's Success

by Mary Johnson

Staff and trainees at Cornucopia/Nature's Bin recently celebrated the graduation of Patricia G. from the vocational training program at the Cornucopia Vocational Training Center (VTC)! Patricia first started with Cornucopia in the vocational training program at Eliza Jennings Senior Care Home in Cleveland. There Patricia excelled, working side-by-side with Cornucopia staff in the housekeeping, laundry and dietary departments. Through that program, Patricia discovered she had a strong desire to learn culinary skills and seek employment in the culinary field. In September, 2013 Patricia transferred to (and became the first official trainee in) the brand-new Cornucopia Vocational Training Center and Commissary Kitchen on Sloane Avenue in Lakewood.

At the Cornucopia VTC people with disabilities have the opportunity to learn practical food-prep skills that will prove valuable as they seek employment in the community. During her five months in the program, Patricia learned recipe skills from start to finish, knife, measuring and packaging skills, safe food handling practices, and safe kitchen sanitation requirements. She also earned the nationally recognized ServSafe Food Prep Handler Certification, an important tool for obtaining employment in the culi-



Cornucopia Executive Director, Scott Duennes, and Cornucopia Case Manager, Shelly Bishop, present Patricia G. with her graduation certificate. Also pictured are Executive Chef Ernie Logsdon and Sous Chef, Tana Fry.

nary field.

Patricia's story did not end there. In fact it is only beginning. A recent opportunity opened up at the VTC for a Food Service Associate. Patricia applied for the position and was hired, putting all of her freshly minted skills to work right away.

Founded in 1975, Cornucopia is a nonprofit that provides community-based employment training for people with disabilities through the Cornucopia Vocational Training Center, at its own natural foods market known as Nature's Bin, both in Lakewood, and

sion is to help people with disabilities develop their skills, confidence and workplace potential. Each year, the vocational rehabilitation staff provides job training, job placement, and job coaching services to individuals with disabilities and helps them to secure meaningful employment.



Patricia labels packaged soups in the Cornucopia Vocational Training Center and commissary kitchen.

at five other community based training sites in Cuyahoga County. Cornucopia offers one of the most unique training programs in greater Cleveland. Its mis-

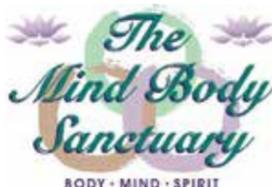


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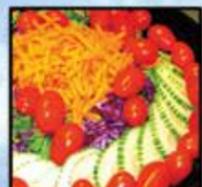
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Business News

First Federal Lakewood's First Time Home Buyers Seminars Focus On Far More Than Mortgages

by Jennifer Raynor

In an attempt to inspire homeownership within the communities it serves, First Federal Lakewood is partnering with municipalities and community development organizations across Northeast Ohio to promote the bank's free First Time Homebuyer seminars that are slated for early spring. The first seminar will take place on Saturday, March 15 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the University of Akron in Lakewood, located at 14725 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, 44017. The seminar is being held in partnership with the LakewoodAlive community development corporation and the City of Lakewood.

Additional First Time Homebuyer sessions will be held in Garfield Heights, Parma, Euclid and Lorain County in the coming months. By hosting the seminars in a variety of locations across the region, First Federal Lakewood hopes to reach anyone in the community who has questions about home ownership or financing, including first time homebuyers and low to middle income homeowner hopefuls.

"Extending our reach by partnering with local organizations to promote our First Time Homebuyer Seminars speaks directly to our mission as a mutual bank," said Thomas

J. Fraser, president and CEO of First Federal Lakewood. "Our interest is in fostering sustainability and growth in the communities we serve, so by educating local residents about how to stay financially sound and subsequently inspiring them to become homeowners, we are increasing opportunities that funds can be re-invested in their neighborhoods."

First Federal Lakewood takes a back-to-basics approach on fiscal fitness before delving into the ins and outs of the home-buying process. By first focusing on how to manage personal finances, including how to budget and meet savings goals as well as maintaining healthy credit, First Federal Lakewood helps participants pave a path to home ownership.

"The home-buying process can seem overwhelming for first time homebuyers, and it is difficult to know where to start," said Lee Fields, VP and community development manager for First Federal Lakewood. "By teaching participants how to take control of their personal finances, we infuse confidence in future homeownership. Building on that foundation, we take them through every step of the home-buying process in an easy-to-understand format which makes it more manageable."

Click here for more information and a complete listing of First Time Homebuyer seminars.

About First Federal Lakewood

First Federal Lakewood is the largest independent mutual bank headquartered in Ohio with assets of nearly \$1.5 billion. With 18 full-service branch locations and 11 loan

offices throughout Ohio, First Federal Lakewood provides deposit, lending, residential mortgage lending, cash management and investment services to individuals and businesses. Since 1935, First Federal Lakewood has been a stable community owned bank committed to deploying funds that foster local economic growth. www.FFL.net

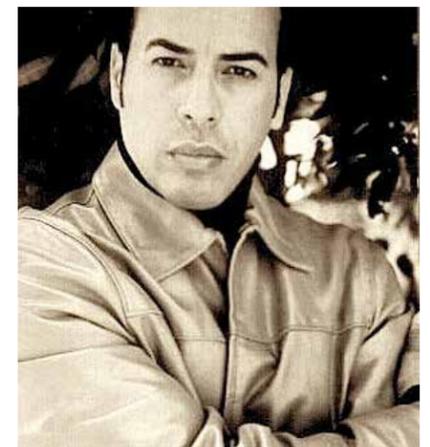
Chinor Haute-Couture Boutique Opening In Lakewood

by Luis Rivera

Vincente Chinor is opening a new fashion boutique in Lakewood called 'CHINOR' located at 14404 Detroit Avenue, next to Cotton. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, April 12 from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. and is open to the public.

Chinor is an haute-couture fashion designer and is excited to call Lakewood home. His elite collection includes evening wear, cocktail dresses and bridal, with beautiful accessories that complement his designs. We invite those seeking fashion to schedule a private consultation with Chinor so that he can help create a unique ensemble to fit your individual personality and style.

The idea for the haute-couture business resulted in Chinor's passion for fashion. Chinor started designing clothes in 1986 and his work has been featured in Playhouse Square's Jump Back Ball, the Beck Center Gallery, at the Greater Cleveland Neighborhood Centers' Six Degrees of Connection and, most recently at the Lakewood Alive's Gala and Moondance for Bay Arts. Additionally, he will be the featured designer in the upcoming Dare2Care event on April 25, 2014 at the Tudor Arms Hotel Doubletree - <http://dare2careusa.org/>.



Couturier Vincente Chinor

Chinor's goal is to bring his high-level expertise, knowledge and creativity with regards to fabrics, textile and color from Italy, Paris, New York, and Florida to the Greater Cleveland area. Chinor's vision is to provide Clevelanders with immediate access to high fashion and design locally, instead of having to seek it abroad. In his research, Chinor has found that there is very limited variety in fabric choices and high fashion within Northeast Ohio. For this reason Chinor believes that there is a market for this demand.

To see some of Chinor's designs please visit <http://vchinor.com/>. We look forward to seeing you at the reception.

Greater Cleveland Aquarium Announces Exciting News Summer Camps

continued from page 12

educational games and make aquatic crafts in this half day fun-filled marine camp; family members are invited to

join in on the fun with an exploration on the beach on Friday morning. The new Weird and Wonderful camp explores the weird and wonderful world of some unique aquatic animals from urchins to sharks, and even hippos! An aquatic animal safari to the Zoo completes their exploration.

The popular Aquatic Adventures and Marine Scientist in Training camps return with more to do and see. Stingray and shark encounters, a boat ride, fishing, crafts and games highlight Aquatic Adventures. Marine Scientist in Training campers work closely with our education and aquarist team to get behind the scenes, run water tests, have up-close animal encounters, participate in marine science investigations and explore a Lake Erie beach.

All school age camps offer before and after care for our campers. To learn more about these camps visit www.greaterclevelandaquarium.com.

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Opinion

My Experience With The Affordable Care Act

by Eric Deamer

I've been meaning to write something about my mostly positive first-hand experience with "Obamacare" for awhile because I think it's important to have as many individual first-hand narratives about the Affordable Care Act out there as possible in order to counteract the deliberate disinformation campaign coming from those who oppose the law in every way no matter what.

A short summary of what I took away from my experience with the law is that the actual substance of what the law does, i.e. gives people who don't have health insurance through their jobs the ability to purchase high quality health insurance policies of the type that before you could only get if you worked for a large corporation at an affordable price and with government subsidies, is great. The downside is that the infrastructure set up to deliver this great outcome, particularly the Healthcare.gov website, is very difficult to work with. In some aspects, particularly the Healthcare.gov website, the practical and logistical aspects of actually dealing with "Obamacare" are every bit as bad as the rightwing caricature of them would have you believe.

First I'll give you a brief outline of my and my wife's situation. Those in different personal/financial situations will of course have vastly different experiences. My wife and I were essentially ideal candidates to be helped by the law. We had incredibly basic medical insurance through my wife's workplace. I'm not sure on the technical definitions of these things but I believe that what my wife and I had would be described more accurately as "major medical insurance" than "health insurance" i.e. it would help if we had some kind of severe problem or extended hospitalization but in order to see a doctor for any routine matter it would cost hundreds of dollars. So, by my lights this basically means we didn't have health insurance at all. And the ACA agrees with me. Also, my wife and my combined income is under 400% of the federal poverty line, which I knew meant we qualified for the subsidies on the federal exchanges. (We don't have any children.)

So I began my experience with the ACA on November 11, 2013; still pretty quick on the heels of the roll-out and while all the horror stories about problems with the website etc. were out there. Just out of curiosity I decided to try to start by going to Healthcare.gov. Appropriately enough there was a message there saying the website was down for the moment but I could begin my shopping for health insurance by calling the number 1-800-318-2596. I type the number out because I think it's a way undersold part of the Obamacare story that this 800 number exists. It's staffed 24 hours a day and most of my experiences with it have been positive. I have no idea why the White House didn't shout this number from the rooftops. I guess they were enamored of the idea of somehow setting up some kind of state-of-the-art e-commerce website at Healthcare.gov, an effort which was a miserable failure. At the very least publicizing the existence of the 800 number more broadly would've answered the annoying, ubiquitous "But

what about people who don't have the internet?" question. Again, that number is 1-800-318-2596.

So the very beginning of my first-hand experience of the ACA began with a call to this number. Everything about the call was great. There was no hold time and the representative who handled the call was friendly, professional, and seemed knowledgeable. She explained that the process was that I would give her some basic information and that would begin the process of figuring out what kind of plans and subsidies I qualified for. The questions were quite basic and non-intrusive. There was nothing about our medical histories or anything of that nature in keeping with the requirement that no one be denied coverage because of their medical history etc. The most detailed questions were about our income because a complex formula is used on that to determine what our future income might be and therefore what subsidies if any we qualify for.

The entire process of applying on the phone took about half an hour. The representative told me I should get something by email in 24 hours explaining what plans and subsidies we qualified for. I posted an ecstatic status update to Facebook. After that things started getting a bit more complicated.

First, in retrospect unsurprisingly, 24 hours came and went and I got no notification by email or by any other means. I let another 24 hours go by: Still no email. I then called the trusty 1-800-318-2596 number again. Again I was impressed that there was no hold time and I was quickly able to speak to a friendly, helpful representative. However, what she had to say caused me some consternation. First, she informed me that 24 hours was not in any way a possible turnaround time and she had no idea why anyone would've told me that it was. Second, she said that while she could see that I had an application in process her computer was showing her that it was "incomplete." Third, I was surprised to learn that all that the first representative had done while seeming to fill out some kind of special application for me over the phone was go to Healthcare.gov on her computer (where apparently the site worked better than on mine) and fill out an application for me there.

My new representative said she would fill out with me another application that was "more like a paper application" than simply filling out Healthcare.gov. So, I had to answer all of the questions that I had the previous time and go through essentially the same process again a second time. I was optimistic though as this representative seemed competent and I liked the idea of the "paper application" as opposed to one that had to be processed through the famously problematic Healthcare.gov. This time I was told that it would be a few weeks but that I would definitely get something in the mail (i.e. the physical "snail mail") letting me know what plans and subsidies I qualified for.

This began a frustrating, repetitive dance that would last weeks, a period when I seemed to be performing the same steps again and again but getting nowhere. Every few days I'd get a call from

some godforsaken no ones or zeros area code in Kentucky or Missouri, some place where labor is cheap enough to have a call center. I would be told that I had an application on file but it was incomplete. Again and again I'd answer the supposedly incomplete questions, questions which I'd invariably answered before. Again and again I was told that I'd get something in the snail mail letting me know what plans and subsidies I qualified for once my application was completed and processed. This never happened. Also, disconcertingly, I started receiving occasional emails from the Healthcare.gov website telling me that I had a message waiting for me there. This was disconcerting because I'd never had any interaction of any kind with that website so therefore I didn't have an account or login set up for it and had no way of checking these messages.

After about a month the pattern changed. I started getting calls from Kentucky and Missouri etc. from people calling themselves "managers" telling me that my application had been processed and they were calling to let me know that I could find out what kinds of plans and subsidies I qualified for by calling 1-800-318-2596. So, roughly a month after I'd started the process my application was finally complete and I could now actually shop for health insurance. The trouble was that without Healthcare.gov functioning properly it would prove to be difficult to comparison shop among the many plans we qualified for.

Still, I was and continue to be pleased with the results. 42 different plans were available to us and we qualified for subsidies. I was happy to learn that this wasn't some sort of tax refund scheme but the amount of your subsidy was simply subtracted from the amount of your premium, up front, each month. In lieu of Healthcare.gov working properly I simply had the representative at 1-800-318-2596 walk me through various plans while I asked questions and took notes, even though this was obviously a less than optimal way of comparing 42 different plans with different premiums, co-pays deductibles etc. My wife was very reluctant to shop for a plan that way so we held off at the beginning. We were assured that we would receive something in the mail describing the various plans etc. This continued to not happen. In subsequent phone conversations I was given an application ID number, which I was told I could use on Healthcare.gov to bring up the plans, subsidies etc. This never worked once. And if I entered the application ID number a second time I was told that I should refrain from trying that again for 24 hours.

So, the clock was ticking. If we wanted coverage that kicked in on January 1, 2014 (which we desperately needed for various reasons) we needed to sign up, somehow, by December 23rd. As Healthcare.gov continued to not function properly and the promised snail mail document explaining the various plans and subsidies continued not to arrive on the 23rd itself I simply pulled the trigger and selected a plan over the phone. Despite all the logistical hiccups along the way I need to stress that my wife and I are absolutely ecstatic with the plan

we were able to purchase under the ACA. It's something that my wife and I never would've been able to get before the ACA or could've afforded without subsidies.

Most importantly for me personally the plan covered what they now call "behavioral health" something that I very much needed covered and which only the most expensive health insurance plans covered before the ACA introduced the rule that "behavioral health" was something all plans need to cover. This will have a hugely beneficial effect on millions of peoples' lives. Another great provision of the ACA is the rule that all gynecological well visits will be free of any co-pay as well all birth control.

Though we selected our plan in time for the January 1st coverage deadline there were still a few hoops left to jump through. There was some big hullabaloo in the news about how President Obama negotiated with the insurance providers to allow for those who paid their first premium up until January 10th to get coverage retroactively from January 1st. I believe we were actually affected by this. I spent hours on the phone calling multiple different numbers at Kaiser Permanente (our insurance provider) asking how we could take advantage of the health insurance coverage we'd purchased through the federal exchange. The answer was that we needed to pay our first premium, but we had no bill or any mechanism to be able to do so. Finally, I pushed and pushed and was able to find a way to set up payment of the first premium online, allowing us to make our first payment just barely in time for the January 10th deadline. And in January for my first few visits to the Kaiser Permanente (now called Healthspan) facility in Parma there was a lot of confusion. I was told there was a huge backlog of new Kaiser Permanente members who had come in through the federal exchange and it was taking awhile to process these folks. Happily, the way Kaiser was handling this problem was to simply not charge folks at all for doctor or pharmacy visits and just assume the details would be worked out later. I have no idea how other health care insurers or providers were dealing with the situation.

So, after a lot of research, and a whole lot of phone calls both to the ACA's 800 number 1-800-318-2596 and to various customer service numbers at Kaiser Permanente my wife and I were very much helped by the ACA. And millions of people in similar situations could no doubt have been helped as well. But I often wonder of those people: what if they weren't as tenacious as I was? As used to navigating complex bureaucracies and phone banks? Would they have been helped by the law or would they have simply given up somewhere along the way?

Perhaps the implementation, the website, and the logistics have improved since November and December of last year but at least at that time it struck me that the ACA was a great law being implemented very poorly.

After living in too many different places to mention Eric and his wife Kim settled in Lakewood in May of 2012. Eric is a freelance journalist and a political activist.

Opinion

Ed FitzGerald Sits Down With Lakewood Residents To Watch State Of The State Address

by Karolyn Isenhardt

With the gubernatorial campaign just underway and many months to go before the 2014 mid-term elections, current Cuyahoga County Executive, former Lakewood Mayor and Councilman, and 2014 candidate for governor of Ohio Ed FitzGerald took the opportunity presented by the annual State of the State (SOTS) address to gather with friends and neighbors right here in Lakewood to discuss what his campaign is looking to achieve over the next

9 months and beyond. Following the SOTS, FitzGerald spoke with the group, describing what a FitzGerald administration down in Columbus would mean for them both locally and statewide.

He told the supportive crowd, largely comprised of members of the Lakewood Democratic Club, that after traveling to all 88 counties in just the short time that he has been actively campaigning, one of the biggest hurdles he has faced is that voters don't always know how the work being done by the

governor's office down in Columbus impacts their everyday lives. FitzGerald explained that he hopes to change that in the coming months by running a grassroots campaign focused on the needs of voters at the hyper-local level.

Clockwise from lower left: FitzGerald joins friends and neighbors to watch the State of the State address last Monday, February 24; FitzGerald and one of his former colleagues at the City of Lakewood, Monique Smith, look on intently; Former and current Lakewood City Councilpersons and members of the Lakewood Dem Club chat with gubernatorial candidate FitzGerald following the SOTS.



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Pulse Of The City

Lakewood, A Half-Century Ago:

When "Chat Room" Chatter Was Spoken Aloud... "What's Your 20, Good Buddy?"

by Gary Rice

It was a time, not so long ago, when "chat room" chatter took place in real time, and was a spoken event, rather than being written down. Generally too, what was said went unrecorded as well. Those were the days when CB (Citizens Band) radios ruled the roost. In those pre-Internet days, you could purchase a CB walkie-talkie, a mobile unit, or a home base station, and talk away to your heart's content. Originally, there were call signs and licenses to buy, but over time, the licenses were no longer required. People generally went by "handles", (adopted names) which is not so different from what many people in Internet chat rooms do these days. Back then, my "handle" was "Silversticks", as it happened to be the nickname that I went by as a drummer.

There was also a unique language with CB radio. If, for example, I wanted to let people know that I'd turned on my radio and was ready to receive calls, I might have said something like:

"Breaker One-Six" (channel 16) "Breaker! Breaker!" "This is one Silversticks on the side, 10-8!" (meaning "standing by")

"Greetings Silversticks, this is Hatman. (not a real person here) What's your 20?" (Where are you?)

"Hey Hatman, this is one Silversticks, good buddy, I'm just holding up the shingles here. (I'm at home) Hey, you going to the coffee break?"

(A "coffee break" was a weekly or monthly meeting, usually at a local restaurant, where CB'ers met to hang out and have fun, often holding fund raising activities like getting a pie in the face for a good cause)

"That's a negative, Silversticks, A gum-ball flashin' Smokey took my picture flying low (the police caught me speeding on their radar and stopped me

with their old "gum-ball machine style" top car lights) so I'm slappin' leather on the sidewalks. (I have to walk everywhere now!)

Citizens Band Radio began in the closing days of WWII and really took off around the time of the 1970's Energy Crisis. With gasoline shortages and reduced 55 mph speed limits on freeways, there was a widespread disregard of those limits. Truckers would install the radios in their rigs and let people know where accidents, construction slow downs, and sometimes, where speed traps were located. Soon, channel 19 became known as the "trucker's channel", and just about anyone having an extra \$100 installed a CB in their car in order to hear what was going on, and contribute to the conversation. Popular songs came along about the CB culture as well. The CB way of life remained strong for many years, at least until cell phones and Internet communications came along.

One thing about CB radio that unfortunately seems to have carried over to the Internet chat rooms is the rough language and brash tone of many communications. True, people weren't supposed to talk that way over the radio, but they often did so, and before long, parents became very leery of listening to the CB in the car during long trips, due to the nature of some of the conversations they were hearing.

Another problem was the endless human lust for power. Although CB radio was only supposed to be a low wattage device, there were those who attached illegal linear amplifiers to their units, having hundreds of watts of power. They could then talk "over" just about anyone else, at least until they

were caught by FCC (Federal Communications Commission) agents.

Sometimes, even legally powered radios could interfere with TV and electronic devices in homes and businesses. I well remember sitting in a local church one morning when a CB'er loudly came over the church's organ/PA system during a quiet time of reflection.

Over time, CB radio expanded from 23 to 40 channels, and then you had those single sideband radios that used only half of a channel. Sideband focused more power into the transmission and you could "get out" farther in those days.

In preparing this column, I spoke with several people as to how the CB world is doing nowadays. I even dusted off an old CB radio to hear for myself what might be going on. I discovered that truckers still use channel 19, and that channel 9 is still considered an emergency-only channel. I've heard some faint chatter around here on channels 6 and 20, but nothing so far on any other channel. I have also heard that local citizen emergency teams continue to use and value their portable CB radios during power outages.

I have to interject a chuckle and a caveat here too. When I turned on that old CB base station, I naturally put it right next to the computer for convenience sake. That turned out to be a BIG mistake when I pushed the transmit button and my computer's mouse stopped working! Be careful where you put your electronic stuff. A radio-wise friend later told me (Why do I always learn stuff LATER?) that strong magnetic fields and radio transmissions don't always work too well with com-

puters, but I digress here....

Funny isn't it? If CB radio came along today as the next new thing...If suddenly, (as we might soon do with the Internet) you could chat live and for (almost) free all over the world on the computer, (as ham radio operators have done for years) perhaps some form of CB might once again enjoy the immense social and utilitarian popularity that it once did.

As mentioned, CB radio continues in use with community response units during times of public emergency, but it seems that, other than truckers, hunters, and the off-road community, the general public is just not using it too much these days. It was fun though, for me to go back and listen to that good old radio static... except that it was kinda lonely...

"Breaker channel twenty.... breaker....One Silversticks on the side. Is anybody out there????"

LEGAL PROBLEMS

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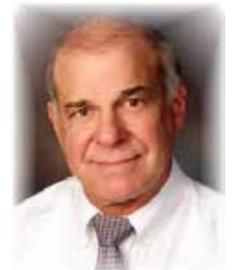
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Notes From Afghanistan

Dispatch 3.6: I Spend A Lot Of Time Dealing With Fuel

by Eric Smith

Modern society runs on the internal combustion engine and electricity. Electricity is (mostly) generated through fossil fuel consumption. Afghanistan is working towards becoming a modern society. All the fuel that powers the cities, homes, military bases, motorcycles, jingle-trucks, and streetlights has to be imported. And nearly all of it comes by truck.

The fuel trucks form huge lines at the border stations, and once admitted, they move through a complex chain of supply and distribution that sees some degree of pilferage at nearly every point. This is because fuel, in many cases, more valuable than money. It's a commodity that everyone needs. People get paid in fuel. Contractors stipulate the source of their fuel in their contract. Laws, ordinances, and agreements between village elders often revolve around who is going to supply how much gas to whom and for what reason.

So I spend a lot of my time talking about fuel. With everyone.

When the District Governance Centers were first built several years ago, ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) provided the fuel to keep them running. In one of my districts, that amounted to 800 gallons a week, put into the district fuel tank from ISAF trucks. This was used to power the generators that kept the daily business of government humming, encourage village elders to attend councils by subsidizing their transportation costs, as payment for the local police, and to fill the governor's own car. (He doesn't live in the district, he lives in Kandahar City).

As the capacity and capability of the Afghan government increased, they started their own fuel distribution system. The provincial government authorized each district building 200 liters a month to keep their generator running. The governor was issued fuel chits to cover his commuting expenses. It certainly doesn't match the largesse of ISAF, but it is a more sustainable system over the long term.

So when my unit arrived last summer, I broke the news to the governor that I was going to reduce the amount of fuel I was giving him by 100 gallons



Fuel being sold out of plastic bottles at a roadside stand on the outskirts of Kandahar City.

a week until it went to zero, and then that was it. No more ISAF gas. The governor was not pleased, and told me, "The entire district will descend into chaos. The Taliban will take over. All we have fought for will be lost."

I assured him that we would not allow that to happen and then I cut the fuel. He countered with holding meetings in his office with all the doors and windows closed. We all sweltered in the stifling, non-air conditioned space. I drank water. When winter came he moved the meetings into the draftiest, darkest room in the district building, and would start off each session with "sadly, we do not have enough fuel to heat our buildings . . ." I wore a jacket.

Now, six months later, it's a running joke between us. Whenever a controversial issue comes up, he mentions, "If ISAF would start giving us fuel again, we could solve this." And I pretend to faint. Everyone thinks it's very funny and the village elders laugh at the joke.

Similar dramas play out with the army and the police. A few days ago we were doing a patrol to the far side of the province. When we got to the turnaround point, the police who were with us announced that they didn't have enough gas and could we please give them some so they could go back. We

didn't. They made it back.

The same thing happens with the Army, at all levels. We had a recent offensive, led by the Afghan army, in which just prior to it starting the commander announced, "We're short by 40,000 liters, I will have to cancel the attack" in an obvious gambit to get us to provide fuel so the operation could continue. We shrugged our shoulders and said something to the effect of, "That's too bad. You have a good plan and we're about to defeat the Taliban." The operation ended up going forward with Afghan fuel.

Everyone is convinced the other guy is secretly getting subsidized by someone else and they are being shorted. Americans who were cavalier with the gas nozzle in years past are held up as paragons of leadership and international virtue. Masters of networking and personal relationships, the Afghans attempt to play us off against each other. We've figured this out so it (usually) doesn't work.

Theft and pilferage is a constant problem. Unattended vehicles have the fuel siphoned out of them. Gas is taken from car wrecks before the wreck is moved off the road. Motorcycle riders buy their gas from roadside stands where it's sold out of plastic bottles of dubious origin. We've learned to mea-

sure the amount of fuel delivered, not the size of the container. Truck drivers place false bottoms in their fuel tanks or hang cinderblocks inside to raise the fuel level and fool the uninformed who are measuring with a dipstick.

Incidentally, since I put a halt to the fuel subsidies the Taliban has not taken over, governance has gotten better, and the governor still manages to make his commute. Anarchy has been kept at bay because the Afghans are resourceful and have figured out how to solve the problem on their terms. Our fuel subsidies were a crutch, a necessary one critical to helping the government grow, but they had to be removed.

As ISAF forces continue their draw-down, Afghanistan is getting a bit quieter. The hungry foreign generators, impossible to keep sated without their foreign fuel supply go silent one by one. Some still run however, powering the things that are important to the Afghans. And that's how it should be.

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. He thinks springtime in the Metroparks is close to magical.



The author stands with Jamal Agha, Zharey District Governor, outside of the district center in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.



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Lakewood Living

Increasing Your Home's Value

by Chris Bergin

Although the local market continues to improve for sellers, now is not the time to sit back and ignore the condition of your home and think it will sell as soon as you put a For Sale sign in the yard. The old adage "You only have one chance to make a great first impression" is still true today! In order to attract the largest buyer-pool possible make sure your home is in tip-top condition and ready to shine!

Clean Up the Exterior: If you are not fortunate enough to have a brick home consider painting the exterior or updating siding for a fresh look. Use colors that are neutral and will appeal

to the largest number of prospective buyers. Stay away from your favorite shade of pink! Also make sure that your front door is attractive and welcoming and not a distraction.

Clean up your landscaping as well. Are there overgrown trees or shrubs that you have ignored? Prune and shape them. Are your gutters still full of leaves from the fall? Clean them out. Weather permitting, add some color with season-appropriate flowers to make a splash. Consider adding some exterior lighting to showcase your home after sunset.

Check All of Your Windows: Are they original? Do they all function

properly? Are there any broken panes of glass that need to be replaced? If they are replacement windows, are there any seals that have broken? Make sure all of your windows are in working order. Then, make sure they are all sparkling clean!

Clean Up Your Flooring: If you have carpeting get it professionally cleaned. Hardwood is IN, so if you have it, and if it is in good condition, flaunt it. Often sellers replace old carpeting with new carpeting only to find out they selected a style or color that is not attractive to the buyer. Consider spending the dollars on refinishing the floors instead. If you have ceramic, make sure there are not any damaged tiles, and that the grout is intact and clean. If you have a laminate floor make sure it is clean and sparkles!

Focus on Your Kitchen & Baths: If your kitchen is old and dated consider updating the cabinets or counter tops. Even smaller changes like updating hardware or faucets can go a long way in making a good impression. Be careful though-- if you are in a laminate counter top neighborhood don't go overboard and add granite. Keep your overall investment in-line with the neighborhood.

As for your baths make sure they are clean, clean, clean! There is nothing worse than a shower than has dirty grout or caulk. Simple fixes such as replacing a dripping shower head or updating a faucet will make a splash with buyers. Pay attention to details -- touch up paint, update an old light

fixture, and clean the exhaust fan.

Take A Look At Your Lighting: Replace old, dated fixtures with a modern one. If keeping existing fixtures, make sure they are clean! Consider trading out lower wattage bulbs with a brighter one -- a well-lit home will make a buyer feel warm and welcome! If possible, consider adding under-counter lighting in the kitchen.

Touch Up Interior Paint: Go room by room and look for areas that need to be touched up. Although white is out, make sure the colors are not too loud and over-the-top. Even simple changes like adding an accent wall can make an impressive focal point for a buyer.

Inspect Your Big Ticket Items: If your roof doesn't have at least 2-3 years of life left you may need to replace it. How old is your furnace or central air? Call your preferred HVAC tech and get the units cleaned and serviced. Buyers will want to know they can move in and have a few years before they need to address these large items.

After you are finished checking out your home from top to bottom and inside and out get a good, deep cleaning! Roll up your sleeves and get dirty! This means moving furniture and appliances and cleaning areas you may not have touched in years! A clean home will not only make a great first impression, but it will tell buyers that you have taken care of your home!

Chris Bergin is a licensed agent with Prudential Lucien Realty in Lakewood and can be reached at Chris@ChrisBergin.com.

Fun Snow Day



by Heidi Murray

Emma and Owen Murray had some help from friends Molly Burke and Leo Horvath on their snow day from school February 18. The friends with the help of their mom Heidi created these chilly Olympians.

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