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"A basic tenet of a healthy democracy is open dialogue and transparency." - Peter Fenn

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 11, Issue 1, January 6, 2015

## Hospital? Clinic? Rec/Wellness? Who Knows?

by Jim O'Bryan  
Publisher, Lakewood Observer, Inc.

During our break I posted a story on our website about major changes coming to Lakewood Hospital, possibly including either the Cleveland Clinic ending their agreement, or downsizing the size of our current hospital to that of an Emergency Care Center. Or that the hospital would become a "Wellness Center," instead of the less popular term, "Recreation Center" being shopped around earlier in 2013 by Mayor Summers and Planning Director Dru Siley.

Since my original posting, I have talked to hundreds of people and read hundreds of

pages of agreements and communications between the City of Lakewood and Lakewood Hospital Association (LHA), as well as between LHA and the Cleveland Clinic, and have come to the same conclusions I originally stated. We are sorting out facts from rumors as fast as we can on the Observation Deck.

When I posted, "The Clinic will announce in the 1st quarter of 2015, changes at Lakewood Hospital," Mary Louise Madigan, Lakewood City Council President, was quickly quoted by a Cleveland.com article on the same topic proclaiming, "I have heard rumors too..." "...maybe Metro." These words were immediately repeated by every

## Investment In Water And Sewer Projects Spurs Rate Hikes

by Colin McEwen

Increases in water and sewer rates are expected to be the norm around Northeast Ohio this year — and during the next several years — as municipalities attempt to meet the challenges of an aging water and sewer infrastructure, while complying with EPA mandates. Lakewood is no different. On December 15, 2014, the city administration and Lakewood City Council agreed to increase water and sewer rates effective January 1, 2015. Customers will begin receiving bills with the new rates starting mid-January to early February.

**Water rates will increase 10 cents, or 1.5%, over 2014 rates—from \$6.24 per ccf to \$6.34 per ccf, where one ccf is equal to 100 cubic feet or approximately 748 gallons.**

This slight increase is to support an automatic meter reading system that will be completed in 2015. The project has been completed in the eastern two thirds of the city, with approximately 6,000 residential

meters remaining to be installed in the western third of the city.

The \$3.8 million project mentioned above is a new, wireless system will not only replace the current outdated system, but will also result in more accurate measuring and real-time monitoring of water **continued on page 2**

## Lakewood Project Concert January 23

by Christine Gordillo

If you haven't had the chance to hear Lakewood High School's amazing Lakewood Project yet, mark Friday, January 23 on your calendar to come hear the country's first high school electric rock orchestra.

The Lakewood Project, led by Director Beth Hankins, never disappoints. This year's winter concert will feature music from the '90s and include special guests Tricky Dick & the Cover-Ups, named one of the best bands in Cleve-

## LO Lighting Contest 2014 Winners!



*Best Overall in the 1st LO Light Up Lakewood Holiday Lighting Contest was this house at 13452 Lake Avenue. Over 238 entries, and thousands of votes. The purpose of this contest was FUN, and to get you out in the community looking at lights, and then joining in a communal thank you to the decorators. SUCCESS!!! We cannot wait till next Holiday Season! If you have ideas, send them or join the LO Holiday Lighting Contest Committee (no meetings). See all of the winners on pages 10 and 11.*

echo chamber on the net.

WHAT NONE OF THEM ASKED OR MENTIONED WAS, "Why does the City Council Representative on the Hospital Board of Trustees have to announce that she has heard rumors too?" Why wouldn't she simply say, "As a Hospital Board of Trustees member let me tell you THESE FACTS?" Why the spin?

Days later in an interview, Mayor Summers repeated a similar sentiment about the changing face of healthcare in Lakewood in his own comments adding, "There is talk of reducing the number of beds." He never mentioned that he heads The Hospital Association and should be able to speak definitively with FACTS even if

those facts are limited to saying that he can't comment at this time. Why the games?

Instead, his comments suggested that he was unaware of the conversations occurring on a board he leads. If Mayor

Summers really is unaware of all of this, why was he shopping a "Recreation Center built on Hospital property" to the Lakewood Board of Education last January? Why was he **continued on page 17**

## Youth Homeless Awareness "Sleep Out" January 17

by Robin Suttell

If you see young panhandlers looking for handouts at the intersection of West Clifton Boulevard and Detroit Avenue, in front of Lakewood Congregational and St. Peter's Episcopal churches, on Saturday, January 17, don't pass them by that night. Instead, stop, open your wallet and donate to a worthy cause.

Nearly 30 youth at LCC, 1375 West Clifton Blvd., as well youth at St. Peter's across the street at 18001 Detroit Ave., will get a taste of what it's like to be homeless in the winter during this year's Annual Homeless Awareness Sleep Out.

No matter the weather, kids from the these Lakewood congregations will sleep all night in cardboard boxes in front of LCC and St. Peter's in an effort to increase awareness of the struggles Northeast Ohio's homeless community faces each day and raise funds for homeless support agencies.

Youth from Faith Lutheran Church also will

be spending the night panhandling with LCC Youth Fellowship for the first time, while from Trinity Lutheran Church might also join in this year's effort at LCC. The event's community participation has grown in the 11 years since its inception.

At LCC, participating youth, ranging in age from 11 years old to 18 years old (grades 6-12), will gather at the church starting at 3 p.m. to start constructing their box shelters — the only source of shelter they will have until late Sunday morning.

Around 6 p.m., the youth at both churches head outside to spend the evening canvassing the block, seeking for money from passersby and being without the comforts they are used to — heat, solid shelter, food and money.

At LCC, youth also are prohibited from using any sort of electronics during the evening's event. The group will be roused from their box shelters by 6 a.m. on Sunday to **continued on page 18**

# LO Calendar

## Thursday, January 8 Affordable Care Act Question & Answer Day - FREE EVENT 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is a pretty big deal. After all, it is the single largest change to the tax code in two decades – 46 changes to be exact. It's such a big deal that we are dedicating a single day to the ACA. On Thursday, January 8, you can walk into any participating H&R Block office to get a FREE ACA Tax Impact Analysis. ACA Q&A Day is a great time to ask your tax and ACA related questions and find out if you're impacted and if so, how you're impacted.

**Location:**  
**Lakewood East (by the Lakewood Library)**  
15321 Detroit Avenue  
Lakewood, OH 44107  
(216) 521-4388

**Lakewood West (by Simone's)**  
18428 Detroit Avenue  
Lakewood, OH 44107  
(216) 228-6053

## Mark Jacobson and "Solutions Project" 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Join in the Skype discussion on how it is possible to technically and economically convert the energy infrastructure of the each of the 50 United States into

wind, water and sunlight.

**Location:**  
**Lakewood Public Library auditorium**

## Friday, January 16 Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Luncheon: U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Join us at our January 16th luncheon meeting. U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) will address the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce followed by a short Q&A session.

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, who represents Ohio's Ninth Congressional District, is currently serving her sixteenth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is the senior-most woman in the House and the longest-serving woman from Ohio in history. Congresswoman Kaptur ranks 17th in seniority among 435 members of the 113th Congress.

**Location:**  
**Brennan's Catering & Banquet Center, 13000 Triskett Road, Cleveland OH 44111**

## Saturday, January 17 Hospice Volunteer Education 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Saturdays, January 17 and 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Hospice of the Western Reserve, 14601 Detroit Ave., Suite 100, Lakewood, OH 44107. Anyone

13 years of age or older welcome to attend. Most volunteers working with patients must attend both full sessions. Teens and volunteers in non-patient areas need only attend the first four hours of the first session. RSVP required. Call 800-707-8922 (6881) to register.

**Location:**  
**Hospice of the Western Reserve  
14601 Detroit Ave. - Suite 100  
Lakewood, OH 44107**

## Sunday, January 18 Good Company's 20th Anniversary Celebration Concert 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Join Good Company: a Vocal Ensemble, for Works of Love, a 20th anniversary celebration concert featuring guest artists the Amethyst String Quartet, Windsong and the North Coast Men's Chorus. January 18, 2015 at 4 p.m. Karen Weaver, Director. Patrick Wickliffe, Accompanist. The 28 voice ensemble will perform Biebl's Ave Maria, Pinkham's Wedding Cantata, Meador's A Spotless Rose, Symko's All Works of Love, selections

by Norwegian composer, Ola Gjeilo and more. A free will offering will be taken. Parking is free and the venue is handicap accessible.

**Location:**  
**Lakewood Presbyterian Church,  
14502 Detroit Avenue at Marlowe**

## Wednesday, January 21 3 Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating Classes 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

1. Boating Skills & Seamanship
2. Sailing Skills & Seamanship
3. Basic Coastal Navigation

All 3 classes will run from Wed., January 21-Wed., March 25, 2015 from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM. Register through Lakewood Rec Dept. 216-529-4081 or contact V. Suda 216-226-7221 for more details.

**Location:**  
**Garfield Middle School  
13114 Detroit Ave.  
Lakewood, OH 44107**

## Investment In Water And Sewer Projects Spurs Rate Hikes

continued from page 1

usage. This means that leaks can be detected and repaired faster for the City's water customers.

Sections of Blossom Park, St. Charles, Summit, Athens and Woodward will be having new water mains installed during 2015.

**Sewer rates will increase 5% over 2014 rates—from \$4.72 per ccf to \$4.96 per ccf.**

The sewer bill increase is required for the City of Lakewood to continue to develop and implement strategies for compliance with the regulations required by the Federal Clean Water Act of 1972.

Lakewood's continued work with the EPA to develop an integrated wet weather improvement plan to eliminate combined sanitary and storm sewer overflows into Lake Erie and the Rocky River involves the City's measuring and modeling of its sewer system to develop appropriate, cost-effective and

environmentally sound solutions to problems created by overflows.

Projects underway in 2015 include West End Sewer Improvements, Edgewater Ave. Sewer Separation, and Clean Water Pilot Study (southwestern section of Lakewood from Delaware to Hilliard and from Woodward to McKinley).

There is a special homestead exemption that reduces water and sewer bill charges for any homeowner who is 65 years of age or older—or is permanently disabled—with an income below \$35,000 per year.

If you feel you may qualify, if you would like to set up monthly ACH payments, or if you have any other questions, please contact the City of Lakewood's Division of Utility Billing at (216) 529-6820.

You can now pay your water and sewer bill online at: [www.onelakewood.com](http://www.onelakewood.com).

## THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER FAQ: LO Calendar

**Q: How can I help promote my event by getting it published in the LO Calendar, both online and in print?**

**A:** Visit the LO homepage: [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com) and click the "Submit New Event" button on the right hand side of the page under "Upcoming Events." Once your event is approved for our online calendar listing, it will be considered for publication in the print version of the paper as well.



## Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

Published biweekly with a current circulation of 10,000+ copies. The paper is made available free of charge and can be found at over 130 business locations within the City of Lakewood and on our website. The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the publisher and staff. Copyright 2014 • The Lakewood Observer, Inc. All rights reserved. Any reproduction is forbidden without written permission.

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

### Become an Observer!

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

### Upcoming Submission Deadline

Sunday, January 11, 2015  
Sunday, January 25, 2015

### Publish Date

Tuesday, January 20, 2014  
Tuesday, February 3, 2015

**[www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com) – 216.712.7070**  
**14900 Detroit Avenue, Suite 205, Lakewood, OH 44107**

The Lakewood Observer  
is powered by AGS's:



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**PHOTOGRAPHY** - Marge Foley, Christine Gordillo, Colin McEwen, Debra O'Bryan, and Jim O'Bryan.

**ILLUSTRATIONS** - Rob Masek

**PRODUCTION** - A Graphic Solution, Inc.

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS** - Kathy Augustine, Christopher Bindel, Cree Criado, Bernadette Elston, Marge Foley, Christine Gordillo, Joon-Li Kim, Noreen Kyle, Colin McEwen, Joan Miller, Elizabeth O'Brien, Sarah Pechaitis, Nicka Petruccio, Elain Rosenberger, Natalie Schrimpff, Robin Sutell, and Amy Swinderman.



## West End Tavern presents:

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### "Sunday Brunch"

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"Mega Mimosas"

## City News

# Lakewood City Council Honors Firefighters For Cancer Fundraiser



Along with Mayor Summers, City Council presents a special recognition to three Lakewood firefighters who gave their support to the Beddell Memorial Foundation.

by Colin McEwen

Lakewood City Council gave some special recognition to three Lakewood firefighters who took service to the community to another level.

Lakewood firefighters Ryan Birth, Christian Flores and Michael Tripodì raised more than \$7,000 for the Josette. Beddell Memorial Foundation, a non-profit that helps support families impacted by cancer.

Birth said that the effort was personal. Two wives of Lakewood firefighters are battling breast cancer. He also noted they selected the organization because it ensures that donations directly benefit those who need them.

“Going into this, we’d hoped to raise \$1,000, but it really got rolling,” said Birth, adding that once the effort

got underway, they sold 851 T-shirts to people as far away as Michigan, New York and Texas.

“We thought it would be a good way to get involved and do something positive...You know how Lakewood is; this community is incredibly supportive.”

Council presented the firefighters with a special resolution for their effort at the December 15 meeting.

“Occasionally, we have a chance to honor the work of colleagues who go above and beyond a job description,” said council president Mary Louise Madigan. “Lakewood Firefighters Local 382 made the entire city look good.”

For more information about the Josette Beddell Memorial Foundation, visit the organization’s website.

# Lakewood Receives ‘Auditor Of State Award With Distinction’

by Colin McEwen

The city of Lakewood has received the Auditor of State Award With Distinction for its 2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

A representative from the state auditor’s office stopped by Lakewood City Hall to present the award to city officials on Monday.

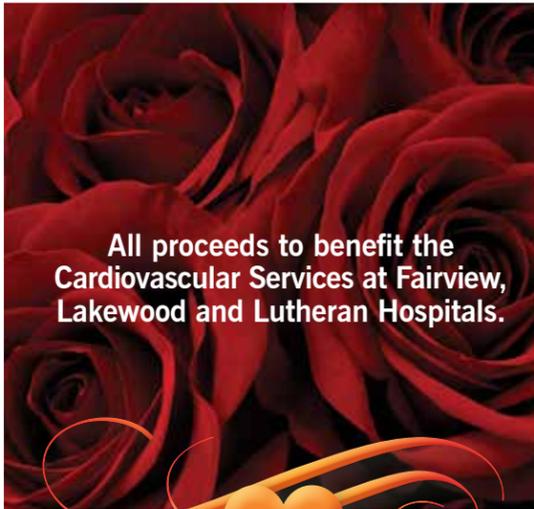
“This culminates years of improving the city’s financial position, tightening internal controls, and implementing fiscal best practices,” said Jenn Pae, the city’s finance Director. “This would not be possible without the hard work of the Lakewood Finance Department employees, and the much-valued assistance and input of the City’s Audit Committee.”

The award is presented to the top 5 percent of governments that meet specific criteria during their financial audit.

“Clean and accurate record-keeping are the foundation for good government, and the taxpayers can take pride in your commitment to accountability,” said Dave Yost, the state auditor.

The Auditor of State Award with Distinction is given to entities that file an annual CAFR and timely financial reports, as well as receive a “clean” audit report. The clean audit report means that Lakewood’s financial audit did not contain findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, Single Audit findings or any questioned costs.

“This significant and important award from the state of Ohio confirms the hard work of our entire finance department,” said Lakewood Mayor Michael Summers. “This also affirms our obligation to be excellent stewards of our taxpayers’ dollars.”



All proceeds to benefit the Cardiovascular Services at Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran Hospitals.

# Straight FROM THE Heart

Saturday, February 14, 2015

Celebrating 11 years strong!

**Early Bird Raffle: \$1,000 Winner**

The second raffle will be drawn from entries received by **January 16, 2015.**

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

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

For more information or to register, visit [www.straightfromtheheartevent.org](http://www.straightfromtheheartevent.org) or call 216.476.7061.



Win \$100,000 or one of 39 other great prizes.

- 1 \$100,000 Cash
- 2 Volvo S60 T5 Sport Sedan\*, arranged by Westside Automotive Group
- 3 Mazda CX-9\*, arranged by Westside Automotive Group
- 4 \$10,000 Cash
- 5 Harley-Davidson Sportster Motorcycle 883 Iron\*, arranged by Lake Erie Harley-Davidson
- 6 7-night European Mediterranean Cruise for two
- 7 \$5,000 Cash
- 8 7-night all inclusive trip for two to Cancun, Mexico, donated by Drs. E. Dean and Nariman Nukta
- 9 7-day trip for two to Hawaii
- 10 Diamond Bracelet, arranged by Rivchun Jewelers
- 11 \$3,000 Cash
- 12 Fur Jacket, arranged by Fur Allure
- 13 7-night Caribbean Cruise for two
- 14 Diamond Double Halo Necklace, arranged by Rivchun Jewelers
- 15 5-day trip for two to California Wine Country
- 16 \$2,000 Cash
- 17 5-day trip for four to Walt Disney World
- 18 \$2,000 Cash
- 19 3-night trip for two to San Antonio River Walk
- 20 Weekend Getaway for two to New York City
- 21 3-night trip for two to Las Vegas
- 22 7-night stay for two in Hilton Head, room accommodations only
- 23 \$1,500 Cash
- 24 Treadmill and Workout Essentials, arranged by Specialty Fitness Equipment
- 25 His/Hers Movado Watches, arranged by Rivchun Jewelers
- 26 Stock your Cellar with 100 assorted Wines, arranged by Rozi's Wine House
- 27 \$1,000 Cash
- 28 \$1,000 Travel Voucher
- 29 Weekend Getaway for two to Chicago
- 30 \$1,000 Cash
- 31 \$1,000 Grocery Spree
- 32 \$1,000 Cash
- 33 50" Television
- 34 \$500 Gas Card
- 35 50 Bottles of Wine, arranged by Rozi's Wine House
- 36 Day at the Spa for two, donated by Charles Scott Salon & Day Spas
- 37 Hewlett Packard Notebook
- 38 \$250 Gas Card
- 39 Panasonic Wireless Sound System
- 40 Samsung Galaxy Tablet

\*Cash options available for 2, 3, and 5, at 75% of prize value

All trips arranged by Independence Travel

All electronics arranged by CompSource

## City News

# Council Eliminates Pit Bull Registration Fees

by Christopher Bindel

Council President and Ward IV Councilwoman, Mary Louise Madigan, called the December 15, 2014 meeting of Council to order at 7:34 P.M. She then asked the clerk to proceed with latter agenda items, as there were many people in the audience who were there in conjunction with those items.

The first agenda item was a communication from Councilwoman Madigan asking Council to consider passing a resolution commending Lakewood firefighters Ryan Birth, Christian Flores, and Michael Triodi for raising more than \$7,000 to support the Josette Beddell Memorial Foundation. The non-profit helps supports families impacted by cancer. Madigan said they chose the Foundation for a number of reasons. First because it is personal, the Foundation is part of the LFD family, and second because they do a great job of getting the money where its needed and getting the most bang for the buck. One of the things they did to help raise money was to sell 851 t-shirts.

Council passed the resolution unanimously.

Next, Councilman Tom Bullock (At-Large) asked Council to adopt resolutions commending the Lakewood High School Cross Country and Soccer teams for their "inspiring fall season." He wanted to take the time

to formally recognize the outstanding achievements of the "dedicated and determined young athletes" and their coaches.

Council passed three resolutions recognizing the student athletes. The first resolution commended the Men's Cross Country team for their Division One Championship. The second resolution recognized the Boy's Soccer Team on their 12-6 season and the expectational success of the players. The final resolution recognized the Girls Soccer Team for their best season since the inception of the program in 1991. The Girls' team went 12-5 with one tied game.

Councilman Ryan Nowlin (At-Large) then read a report from the Finance Committee regarding the 2015 Budget. Several meetings were held over the last month where Council went over aspects of each of the appropriation ordinances and discussed their questions with the administration. With each of the 17 items properly vetted, Council proceeded to passed them all.

Councilman Bullock then delivered a report from the Public Safety Committee regarding an ordinance he had submitted regarding the "registration of dangerous dogs." When Council passed the citywide ban on pit bulls in 2008, it allowed

dogs of that breed that were currently in the city to remain, however it required that their owners register them every year, including paying a \$50 fee with that annual registration. According to Councilman Bullock, that fee was supposed represent the cost to the City for taking the re-registration and maintaining the list. However, he said that though he believes the City should require a fee the first time, the cost of renewing and maintaining registrations is negligent to the point that it is unnecessary for the City to continue to charge for the registration. Therefore he introduced a ordinance eliminating the fee.

Before voting on the matter, several Council members wished to make statements.

Councilman Nowlin said that he has chaired the Public Safety Committee and Council has taken up this issue before, most recently in 2013. He said that he maintains he does not agree with them removing a part of legislation that represents "the wishes of a former Council" without any changes in circumstances. He said it was unclear to him why the former Council decided on the amount and regularity that they did, and without that being made clear he was unwilling to remove it.

Councilwoman Cindy Marx said that she was likewise not on Council when they made the decision to include the fee, however she has no problem removing it. She said that to her, the inclusion of mandatory registration with the County and the carrying of liability insurance is enough. She said that she does not

believe there is enough to merit charging a \$50 fee.

Councilman Sam O'Leary said that it occurred to him that in a situation where it benefits the City to know where all these dogs are, and an annual registration fee of \$50 could be prohibitive, he thinks removing the fee could encourage compliance among dog owners.

Councilman Shawn Juris (Ward III) said that he didn't think the point was to charge each person what it would cost to process their registration or any related services they might get. Rather he sees it as a pooled fund of resources, like how insurance works, to help the City recoup any costs it might accrue from having to respond to the actions of any one of those dogs. He said "to waive [a fee] simply to satisfy a handful of people simply seems misguided" to him.

Councilwoman Madigan said she would not be supporting the resolution because she was on the Council that passed the original ordinance, and said including an annual fee was not an oversight. She said she was not sure where the amount of \$50 came from, but she understood it was somehow connected to the administrative cost. She said she did not understand how that could have changed much since. She also said that she was concerned that if they remove this fee they then have to start looking at all the fees the City charges and reconsider them.

After all the discussion, Council passed the resolution 4-3.

Coming to the end of the agenda items, Council President Madigan adjourned the meeting at 8:57 P.M.

## Citizen Academy Offers Unique Look 'Inside' Lakewood's Police Department

by Colin McEwen

The Lakewood Division of Police is offering Lakewood residents a unique opportunity to gain some first-hand information about the role of Lakewood's safety and law enforcement department. The Lakewood Police Citizens' Academy is a twelve-week program starting Wednesday, February 4, 2015 and continuing each Wednesday through April 22nd. The Academy will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Lakewood Police Department, 12650 Detroit Avenue.

The Citizens' Police Academy is a 12-week course for Lakewood residents or people who work in Lakewood, 21 years of age or older, who are interested in learning more

about the Division of Police. Classes are held once a week for 2 hours. There is no fee to attend. During the sessions, students are presented with information from a number of speakers to familiarize them with a variety of policing issues in Lakewood. In addition to speakers from the Division of Police, Mayor Summers, the Department of Law, and Judge Carroll also address the class. At the end of each session, the graduates are permitted to schedule a ride-along with a patrol officer for one evening.

Click here for the application form.

For more information, contact Officer Ortiz at (216)701-3063 or [angela.ortiz@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:angela.ortiz@lakewoodoh.net).

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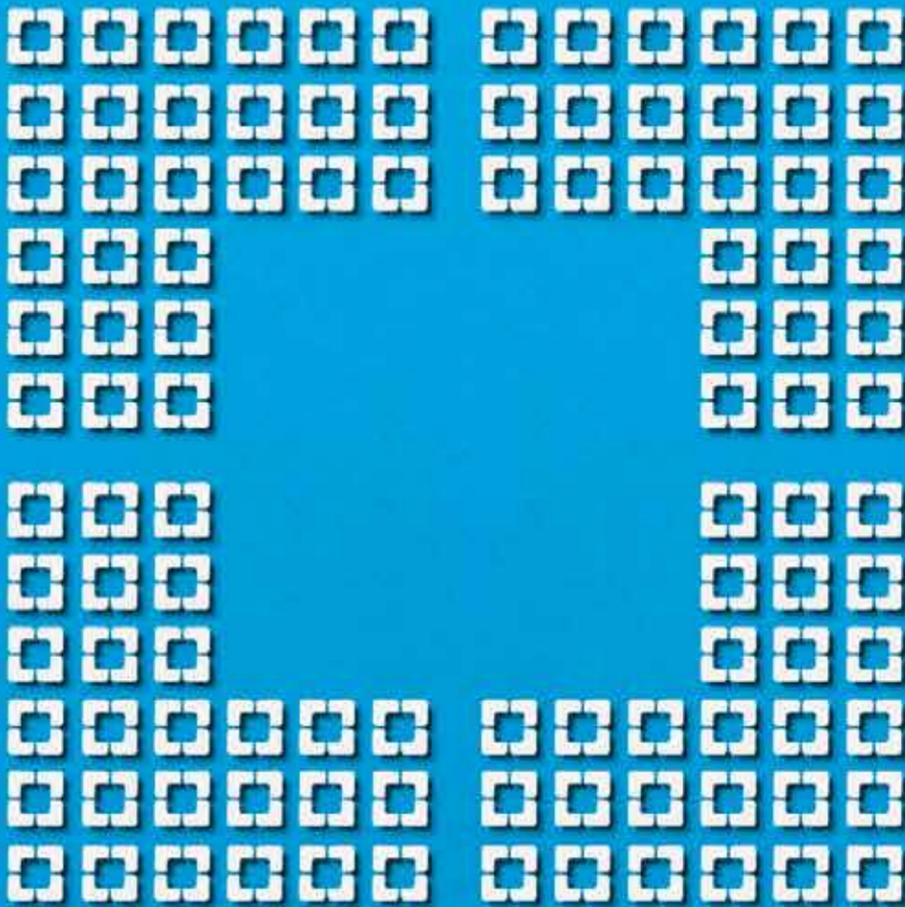
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## Midwives provide professional care with a personal touch.

A growing number of women nationwide are opting for the special benefits and support that midwives provide. Today's certified midwives have extensive formal training and education in nursing and midwifery, and their scope of practice is broad.



**Joy Sedlock, CNM, MSN**

Midwives provide quality medical care with a personal touch.

In addition to assisting mothers in childbirth and throughout pregnancy, today's midwives care for female patients in their teens until they are well into menopause, providing contraceptive advice, annual exams, fertility counseling and assistance, and care for a variety of gynecologic issues.

Their medical knowledge and specialized training gives them a unique understanding of a woman's needs during all phases of life.

### Professional care

Of course, midwives remain best known for their expert care of women during the birthing process. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, midwives currently deliver about one in eight vaginal births in the United States, and the numbers are growing every year. Ninety-eight percent of all midwife-attended births take place in the hospital.

"A midwife is a friend and advocate throughout the birthing process," says Joy Sedlock, CNM, MSN, Cleveland Clinic certified nurse midwife. "She helps ensure and implement a woman's labor and delivery goals and needs, communicating and helping with birthing decisions along the way."

Midwives also understand that giving birth is a family event, and will create a birth plan that meets a woman's individual desires and the needs of her family.

Patients of Cleveland Clinic Midwifery are offered a variety of pain relief options, including relaxation techniques, an epidural or IV medication, should it be required or desired. Lakewood Hospital also offers hydrotherapy for labor and birthing. Your midwife will guide you about the choices available if any changes to your birth plan become necessary or if you change your mind.

### Prepared for the unplanned

The majority of time the pregnancy and birth process is normal and uncomplicated. Should a medical complication arise, Cleveland Clinic midwives work alongside board-certified Ob/Gyns and other providers specializing in high-risk medical complications and surgery.

Most insurance plans that cover obstetric and gynecologic services also cover services provided by a certified nurse-midwife. It is, however, important to check with your insurance plan to verify coverage.

*For more information on Cleveland Clinic Midwifery, go to [clevelandclinic.org/midwifery](http://clevelandclinic.org/midwifery), or call 216.529.2913. Cleveland Clinic offers same-day appointments.*

# Lakewood Public Library

## LPL Calendar Of Events

compiled by Morgan Maseth

**Saturday, January 10**

**Lakewood Public Cinema: "Bon Voyage/Aventure Malgache" (1944)**

**Directed by Alfred Hitchcock**

Hitchcock came to America in 1939, just before the Germans began bombing his homeland. Though he was too old for military service, he felt obligated to do something for the war effort. So he flew to London, sitting on the floor of a bomber, and made these two little-seen short films in tribute to the work of the French Resistance. *Bon Voyage* is about an RAF gunner who travels through German-occupied France, aided by courageous Resistance operatives. Or so it seems. Like Kurosawa's *Rashomon*, when the story is retold with the same characters and events, it takes on a radically different interpretation. *Aventure Malgache* tells the story of an actor who masqueraded as a loyal Vichy official in Nazi-occupied Madagascar while actually running a pro-Resistance radio station. Professor Terry Meehan continues his series *Hitchcock Goes to War*, 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, January 11**

**Sunday with the Friends: Trepanning Trio**

Trepanning Trio is an acoustic instrumental ensemble known for making oddly beautiful music with classical, traditional and handmade instruments, including viola da gamba, guzheng and pan lids screwed onto sticks played with violin bows. Contrary to its name, this trio performs with a rotating lineup of six to fourteen members drawn from an unlikely rogues' gallery of musicians, composers, artists, writers and ethnomusicologists. With a devotion to the complex and pretty, they have shared the stage with free improvisation luminaries like Eugene Chadbourne and Paal Nilssen-Love.

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

**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

**Thursday, January 15**

**Booked for Murder: Southern Style Noir: "The Dangerous Edge of**

## Smiling Snowmen



by Marge Foley

Smiling students display their unique snowmen created at the Lakewood Public Library during a recent Art Connection program.

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**Things" by Tina Whittle**

This season, the intrepid investigators of this book club will switch back and forth between noir murder mysteries and southern intrigue. But which one is which? For full book descriptions, visit [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/bookclubs](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/bookclubs).

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

**Saturday, January 17**

**Lakewood Public Cinema: "Hell's Angels" (1930)**

**Directed by Howard Hughes**

Three friends leave Oxford to fly fighter planes in the Great War—two for England and one for Germany. Torn between patriotism and conscience, they also somehow manage to fight over the same woman. If you've seen Scorsese's *The Aviator*, you know that the eccentric playboy director and test pilot, Howard Hughes, actually assembled what was then the world's largest air force—almost incidentally—while making this film. He needed every plane to bring his vision to life. Men died filming the aeronautic stunts, and Hughes was up there with them when they fell. Driven by an otherworldly perfectionism, he filmed the movie over and over, making the transition from silent films to talkies and even including a short, experimental color sequence that showcased the blonde beauty of Jean Harlow. How can you not be curious to see this film?

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

**Sunday, January 18**

**Sunday with the Friends: The Hollywood Slim Band**

A proud member of the Cleveland blues family, the Hollywood Slim Band has been entertaining crowds with their swing, jazz and blues for nearly forty years and they're still adding new arrangements to their repertoire. With tender three-part vocal harmonies and decades of playing together, they add their own touch to the music of Howlin' Wolf, Little Walter Jacobs, Louis Jordan, Ray Charles and The Nat King Cole Trio. A homegrown spirit matched with loving instrumental mastery gives this band a vintage, rockin' sound, inspired by the founding brothers' love of Chicago blues and forties-era small combo jazz.

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

**Hands-On Help with eReaders**

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

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

**January 19**

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Open all day**

## LPL Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

**Saturday, January 10**

**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, January 17**

**Neil & Company Magic Show**

**For the whole family**

This traditional magic act conjures up entertainment for all ages.

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

**Sunday, January 18**

**Sew Your Own Library Tote**

**For anyone ages 8 and up**

Sew your own stylish bag in this hands-on, no-experience-necessary program with the help of our experienced seamstresses. Materials provided. Registration required.

2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Homework Room

**Monday, January 19**

**Share The Dream**

**For school age children**

Celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through stories, songs, and a craft. No registration necessary.

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

**Family Weekend Wonders**

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

Main Library Activity Room and Madison Branch Auditorium

**Saturdays & Sundays**

**Weekends With Wee Ones**

**For families with children under 2 years old**

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

Madison Branch Children's and Youth Services

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

## Lakewood Public Library

# Two Lost Hitchcock Films And Howard Hughes' "Hell's Angels" At The Library

by Elaine Rosenberger

Cinema buffs have the opportunity to experience three rare war films at the library: Hitchcock's *Bon Voyage* and *Aventure Malgache* and Howard Hughes' *Hell's Angels*. While London was being bombed, Hitchcock agreed to make two war propaganda films for the British Ministry of Information. In *Bon Voyage* (1944), a downed RAF gunner travels through France. Filmed as a series of flashbacks, the story is told from two perspectives, that of the gunner and that of an intelligence officer. As with later Hitchcock films, things are seldom what they seem. In *Aventure Malgache* (1944), an actor, Paul Clarus, masquerades as a loyal Vichy officer while running *Madagascar Libre*, a pro-resistance radio station.

*Bon Voyage* and *Aventure Malgache* received limited distribution in 1944, after which they were then hidden in a vault for fifty years and were not released by the British government until 1993. Do they contain information the



Three rare war films will play at the LPL this January.

British government wished to keep hidden? Both of these rare Hitchcock films will be screened on Saturday, January 10th at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium, as Professor Terry Meehan

continues his series *Hitchcock Goes to War*. *Bon Voyage* and *Aventure Malgache*

are in French with English subtitles.

In addition to Hitchcock's war films, the library will also screen Howard Hughes' *Hell's Angels* (1930). In the recent film *The Aviator*, Leonardo DiCaprio portrays Hughes filming *Hell's Angels*. In making this film, Hughes assembled the world's largest air force and, during filming, several men died. *Hell's Angels* is notable for its stunning aeronautic displays and dogfights as well as its production costs -- \$3 million in 1930. Hughes used revolutionary color film sequences to showcase the seductive platinum blonde beauty of eighteen year-old Jean Harlow in her first major role. *Hell's Angels* will be shown on Saturday, January 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Admission to all three films is free and open to all. For more information, visit [www.lakewood-publiclibrary.org/film](http://www.lakewood-publiclibrary.org/film).

## Winter Anime Club Is Back!

by Nicka Petruccio

The Lakewood Public Library's popular summertime Anime club "Otaku Café" is back for the winter season! Middle school and high school anime fans can beat the winter blues while watching clips and episodes from our favorite anime shows, doing anime drawing and crafts, learning about Japanese popular culture and so much more. Come show off your cosplay, your plushies, talk manga, J-Pop, K-pop,

TCGs, JRPGs, Pocky, Miyazaki... pretty much anything.

We're a large eclectic group representing all kinds of anime fandoms, so don't be shy- come meet some new friends who love what you love! Otaku Café will meet on Fridays from 4:30pm - 5:30pm starting January 9 until February 27. This program is for sixth through twelfth grade. It is free to join but you must register. Call (216)228-7428 ext. 140 to get signed up.

## St. Peter's Youth Participate In Homeless Awareness Sleep-Out

by Jenni Baker

St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lakewood is holding its tenth annual Homeless Awareness Sleep-Out on January 17. The Youth Group sleeps in cardboard boxes on the front lawn of the church. Once again the teens will battle snow and temperatures that frequently dip down into the single digits to raise funds for local homeless programs.

While St. Peter's youth have spent ten nights over the last ten years battling the cold, local homeless have spent about 36,500 nights on the street cold and hungry and without homes. Learning about the homeless plight is



passing the bucket in 2013.

one of the reasons kids have come back to the St. Peter's event year after year.

The evening is eye opening for the group. They start the evening with just a light supper of soup and bread. They don't have any other food until morning and all their electronic equipment is taken away. After dinner, at about 6 p.m., the kids hit the streets and ask for money from people in cars driving by. At 11 p.m., they stop asking for money and start their night in the boxes. Then in the morning, the group starts asking for money on the streets again, including the parishioners as they enter the church. The event ends with the teens attending the St. Peter's church service and receiving communion.

Over the ten years the youth group has raised about \$15,000 for local shelters such as The Lakeside Men's Shelter, and the Norma Herr Woman's Shelter, the YMCA sponsored Y-Haven program, and the FrontLine Emergency Shelter.

St. Peter's has always been joined by the Lakewood Congregational Church across Detroit Ave. In addition, members of the youth group from All Saints Episcopal Church in Parma have participated with St. Peter's in the past.

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# Lakewood Schools

## Schools, Community Join To Help Feed Families Through LCAC

by Christine Gordillo

Lakewood City Schools' students and staff are doing their part this holiday season to help feed families right here in our own neighborhoods with their canned food drives to benefit the non-profit Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation.

During the holidays in Lakewood, there are hundreds of people who struggle to feed themselves and their families. That's why this year, and for the last 25 years, LCAC works with the community to gather and deliver two large bags of

food to over 300 families and seniors at Thanksgiving and an additional 300 families at Christmas.

Jeff Worrone, past president and current board member of the LCAC explains that, "The goal of the LCAC is to provide families with a full sized turkey, 10 pounds of potatoes, pies, butter and all of the trimmings so that they and their family can enjoy a wonderful meal together."

Every school in the district participated in collecting money and/or food for the LCAC food bags. Many took the opportunity this year to get creative in

their collection efforts, getting the kids more excited than ever to help out their community.

Emerson Elementary took the collection to a new level with its Canstruction theme. Taking a page from other food drives worldwide that have turned their cans into 3-D works of art, parent Heidi Murray was inspired to try it at Emerson. In order to make the can designs, students had to use their math skills to calculate how many cans were needed to complete the design. They also calculated the number of servings, pounds and ounces provided in each 3-D piece, which were a giant E for Emerson, a slice of pie and a soup can.

Hayes Elementary rallied its students to the cause with a "Cheerio Challenge," asking students to bring in Cheerio boxes to fill Principal Sandy Powers' office. More than 200 boxes were collected. Garfield Middle School urged its students to "Fill the



Emerson students turned their canned good donations into something special, including this giant E.

## Bringing Health To Life



Students in Jason Saksa's Health class learn how to perform CPR.

by Christine Gordillo

Students in Jason Saksa's Health classes at Lakewood High School not only learn the facts about keeping one's self healthy and the diseases and habits that can prevent that, they hear directly from experts in the health field and first-person accounts to reinforce what they learn.

The dangers of heroin hit home when a recovering addict speaks about it, as one did with Saksa's students in early November. The life-saving benefits of organ donation comes to life when a couple share their story of donor and recipient. Students also hear from experts on the devastating effects and prevention measures for diabetes, eating disorders and HIV.

A recent visit to the class saw students working on dummies to learn the life-saving technique of CPR. The semester-long class is filled with these hands-on and real experiences. Kudos to Saksa for bringing health to life for these students!



Hayes students, such as JP and Jana pictured here, responded to the "Cheerio Challenge."

Stage" with food. Harrison reported an all-time record for amount of cans collected. Harding Middle School is the only school that collects both at Thanksgiving and Christmas, providing the most amount of food from the district.

Not only do our students collect food, but many of them choose to help out with the packing and delivering of the bags either through their membership in H2O or on their own. Garfield Principal Mark Walter is a regular at the Saturday morning deliveries.

"It's been said that it takes a village to raise a family. Nowhere is this more

true than right here in Lakewood. Given the fact that the LCAC is a very small, 100% volunteer organization, it would not be possible for us to gather, sort and deliver all of that food without the support of the community and the Lakewood Schools," Worrone said.

"The support from the schools in the form of food donations as well as the support from the students, teachers, staff and H2O at packing and delivery time is crucial in helping the LCAC meet the needs of these 600 families."

Worrone continued: "Were excited about our relationship with the schools. One of the things that make Lakewood a great place to live is how the community works together to help each other. The schools are a great example of that."



Garfield students tried to "Fill the Stage" with their non-perishable items.



A giant slice of pie, admired here by three young students, was another creation by Emerson students.

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4 Items	\$8.50	\$11.00	\$14.50	\$17.50
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## Lakewood Schools

# PATTERSON'S PERSPECTIVE

by Jeff Patterson, Superintendent,  
Lakewood City Schools

Now that the holiday season is behind us, I wanted to take a few minutes to share some thoughts about gifts that you could share with your children throughout the year that don't cost money, but could significantly change their lives. These are some ideas borrowed from several sources that I will reference. Parents, you could even get creative and share some or all of these ideas in the form of actions written on cards and shared at random times throughout the year. I just thought I would share what 41 years in the education profession have helped me to consider as bedrock philosophies and principles. So, sit back, get a cup of cocoa and enjoy my top 10 gifts you can give your children all year round.

#10: PERFORM RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Example: As a family, we will shovel our elderly neighbor's sidewalk and driveway.

Example: If your child is on the playground at school and they see another child alone not playing with anyone, encourage your child to approach that child and ask him/her if he/she would like to play.

#9: DEVOTE YOUR FULL ATTENTION TO THE ACTIVITY OF WHICH YOU ARE A PART

Example: Whenever we eat a meal as a family, all electronic devices are stowed away and not checked until people are excused from the table.

Example: At school, in class, we will be totally engaged in the lesson and not distracted by thoughts of what we will be doing after school, thoughts of being on a date, or thoughts of an athletic contest.

(NOTE: Research from the National Association of Secondary School Principals lists eating dinner and discussing the day's events as one of the best indicators for success of students in later life.)

#8: TRULY LISTEN AND SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND, THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD

Example: When I disagree with another person; a parent, a teacher, a coach, a friend or a classmate, I will actively listen and sincerely attempt to understand the other person's point of view before sharing mine.

(This comes from Steven Covey's book, "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People")

#7: BE THANKFUL FOR WHAT YOU HAVE

Example: As a new holiday tradition at both our Thanksgiving and December holiday meals, we will

share individually what we are most thankful for that year. During the year, we will concentrate on what we have, rather than what we don't have.

Example: Each time we pass a Salvation Army Kettle during the holiday season, we will put in a dollar as a reminder of what we have compared to others.

#6: FOLLOW THROUGH ON WHAT YOU SAY YOU WILL DO and #5: SAVE

Example: Each of us has chores here at home. Every time we complete our chores, we will receive an allowance. Fifty percent of the allowance is ours to do with as we please. The other 50% goes into savings for college, purchase of a car, payment of car insurance, etc.

#4: SMILE AND BE FRIENDLY TO PEOPLE IN GENERAL

Example: Whenever I greet people this year, I will think of a baby's smile or how a dog behaves when a person comes to the house. I will greet everyone with whom I come into contact with a genuine smile and a friendly word.

Example: Smile and hold the door for an elderly person entering a store.

(From Dale Carnegie's book, "How to Win Friends & Influence People.")

#3: TAKE CARE OF YOUR REPUTATION. IT'S YOUR MOST VALUABLE ASSET and

#2: THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT INGREDIENT OF ANY RELATIONSHIP IS TRUST

Example: Anything I text, Tweet, put on Facebook, or share in any way electronically or otherwise will be something that I would be willing to have printed in the Lakewood Observer for all to see.

Example: I will be truthful in any dialogue I have.

(From H. Jackson Brown Jr.'s "Life's Little Instruction Book.")

(NOTE: Trust and reputation go together)

#1: DO MORE THAN IS EXPECTED

Example: Beyond our daily or weekly chores at home, we will look around and see what else needs to be done and where possible, we will complete additional work to help out.

Example: When a teacher asks for an essay at least three pages long and no more than five, I will work to achieve the five rather than only the three. At the same time, I will work to make it all meaningful.

A family could create a year-long game with these principles, tally points, and enjoy celebrations together; pizza party, night at the movies, game night, a weekend getaway, etc.

## New Year's Comes Early For The Westshore Young Leaders

by Noreen Kyle

The Lakewood High School Westshore Young Leaders planned an early New Year's themed ice skating party on Sunday, December 28, 2014. This is the 3rd year for the ice skating party that was held at Serpentine Arena @ Winterhurst Ice Skating Rink in Lakewood Ohio. More than 40 middle and high school students from the Westshore School Districts (Bay Village, Fairview Park, Lakewood, North Olmsted, Rocky River and Westlake) enjoyed an afternoon of music, skating and excitement. The students celebrated the upcoming 2015 with party favors and delicious cupcakes.

The Westshore Young Leaders has been serving its communities since 2010. The Young Leaders are dedicated to implementing strategies aimed at preventing and reducing youth substance use while encouraging healthy life choices.

The next Young Leaders meeting is January 15, 2015 at the Bay Village Police Department from 6-8 p.m. The meeting is open to "ALL" middle and high school students as planning takes place for the annual high school lock in and the NCAA March madness bowling party! For more information visit [www.westshoreyoungleaders.org](http://www.westshoreyoungleaders.org).

## Lakewood Schools Hiring Substitutes

by Christine Gordillo

The Lakewood City Schools needs qualified, committed, daily aides for our classrooms throughout the district. Rachel Wixey & Associates is assisting the district in recruitment and employment of these substitute positions. If you would like to make an impact in

the classroom at Lakewood Schools, please apply.

Positions include educational interpreters, paraprofessionals, library aides and secretaries. Pay ranges from \$9-22 per hour. You can apply online at [www.rachelwixey.com](http://www.rachelwixey.com). Any questions, please contact Nekiesha Tayler of Rachel Wixey at 877-977-9499.



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# Lakewood Observer 2015 Lighting Contest Winners



64 votes - Best Traditional Display- Tasteful #102 - 1450 Mars Avenue



32 votes - Best Traditional Display- Kitsch #118 - 1517 Lincoln Avenue



94 votes - Best Use of Lights and Other Media- Traditional #101 - 1320 Bunts Avenue



45 votes - Best Business Window Non-Entertainment #224 - Virginia Marti College, 11724 Detroit Avenue



68 votes - Best Business Window Entertainment #228 - Breakneck Gallery, 17020 Madison Avenue



42 votes - Best Downtown #120 - Cotton, 14400 Detroit Avenue



57 votes - Best Use of One Color #111 - 1448 Alameda Avenue



24 votes - Best Use of One Light #14 - 1595 Riverside Drive



62 votes - Best Modern Display #3 - 2093 Lincoln Avenue



27 votes - Best Double "Upstairs" #190 - 2082 Lewis Avenue



57 votes - Best Effect #142 - 17513 Narragansett Avenue



110 votes - Best Use of Lights and Other Media-Kitsch #177 - 2221 Waterbury Avenue



61 votes - Best Message Of The Season #10 - 2061 Lincoln Avenue



21 votes - Tallest Inflatable #219 - 2220 Bunts Avenue (Category was Most Original)



23 votes - Best Emerald Canyon Scenic District #143 - 17500 Riverside Drive



Best Use of Traditional Plastic Figures #123 - 16310 Hilliard Avenue



98 votes - Best Use of One Strand of Lights #176 - 15726 Detroit Avenue, 2nd floor - east facing

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68 votes - Best Use of Two Lights #29 - 1556 Rockway Avenue (runner-up in non-christmas theme because of the Bob Marley flag.)



Best Display Including a Monkey #175- 1326 Brockley Avenue



13 votes - Tiny Tim Award #181 - 2190 Clarence Avenue



Best Use of Non-Christmas Theme #144 - 17700 Riverside Drive



55 votes - Best Daytime Display #137 - 17716 Narragansett Avenue



104 votes - Best Lit Outdoor Tree #1 - 1648 Onondaga Avenue

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Thank you to everyone who took the time to decorate their homes for the holidays. It was appreciated by thousands of people. Lakewood is a fabulous city to visit, and an even better place to live because of people like you. To everyone that took part in the nominating and voting, we know it was a tough decision, but your turn out has inspired us and hopefully others to get involved and have some fun for years to come. If you would like to be a sponsor next year, or be on the committee please send a note to the editor, or the office and we will get in touch with you. To see all 238 entries and the winners, follow the QR Code above, or go to lakewoodobserver.com. While you are there, stop by the Observation "Deck" and sign up!

# Lakewood Cares

## Rx:Create! Charity Event To Benefit North Coast Health

by Elizabeth O'Brien

Beat off those winter blues and support North Coast Health, a faith-based charitable clinic, by joining us for one-of-a-kind art auction featuring donated works by local artists and designers. The event will take place on Friday, January 30, 2015, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Around the Corner's Warehouse Room, 18616-20 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood. The evening will feature raffles and auction of unique art, jewelry, sculpture, furniture and more created by northeast Ohio artists and designers, plus heavy finger food and cash bar.

"Creating is therapeutic," says Lee Elmore, North Coast Health Executive Director. "There is nothing more pleasing than making something beautiful. We are grateful for the creative gifts of so many artists to help further our work with the medically underserved in our community."

Creators wanted! Tap into your creative side and help us make this a successful event. North Coast Health, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, invites artists in all disciplines to donate a piece to the benefit. Donations can be dropped off at North Coast Health (16110 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood) by January 23. Arrangements can also be made to have donations picked up at the artist's convenience.

Rx:Create! will be a varied collection of art in all forms – painting, photography, textiles, and more - in the exclusive funky Warehouse Room. Proceeds from Rx:Create! make possible the life-saving health care North Coast Health is able to provide to our neighbors in need.

Please join us! Tickets are \$22 in advance (\$25 day of event, as available) and can be purchased online at [northcoasthealth.org/event/rxcreate/](http://northcoasthealth.org/event/rxcreate/) or by contacting North Coast Health at 216-228-7878 x114 or [events@northcoasthealth.org](mailto:events@northcoasthealth.org).

### About North Coast Health

North Coast Health is a faith-based charitable clinic that provides and optimizes access to health care for the medically underserved. A vital part of Greater Cleveland's health care safety net for the past 28 years, North Coast Health provides primary care, prescription assistance, specialty referrals and health education to individuals and families in need. With the

support of volunteer physicians, nurses and other caregivers, NCH is a patient-centered medical home that provides preventive care and chronic disease management as well as care for acute illnesses and injuries. Contact us at 216-228-7878 or visit [www.northcoasthealth.org](http://www.northcoasthealth.org) for more information.



## St. Ed's Student Group Crafts Clever Way To Collect Coats For Saint Vincent de Paul Society

by Natalie Schrimpf

*"If it does not fit, donate it."*

For the St. Edward High School St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) student group, this catch phrase and Twitter hashtag isn't merely lip service.

It's a call to action.

The group collected winter coats for the poor at the 6 p.m. junior varsity and 7:30 p.m. varsity home basketball games against East Tech High School on Saturday, December 20.

Students that evening were encouraged to arrive donning coats that they have outgrown, and tweet pictures of themselves in the outerwear to encourage attendees to donate coats and jackets to SVDP. Coat donations were dropped off at boxes in the gym's front lobby and were distributed to needy individuals and families in the region.

Formed earlier this year, the St. Ed's group is the first SVDP student group, and has been encouraged to devise new ways to help the needy in the community. Recently, the students participated in the Society's annual Friends of the Poor Walk, which was held at both St. Edward High School

and in Richfield, Ohio.

"We're excited about the addition of the St. Ed's student group to our core of dedicated volunteers," said John Litten, SVDP executive director. "And it's inspiring to see them conceptualize original ways to help those in need."

Established in 1865, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Diocese of Cleveland, is a local human service and welfare organization of neighborhood volunteer groups residing in participating parishes ("Conferences") throughout the Diocese of Cleveland's eight-county service area. Volunteers ("Vincentians") provide immediate, temporary emergency direct assistance to those in need, regardless of their race, ethnicity or religious affiliation. Last year alone, some 200,000 low-income individuals received more than \$4 million in aid, which included food donations from SVDP's six food pantries, clothing, furniture, back-to-school supplies and assistance with utilities. SVDP's central office is located at 1404 East Ninth Street, Cleveland. For more information, call 216.696.6525, ext. 3150 or <http://www.svdpcle.org/>.

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## Lakewood Cares

# ASIA In Lakewood

by Joon-Li Kim

Cleveland has long welcomed immigrants from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds. But recently, Cleveland has welcomed a very special group of people, not of immigrants but refugees fleeing violence and persecution from various Asian countries like Myanmar and Bhutan. Lakewood, in particular, has been an important staging ground for helping these refugees get accustomed to life in the United States.

Because these refugees often have very limited knowledge of the English language, they cannot communicate their needs. Asian Services in Action, Inc. (ASIA), a non-profit agency with offices in Cleveland and Akron, helps these refugees with everything from the simplest question, like how to get a library card, to the most complicated legal and medical issues. Even though ASIA originally worked with refugee communities from Asian countries, the agency turns no one away and so now also works with refugees from Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, and Guatemala.

One of ASIA's services is a citizenship workshop. Volunteers work one-on-one or in small groups with refugees, helping them with their reading, writing, and interviewing skills. In these workshops, refugees who already have green cards but have limited English ability get extra help preparing for the citizenship test.

Kitty Leung, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Services at ASIA, runs a long list of programs, all in need of volunteers. At Emerson Elementary School, in Lakewood, Leung directs and teaches in an afterschool tutoring program for refugee children in grades 2-12. One of the greatest challenges for these children, who attend school in both Cleveland and Lakewood, is that they are given homework that is much above their English language capability and cannot ask their parents, who often have even more limited English ability, for help. Furthermore, refugee children arrive with varying levels of education from their home countries.

At the Emerson afterschool program, volunteers work with these students twice a week, helping them with

homework that ranges from second-grade reading journals to high-school chemistry and algebra assignments. Along with homework help, these students also receive drug-prevention education and time management counseling. It typically takes a child 5-7 years to acquire fluency in a second language but for Leung, success is having refugee children integrated with their mainstream peers, involved in their schools' extracurricular programs and happy.

During the summers, Leung also runs a summer school for refugee children in kindergarten-12th grade. This program meets at Emerson Elementary School, Monday-Friday, for six weeks and helps the students retain and build upon what they learned during the school year. Volunteers work with staff in devising lesson plans, teaching classes, working with students one-on-one and in small groups. Volunteers often rave about their summer experiences. Liam Oznovich, a college student who taught playwriting to the high school students, says, "Not only did I love getting to know each of the students and watching their English reading and writing improve, but I also gained more confidence in my own teaching abilities. It was a pleasure to teach this class because the students were all engaged and genuinely interested in what we were learning, which made my own teaching experience so much more rewarding and memorable."

ASIA also offers many services for the adults in the refugee communities. Leung and her program assistant run a parenting program for the Burmese, Karen, Kareni, and Ch'in populations. Meeting at either Faith Presbyterian Church or Madison Library, these parents are introduced to American culture, so that they are aware of the influences their children face. They are taught how to talk with their children about drugs, how to set boundaries, and other parenting questions that arise from being apart from the mainstream community.

In addition, because many of these refugees come from unstable home countries, Leung holds a women-only group to address issues of sexual or domestic violence. She is hoping to get volunteers who are open to work-

ing with racial and religious diversity to help organize sewing or knitting circles with these women-only groups as they work through their experiences and move forward. Leung is also in need of sewing machines and any supplies, from fabric and yarn to knitting needles and pins.

ASIA is always looking for volun-

teers in their wide range of programs. Whether you're interested in healthcare, legal services, teaching, women's issues, or even sharing a skill or trade, ASIA would love to share your expertise. If you are interested in volunteering with ASIA or donating any supplies, please contact Kitty Leung, [kitty@asiaohio.org](mailto:kitty@asiaohio.org) or 216-369-7616.

## Lakewood Collaborative Monthly Meeting Features Dr. Ned Hill, CSU's Dean Of College Of Urban Affairs

by Kathy Augustine

The January Lakewood Collaborative Meeting's speaker is Dr. Ned Hill, Dean of the College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. Dr. Hill will

speak on Employment/Jobs/Labor Market in Northeast Ohio. The meeting is on January 22nd at 12:30 pm, at the Lakewood Park Women's Club Pavilion, at 14532 Lake Ave, Lakewood Ohio 44107.

## AARP Free Tax Aide Help

by Joan Miller

AARP free tax aide help brings you free electronic filing of your tax returns. The IRS certified volunteers are ready to help income tax payers of all ages. You do not need to be an AARP member to receive this service. A photo ID and social security number are required at time of visit. Bring last year's tax return if possible.

AARP tax aide help is available Monday and Tuesday, noon to 3:30 p.m. starting February 2, 2015 at the Lakewood Senior Center West, 16024 Madison Ave., Lakewood. Handicap ramp and stairs are located on the Northland side of the building.

No appointment necessary. Walk-ins welcome.

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# Lakewood Is Art

## The Passing Of A Lakewood Legend

by Missy Toms

We are sad to report the passing of a very special friend of the Lakewood City Schools and the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation, George P. Read. A January '44 LHS graduate, Mr. Read and his family have donated

more than \$500,000 to the Foundation in support of the schools' stellar music program. We are grateful for the impact Mr. Read has had on Lakewood's children. Last May, the schools honored Mr. Read by naming the Lakewood High Music Department

after him. His legacy gift to the Foundation ensures that his spirit will live on for many more years to come.

A memorial for Mr. Read is being held this Thursday, January 9th in Dallas, TX, with a local service to be

announced soon. The Read family has requested that contributions be sent to the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation to help build upon Mr. Read's legacy in the Lakewood City Schools.



George Read accepts a special gift from the Cleveland Orchestra during their concert at the Civic Auditorium last May.

## Free Tax Preparation Services

by Kathy Augustine

Cuyahoga County and the Cuyahoga Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition will be hosting free tax preparation services as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. Last year in Cuyahoga County, the VITA Program served 11,950 people and brought back more than \$14.8 million to the community. County VITA sites are at the County's Westshore Neighborhood Family Service Center (NFSC) and at the Southgate NFSC. Westshore NFSC is located at 9830 Lorain Ave, Cleveland Ohio 44102; the tax site will be open Monday evenings and Saturdays. Southgate NFSC is located at 5398 1/2 Northfield Rd, Maple Heights Ohio 44137; the tax site will be open Wednesdays and Saturdays. To schedule an appointment go online to [www.211oh.org](http://www.211oh.org) or call 211/United Way First Call for Help.

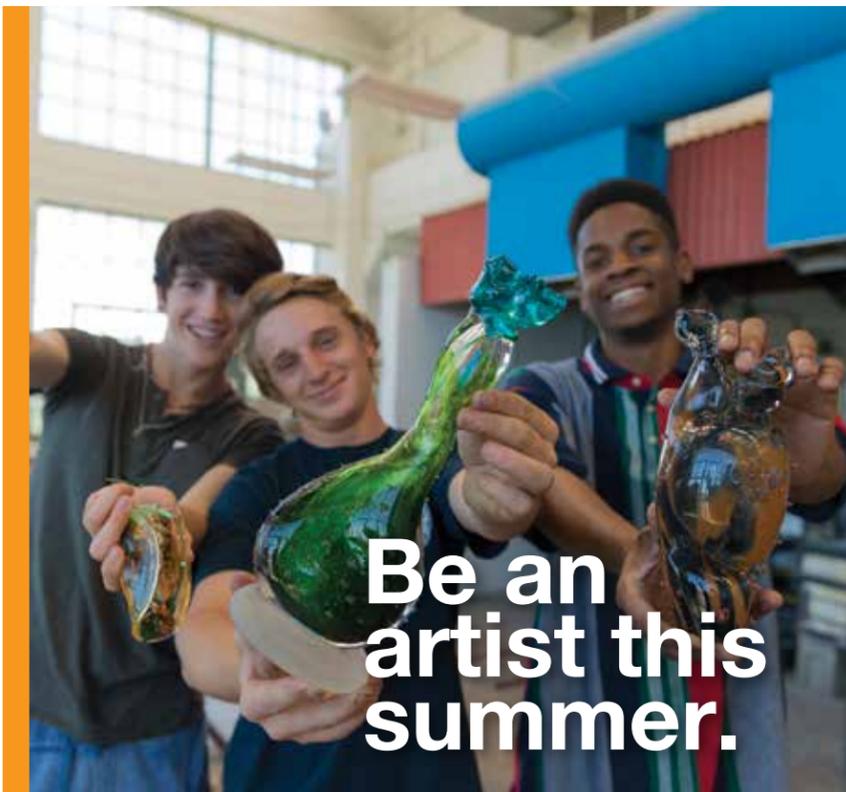
Returns will be prepared and filed by IRS certified tax-preparers and completed while the tax-payer waits.

All returns will be screened for eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit. To qualify, tax-payers must have a 2014 earned income less than \$52,427, and must be filing a simple return.

Tax-payers should remember to bring: Current photo I.D., Social Security cards for each adult and child on the return, W2 and 1099 income statements, child care expense statement and provider's Tax I.D. Number, Form 1099-INT for any checking or savings accounts as well as bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit. If the taxpayer purchased health insurance under the Affordable Care Act, bring 1099 tax credit from health insurance company.

Community members who want to volunteer to prepare taxes can register online at [www.refundohio.org](http://www.refundohio.org). Free training is available to become an IRS certified tax preparer.

For more information, please visit [www.refundohio.org](http://www.refundohio.org) or [www.cjfs.cuyahogacounty.us](http://www.cjfs.cuyahogacounty.us).



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## Wellness Watch

# O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood Looks Back On Fantastic 2014

by Sarah Pechaitis

O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood had many great things happen in 2014. Lakewood Senior Health Campus and its sister facilities underwent a name change for branding purposes. Now it is O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood with the other communities changing names as well, O'Neill Healthcare North Ridgeville (Formerly Center Ridge), O'Neill Healthcare Bay Village (Formerly Bradley Bay), O'Neill

Healthcare North Olmsted (Formerly Wellington Place), and O'Neill Healthcare Fairview Park. This resulted in the beautiful new signage outside the buildings. O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood also had renovations and interior design work as well. When you walk in the lobby, it has had a facelift with a warm and welcoming feel as well as the Assisted Living renovated the common areas and activities room. Another great addition this year has

been the Taste of Home Kitchen, in the Care Center. It is an inviting full kitchen space where patients and residents can do cooking activities. O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood earned the 5 star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid which is the highest rating. Only 10% of healthcare facilities in the state achieve this five-star rating. The Assisted Living just received its deficiency free rating from the state of Ohio for the seventh year in a row.

In 2014, O'Neill Healthcare also welcomed its new Administrator Ben Davies this Fall.

Over the years O'Neill Healthcare Lakewood has touched many lives by providing excellent care in Skilled Nursing, Assisted Living, Independent Living, hospice care, therapy as well as with the on-site Fresenius Dialysis. We look forward to helping more people in the Lakewood community and beyond in 2015.

## Straight From The Heart Raffle Features \$100,000 Grand Prize!

Would you like to win \$100,000? How about a two-year lease on a Volvo or Mazda? A Harley Davidson motorcycle? Or a Mediterranean Cruise for two?

These are just a few of the 40 incredible prizes offered through the 11th annual Straight from the Heart raffle to benefit cardiovascular services at Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran Hospitals.

Sponsored by the Community West Foundation, the raffle to select

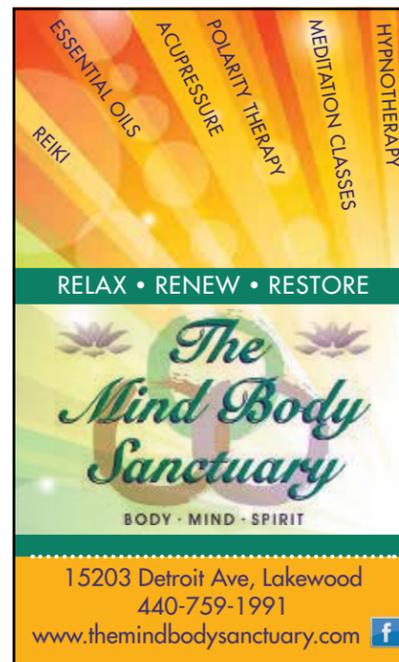
the 40 prize winners takes place on Saturday, February 14, 2015, at the Straight from the Heart red-tie gala at LaCentre Conference and Banquet Facility in Westlake. In addition, early raffle ticket purchasers are entered into an early bird raffle drawing on January 16. The winner receives a \$1,000 cash prize.

With such a great cause and so many incredible prizes, why not purchase a Straight from the Heart raffle ticket for your chance to win

the \$100,000 grand prize and 39 other amazing prizes? Raffle tickets are \$100 each or three for \$200.

To see a full list of available prizes, or to purchase raffle tickets online, visit [www.straightfromtheheartevent.org](http://www.straightfromtheheartevent.org) or contact the Community West Foundation at 216-476-7061.

All proceeds from this raffle will benefit cardiovascular services at Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran Hospitals.



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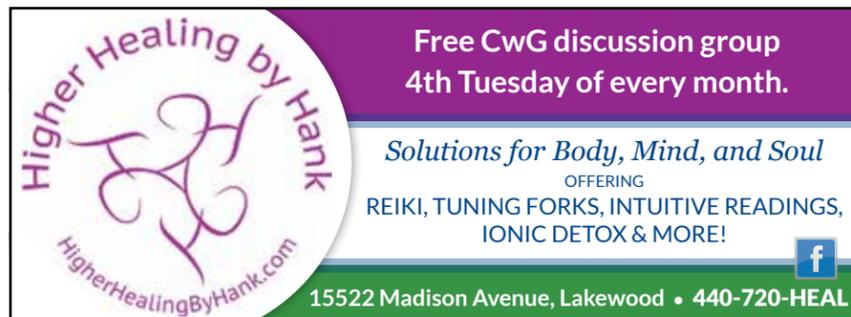
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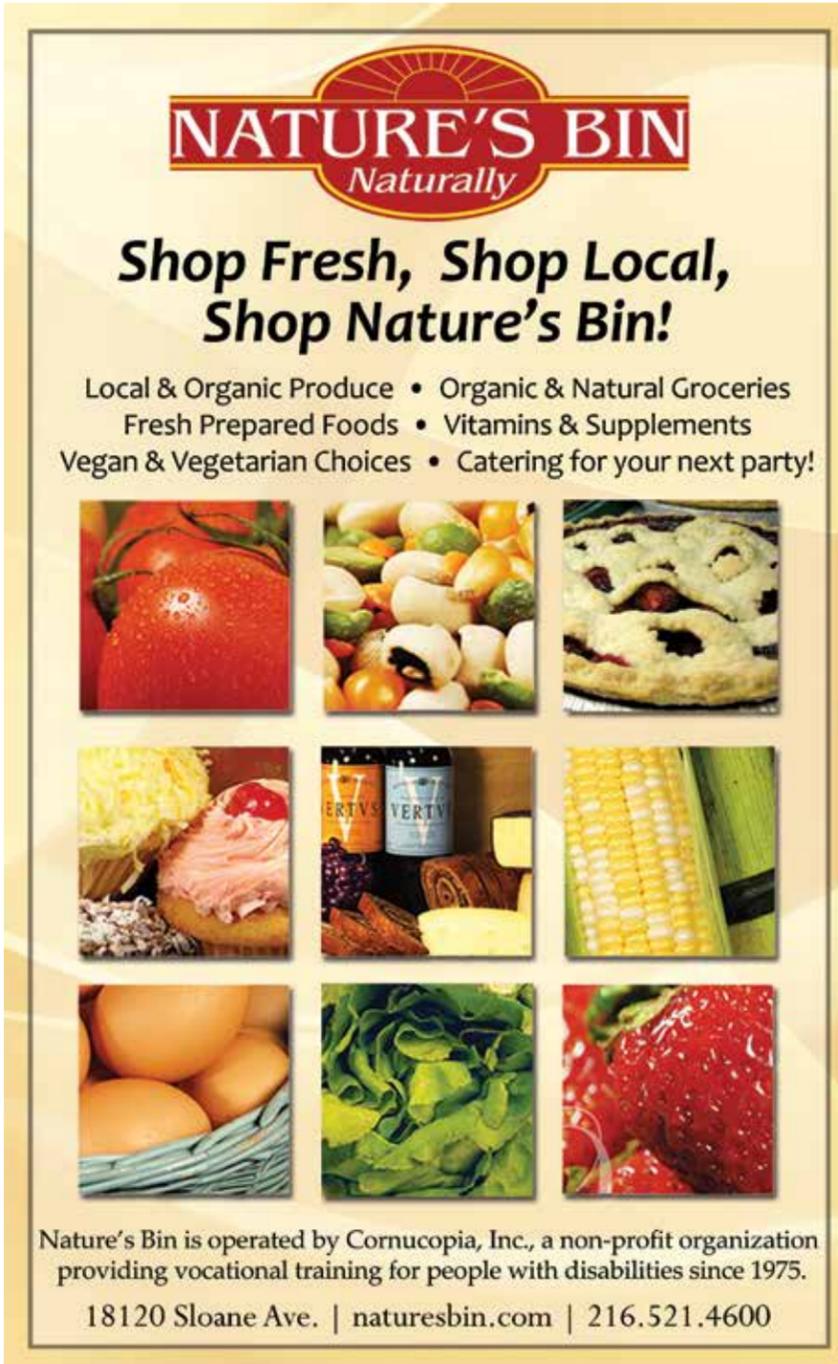
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## Business News

# U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur To Speak At Lakewood Chamber Luncheon

by Valerie Mechenbier

U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) will speak at the January luncheon meeting of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, followed by a short Q&A session, on Friday, January 16th at Brennan's Catering & Banquet Center (13000 Triskett Road, Cleveland, 44111). The January luncheon is sponsored by COSE.

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, who represents Ohio's Ninth Congressional District, is currently serving her sixteenth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is the senior-most woman in the House and the longest-serving woman from Ohio in history. Congresswoman Kaptur ranks 17th in seniority among 435 members of the 113th Congress.

The cost of the luncheon is \$15 for members in advance (\$20 at the door) and \$20 for non-members in advance (\$25 at the door). Registration & networking begin at 11:30am and the program starts promptly at 12:00 noon. RSVP by Tuesday, January 13th by calling the Chamber office (216-226-2900) or by emailing info@lakewoodchamber.org.



U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur

## Lakewood Chamber Recognizes Their 2014 Bright Star

by Valerie Mechenbier

Cindy Lowrey of Convey360 has been named the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce 2014 NOACC Bright Star Award recipient. The NOACC Bright Star award is given to one Chamber member each year who has "made a significant impact on the chamber through membership, retention, sponsorship, economic development, operations and/or education."

Ms. Lowrey is the owner of Convey360, a brand development and design firm that specializes in developing and presenting strong ideas simply and consistently across all mediums. Convey 360's design and branding ser-

vices helped to reinvent the Chamber's Taste of Lakewood, an annual food tasting event that highlights Lakewood's award-winning – and eclectic mix – of restaurants and food purveyors. Her firm re-branded the event, conveying the core message of "GOOD FOOD" in a relevant and engaging way in print and on multiple digital platforms (website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) resulting in a highly effective marketing campaign that was instrumental in attracting over 10,000 attendees to the event.

Over 50 Chamber Bright Stars for 2014 were recognized on Wednesday, October 29th at the seventh annual

Chamber Bright Star Awards presentation of the Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce (NOACC) in the Club Velvet at the Hard Rock Rocksino in Northfield, Ohio. NOACC Executive Director Vicky Hawke presented the Bright Star award to Ms. Lowrey at the Chamber's holiday party on December 11th at Around The Corner.

Bright Stars represent a wide range of involvement with their respective chambers, some having been a mem-

ber, officer, or committee chair for 20+ years and some being newly involved. NOACC Chairman Tony Gallo calls the Bright Stars "the common bond in each chamber. Giving recognition to our Bright Stars in a public way lets our membership and community know we appreciate the time, talent and treasure that they provide."

## Rhythm & Grace Hands Out Holiday Gifts!

by Cree Criado

On the 19th of December, 2014, Rhythm & Grace Ballroom Dance Studio presented the Nathan Hale K-8th Grade School with the generosity of their students and friends in the form of gift bags filled with various necessities and wants for the holidays. In all, the studio was able to present approximately 50 students with their gifts.

The children were very appreciative in our view. In some of the letters that were shared with us from the organizer, Mrs. Heather Chambers, we were very surprised by the modest requests and beauty of innocent minds. Of the things requested: toothbrushes, deodorant, warm jackets and sweaters, school supplies, socks, gloves - and the list goes on and on. One particular student was very touching to us in that, being in a foster home, she basically asked for essential needs that she wasn't able to get from home and we were happy to provide.

Rhythm & Grace would like to thank all their students, friends, families and supporters for helping them pull off this event. Regardless of the



Holiday gifts for all!

troubles we are facing as a city, we feel it is important to contribute to any pursuing of peace, goodwill and humanity, care, understanding and love for our brothers and sisters, and never has it been more important than it is today.

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## From The Publisher's Desk

# Lakewood Hospital's Current State In Question

continued from page 1

asking the Board of Education to back him on a tax raise to help pay for it? The School Board told Mayor Summers and Dru Siley that they couldn't do it as they had just asked the good residents of Lakewood for a levy and a bond issue for the schools which were both passed.

It was also around this time that Mayor Summers and City Hall started the Recreation Committee, a name that was then changed to the "Active Lifestyle Committee," to study the need for better recreation in Lakewood, i.e. a recreation center, though the schools had just finished a survey on recreation.

What triggered me going public on this last week was not that the "Recreation Center" was re-branded a "Wellness Center" in discussions, but that the term "Hospital" had left the conversations completely. After months of rumors they had dropped the word "Hospital" completely from the conversation and started talking about only having an Emergency Care Center and a Rec/Wellness center. I thought this signaled a drastic change in Lakewood's healthcare landscape that certainly warranted a discussion within the community. We own the Lakewood Hospital (Assoc.), and it is our largest employer. We deserve to hear more information from the people involved. Interestingly, the key players who are the Hospital Association, City Council, LH Foundation, and the Active Lifestyle Committee, all share some key members.

We have not yet brought The Cleveland Clinic or their services into this discussion. I want to make clear that this discussion isn't about the quality or the lack of quality care that Cleveland Clinic provides in Lakewood. Right now, it's business as usual for the Cleveland Clinic, who are still dedicated to providing healthcare in Lakewood. The Clinic would love to be the healthcare provider for 51,000 Lakewoodites. They have two other facilities in Lakewood and there are no rumors surrounding them.

Another key piece of this puzzle can be found in Lakewood's own Charter. In the latest Charter Review--yes it pays to pay attention-- read Amendment XV from the City Charter Review 2014. It says: "Article XV is no longer applicable as Lakewood Hospital is a leased facility and will remain as such for the foreseeable future. It is improbable that the city would ever run the hospital as in the past as the structure of healthcare has permanently changed.

Thus 11.1(e) permits the city to lease the hospital on terms set by council after the expiration of the current lease to the Cleveland Clinic-managed Lakewood Hospital Association. This could be a renewal of the current lease as well as a new lease."

What this means is that at the cancellation of the agreement with the Clinic, the City could change the purpose of the Lakewood Hospital Association or possibly dissolve it, which would allow the city to take the land currently leased by the Lakewood Hospital Association, and use it for any reason they see fit, like building a rec center, errrr wellness thingy. That would be a massive change to the City of Lakewood, and our ability to control our healthcare future, something other administrations have worked hard to protect for decades.

I cannot answer if we need a Hospital more than a Recreation Center, that is above my pay grade. But what I can do is ask what happens to the property, what happens to the nearly \$30 Million dollars the Lakewood Hospital Foundation (a completely separate entity from LHA) has in the bank? Where does that go, or is that absorbed into "Downtown" Lakewood-- an area that has already taken millions of dollars to PROVE just how successful it is?

In what has been described by past Lakewood mayors to me as, "the biggest thing to happen in Lakewood in decades," where is the discussion between the City and us, the residents that they are elected to serve? Where are the facts? It is hard to find out who even started the discussion this time around. Law Director Kevin Butler is on record as saying in 2010, "The Clinic hates to reopen the contract for renegotiations..." So why did they this time? Did they, or did the City or the Hospital Association open this Pandora's box?

As residents of Lakewood, we own Lakewood Hospital. Our representation of this ownership is through the 23 members of the LHA Trustees. If a major change is being made to the City of Lakewood's healthcare options, the Hospital we own and control, and the property of Downtown Lakewood itself, don't we have a right to know? So many questions, so many things unclear, and the people who could clarify the situation seem as befuddled as the average man on the street.

**So let me ask again...**

... If the Lakewood Hospital Association is changed by the Lakewood City Council, then what happens to the millions of dollars in property the

Association leases from the city and re-leases to the Cleveland Clinic?

... What happens to the \$30 million dollars that is currently sitting in the bank account of the very successful Lakewood Hospital Foundation?

The Foundation exists to help the Hospital Association raise money for capital improvements to the property. They been very successful in raising both funds for and awareness of Lakewood Hospital. They are the ones behind so many great events like the Ambulance Chase and Starry Night, two premiere events in Lakewood. Are they versatile enough to adapt to any changes in the Hospital Association or dissolution?

What happens to the Lakewood tax base, and Lakewood non-profits that benefit from the hospital's presence and philanthropy? At one point early on in this project, a member of the Deck called the Hospital out on the topic of taxes. The Clinic invited me over with some accountants to look at their books, and help us understand their "tax-exempt" status. Fred DeGrandis, of the Cleveland Clinic, talked to me while they were going back and forth, telling me that the The Cleveland Clinic puts over \$6 million dollars a year into various Lakewood non-profits and community projects, like North Coast Health Care, LakewoodAlive, Lakewood Community Services Center, etc. The people looking at the books came up with a

figure of around \$3.5 million that the Hospital would have owed in taxes had they not been exempt. It was a real eye-opener.

Now, add in the loss of income tax from the 600 hospital employees who eat in Downtown, shop Downtown, and live in Lakewood. Then the major loss to the non-profits, the loss to the Lakewood School System, Lakewood Public Library, and the University of Akron-- all things Lakewood Hospital has been active in. While Mayor Summers speaks of the mobile pediatric units going to schools, what happens to them? What happens to the mobile health units that work with the Senior Homes in the area? And then we have the loss of the doctors that fill the units around the hospital, and finally, and most important, we have the loss of any ability to control our city's healthcare future, possibly ever again.

What do we gain from these possible changes? It is hard to say, as those who could answer the questions are not coming forward with their plans. No matter how this proceeds, and I have no reason to change my original projection; we lose our healthcare future and throw it away on a handful of magic beans, that when planted grow a rec/wellness center that continues to consume public money forever.

Lakewood needs healthcare, and we need straight talk about it.

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## Lakewood Living

# Grinch Steals Christmas From Lakewood Residents

by Amy Swinderman

Items intended as Christmas gifts for my family were apparently stolen from my house on Merl Avenue in the second week of this past December.

Last month I discovered that two items I ordered online were listed as delivered to my home by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) around 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 12. When I discovered that the packages were missing, I first thought they could have been delivered to the wrong address. I sent letters to my neighbors, asking if anyone received the packages by mistake and requesting that they return them.

I also called the Lakewood post office to inquire whether the items were possibly delivered to the wrong address, but the post office insisted that my regular mailman had left the items on my porch. I found this odd, as I was home at the time the post office claims they were delivered, and my regular mailman always rings the doorbell when he has packages to deliver. That didn't happen the day the items were delivered.

Then I began contacting the merchants and my credit card company and filed a police report and claim with the USPS. Meanwhile, I faced a dilemma. One of the missing items was a box containing three pairs of men's jeans designed specifically for my younger brother, Jason, who has Down Syndrome. The pants were tailor-made to fit Jason by Downs Designs, a store in Mentor that makes clothing for people with Down Syndrome. Individuals with Down Syndrome have unique physiques and often have difficulty finding clothing, especially pants, that fit properly. Jason has been wearing sweat pants for years, and this Christmas, my mother and I decided to order jeans for him as a Christmas present.

While investigating the missing

packages, I knew I had to replace my order, or my brother may not have his Christmas present. Jason was aware that the jeans had been ordered for him for Christmas, and I knew he would be disappointed if I had to tell him that his present was stolen. I re-ordered the jeans to be made right away and made arrangements to pick them up this time from the store in Mentor. Unfortunately, the store would not replace them for free, despite the fact that the store did not offer signature confirmation or insurance for the package, and most merchants will usually replace lost or stolen orders.

The USPS offers up to \$50 in insurance for items shipped via Priority Mail. But it can take a while to investigate and pay out these claims, and my purchase was worth \$180. It might take up to 90 days for my credit card company to handle the stolen merchandise dispute.

I was out a lot of money at a time of the year when money was already tight. I'm really disappointed in how this has been handled.

I've learned a lot from the experience and I'm leery about ordering items online to be shipped to my home in the future.

Be very careful and wise about how you have items shipped to your home. Insist on signature confirmation and insurance for valuable, time-sensitive items. It may seem inconvenient if you have to go to the post office to retrieve your package, but it's much more of a hassle to deal with filing all of the necessary claims if your item is lost or stolen.

I am very pleased by the support I received from our police department. I believe our police officers take it personally when something like this happens in Lakewood. They were as

disappointed as I am. However, the police department said most people don't come forward to report package thefts. It's really important to file a police report, as our police department needs to know when things like this are happening in the community so they can increase patrols and keep an eye on suspicious behavior. It only takes a few minutes to file a report.

I want to encourage my fellow Lakewood residents to look out for their neighbors, especially during the holidays.

Pay attention to your neighbors' homes when they get deliveries. If someone else's mail is delivered to you by accident, please take it to its rightful owner and ask the post office to look into why items are being misdelivered. It only takes a minute to walk someone's mail over to them.

Above all, I'm saddened by this incident, and similar incidents that have been happening in surrounding suburbs.

You never know what someone is going through that would make them steal from other people during the holidays. I try to imagine what difficulties they may have, and hope that whatever they are going through passes so they don't have to steal from other people. But it's really disheartening to think that someone took my brother's present, and I can't imagine his tailor-made jeans will be of use to anyone else. I don't know many people who have a 21-inch inseam.

*Amy Swinderman is a freelance journalist and Cleveland native who has lived in Lakewood since 2010. She also works as a school crossing guard for Lincoln Elementary School.*

## Youth Homeless Awareness Sleep Out

continued from page 1

tions. They then will come inside and share their experiences from the evening with the congregation during the 10 a.m. worship service.

"For 18 hours, our mid-high and high school youth will experience what it feels like not to have warm shelter or a comforting meal on a cold winter night," says LCC's Rev. Mark Thomas. "It's a true reality check, for both the kids and the community donating to the cause."

Funds raised by the LCC Youth Fellowship participants will support

HandsOn Northeast Ohio and the 2015 Homeless Stand Down, Family Promise of Greater Cleveland, Y Haven, and the United Church of Christ Lotts Creek Experience. For those who want to make cash or check donations prior to the event or who would like more information about the sleep out or Lakewood Congregational Church, contact the LCC office at 216.221.9555

St. Peter's youth also will be raising funds for various local homeless support organizations. For more information on their fundraising efforts, call the St. Peter's office at 216.226.1772.



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# Lakewood Living

## Diversity Potluck:

# Change Begins With You! Get Involved!

by Bernadette Elston

We hope you saved the date! If not, go ahead and clear the calendar for the City of Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission annual Diversity Potluck. This year's exciting theme is: Change begins with you! Get involved! Through this fun-filled celebration of PEOPLE big and little - great and small, we hope to encourage the wonderful

folks who are Lakewood to further their participation in the community. The city is filled to the brim with commissions as well as wonderful organizations, churches, and charities that need you and your special area of expertise.

So come out and join us on January 23, 2015 between 7-8:30 p.m. at the Women's Pavilion at Lakewood park. Mayor Summers, State Representative Nickie

Antonio (D), and Councilperson Cindy Marx will be among the many joining us to kick off the new year in a positive and family-friendly way. Bring your favorite dish (enough to share with 6-8 people), or simply show up and dine on culinary masterpieces provided by some of Lakewood's most esteemed restaurants and home chefs! It will be an evening to remember, and we hope to see you there!

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

events including the Diversity Potluck, Welcome to Lakewood Meet and Greet, and the Community Conversation.

Like us on Facebook @ Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission :-)

## Baby Bullock Arrives!



Lakewood's veteran councilman, Tom Bullock, and wife, Molly Bullock, welcomed a baby boy into their growing family over the holidays. Weighing in at seven pounds, seven ounces and 19.5 inches in length, he is named for his Granddad, Great-Grandfather, and Dad: meet Thomas Robert Bullock IV!

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