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THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

A lack of transparency results in distrust and a deep sense of insecurity. - Dalai Lama

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Volume 11, Issue 5, March 3, 2015

Discussion Of Hospital Continues In Council

by Christopher Bindel

Council President and Ward IV Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan called the February 17, 2015 Council meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. She then went on to deliver reports from a number of Committee of the Whole meetings.

The first meeting they had was with Cuyahoga County Health Commissioner, Terry Allen. Council asked Commissioner Allen to give them the current perspective on health and wellness and what it means to a city with the size and demographics of Lakewood.

They also wanted to know about population health and the social determinants of health. Lastly they wanted to review what services Lakewood currently contracts out with the County.

Councilwoman Madigan noted that his responses would be twofold, both helping

them understand the landscape of the changes in health-care nationwide, and also to help understand the context of the changes in healthcare in Lakewood, including the changes in Lakewood Hospital.

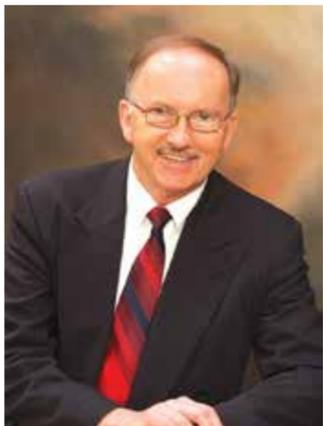
Before hearing from Commissioner Allen, Director of the

City's Department of Human Services, Toni Gelsomino, gave Lakewood's perspective of what is needed including current and future investments in public health, and how to help keep families strong, children ready for school, seniors supported by their community, and community health and wellness.

Commissioner Allen began by explaining to Council that population health is the alignment of public health and medicine. These are broken down to several impacting factors including housing, education, air and water quality, transportation, safety, health behaviors, and clinical care. Commissioner Allen said national research shows health outcomes (quality and length of life) are impacted by many things other than medical care, including many of the factors above. Decisions on diet, exer-

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Cornucopia & Nature's Bin Executive Director To Retire After 30 Years



Outgoing Executive Director Scott Duennes has served Cornucopia & Nature's Bin for 30 years.

by Mary Johnson

After 30 years with Cornucopia/Nature's Bin Executive Director, Scott Duennes, will be retiring effective March 20. "It has been an honor to be a part of this organization and to be a part of serving thousands of people with disabilities in the Greater Cleveland community, Duennes said. "Finding the right person to sit in this chair and making a smooth transition is very important to me. I am happy to tell you that Nancy Pepler has been hired to succeed me as the Executive Director of Cornuco-

pia and Nature's Bin."

Peppler brings almost three decades of nonprofit experience to this role, most recently as the vice president of external relations at Beech Brook in Pepper Pike, the leading behavioral health agency in Cleveland serving more than 22,000 children, teens and families each year.

Peppler will begin her new position on March 9, 2015.

Duennes and Peppler will be working together through the end of March to effect a smooth transition for the organization.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors of Cornucopia, I am delighted to welcome Nancy Pepler as the new executive director," said Board President, Tony Rospert. "The Board of Trustees conducted a regional

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Chamber, Sunrise Rotary Club Recognize West Shore Career-Technical District Outstanding Work Ethic Award Winners

Valerie Mechenbier

The West Shore Career-Technical District's 2015 Outstanding Work Ethic Award winners were honored at a breakfast at Brennan's Catering & Banquet Center on February 20th. The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and the Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club welcomed 75 Chamber members, Rotarians, students, parents, employers, work supervisors, and guests to the 9th annual awards event. Sixteen West Shore Career-Tech students, one representing each program at West Shore, were recognized for demonstrating



10 of the 16 award winners, with West Shore Career-Tech Director Linda Thayer (left), Sunrise Rotary President Heidi Finniff and Lakewood Chamber CEO & President Patty Ryan (right).

professionalism, responsibility, and integrity in the workplace.

Linda Thayer, Director of

Career-Technical Education at West Shore Career-Techni-

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Welcome Spring At LEAF Open House

by Heather Ramsey

Spring is coming, which means it's time for the Lakewood Earth & Food (LEAF) Community's annual Open House. On Sunday, March 15th from 2-4 p.m., come to the Lakewood Public Library Main Branch's multi-purpose room to learn about LEAF educational programs, sign up for a Community Supported Agriculture program or Community Garden Plot, swap some seeds, and find out how you might like to volunteer with LEAF this upcoming year.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Programs: Be healthy, be green, and eat

local! Consider signing up for a "share" in a CSA this season, which provides you with a weekly supply of fresh, seasonal produce each week from area farmers. Several CSA programs will have representatives available to answer questions, talk about their farm/program, and register members. Programs on offer for the 2015 season of LEAF Community Farmers' Markets will include City Fresh, Cleveland Crops, Geauga Family Farms, and Maggie's Farm.

Community Gardens: Community gardening lets you

continued on page 18

Wanted: Local Contractors

by Allison Urbanek

Local contractors are wanted for a Lakewood-centered home improvement fair on Saturday, April 18th.

This event is a great opportunity to educate homeowners about your products and services.

Visit Lakewoodoldhousefair.com for more information.



Lakewood Observer

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Cleveland Pickle Celebrates Anniversaries Of Both Locations With Half Off Sandwiches

by Debra O'Bryan

To commemorate the 1st and 3rd anniversaries of their hugely popular Downtown and Lakewood locations, Cleveland Pickle will be offering half off sandwiches on Friday March 13th from open until close. "Our customers are the true reason we have enjoyed so much success at both our locations, we opened both of them around the same time of year so what better way to show our appreciation than to celebrate the anniversary on the same day!" says owner Josh Kabat. "We've done this at our downtown location the last 2 years with a line wrapping around the block!" Kabat continues. "We anticipate the same thing this year, so get there early to avoid the rush!!" Cleveland Pickle is located in Downtown Cleveland at 850 Euclid Ave and in Lakewood at 17100 Detroit Ave.

The Educated Homeowner

by Linda Jancik

The upcoming Lakewood Old House Fair at Harding Middle School on April 18th is a great opportunity for homeowners in Lakewood (or anywhere-- this is an open, free event!) to unravel the mysteries of maintaining their unique, historic homes. Other excellent educational opportunities for Lakewood homeowners are being presented by LakewoodAlive in a series of workshops, "Knowing Your Home" in which presenters address fifteen different topics surrounding the maintenance of our Lakewood homes. As a plasterer, specializing in plaster and lath repair, I'm excited to have these opportunities to help homeowners understand the composition of the original walls and ceilings in their historic houses and to help demystify the plaster repair process of those cracks, bulges and holes that inevitably develop.

On June 25th come and learn about repairing walls and ceilings in greater detail at the LakewoodAlive workshop "Plaster and/or Drywall Repair & Replacement." Of course, being a plasterer, I will be extolling the benefits of maintaining the original plaster, teaching basic plaster repair techniques and sharing some history and the how's and why's of plaster...but to be fair...there will be equal time for the drywall crowd and after this workshop you will possess a better understanding of the walls and ceilings in your home and be able to make well-informed choices when tackling repairs. See you at the Lakewood Old House Fair! Come visit me at the Wall to Wall Transformations table where I will be happy to answer any plastering questions.



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Upcoming Submission Deadline	Publish Date
Sunday, March 8, 2015	Tuesday, March 17, 2015
Sunday, March 22, 2015	Tuesday, March 31, 2015

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Lakewood Hospital Emergency Department is open 24/7.

Heart attack. Stroke. Severe burns. For medical cases like these, immediate care at a full-service emergency department (ED) is the obvious choice. "We're here for the community," says Eric Brown, MD, director of the emergency department at Lakewood Hospital. "When in doubt, remember - we'll see anyone, anytime, for anything."

More than 33,000 people from Cleveland's West Side visit the ED at Lakewood Hospital each year. Seconds count in an emergency, and for more than 100 years, people from Cleveland's western suburbs have counted on the emergency department at Lakewood Hospital. And they'll be able to count on the emergency department for years to come, as well.

The ED provides immediate care for a sudden and unexpected medical condition, or for the worsening of a condition that suddenly threatens a life, limb or vision.

These emergencies may include:

- Loss of consciousness
- Signs of heart attack or stroke
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- Uncontrolled or excessive bleeding
- Coughing up or vomiting blood
- Head injury
- Severe burns or pain
- Sudden or unexpected paralysis

- Difficulty breathing
- Poisoning or suspected poisoning
- Major injuries
- Accidents, including falls and car crashes
- Extreme emotional distress
- Suicidal or homicidal feelings
- Drug overdose
- Injuries caused by violence, such as gunshot wounds

Other conditions, like earache, sore throat or muscle strain, may be better handled by your primary care physician or a facility dedicated to non-emergency health problems.

To avoid unnecessary ED trips:

- Learn the signs of true medical emergencies such as stroke and heart attack.
- Develop a relationship with a primary care physician who has your medical information on file and can see you in a pinch.
- Familiarize yourself with other nearby healthcare facilities, such as urgent care centers, express care centers and primary care clinics.

In an emergency, call 911 or go to an Emergency Department near you. The Lakewood Hospital Emergency Department, located at 14519 Detroit Ave., is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Diabetes Alert Day: Are You at Risk?

Wednesday, March 25, 2015
Lakewood Hospital

Join us for Diabetes Alert Day on March 25, 2015, for a free event featuring health screenings, lunch and a presentation.

Screening times are 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for blood sugar, total cholesterol, feet, eyes, and body mass index. No registration is required for screenings.

Guest speaker Anne Eren will discuss "Lore and Logic of Olive Oil" during a lunch presentation from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided to the first 50 registered attendees.

The event will be held in the Wasmer Auditorium at Lakewood Hospital, 14519 Detroit Ave. For more information and to register call 216.529.5312.

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City News

Discussion Of Hospital Continues In Council

continued from page 1

cise, and chemical use, as well as social determinants of health - which can sometimes be out of a person's control, such as air and water quality, education, income, safety, family and social support, and others - all have roles to play. The research shows that only 20% of a person's health outcome is determined by their access and quality of care. The other 80% is determined by policies, programs, and personal choices.

Council asked Commissioner Allen about relevant health risks, current health treatments, and appropriate ways to measure health in Lakewood. The report did not elaborate on the answers to those questions, but stated that, "It was a vibrant discussion."

After the discussion Commissioner Allen said the County was available to help answer any further questions.

Councilwoman Madigan then began delivering her report for the next Committee of the Whole meeting. This meeting was with Lisa Fry of Subsidium Health Care, the consultant hired by the Lakewood Hospital Association to look at the future of the Hospital. Ms. Fry presented a slide show on the process she and Subsidium took to reach their conclusions. Members from Council asked her questions in relation to the properties involved, value, finance, service trends, and changes in service since the lease began. Some Council members shared concerns about being able to trust The Cleveland Clinic as a partner in the future, based on the current perception that services have been systematically removed over time.

Councilwoman Madigan reported that the slide show that was shared to them in their Committee of the Whole

meeting with Ms. Fry is available on OneLakewood.com.

The last Committee of the Whole report was in regards to a proposed sale of the former McKinley Elementary site to a developer. The property is approximately 2.88 acres and the proposed purchaser, Liberty Development Company, would buy it for \$500,000. Liberty would use the property to build approximately 40 residential units. The conversation over the sale of the property began in the fall and included many aspects that were mutually important to both the City and the schools. Some of those points included creating new residential options, bringing additional consumers in to that area, and adding to the taxpaying base to support the schools, the City government, and other public agencies. The discussions were largely public and included the Planning Commission and the Architectural Board of Review.

Councilwoman Madigan made a point to say that the \$500,000 sale price will cover the City's cost of demolishing the building, clearing the land, and cleaning and maintaining the property for nearly two years. The Committee of the Whole unanimously recommended the passage of the ordinance by Council.

Also discussed at that Committee of the Whole was an appointment to the Planning Commission, which Councilwoman Madigan said they decided to defer. However, when the report was done and Council moved on to the next point of the agenda, which was the resolution for appointing someone to the Planning Commission, Councilwoman Madigan moved to defer, while Councilman Sam O'Leary (Ward II) moved to amend at the same

time. A movement to amend is proposed so a name can be placed in the blank of the current ordinance and then subsequently passed.

As Council President, Councilwoman Madigan moved forward with the movement to defer by asking for those in favor, before deferring to Law Director Butler for procedural clarification. In the intermittent awkwardness Councilman O'Leary reasserted that he would like to move to amend. Director Butler then told Councilwoman Madigan that the vote to defer was inconclusive so they would have to take a roll call. Upon taking a roll call Councilman O'Leary said no, as did Councilman Tom Bullock (At-Large), after a substantial pause. The rest said yes, though Councilwoman Cindy Marx asked for clarification, which she did not appear to get to her satisfaction, but said yes regardless. No further clarifications were given in regards to the disagreement.

Council then proceeded to pass the ordinance discussed in the Committee of the Whole report above, approving the sale of the McKinley School site.

Councilman O'Leary then asked Council to join him in drafting a request for Qualifications to identify a firm that could produce a study of the economic impact of the closure of Lakewood Hospital and the further impact of the proposal set forth in the letter of intent submitted to Council. In his letter, Councilman O'Leary discusses the integral part the Hospital plays in Lakewood and says he wants to be able to understand the full impact of the loss of it, not only on the City's finances, but also the impact on local businesses that are patronized by the patients, visiting family, and medical staff of the Hospital, the businesses that supply the hospital, the workers and residents that are employed by all of the above businesses, and Lakewood residents in general. Also of concern is the possible "exodus" of medical professionals and their associated practices, which will follow the relocation of the main services of the hospital. He said he thinks it is essential they both identify and measure the impact of this change to possibly help alleviate some of the consequences.

Councilman O'Leary recommended it be deferred to the Committee of the Whole for discussion.

Before voting there were some questions from members of Council. First Councilman Shawn Juris (Ward III) asked for some clarification. He said they could certainly discuss it in the Committee of the Whole but they already have a full plate and he thought maybe they could talk through some of it before then. He asked if they were weighing two specific conditions and if so what those conditions were. He also asked what specific variables were to be considered and what time frame they would use for the study. He made the point that in 1996 Lakewood Hospital had substantially more employees

and yet with fewer now there are many more, and quite successful, businesses in the area.

Councilman O'Leary responded that as a starting point they can look at the conditions of the letter as a guideline, looking for the impact on the city as it is today if the proposal moves forward. He also said that the point of his letter was to seek the kind of discussion they were having right then. He wrote it seeking input from other members of Council and the Administration to find out what exact conditions they all would want to see.

Councilman Juris responded that he still lacked clarity on what criteria they were comparing. He also said he wasn't sure what the legislative intent for the study was. In addition, he raised concern on the lack of a time line, stating it could take weeks to put an RFQ together, and weeks to get responses and so on. He also thinks some of the information this study would be contracted for would be covered in processes already in progress.

In the end, he said he thought it was okay to put it in queue, but thinks it is premature and too undefined to bring to committee. He said, what is the cost, what is the time line, and what are they deciding on? Those are things that should be cleared up before they hold meetings on it.

Councilman O'Leary said he appreciated Councilman Juris's concerns and is with him in wanting to "see this information yesterday," especially knowing that conversations had been going on for some time. He said the reason he wanted to start this process now is so they didn't find themselves 12-16 weeks down the road wishing they had had the information, or at least had already started the process by then. He agreed that he thought plenty of time could be spent offline, out of meeting, working on a draft RFQ; however, he wanted to start with a group discussion. It was never his intention to bring a completed RFQ in and simply ask for an up or down vote, in fact he said that that was, "something I was trying to stay very clear of."

Councilwoman Madigan then asked Councilman O'Leary how much he planned to set aside to pay for the study. She said that Council has about a \$10,000 budget for consultants.

Councilman O'Leary said that he thinks it is reasonable to consider spending as much money on a study to get the facts as the administration is spending on a communications team that is conveying them. When pressed further he said he did not know an exact dollar figure at this time and more information would be needed before deciding that.

There was some further discussion and clarification requested before Council voted to move the issue to the Committee of the Whole.

Coming to the end of the meeting, Council President Madigan adjourned the meeting at 8:53 P.M.

AARP Free Tax Aide Help

by Joan Miller

AARP free tax aide 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 is available Monday and Tuesday noon to 3:30 p.m. starting February 3, 2014 at the Lakewood Senior Center West, 16024 Madison Ave. Lakewood. A handicap ramp and stairs are located on the Northland side of building.

No appointment necessary. Walk in's welcome.

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Lakewood Public Library

LPL Calendar Of Events

compiled by Elaine Rosenberger

Wednesday, March 4

Internet Search Skills

Discover what's been waiting for you online while learning search strategies.

10:00 a.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

March 4, April 1, May 6

Thursday, March 5

One-On-One Job Search

Spend a half hour with an instructor polishing your resume, brushing up on computer skills and exploring employment websites.

Appointments are available Thursdays between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

March 5, March 19, April 9

Sunday, March 8

Sunday with the Friends: Honeybucket

Honeybucket is a Cleveland-based "Newgrass" band that plays energetic, boot-stompin' tunes with a dash of sweetness. Featuring Adam Reifsnnyder on guitar, Brendan O'Malley on mandolin and Abie Klein-Stefanchik on upright bass, the trio blends tight three-part vocal harmonies, original melodies and a unique blend of old-timey sound with modern sensibilities. As their "buckethead" fans know, the group has appeared on NPR's Sound of Applause with Dee Perry and has begun work on a much anticipated second album.

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

Tuesday, March 10

Great Lakes Light Opera

Kill Da Wabbit: Opera in Pop Culture

What do Sesame Street, The Muppet Show, Looney Tunes, British Airways, Apocalypse Now, The Marx Brothers and Citizen Kane have in common? Opera, of course! Opera is woven into the fabric of American popular culture, whether we realize it or not. This lecture will draw attention to the ways in which the music and the plots of operas have become part of our everyday life. From The Simpsons to James Bond, we'll explore the best and worst references to opera. Suitable for both opera buffs and novices. We'll be watching clips, listening to recordings and even hearing a live opera singer perform these beloved tunes.

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

Thursday, March 12

Computer Basics

You can do this. We recommend that all students practice using a mouse before class. Ask the Technology Center staff to show you how.

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab

March 12, March 26, April 16, April 30

Meet the Author: "Jack's Memoirs: Off the Road"

by Kurt Landefeld

If Jack Kerouac had lived, what might he have done and written? Ohio author Kurt Landefeld opens an impossible door and allows us to peek through it in this remarkable debut novel. Written in the style of another Kerouac journey, the story begins in 1970 with a bearded and barely recognizable Jack driving from his mother's house in Florida to the defunct campus of Black Mountain College. Landefeld pulls off the astounding feat of plunging the reader deep into the author's tortured soul and, for the encore, redeems him. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

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

Saturday, March 14

Lakewood Public Cinema: "Brighton Rock" (1947)

Directed by John Boulting

Richard Attenborough stars as Pinkie Brown, a sadistic young thug in Brighton who seduces a waitress named Rose in order to use her as an alibi for murder. Professor Terry Meehan begins a new series titled "Graham Greene from Page to Screen" which will consider Greene's novels and the films they inspired. Meehan introduces each film with rare clips and original documentaries, followed by audience reaction and a lively discussion of both the book and the movie.

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

Sunday, March 15

Sunday with the Friends: Gong and Singing Bowl Improvisations

Percussionist Paul Stranahan uses ancient instruments—suspended gongs and Tibetan singing bowls—to create modern music that demands your attention. Evoking moods that range from the soothing and meditative to the chaotic and downright apocalyptic, each performance is improvised, as unique an experience for the audience as it is for the performer. In addition to promoting his new double-CD, Paul will be warming up to accompany the ancient Sumerian classic, The Epic of Gilgamesh, with WordStage in a Lakewood Public Library-exclusive on April 23.

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

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Tuesday, March 17

One-On-One Job Search

Spend a half hour with an instructor polishing your resume, brushing up on computer skills and exploring employment websites.

Appointments are available Tuesdays between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

March 17, April 7, April 21

Knit and Lit Book Club

"The Swan Thieves: A Novel" by Elizabeth Kostova

Come share your passion for great literature and show off your knitting, crocheting, counted cross-stitch, embroidery, and quilting works-in-progress.

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

LPL Children/Youth Events

compiled by Eric Knapp

Saturday, March 14

Time Travelers United

For students in fifth through twelfth grade

Come watch an episode of Doctor Who with us once a month and have fun discussing it afterwards. Registration required.

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Tail Waggin' Tutors

For school-age children

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

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

Family Weekend Wonders

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

Main Library Activity Room and Madison Branch Auditorium

Saturdays and 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.

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Lakewood Public Library

Eclectic Entertainment; From Modern To Primordial

by Genevieve Jaskulski

At the Lakewood Public Library, we are nothing if not eclectic; each member of our staff has something different and vital to offer when it comes to the service we render to this beloved community of Lakewood.



Honeybucket will perform at LPL on Sunday, March 8th.

The same goes for the entertainment we provide here, especially when it comes to the musical concerts we host. There is a certain sense of fluidity which has allowed for some breathtaking upcoming musical experiences, such as the mixing of melodies

from ancient beginnings with just the right amount of modern pizzazz. We strive to have interesting and captivating programs and concerts readily available to the public, free of charge, and easily accessible to everyone who would care to attend.

March 8 in the Main Library Auditorium at 2 p.m. we will be hosting a band called Honeybucket. The band is comprised of Adam Reifsnnyder on guitar, Brendan O'Malley on mandolin and Abie Klein-Stefanchik on upright bass. They are members of a genre that is now being called "Newgrass." The band has local beginnings here in our very own city of Cleveland, Ohio and they offer a retro sound with a modern day twist that entralls their listeners and fans, creating a swingin' atmosphere to be enjoyed by all ages.

The following Sunday, March 15, we will be joined by Percussionist, Paul Stranahan. He presents an enchanting performance using suspended gongs and Tibetan singing



Percussionist Paul Stranahan will perform at LPL on Sunday March 15th.

bowls, to deliver you into a new, yet ancient world. A world where you can experience the way music used to look and feel, just make sure you keep one foot grounded in reality as Stranahan lovingly creates a well organized chaos in your soul; implementing instruments of old, while also managing to keep the format of his melody relative to a modern day listener.

For more information on our upcoming programs please visit our website at Lakewoodpubliclibrary.org, or consult our new spring and summer program guide, available at any service desk in the Library.

Kerouac Revisited

by Amy Kloss

Fictionalizing the lives of legendary artists is a trend in literature right now. Tracy Chevalier imagined Vermeer painting the girl with the pearl earring; both Nancy Horan and T.C. Boyle examined Frank Lloyd Wright and the women in his life; and Paula McLain depicted Hemingway's stormy relationship with his first wife.

Add to that list local author Kurt Landefeld who has taken Beat Generation novelist Jack Kerouac and imagined that instead of dying at age 47, Kerouac faked his own death and began a new life as Jack Moriarty. Landefeld will appear at Lakewood Public Library on Thursday, March 12 at 7 p.m. to present his novel "Jack's Memoirs: Off the Road."

The chaotic, rollicking, alcohol-soaked cross-country journey described in Kerouac's "On the Road" has become an anthem of sorts for every young person who wants to travel and live without restraint. Based on Kerouac's own journeys with Neal Cassady, the novel was a controversial sensation when it was

published in 1957. It made Kerouac famous, but fame was less fulfilling than he thought it would be. He died in 1969 from internal bleeding caused by a lifetime of hard drinking.

Landefeld picks up Kerouac's story in 1970. Tired of being recognized and questioned, Landefeld's fictional Kerouac arranges a fake memorial service and goes on the road again with a second chance at life. Dried out and chastened after his close brush with death, Kerouac cuts his hair, changes his name and leaves Florida for Black Mountain College in North Carolina. Throughout the novel, Kerouac travels on a physical journey to gather information about Black Mountain College and an inner journey to find his true self.

Landefeld was born in San Francisco, grew up in Rocky River and currently lives in Huron. His fascination with Kerouac began in 1975 when he encountered "On the Road" as a college student. To say it made an impression would be an understatement, since he considered dropping out and roaming the country himself.

Ideas about what would have happened if Kerouac had lived rolled around in Landefeld's mind for years between reading "On the Road" and writing "Jack's Memoirs."

Come to the Main Library on March 12 to meet the author who gave Jack Kerouac a second chance at life. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

Kill Da Wabbit: Opera In Pop Culture At LPL

by Lisa Calfee

When it comes to opera, it seems you're either a well-versed aficionado or you don't know your arias from your cadenzas. The Great Lakes Light Opera Company wants to bridge this unnecessary gap with its innovative series of lecture recitals proving opera is not an elite art form for a select few. In fact it's as American as the ubiquitous apple pie.

Reid Taylor from the Great Lakes Light Opera Company is coming to Lakewood Public Library on Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m. to explore the role that opera plays in our culture. From Bart Simpson and company to Apocalypse Now, opera's influence is everywhere. This fun lecture will include watching video clips, listening to recordings and a live performance by an opera singer.

Lecturer Reid Taylor is an accomplished opera singer and pianist

to register for each meeting. They will be held on Saturdays from 3:00p.m. to 4:30p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.

Dates for the program are as follows: March 14, April 25, May 16, June 20, July 11, and August 1.

currently studying with Clifford Billions at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Last season he sang the role of the first commissioner in "Dialogues of the Carmelites," the Sailor in "Dido and Aeneas" and the Armored Man/Priest in "Die Zauberflote." As a pianist, Mr. Taylor was hired as a staff accompanist at the Tyrolean Opera Program during the summer of 2014. He is also in the process of completing degrees in German and French Literature as well as an Italian minor from Case Western University.

The Great Lakes Light Opera (GLLO), was founded in 2012 by Stephanie Kreutz and Jacquelyn Mouritsen, and has been dedicated to bringing high-quality, professional-level performances to Cleveland audiences.

Please join us for Kill Da Wabbit: Opera in Pop Culture on Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Stay tuned as three more lecture recitals from The Great Lakes Light Opera Company are scheduled over the coming months. They include "How Opera Butchered the Bard" on Tuesday, April 14 at 7 p.m., "Living Masters of American Opera" Tuesday, May 12 at 7 p.m. and "A Schubert Primer" Tuesday, June 9 at 7 p.m.

Time Travelers United At LPL

by Kathryn Tatnall

Have you ever tried to explain your favorite episode of Doctor Who to someone who is not really a fan? It's a little like trying to explain rap music to your grandma. The other person's eyes glaze over after 60 seconds and even though they are nodding along with the cadence of your voice, you know that they aren't really listening.

Wouldn't it be great to have somewhere that you could go to meet up with other fans of the program to watch and episode together and then talk about it? Imagine being able to list the reasons why you like or dislike the

current doctor and have everyone in the room understanding what you are saying.

That is exactly the experience we want you to have at Time Travelers United. We are going to watch and episode of Doctor Who and then talk about it afterwards. You can ask question or just state your case for the better Doctor, David Tennant or Matt Smith, personally I'm a 10th Doctor fan. We will have a contest from time to time and let you vote to choose the next month's episode.

You must be in the fifth to twelfth grade to register and we are asking you

Lakewood Schools

PATTERSON'S PERSPECTIVE

by Jeff Patterson, Superintendent, Lakewood City Schools

Last month, I highlighted how beyond academics, we are attempting to instill a philanthropic spirit and altruistic attitude within our students. Philanthropy is defined as seeking to promote the welfare of others, especially by donating money to good causes. Altruism is defined as showing a selfless concern for the well-being of others. As you read through the list of activities undertaken by Harding and our elementary schools, it becomes readily apparent that our schools have administrators, teachers, students, and parents that give of their time unselfishly to help others. What is striking is the extent of involvement and the impact the activities are having. Hopefully, you will be as impressed as I am.

HARDING MIDDLE SCHOOL

- H2O youth make hot cocoa packets for crossing guards, treat bags for first responders at the holidays, and crafts for senior citizens.
- Thanksgiving and Christmas food drive collection. Students helped package and deliver food baskets supporting the Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation.
- Harding administrators and staff baked cookies for senior citizens in the District at the holidays.
- Community outreach to the veterans in the District connected with the Veterans Day assembly, including a breakfast and lunch for those involved.
- HIROS program connects Harding Middle School students with refugee students throughout the District on a monthly basis.
- The Friends of Rachel Club developed handmade holiday greeting cards that were delivered to the Lakewood Senior Center to share with residents of the community.
- This past summer, Harding Middle School students, the student council advisor, and principal all participated in the Relay for Life and presented a check to the American Cancer Society.
- Harding staff annually participate in a blood drive.

HAYES

- Veterans Day Assembly where fifty veterans were honored with a certificate of appreciation, student-authored speeches, choral music and individual student introductions with their special veteran.
- Coin collection for breast cancer research raised over \$1,500.
- Christmas Giving Tree for needy families at the holidays.
- FAST: Families And Schools



Together for Kindergarten.

- PTO went door-to-door Christmas caroling.
- The "Cheerio Challenge" filled the office of the principal with Cheerios and donated all of them to the food bank in Lakewood.

LINCOLN

- Student Council collected winter P J's in conjunction with Scholastic's "Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive." All PJ's were distributed to area children.
- Giant Eagle Margaret Warner Shopping Assistants help visually impaired do their grocery shopping each Thursday after school.
- Lincoln Singers visited and provided entertainment at Crestmont North Healthcare in December.

EMERSON

- Partner with Lakewood Senior Citizen Center with students interviewing senior citizens and writing historical accounts of major events.
- Student Council collects mittens, socks and gloves for Lakewood families in need with the goal being 100 pairs of each.

HARRISON

- Participated in LCAC canned food drive.
- Aluminum can drive to support the Family Resource Coordinator with funds to purchase boots, shoes, etc. needed for Harrison students.
- Thank you letters collected and sent to soldiers during the Thanksgiving holiday to a specific military base.
- Harrison Choir entertained senior citizens at Fedor Manor during the holidays.
- Student Council initiatives open to the entire school. Student Council members visit with senior citizens at Fedor Manor where they work together with residents to complete crafts, read, create projects and share treats.
- Collected money and supplies to

continued on page 11

Emerson Elementary Unicycle Club

by Anne Bartos

Did you know that Emerson Elementary School has a Unicycle Club? Well they do! And unicycling is very challenging.

Emerson Unicycle Club has a couple of supervisors and one of them is Mrs. Heidi Murray. She is one of the many supervisors that makes Unicycle Club possible.

In Unicycle Club we have a total of 5 stickers that we earn and stick on our helmets to show that we earned them. The stickers include Up and Rider, Step Mound, Sky Cycle, Bounce and Backwards. Bounce and Backwards are pretty easy to understand. To earn the bounce sticker you have to bounce ten times on your unicycle and to earn your backwards sticker you have to ride your unicycle backwards one short length of our gym. Up and Rider means you have to ride three short lengths of our gym or ride two long lengths of our gym. For the Step Mound sticker you have to get on your unicycle without the wall and start riding, and to earn the Sky Cycle sticker you have to ride the tall unicycle around the gym for three minutes.

Emerson Unicycle Club has been invited to other places in Lakewood including the Home Coming Parade, the Light Up Lakewood Parade, Bikes

for Beck and they were recently invited back to Bikes for Beck and every year they are in the 4th of July parade.

Unicycle Club at Emerson Elementary is on Mondays after school from 3:15 to 4:05 and one of the other supervisors is Mrs. Suzy Hirsh.

Emerson Elementary has a lot of fun clubs, and Unicycling is one of them. It is open to fifth and fourth graders at Emerson Elementary. Unicycling is so much fun, and you should try it too.

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Lakewood Schools

Lincoln Jumps Rope For Heart Health And \$6,170 For The American Heart Association

by Lydia Kress and Julia Kompier,
Lincoln 4th Grade G/T

The Jump Rope Club performance

was amazing to watch! This event happened on the 27th of February. 4th and 5th grade students of Lincoln Ele-

mentary were allowed to join. They create their own routines to music and showcase them in one of the biggest assemblies of the year. It was awesome and fun. Some of the tricks that were performed had very high difficulty, like "Octopus," where your arm holding the jump rope goes under your leg and then you jump, or "Double Under," where the jump rope goes around twice before you land.

Our routine had six girls in 4th grade, the two of us (Lydia and Julia) and Rosie, Maddy, Meredith and Eliza. We did continuous crisscrossing, jumped on one foot, and "Baby" where you squat down by the floor and jump like that.

Altogether, Lincoln students raised \$6,170 for the American Heart Association with "Jump Rope For Heart." The top fundraisers got to spray their teachers with silly string. It was an epic sight to see! Mr. Gearman (the school custodian) made a bet



Mr. Gearman loses his bet that we wouldn't raise more than \$5,000.

with Mrs. Anderson (the gym teacher) that if we raised more than \$5,000, he would shave his head. Since Lincoln passed that, he got his head shaved in front of the whole school by 4th grade teacher, Mr. Browngardt!

So all and all, the jump rope performance wowed watching parents and students. Even when ropes got tangled, or when students messed up on tricks, the students kept going with smiles on their faces. There were 14 routines, 50 students, and barrels of fun. We can't wait for next year's performance!



We held up cards for the crowd so they could appreciate just how much money they helped us raise for the American Heart Association: Six thousand one hundred and seventy dollars! Thank you to everyone who donated!

LHS Sports Roundup

by Mike Deneen

GIRLS HOOPS TEAM WINS FIRST TWO TOURNAMENT GAMES

The LHS girls basketball team opened its postseason with a 62-28 opening round win over Valley Forge High School on February 21st. The Patriots drained a three pointer to take an early 3-0 lead over the heavily favored Rangers. However, Lakewood scored the next 13 points of the game and had a 14-5 lead after the first quarter. Lakewood also dominated the second and third quarters before substitutes played most of the fourth period. The scariest moment of the game came midway through the third quarter, when Rangers' sophomore guard Ryann Greenfield suffered an injury to her left knee. Madison Clause was the leading scorer for the game with 14 points, and Mikayla Harper had 10 points. Greenfield had nine points before suffering her injury.

The Rangers advanced to face

Akron Firestone in a second round game on February 26. The Rangers struggled early in the game, but put it together to build a 28-14 halftime lead. They went on to win 59-38, setting up a game against Westlake High School. The Rangers lost to the Demons 47-37 earlier this year in a game at Westlake.

BOYS HOOPS SHIFTS INTO POSTSEASON

The Rangers boys basketball team finished its regular season with a Senior Night win on February 24 at Harding Middle School. The Rangers defeated Elyria 73-57 behind a 22 point effort by senior guard Nick Porter. His fellow seniors Joe Malone and Wes Gerhardt contributed 14 and 18 points, respectively to pace the win. The victory broke Elyria's seven game winning streak and lifted the Rangers to a final on-court record of 14-8 (although two games were forfeited).

The Rangers will start the OHSAA championship tournament on Wednesday, March 4th. Lakewood will host Parma High School in a first-round game at Harding Middle School. The winner of that game will advance to play Normandy High School on Saturday, March 7th in Parma. The winner of that game would likely play defending State Champion St. Edward on March 11 at Brecksville High School.

NIGHT AT THE RACES FUNDRAISER MARCH 7

The LHS Athletic Boosters will host its annual "Night at the Races" fundraiser on Saturday, March 7 from 6 to 11:30pm. The event will take place at St. Mary's Hall, located at 3256 Warren Road. Post time is 7:30 p.m., and the event will feature a DJ, side boards, silent auctions, and a Chinese auction. Tickets, which are \$25, are only available by presale – there will be no ticket sales at the door. To buy tickets, call Amy Kemp at 216-233-6009.

The event, which is in its 11th year, is the largest fundraiser of the year for the boosters. Last year's event was attended by over 300 people, and it raised over \$19,000 of the group's total \$65,000 budget.

Lakewood High Athletic Boosters is a non-profit 501© (3) organization that raises money for team sports in the Lakewood City Schools. The purpose of our organization is to support and promote athletics, to lend moral backing to the coaches and teams and to assist the school in athletic endeavors. Lakewood High Athletic Boosters provide funds for uniforms and equipment for all athletic teams as well as senior nights and scholarship opportunities for our athletes.

I Dare You To Take D.A.R.E.

by Molly Burke

Hi our names are Molly and Ava and we are here to tell you about a class that we just finished in our school Emerson Elementary. It's called D.A.R.E. D.A.R.E means two things; Drug Abuse Resistance Education, and the decision making model that means: Define, Assess, Respond, and Evaluate. We feel the class has been very informational for us.

The D.A.R.E lesson was taught by Officer Acklin. We had a graduation on December 16th 2014. Officer Acklin, Judge Carroll, and the police chief (Officer Acklin's boss) were there. The Mayor, Mr. Summers, was going to come, but he was sick, so Mr. Butler was there instead.

All the 5th grade students wrote an essay about D.A.R.E. Four of us got the chance to read them during the graduation in front of all the parents.

Towards the end of the graduation we got little goodie bags with two D.A.R.E pencils, one D.A.R.E tech deck (mini skateboard), two D.A.R.E erasers, one D.A.R.E sharpener, a pack of D.A.R.E stickers, one D.A.R.E wristband and a pair of D.A.R.E sunglasses.

We would like to thank Officer Acklin for teaching us D.A.R.E. We learned a lot during this class. We would also like to thank the parents who came to graduation as well as Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Heckman-Spear, and Mrs. Kuzmickas too.



Lakewood Schools

Gifted/Talented Meeting Leaves Parents With Many Questions

by Betsy Voinovich

This past Thursday evening, the cafetorium at Horace Mann was standing-room-only for Lakewood City Schools' State of the Gifted and Talented program presentation. It was clear that this program is very important to families who have benefited from it in the past and are concerned about its current state, and families who are new to the school system.

Director of Teaching and Learning, Pam Griebel's power point presentation was an overview of the work of the three subcommittees: In short, the Assessment and Identification group is working on a way to identify students. The Service Model group acknowledges that parents want to keep our self-contained gifted classes, but other models are being examined, like "Cluster groups" which means putting kids together that excel in one subject or another. The Philosophy group had a mission statement which was posted in front of the assembled group but not discussed.

After all of this time, the assembled group expected some details. Some power point slides were missing, especially the very important one that dealt with Elementary Schools, and some of the slides were labeled "Westlake schools" giving everyone the impression that we were getting a second-hand presentation.

There were no handouts describing any potential changes. Parents were asked to fill out sheets of paper labeled "Strengths" and "Weaknesses" of the program themselves. If they had questions, they were directed to write them on post-it notes and put them on a board.

The GT committee has been meeting during class-time, requiring teachers to leave their classes to substitute teachers often, which had given parents the impression that the input of the teachers was important enough to disrupt their children's education. Teachers' input was not in evidence at this presentation, in fact, teachers and parent members of the committee addressed the assembled parents during the question and answer session, asking for support of their ideas, giving the impression that their ideas were not being taken into account during their committee meetings.

Parents who have students in the GT program came to find out what the

problem is. Many parents have been pleased with the education their children have received and wondered why it needed to be "fixed" if it wasn't broken.

In the past several years, the second-grade gifted program was eliminated, and last year the self-contained shared 2nd/3rd grade and 4th/5th grade classrooms were eliminated. Teachers have been taken from middle school positions to fill newly created single gifted classrooms in elementary schools, when before, one teacher taught both. Middle school GT teachers who were moved have not been replaced, rather, our current middle school GT teachers have had to add grade levels -- teachers who were teaching 7th and 8th now also must teach 6th grade gifted, and in some cases, teachers have to leave Harding or Garfield during the day to go to the other middle school, with even more classes added to their schedules.

These changes were made without consulting parents, and many said in the small groups that they'd expected that this would be the first subject addressed.

The next thing parents assumed would be addressed is the reason that there is a need for an improved program. Mrs. Griebel made it clear that the District must cast a wider net to include more students but not why there was a reason to change our assessment, service or philosophy models.

Much of the "Assessment and Identification" presentation was spent explaining to parents that there is a difference between "Bright" children and "Gifted" children, i.e.: "Bright children know the answer while Gifted children ask questions about the answer." "Bright children are well-organized. Gifted children can be very disorganized." "Bright children study hard and get the right answer. Gifted children know the answer without working hard and want to move on." At this point parents began grumbling about the seeming arbitrariness of the descriptions. It seemed to be laying groundwork for an attempt to skim the very top of our GT students off the top for self-contained units, and to put the rest of the merely "Bright" kids back into regular classrooms where they could have their needs met in "Clusters" and improve the test scores. This

began to seem harmful to both groups the more Mrs Griebel outlined the differences, as if children with very high IQ's should not be with other children who are only "Bright" as they cannot relate to them. It seemed that an idea to remove them from the mainstream of other bright children was afoot. If children with learning disabilities mainstream in our classrooms, by the same principle, children who are very bright, rather than being singled out and labeled as "geniuses" are currently "mainstreaming" with other only average bright kids. In fact, many would describe that scenario as what is so great about Lakewood's program, particularly in an elementary school environment where socialization is so important.

The larger point is that if this is the idea, why the circling of it, with somewhat offensive descriptions of "Bright" versus "Gifted" without following through with why the assembled parents were being subjected to this?

The fact that the Value Added Measure was never discussed at this meeting, as one of, if not the main reason our Gifted program is being reworked, was also discussed at parent tables. A lot of time was given to Lakewood's low scores on the Gifted Value Added measure when Mrs. Griebel made her presentation to the Board several months ago. Sev-

eral parents proposed that since the state requires that districts identify Gifted students, but not that they serve them, if Lakewood is getting a bad grade because our "Gifted" kids aren't "Gifted" enough, but they are receiving wonderful educations, a solution would be to stop calling any of them "Gifted." Call them "Top Ten Testers" and they can be put together in classrooms so they aren't bored and they aren't disruptive in regular classrooms. Then they can all be tested as non-gifted kids, which will cause our scores to be much higher in Performance and we can end the official gifted program and dispense with its being graded.

Most of those in attendance agreed that if this discussion is actually about test scores, it's time to respect the people who will be affected most, and level with them about what's really happening here and why. If it is about more than that, detailed descriptions of what is going on would correct that impression. Parents understand that these are very difficult times for local public school districts who are under the big gun of the State of Ohio. If parents weren't regarded as a problem they could be a big part of the solution.

I've only been able to cover a small portion of what was said by parents at the meeting, there is another meeting on Tue, March 3rd at 7pm at Horace Mann.

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Lakewood Cares

Welcome Spring With Friends Of The Lakewood Dog Park

by Karen Karp

Got cabin fever? Tired of shoveling snow? Longing for spring? Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park (FLDP) can help with that. Join us at Pet's General Store on Sunday, March 15, 2015 for the

fifth annual Photos with Hoppy Paws.

Just kidding about helping with the snow, but we will provide you with an early dose of spring. Hoppy Paws, our giant Easter Bunny, will be posing for pictures with all of his canine

friends and their human peeps.

FLDP invites you to attend our annual rite of spring on Sunday, March 15, 2015 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Pets' General Store, 16821 Madison Avenue, New this year, our photographer

is Martha Widdowson of Portraits by Martha. The price for one 5x7 or two 4x6 photos is \$12. She will have many additional photo accessories and packages available. No appointment is necessary. Just hop on over.

A portion of each sale will benefit Friends of Lakewood Dog Park, Inc. FLDP is an all-volunteer, non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization that works with the City of Lakewood to care for the dog park and raises funds for dog park improvements.

Check the FLDP website, lakewood-dogpark.com, or find us on Facebook, Lakewood Dog Park - Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park, to learn more about FLDP. Up-coming events include: Drive 4 Your Community on May 16; an outdoor event at Westpark Union Station in July; the July 4th parade; the 11th annual Dog Swim on September 8; and Photos with Santa Paws on Dec 6.

Lakewood PTA's Spring Flower & Veggie Sale Kicks Off Spring

by Kristine Pagsuyoin

Just in time for spring gardening and Mother's Day, the Lakewood Council of PTAs will be kicking off a Spring Flower & Veggie Sale on the first day of spring, March 20th, hosted by Dean's Greenhouse which offers high quality locally-grown flowers, veggies and herbs.

This year, orders can be placed at the Lakewood PTAs Spring Flower & Veggie Sale website, <http://www.myteamworks.org/lakewood-council-of-pta>, beginning March 20th and ending on April 20th. Interested in purchasing flowers for your business, organization, or church? For special pricing on large orders, or to place a paper order, contact PTAs at lakewood-council@gmail.com or 216-767-5545.

Order pick-up day is scheduled for Saturday, May 9th from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Garfield Middle School. If you would like your order delivered to your Lakewood

home or office, contact PTA to schedule your delivery time - a \$10 delivery charge will be applied to the order.

All proceeds from the Spring Flower & Veggie Sale help the Lakewood Council of PTAs provide programs, training and advocacy, grants, and other resources that support all Lakewood PTAs and the families they serve.

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L to R: Donald E. Howard, Shaker Heights, Vice-Chair; Nancy Sin, Shaker Heights, Secretary; Daniel J. Bartos, Lakewood, Chair; Thomas Kozel, North Olmsted, Treasurer

Guardian Ad Litem Project Advisory Committee Elects Officers

by Judith Layne

At its Annual Meeting in January, the CMBA's Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Project elected its officers for 2015. Newly elected Chairperson and Lakewood resident Daniel Bartos's focus for the year is enhancing services provided to children and families in the Cuyahoga County Courts. The Juvenile Court is embracing the GAL Project's development of a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program initiated by 2014 Chair Mary Bush.

Bartos is now taking the lead on the CASA program to bolster child advocacy provided by attorney guardians ad litem for 37 years. Recognizing the child welfare and juvenile justice community's strong commitment to provide evidence-based services to families, Bartos is also leading an effort to educate the legal community on the wide range of services available to strengthen Cuyahoga County's children and families.

Daniel Bartos is a partner in the law firm of Bartos & Bartos LPA in Rocky River.



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Lakewood Cares

Patterson's Perspective

continued from page 7

donate to the Lakewood Animal Shelter.

- "Pennies for Patients" money collection and classroom competition to support patients with leukemia and lymphoma.

- Halloween candy collection to support troops in Afghanistan - candy was turned in to a local dentist in exchange for money that was then used to purchase supplies for Christmas packages.

- Voting day bake sale with profits donated to a charity/cause.

- Kiwanis K-Kids Program: Family Life After-Care Program sponsors K-Kids Club or Kiwanis Club for all Harrison students who attend after care. The Kiwanis Kids pledge states, "As a K-Kid I promise to serve my neighborhood and

my school. I will show respect toward my environment and I will try to make the world a better place in which to live." Monthly service projects include: making blankets for the homeless, collecting dog food for pets of the homeless, helping care for the community garden, and collecting candy for soldiers.

HORACE MANN

- Kiwanis K-Kids.
- Christmas Store Toy Drive.
- Made placemats for the Lakewood Senior Citizen Center.
- Created motivational paper chains for adults in recovery.
- Choir developed performances for a nursing care facility.
- H2O students provide babysitting service for PTA meetings.

ROOSEVELT

- Participated in the LCAC canned

food drive.

Looking back at all of the community service performed by our schools, I am especially taken by the creativity and heartfelt empathy for others. What principal allows their office to be filled with Cheerios to then be donated to a food pantry? Or how about the advisor of student council who ties in a reading experience and story with a pajama drive?

The Pink Out football game, Pennies for Patients, Relay for Life, shopping assistants helping visually impaired, Hope for the Holidays, Pumpkin Ploozza, and the list goes on and on. In Lakewood City Schools, we see our students as the next generation, and we are extremely proud of the life lessons they are learning alongside their academics.



Statewide Tornado Drill March 4 2015

by Larissa Paschyn

While tornadoes can occur at any time, late spring and summer are the prime tornado season in Ohio. To remind and prepare residents for the danger of tornadoes, the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management is encouraging all communities to participate in the Statewide Tornado Drill at 9:50 am on Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

Additional safety information for residents can be found at our website, <http://ready.cuyahogacounty.us>.

In addition, we are happy to support your public safety outreach programs with a speaker, representatives to answer questions, or with emergency management materials.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have questions, please contact us at 216-443-5700 or at ema@cuyahogacounty.us

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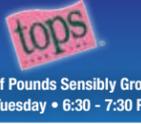
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"Living Last Supper" Reenactment
 Thursday, April 2 at 7:30pm

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 4 at 2:00pm

Easter Service Sunday, April 5 at 10:00am



Spaghetti Dinner April 18 Saturday 4:30-6:30pm.
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Lakewood Is Art

Beck Center Dance Education Enchants With "The Fairy Doll"

by Pat Miller

Beck Center's Dance Workshop and Dance Education program proudly present a magical production of the classic ballet "The Fairy Doll," March 21 - 29, 2015. Showtimes are 7 p.m. Saturday, March 21, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, March 28, and 3 p.m. Sundays, March 22 and 29. Performances will be held in the Music & Dance Building Recital Hall. Tickets are on sale now and seating is limited.

"The Fairy Doll" was first staged in Russia in 1897. Originally created by Nikolai and Sergei Legate, this classic ballet features the music of Josef Bayer.

The story begins in what may seem like any other Toy Shoppe in town, but as the doors close and the night falls... a bit of magic envelopes the store! With the townspeople fast asleep in bed, the toys awaken for a night of enchantment. Led by the Fairy Doll, the toys dance beneath the stars and the light of the moon. This production features 80 Beck Center dance students and additional choreography by Associate Director of Dance, Melanie Szucs. Excerpts from another ballet, "Giselle," will also be featured by Beck Center Dance Workshop.

A sensory-friendly performance of "The Fairy Doll" will also be staged for

audience members with special needs on Friday, March 27. "As we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of our Creative Arts Therapies program we wanted to add another layer of programming that would be welcoming and impactful for those on the autism spectrum or with developmental disabilities," said Beck Center's Director of Education, Ed Gallagher. "This performance will

be an inclusive and safe environment for those with special needs, and is a meaningful way to open yet another door to arts participation for many in our community." For additional information about this special production, please contact Ed Gallagher, Director of Education, at 216.521.2540 x12.

Tickets are \$12 for adults/seniors and **continued on page 14**

Let Your Inner Artist Grow This Spring And Summer

by Pat Miller

It's finally time to think spring (and summer!) so let your creativity grow with a class or workshop at Beck Center for the Arts. Whether you are interested in one-day music or pendant-making workshops, or an 8-week visual arts class, our dedicated faculty looks forward to getting creative with you.

First in line of our new music workshops is Rhythm Jams with Dave Brewer. Held on Saturdays, March 14, April 18, and May 9 (save \$5 when you sign up for all three), this opportunity is open to drummers, percussionists, and hand drummers who want to explore the con-

nection between rhythm and other art forms. This workshop is followed by Bluegrass & Americana with Thor Platter on Saturday, April 11, which focuses on repertoire, style, song arranging, and performing in the classic bluegrass style.

Beck Center is pleased to welcome back the Grammy Award® winning duo Cathy & Marcy for a fun and engaging Ukulele Workshop on Saturday, May 30. This workshop, for ages 10 and up, is designed for beginners and advanced ukulele players as groups will be divided by skill level.

Explore your inner-artist during our **continued on page 14**

COMMUNITY WORKS

Women to Watch - Ohio

On view: April 2 - May 2, 2015

Public Opening Reception: Thursday, April 2, 6-8pm
cia.edu/womentowatch

Panel Discussion with the artists: Friday, April 10, 12:15pm

Presented by Cleveland Institute of Art, in collaboration with the Ohio Advisory Group of the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

The Artists: Above, from left, Lauren Yeager, Christi Birchfield, Hildur Asgeirsdóttir Jónsson, Mimi Kato, and Eva Kwong

Sponsored by: Huntington Bank ideastream, Cleveland Institute of Art

Enroll Today!

Let your inner artist grow this spring and summer at **Beck Center for the Arts!**

MUSIC WORKSHOPS

- Rhythm Jams with Dave Brewer
- Bluegrass and Americana with Thor Platter
- Ukulele with Grammy® Winners Cathy and Marcy

VISUAL ARTS CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

- Visual Arts Session 2 begins March 23, 2015
- Fused Glass Pendant Making
- Beyond the Selfie (Photography)
- The Secrets of Visual Literacy (Lecture)
- Exploring Mixed Media

SUMMER CAMPS

- Register today for half-day and full-day camps in **dance**, **music**, **theater**, and the **visual arts** for ages 5 to 19

216.521.2540 x10 | beckcenter.org
17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107

Wellness Watch

Winter Weary

by Cynthia Kessler

Winter is not a season; it's an occupation - Sinclair Lewis

The last dregs of winter still have a grip on us. We rugged, hearty Lakewoodites are really, really being put to the test. Ask or tell someone how they or you are doing, and you're likely to hear them respond, "cabin fever."

The young Cleveland girl in my 65-year-old self still feels a sense of awe and wonder at the first snow of winter. Silent night, all is calm, all is bright. But these relentless Arctic blasts are spoiling the fun of winter. Add the nightly news warnings to keep your pets, children, and yourself indoors as much as possible, and it starts to feel almost oppressive. Feelings of irritability, low energy or sluggishness, or cravings for starchy carbs are common complaints.

Less social contact or isolation coupled with lack of sufficient expo-

sure to natural light can increase these symptoms. Some individuals may find themselves suffering a more serious, depressed mood. There can sometimes be a more seasonal pattern where these episodes begin in fall or winter and remit in spring. Exposure to even five

minutes of natural light a day can be beneficial. Consulting with a psychologist or other licensed therapist is also advised.

I try to remember that March 20 is the Spring Equinox - the official turning from winter to spring. Here's

a quote from the famous 18th century writer, von Goethe, to help keep us all inspired:

Sometimes our fate resembles a fruit tree in winter. Who would think that those branches would turn green again and blossom, but we hope it, we know it.

Diabetes Alert Day- Are You at Risk?

by Haley Denzak

Cleveland Clinic's Lakewood Hospital is teaming up with the American Diabetes Association for a Diabetes Alert Day.

The free event will take place on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at Lakewood Hospital, 14519 Detroit Avenue, in the Wasmer Auditorium.

The event will provide free screenings for blood sugar, total cholesterol, feet, eyes,

and body mass index, all reviewed with a nurse or dietician. Also, join Anne Eren, owner of The Olive Scene, as she takes you through the world of extra virgin olive oil and its numerous health benefits.

Free health screenings from 6:30

to 9:30 a.m. and 2 to 4:30 p.m. No registration required.

Free lunch will also be provided to the first 50 registered attendees. To register, or for more information contact Gina Gavlak at 216.529.5312 or gigavl@ccf.org.

Lakewood Hospital Presents: Tuesday Talks On Dementia

by Haley Denzak

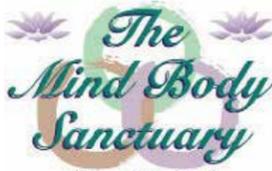
Cleveland Clinic's Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health at Lakewood Hospital is holding a series of free health talks on various topics related to dementia.

The free health talks will take place on the first Tuesday of every month, beginning March 3, from 6-7 p.m. at 1450 Belle Avenue, in the Triangle Room located on the second floor.

Each talk will include information

for caregivers and family members of those dealing with dementia. Scheduled topics for 2015 include ways of dealing with behavior changes, legal and financial matters, ongoing research, dealing with depression and anxiety, and communication.

To register for provided for these free health talks, and those interested in attending can reserve a spot by calling 216.227.CARE (2273).



Events Coming Soon!

- Meditation Classes (no experience necessary)
- Acupressure for Stress Relief Part 1
- Acupressure for Stress Relief Part 2

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Business News

West Shore Career-Technical District Outstanding Work Ethic Award Winners

continued from page 1

cal District, and Patty Ryan, CEO and President of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce presented the awards to the students. They were joined by Jeff Patterson, Superintendent of Lakewood City Schools and Heidi Finniff, President of the Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club. Each student received a certificate and a House Letter of Commendation from State Representative Nickie Antonio – plus a door prize and a gift bag of items donated by Rotarians and Chamber-member businesses.

Congratulations to the 2015 Outstanding Work Ethic Award winners:

Automotive Technology: Kevin Gettens, Bay H.S.

Biotechnology: Devon Chodzin, Lakewood H.S.

Business Management: Michael Fasko, Lakewood H.S.

Community Based Training, Bonne Bell: Jamie Whitford, Bay H.S.

Community Based Training, Rae

Ann Suburban: Brady Stevens, Westlake H.S.

Community Based Training, Transition to Work: Glenn McMillan, Lakewood H.S.

Construction Trades: Colin Teets, Westlake H.S.

Culinary Arts: D’Nautica Davis, Lakewood H.S.

Early Childhood Education: Lauren Murphy, Rocky River H.S.

Electronic Technology: Viktor Koromyslichenko, Lakewood H.S.

Careers Technology: Aidan O’Donnell, Lakewood H.S.

Interactive Media: Madeline Listkowski, Lakewood H.S.

Medical Office Management: Karamella McCoy, Lakewood H.S.

Networking/Cisco: Christian Ulsenheimer, Lakewood H.S.

Project Lead The Way: Matt Bango, Lakewood H.S.

Service Occupations Training: Kaitlyn Box, Bay H.S.

Beck Center Enchants With “The Fairy Doll”

continued from page 12

\$10 for students/children 18 and under. (Ticket prices include service fees.) For tickets, visit beckcenter.org or call Beck Center Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available.

Beck Center’s production of “The Fairy Doll” is made possible through the generous support of the Ohio Arts Council and the generous funding provided by the citizens of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

Let Your Inner Artist Grow This Spring And Summer

continued from page 12

8-week visual arts session that begins the week of March 23. Choose from a variety of offerings for all ages and artistic abilities from Family Clay Time, to Pottery, Drawing, Cartooning, and more. If you are interested in learning about a variety of mediums, try our 8-week Exploring Mixed Media workshop that begins on March 24. Teens and adults are encouraged to get creative with their digital picture-taking in the 4-week Beyond the Selfie workshop, March 28-April 25. Also, learn how to navigate our visual world in The Secrets of Visual Literacy, a 4-week workshop beginning April 30.

If you have always wanted to create

your own piece of jewelry, local glass artist Daniel Pruitt of Daniel Pruitt Studios is leading our Fused Glass Pendant workshop on Saturday, March 15. Students ages 15 and up will create their pendant from 2-4pm, followed by a “fusing party” from 4-5pm. Snacks will be provided.

Fast-forward to the summer by registering for Summer Camps! We are offering full- and half-day camps in dance, music, theater, visual arts, and creative arts therapies for ages 5-19.

Visit beckcenter.org for class, camp, and workshop descriptions, pricing, and additional information or call Customer Service at 216.521.2540 x10.

Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce Announces 12th Annual Taste Of Lakewood

by Valerie Mechenbier

Regional publication backs event for 5th consecutive year

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that Cleveland Magazine will once again be a co-presenting sponsor for the 12th Annual Taste of Lakewood, the Chamber’s largest community event that will be held on Sunday, June 7th, 2015. The Taste of Lakewood features Lakewood’s outstanding restaurants and food purveyors and raises funds for the Chamber’s annual high school scholarship program, established to reward and assist college-bound high school seniors from St. Edward and Lakewood High Schools.

“Cleveland Magazine is thrilled for the fifth consecutive year to be a Co-Presenting sponsor of the Taste of Lakewood” says Paul Klein, Custom Media Publisher at Great Lakes Publishing. “From Rating the Suburbs to the Best of Cleveland, we reflect what our communities have achieved while advocating for what still needs to be done. Our readers look to

Cleveland Magazine for information on the region’s signature events – like the Taste of Lakewood - that shape our neighborhoods, our city and our future.”

The Taste of Lakewood is a no-admission fee, outdoor day-long food festival at Madison Park that celebrates what Lakewood is known for: tremendously Good Food. The event provides tremendous exposure for Lakewood restaurants, event sponsors, and the city, attracting thousands of people from the region and focusing on the community’s reputation as a great food destination. Lakewood’s best restaurants, eateries and caterers will be on hand to sell their food and guests will be dining al fresco and enjoying great music under a field of tents.

Businesses large and small, community organizations and individuals are welcome to become sponsors of this great event. Contact the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce for more information or visit www.lakewoodchamber.org for sponsorship details.



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Observations

The Anatomy Of The Hospital Deal

by Jared Denman

Contrary to what City and Hospital officials would have Lakewoodites believe about the proposed course of action outlined in the Letter of Intent, sprung on the public this January detailing the closure and sale of Lakewood Hospital to the Cleveland Clinic, not only is it a) not the only solution, b) not necessarily the best, but c) one that could use some sunshine on it. Here's what's known (or not known):

1) According to the original 1986 agreement between the City and the private, not-for-profit Lakewood Hospital Association (LHA) that was ostensibly created to protect the taxpayers from bearing the losses in an

increasingly competitive health care arena, the LHA keeps the all the proceeds generated by and all capital involved in operating the hospital.

2) The death knell of Lakewood Hospital was rung in 1996 when it signed the agreement with the Clinic with public knowledge of the Clinic's plans to make Fairview its west side flagship. As the Subsidiary study correctly concluded, Lakewood Hospital will die a slow death as it hemorrhages patients to Fairview and the newly constructed Avon Hospital.

3) If the current proposal outlined in the Letter of Intent is approved by City Council, the Clinic will take over the Lakewood Hospital Association

and will receive its \$158 million of total assets (including those of the Lakewood Hospital Foundation). The Clinic states that only \$24 million will remain after wind-down costs which means there's \$134 million of liabilities. To date, there has been no public mention or documented itemization of these liabilities.

4) According to the proposed Letter of Intent, the current Board of Trustees of the LHA will create another private, not-for-profit that will be paid \$39.9 million by the Clinic upon signing a new agreement. This new non-profit intends to build a recreation center on four acres of land formerly occupied by the hospital after it is demolished.

5) Of all the parties involved, the City retains a paltry piece of the pie which is further eroded by lost rents, economic impacts, and ultimately an equal hand in shaping the hospital's future.

On the face it appears that the LHA is a renter proposing to the landlord (the City) that he split the money from the sale of the landlord's house with his roommate the Cleveland Clinic. Add to this the dissimulation regarding the details of the proposed plan, the questionable invocations of executive session, and surreptitiously contracting with consultants for the two years prior to public roll-out of the proposal; there's due cause for suspicion.

But all is not lost. The Letter of Intent must be approved the the City Council since it includes the sale of the hospital. One way to improve the situation could include 1) a forensic audit of the LHA/LHF finances by a third-party contracted with the City, 2) a symposium on the subject harnessing the collective experience, creativity, and ingenuity of not only Lakewoodites but forward-thinking innovators the world over to discover and consider outside-of-the-box solutions, 3) present the proposed courses of action to the people on a referendum and allow them to vote.

Please mark your calendars for March 10, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at City Hall Auditorium and come share your ideas concerning the future of health care in Lakewood.

FACTS & FIGURES

CCF/LHA* = How much do they have? How much will they spend?

CCF/LHA* = + \$158 million: LHA/LHF net assets (Steve Glass, CFO for CCF, Minutes of Jan. 14 Special Meeting of LHA Board of Trustees, pg. 1-17). Mr. Glass asserts that after liabilities are considered, there will be a margin of \$24-25 million. However, in the minutes he's including demolition and construction costs for the FHC. There's a lot of ambiguity here but even if it's true that there are liabilities associated with the LHA/LHF, it's not reasonable to state that there's \$134 million worth of liabilities.

+ \$10.8 million: payment of rents foregone after signing of 2016 Designated Agreement (Jennifer Pae's Economic Impact Study). Calculated as follows: \$1.15 million in 2015 with a \$25,000 increase every three years gives us this chart:

2015-2017 = \$3.45 million
2018-2020 = \$3.54 million
2021-2023 = \$3.6 million
2024-2026 = \$3.69 million

Based on the 2017 shutdown date Ken Haber gave at the 2/11 meeting, I subtracted the 2015-2017 numbers from what the Clinic/LHA saves.

+ \$96.8 million: anticipated net cash flow generated by hospital from 2015-2017 assuming a two year wind-down period as stated by Ken Haber on the Sept. 11 meeting (Jan. 28 Subsidiary presentation, Slide 60) Assuming that the hospital is still gen-

State Testing For Students Is Not A Walk In The PARCC

by Monica Owen

On Sunday, February 22, with just two days notice, 20 people gathered in Lakewood to write letters to local, regional and state elected officials about their concerns with the new Common Core and PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career) testing. Parents, teachers, and students participated in this event.

PARCC is the testing protocol the state of Ohio has selected to use with Ohio's educational standards called Common Core. On February 16, the first round of PARCC testing began (some practice tests had occurred before this). There is growing alarm about the PARCC assessments in Ohio and other states that use PARCC assessments. How are people expressing this? Facebook pages, Twitter feeds, letters to the editor, YouTube videos, student walk-outs, newspaper articles and good old-fashioned US Post Office letters. Students, parents, teachers, administrators and even some elected officials have publicly expressed their concerns.

Some parents have "opted-out" or refused to have their children participate in the PARCC assessments, including some in Lakewood. Ohio does not have an official way for parents to "opt-out" of testing, but it also does not say they cannot "opt-out." Ohio parents who have refused to allow their children to participate in PARCC assessments have used generic forms found on the internet or written letters to their districts or both.

- PARCC tests are administered twice a year to 3-8 graders and then, there are seven high school tests (also twice a year) tied to graduation requirements. This might not sound too different than the OAA and the OGT tests that we have been using. What are the issues about PARCC that worry people? Here are some topics from last Sunday. Links for further reading are included.

- PARCC is considered high stakes testing and high stakes does not work in the educational setting ["...the high-stakes tests being used today do not, as

a general rule, appear valid as indicators of genuine learning, of the types of learning that approach the American ideal of what an educated person knows and can do." Amrein, A.L. & Berliner, D.C. (2002, March 28). High-stakes testing, uncertainty, and student learning. Education Policy Analysis Archives, 10(18). Retrieved 2-28-2015 from <http://epaa.asu.edu/epaa/v10n18/>

- Teaching and learning are too complex to be measured by a standardized test [<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/08/01/what-do-standardized-tests-actually-test/>]

- Ohio Educators Association supports Common Core, but not the high stakes, standardized testing [www.oea.org]

- De-professionalizing teachers and the teaching profession [<http://news.vanderbilt.edu/2013/03/education-reforms-demoralize-teachers/>, <http://dianeravitch.net/2015/02/19/craigslist-seeking-test-scorers-at-11-05-per-hour/>]

- Too much high stakes testing (two full rounds of PARCC tests each year) leads to too much test preparation leads to too much teaching to the test [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p29EWYSnoGA&feature=share>]

- PARCC Test reading levels have been shown to be up to 2 years over grade level [<http://russonreading.blogspot.com/2015/02/parcc-tests-and-readability-close-look.html>]

- Confusing test questions [parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/]

- Great secrecy regarding test questions [...This covert nature of testing that does not allow educators and students to discuss the tests and does not allow teachers, students, and parents to view the graded tests is indicative of ethics violations, systemic racism, and a hidden agenda ..."] <http://unitedoptout.com/2015/03/01/another-teacher-refuses-to-test-shirley-person-miami-dade-county-public-schools-defendchildren/>

- Confusing information regard-

ing accommodations for students with IEPs [<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Testing/Special-Testing-Accommodations/Accommodations-on-State-Assessments>]

- The joy of learning is gone ["A love for reading was stalled for my youngest because when he was 8 the pressure of the Ohio 3rd grade reading guarantee made him hate reading." Melissa Marini Svigelj-Smith (parent and teacher). Another teacher stated, "We're replacing love of learning with anxiety over standardized tests."]

- Student stress [An area teacher reported having seen kids cry, urinate on themselves, even vomit during testing]

- The online portion of PARCC places a burden of technology expenses (computers and broadband) on districts with entirely (eventually) computer based testing

- Unclear data collection of students' information with computer based testing, who will see it, when, why, and how [<http://cnafinance.com/the-big-business-of-education-breaking-down-the-dollars-behind-common-core-and-parcc/1521>]

- An alarming amount of money has been made by Pearson, the testing company [<http://www.politico.com/story/2015/02/pearson-education-115026.html>], "Only public pressure will reverse the monetizing of children via excessive testing," Charles Greanoff, teacher.]

This is a long and varied list of concerns regarding a testing protocol being used across the state. It seems that legislators may be listening. Ohio House Bill 7 (www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-) passed in the House unanimously on February 11 and passed Senate Committee unanimously on February 25. HB 7 limits the impact of the PARCC test scores for this school year (2014-2015). The Senate added an amendment allowing districts to count students who opt out in their enrollment numbers for funding for next school year.

continued on page 17

continued on page 18

Opinion

Response To: “Citizens Ask: Has The Lakewood Hospital Association Failed Its Mandate?”

by William Gorton

The letter that follows is in response to an article entitled, “Citizen’s Ask: Has the Lakewood Hospital Association Failed Its Mandate?” written by Jared Denman that ran in Issue 11 Volume 4 of the LO

Dear Mr. Denman:

I read your article in “The Lakewood Observer” dated February 17, 2015, and I do not believe that you have accurately reported either the impressions you have of the process or the “facts” that you allege tell the true story.

By way of introduction, I was appointed to the Board of Trustees of Lakewood Hospital in 1981 by then Mayor Lawther. My father, Doug Gorton, served on the Board for over twenty years until his death in 1979. I have served on the Lakewood Hospital Board and its successor Board of Trustees of Lakewood Hospital Association (LHA) since then. I became Vice-Chair in 1989 and Chair in 1991 until 2001.

The reason for my recounting of ancient history is that I was both in attendance and in a leadership role during the period of time that you are researching and reporting. Furthermore, I was an integral part of the current process as a member of both the Select and the Step2 Committee that took the leadership role on behalf of the Board and the City to thoughtfully plan the process you see unfolding today.

My recollection of the events of

which I was a part differ from your conclusions as follows:

1) Healthcare trends today were known in 1996: Changing healthcare trends and their impact on Lakewood Hospital were known by and of concern to the Board of Trustees and Management of Lakewood Hospital long before 1996. The reason for seeking a Charter amendment in 1987 to lease the hospital to LHA was to allow the hospital to partner with other healthcare providers. We recognized at that time that a stand-alone community hospital was an endangered species. We had just survived an attempt by Blue Cross Blue Shield to put us out of business by selectively contracting with our competitors. Furthermore, we were hampered by the lack of a birthing unit and our geography; we draw very few patients from the North!

Our first partnership was with University Hospitals. From that association we drew strength and, importantly, approximately 30 bassinets and the re-birth of our obstetrics business.

The partnership with UH was rocky in that we were precluded from actually merging with UH because LHA only leased the facilities. In my capacity as Chair of LHA I served on the Board of Trustees and soon realized that this relationship would not last forever.

As you mentioned in your report, in 1995 we met repeatedly with the Senior Management and Board Lead-

ership of Fairview Health System and Southwest General in an effort to form what we called “Fortress West.” Had we pulled it off “Fortress West” would have been the dominant player in healthcare on the Westside. Unfortunately, we were unable to reach an agreement on governance issues and the deal fell apart.

2) Negotiations with the Cleveland Clinic: Immediately after the deal for “Fortress West” tanked, the Board realized we were very vulnerable. The challenges facing LHA had not changed during the several years we were part of UH. We were still “Lake Locked” in terms of our patient catchment area. We had a much larger, financially stronger competitor (Fairview Health System) 3.3 miles away; one that we now knew had significant growth aspirations and a much deeper pocket to purchase primary care physician practices in order to direct patient flow. Furthermore, Fairview Health System was already affiliated with the Clinic through an organization called Cleveland Health Network.

So, pretty much out of options, we approached the Clinic; our CEO Jules Boutheliet and I sat down with Dr. Loop and their COO Frank Lordeman and proposed the outline of the relationship that exists today in the Definitive Agreement.

Contrary to your article and Dr. Carey’s quote, LHA was the first west side hospital to sign with the Clinic. Our deal with the Clinic in part forced

Fairview/Lutheran to escalate their relationship with the Clinic. Southwest remained independent and is now part of UH, not the Clinic. If the Clinic had made the deal with Fairview/Lutheran first, Lakewood would likely have been out of business twenty years ago.

I apologize for the length of this communication, but, as you may have discovered, this is a complex subject and is emotional as well. I do not know, by the way, of anyone with a greater emotional stake in the survival of the mission of Lakewood Hospital than my fellow Trustees and myself. Personally, as you are now aware, my family and I have devoted over 50 years of service to Lakewood Hospital. The Members of the Board of Trustees, supported by a loyal medical staff, have single-mindedly worked to extend the useful life of our institution over the last 30 years.

Today, we are out of options to sustain the current inpatient hospital model in Lakewood. While I agree this is troubling on an emotional level, I believe that we have a very compelling option to support a state-of-the-art, community based outpatient facility - one that focuses on the expressed healthcare needs of our citizens as expressed in the 2013 Community Needs Assessment report. When you combine such a facility with an independent, well-funded community foundation supporting innovative local

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Lakewood Living

Preparing Your Home For Spring Market – Part III

Creating The “Wow” Factor

by Michelle Mehaffey Taylor

It's a Saturday afternoon and I'm taking a Buyer on tour to look at potential homes. The front door is opened and there is an auditory gasp from the Buyer as their eyes take in the view. The tour continues room-by-room, floor-by-floor with various expressions of amazement. The home is quite simply gorgeous. This is the reaction Seller's should aspire for when listing their home and what Realtors call the “Wow” factor. What is this element that in today's Lakewood market can sell a home in practically days and result in multiple offers? It is a home that is show ready and has a few elements that clearly set it apart from the competition.

We are at our final stage of preparing the interior of your home for the upcoming spring market. Several of you have been working hard and clearing out the clutter, taking care of necessary maintenance issues and giving Mr. Clean a run for his money. These are the basics every Seller should address first. Now it's time for the fun part, putting some pizzazz in your décor. The Wow Factor can be achieved at any price range, location and budget. It simply takes a few strategic improvements that will increase appeal to your ideal target Buyer.

Create a neutral palette:

Choose sophisticated neutral colors. Now is not the time to experiment with funky, fun colors – save that for your next home. This also doesn't mean that you have to go with sterile white, which makes

a home look uninviting. Rich, mid-tone neutrals like mocha and “greige” create a sophisticated backdrop that makes everything look more pulled together. Choose a few accent colors for a pop in artwork, rugs, pottery, and accent pillows. Carrying a cohesive color scheme throughout the home will create a feeling of space, and is an inexpensive way to give an updated look to the entire home.

Create a flow in the floor plan:

Buyers are attracted to homes that have a good flow. Start at your front door and create ample walking space that naturally leads to each room. Move excess furniture in a storage unit if necessary. You can create circulation by replacing square or rectangular tables with round ones. In the living room, symmetrical arrangements usually work well. Pull your furniture away from the walls and use pairs (of sofas, chairs, lamps) to create an inviting conversation area. Most importantly, stage your rooms for their actual purpose. You may be using the spare bedroom as an office but a Buyer may want to see an extra bedroom for their family.

Show a lifestyle:

Psychology definitely comes into play when staging your home for sale. You want to create the appearance of an ideal lifestyle that will tantalize all of the senses. Place a luxurious robe, and towels with scented soaps in the bath. Make the Master into an oasis with crisp linens, and soothing neutral palette. Set the dining room table like a group of friends are coming over for a great dinner party. Books on end tables, a few interesting

picture frames and trendy décor items can convey a personality. Also consider the season – a warm, plush throw draped on furniture in colder months; a bowl of bright lemons in the kitchen for summer, or a bench and boot mat by the door in wet weather.

Show off the kitchen & baths:

These are the two most important rooms that can influence desirability. You also do not need to break the bank on a complete remodel. Just a few touches can give a dramatic effect. Some current material trends include stone and recycled glass tile; brushed nickel fixtures; granite/solid surface counters. Studies show that new stainless kitchen appliances bring high returns from sellers, so get rid of old appliances that make the rest of the kitchen look dated. Having some storage in these areas is also essential. In the bath, update the commode, change sink out to a pedestal, which will give more space, update the tub and surround if budget allows.

If you lack a creative gene or just don't quite know how to pull together a

great look for your homes décor, don't get stressed. There are several resources for inspiration available from a variety of venues ranging from Pinterest for do-it-yourselfers to professional Home Stagers. Most of us also have a friend with a great sense of style who is probably more than willing to help. Take a look at the abundance of home-style magazines to get a feel of today's trends and unique ideas. Consider renting storage units, furniture or appliances if needed. Don't go overboard, there's a fine line between style and excess.

You can think of home staging as presenting your house in a way that appeals to the largest possible audience. This will help ensure a quick sale for the best possible price. The key to this whole thing is appealing to the largest audience — that's what it's all about.

Michelle Mehaffey-Taylor is a Lakewood resident and licensed Realtor with Keller Williams EZ Sales Team - Michelle@EZSalesTeam.com; MyLakewoodLiving.com.

Cornucopia & Nature's Bin Executive Director To Retire After 30 Years

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search to find the right person to step into this vital position. Scott Duennes has successfully lead and grown Cornucopia and Nature's Bin for the past 30 years and we believe that we have found in Nancy an energetic and creative leader to build on that success and take Cornucopia to the next level.”

As executive director of Cornucopia, Inc. Pepler will oversee a \$7.2 million organization that provides vocational training leading to employment for people with disabilities. Cornucopia programs serve people with a wide range of disabilities including developmental disabilities, autism, mental illness, visual, speech and hearing impairments, and injuries resulting from accident or illness. Cornucopia has been serving people with disabilities since 1975. Cornucopia may be best known for its social enterprise Nature's Bin, an independent natural foods store in Lakewood, Ohio that also serves as a training site for its unique and

successful job training program.

“I look forward to leading this great organization and to working with the board and staff to expand community support for the quality services that Cornucopia provides,” Pepler said.

Prior to her work at Beech Brook, Pepler was the chief development officer for Community Care Network, a nonprofit providing administrative and management services to other nonprofits; and as the vice president of resource development for ChildServ, a nonprofit that provides vital services to children and families in Chicago. Pepler's community involvement also includes serving two terms on the Cleveland Heights/University Heights School Board. She is currently president of that board.

Pepler holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Case Western Reserve University and a master's degree in social service administration from Case Western Reserve University/Mandel School.

Response To: “Citizens Ask: Has The Lakewood Hospital Association Failed Its Mandate?”

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healthcare organizations, you have a proto-type of healthcare delivery for the future. This could transform our community into a model of healthy living. Clinging blindly to the old ways rarely lets in the light of new ideas.

We can certainly debate these issues, but let's debate them with the real facts and within the proper context.

I was unable to decipher your

description of how the money flows, so I will leave that topic for someone else to ponder.

Finally, you asked, “Has the Lakewood Hospital Association Failed Its Mandate?” My answer is unequivocally NO. In fact, it is due to its diligent efforts that there is a healthcare entity functioning in Lakewood today with a partner willing to commit to pioneering a new model of care for our citizens.

Sincerely,

William R. Gorton

State Testing For Students Is Not A Walk In The PARCC

continued from page 15

The full Senate has yet to vote.

If any of this stirs up concern in you - follow up, read more, talk to teachers, and students and parents. Most importantly, write a letter or an email, make a phone call to express yourself. Our elected officials and Legislators need to know. <http://education.ohio.gov/State-Board/State-Board-Members>, <http://www.ohiohouse.gov/>, or <http://www.ohiosenate.gov/senate/index>.

See the discussion and sample “Opt Out” letter on the Observation Deck, <http://www.lakewoodobserver.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=13193>.

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Lakewood Living

Thanks For Reading! I Also Do Relationship Advice: Reviews Of New Releases By Local Bands Part 3

by Buzzy Kompier

Disclaimer: Record reviews are a tricky business. It's one thing to enjoy music, but to, like, pick out what you like about it? That being said, if I review your thing and I didn't like something, don't feel too bad. My opinion doesn't matter all that much.

Various Artists - Punk 45: Burn Rubber City, Burn! - Soul Jazz Records - 18 songs - Vinyl, CD, download

This is part 2 of Soul Jazz's compilations covering Ohio, and part who-knows in their Punk 45 series. This is the Akron one. I reviewed the Cleveland one, titled Extermination Nights In The Sixth City, last week. Anyways, yeah, this was pretty good. I'm glad to see The Waitresses' rendition of "The Comb" finally get a long-due reissue, as I've been a fan of that song since I heard it on Tin Huey's "Before Obscurity." Hey, speaking of Tin Huey, two of their songs are here too, as well as one from saxophonist Ralph Carney, so that's pretty cool. There are some other nice cuts on here as well that have been hard to find, like Chi-Pig and Hammer Damage ("Laugh" is pretty great). Also, it has stuff from the many Akron compilations that came out in the 70s and 80s that have now gone out of print ("Bowling Balls From Hell, The Akron Compilation"). Many of the songs on this came from those, actually. Plus other great stuff from Devo, The Bizar-

ros, and Rubber City Rebels. Overall, and make of this what you will, I'd say this compilation was definitely weirder than the Cleveland counterpart. It was still pretty great though. Check it out. 4/5

Archie & The Bunkers - Trade Winds - Self-released - 9 songs - CD

Archie & The Bunkers are a band that do a lot with a little. Bands with just

two members can be minimal and, dare I say, uninteresting, but certainly not these guys. This is some great music. Their sound is 'hi-fi organ punk,' very catchy and memorable, and certainly unique, with just drums and organ (and bass, on the album). "Miss Taylor" is a perfect opening song, and "You're The Victim" is the perfect closer. Besides those, my

favorites were "I Wish I Could," "I'm Not Really Sure What I'm Gonna Do," and "The Roaring 20's." These guys are legitimately very talented, and this is a great album. And by the way, catch them live, cause it's a great show. 5/5

Are you a local-ish band/musician? Do you have a record out that you'd like me to review? Email me at vaguelythreatening@gmail.com or send it directly to Observer offices: 14900 Detroit Avenue, Suite 205, Lakewood, OH 44107 c/o John Kompier

The Anatomy Of The Hospital Deal

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erating revenues from 2015-2017 as per the Subsidiary presentation.

+ **Unknown:** projected revenue generated from services provided by FHC

- **\$24.4 million:** amount advanced to LHA designated non-profit entity (LOI, IIC)

- **\$15.5 million:** thirty-one annual payments of \$500,000 on anniversary of the signing of the DA to LHA designated non-profit entity (LOI, IID)

- **\$3.45 million:** total amount of rent payments to be paid by the LHA to the City during interim (Jennifer Pae's Economic Impact Study) Based on calculations above.

= \$222.3 million

*Note: "LHA's wind-down and subsequent dissolution will occur under the direction of the President

of the LHA, who shall be appointed by the Clinic... LHA will be the recipient of all revenues and incur all expenses whether direct or allocated, associated with the continued existence of the LHA, between the effective date of the 2015 Definitive Agreement and the dissolution of the LHA." (LOI, 2E)

LHA Designated Private Non-Profit Entity =

+ **\$24.4 million:** half on signing of 2015 DA and half upon completion of FHC (LOI: IIC)

+ **15.5 million:** thirty-one annual payments of \$500,000 on anniversary of the signing of the DA (LOI, IID)

= \$39.9 million

City of Lakewood =

+ **\$8.2 million:** sale of property on 850 Columbia Rd. (LOI: IIE)

+ **\$2 million:** estimated revenue from sale of four acres on hospital property (LOI: IIE)

+ **\$3.45 million:** rents collected before shuttering of hospital assuming a 2017 date of closure and based on a 2015 payment of \$1.15 million with \$25,000 increases every three years (Jennifer Pae's Economic Impact Study)

- **\$10.8million:** loss of rents from 2018-2026 less the rent payments from 2015-2017 (Jennifer Pae's Economic Impact Study)

- **\$955,000:** loss of EMS transport fees (Jennifer Pae's Economic Impact Study)

- **\$735,000:** estimated loss of income tax (Jennifer Pae's Economic Impact Study)

= **\$1.2 million**

Welcome Spring At LEAF Open House

continued from page 1

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

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

Education: Curious about mushrooms? Want to learn about how to plan your garden space? How to bake bread? How to make your own pickles? These

are just a few of the educational programs LEAF is planning for 2015. Our first educational event will cover garden planning/landscaping with Jacqueline Kowalski of the Ohio State University Extension and will take place on Thursday, March 26th at 7 p.m. in the library's multi-purpose room. Learn more about our educational programs and make your suggestions for future programs at the Open House!

Seed Swapping and More: The Open House will feature a seed swap again this year, so bring any extra seeds you'd like to trade (in clearly marked envelopes or bags, please).

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

To find out more about LEAF, visit www.leafcommunity.org or email leafcommunity@gmail.com.

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Lakewood Living

The Weather And Such Things

by Eric Lowrey

As of this writing there are a total of 78 single family homes for sale in the city of Lakewood. This is a historically low number. And weather is at historically low temperatures. Some may suggest that these two figures share some cause and effect and they are partially right. After all who wants to get a house ready to sell when it's below zero outside. Who wants to keep all things pristine and lovely when the daily battle with layer upon layer and where did I leave my gloves and don't you go tracking snow, mud, and water into my house and it takes five times as long just to get out of the house and where are my GLOVES?

The low inventory has many causes. The most frustrating cause is the low inventory itself. After all, who wants to sell their home when there are not any homes for the seller to buy? It's scary to be out there without a safe landing place. Better to wait until the market is easier for the buyer. But if this is the case and there are more homes for the buyer to choose from aren't there more homes to choose from? What I am saying is you as a seller of a home have choices. If you list with a low inventory to compete with then your chances of selling quickly and at a good price increase but so does your chance of ending up homeless if there is no home for you to buy.

On the other hand, if you list when there are more homes on the market there is more competition and your

market time may increase and the selling price may decrease. So what to do?

Some who would like to sell cannot due to financial reasons. Their mortgage may be too high for the market to bear. They may have just added a new kitchen, or bath, and have too much invested with limited returns. Others have weather related issues. The exterior needs painting or projects need finishing and this can only happen when it is warmer. All these and more are contributing to the low inventory.

Home Maintenance Workshops Offered Through LakewoodAlive

by Allison Urbanek

LakewoodAlive's Knowing Your Home is an educational series focused on best sustainability and home maintenance practices empowering homeowners to tackle necessary repairs and improvements. LakewoodAlive will be presenting two workshops during the month of March.

Heating System Maintenance & Repair: This workshop will focus on the importance of system maintenance as well as what to look for when replacing your heating system. The knowledgeable staff at Slife Heating & Cooling will answer questions about what to expect during a service call and how to address some common heating system issues. Our workshop will also help you under-

stand what to look for when considering replacing your current heating system. Wednesday, March 18 7-9 p.m. at Slife Heating & Cooling, 13729 Madison Ave

Pruning Trees & Shrubs in Your Landscape: The City of Lakewood Tree Taskforce is partnering with LakewoodAlive to present a lecture and hands-on experience for participants who would like to learn more about properly pruning your landscape. You will have the opportunity to learn when it is best to trim up your trees and shrubs as well as the proper technique to make them thrive. There will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions about your specific landscape as well as native plants to

improve your curb appeal. Saturday, March 28th 10 a.m. - 12 noon at Lakewood Women's Pavillion, Lakewood Park

To register or learn more information about these or any upcoming workshops visit our website www.lakewoodalive.com/events or contact Allison Urbanek at 216-521-0655 or aurbanek@lakewoodalive.com

All of our workshops are free and open to the public thanks to the generous support of our sponsors: Charter One, First Federal Lakewood, Third Federal Savings & Loan, The City of Lakewood, Huntington Bank, The Cleveland Foundation, Cleveland Lumber.

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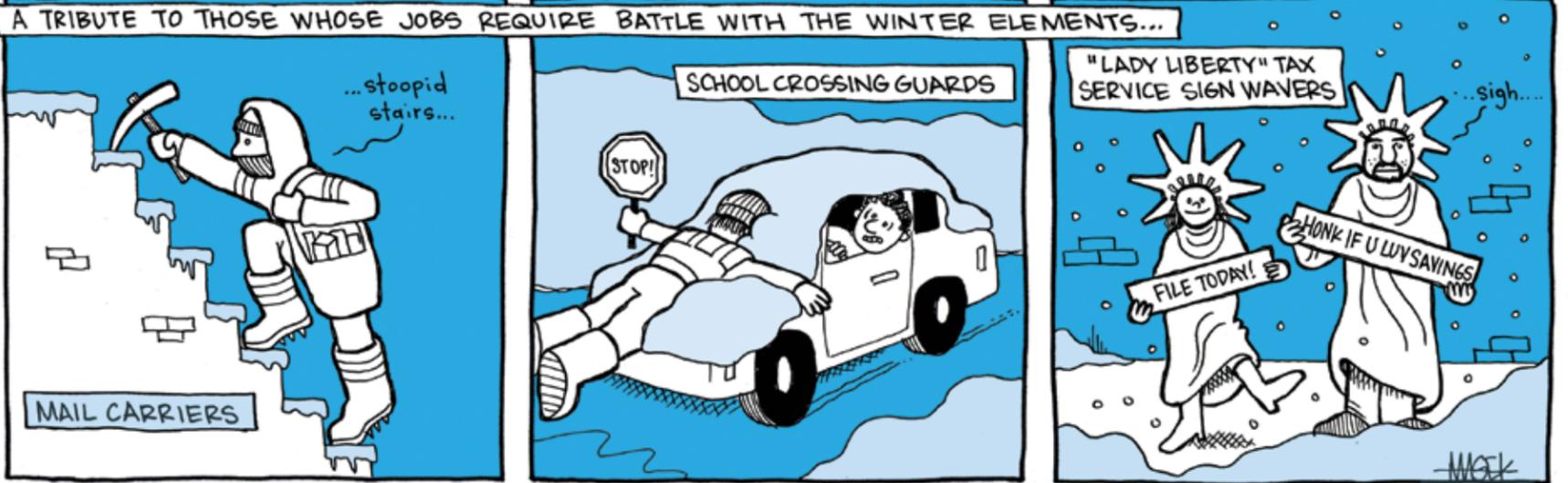
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