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THE ROCKPORT Observer

FAIRVIEW PARK & ROCKY RIVER COMMUNITIES | VOL 01, ISSUE 9 | MARCH 2014

Morton Park Gets New Playground from State Grant

By Eileen Ann Patton, Mayor of the City of Fairview Park

What a winter this has been! During this season of snow, ice, sub-zero temperatures, and more snow, the City of Fairview Park has kept its eyes on the horizon, confident that the onset of spring and warmer temperatures is inevitable. To prepare for spring, the city has taken a thorough look at its parks and created a master project list to enhance these outdoor recreational areas for the younger residents of Fairview Park.

Plans for the enhancement of Morton Park received a boost this past February, thanks to a \$55,534 grant the city received from the state of Ohio. The grant funds will assist us in purchasing and installing brand new playground equipment at Morton Park.

This new equipment will fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, meaning all children will be able to enjoy it, including those with physical



Mayor Eileen Ann Patton and ODNR Director James Zehringer with Fairview Park staff Recreation Director Kenn Kaminski, Jack Abbruzzese, Amanda Creque, Mary Long, and Matt Hrubey.

disabilities. The new playground will complement Morton Park's splash

park, tennis courts, basketball courts, and picnic area, and will make the

neighborhood park an even more enjoyable destination for the children of Fairview Park.

The grant was awarded to the city by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), the state agency that oversees Ohio's state parks, forests, and other natural resources. The funding was obtained through ODNR's NatureWorks program, which helps offset costs associated with acquiring, developing, and rehabilitating recreational areas.

I am very excited about this project and the impact it will have on Morton Park and the surrounding neighborhood. One of the missions of my administration has always been to make Fairview Park a great, desirable place to live and grow a family. Attractive, accessible recreational areas play a big role in achieving and maintaining that distinction.

I invite you to visit www.fairviewpark.org for more information about the parks of Fairview Park. •

Cartoonist Stephan Pastis to Appear in Rocky River

By Kitty Sommers

Meet cartoonist Stephan Pastis, creator of the best-selling comic strip "Pearls Before Swine" on April 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 20401 Hilliard Boulevard. The event is sponsored by Rocky River Public Library and Joseph-Beth Booksellers.

Come to delight in the cynical wit and humor of Stephan Pastis, National Cartoonists Society's Best Newspaper Comic Award Recipient, in this free presentation. Pearls is still one of the fastest-growing comic strips, appearing in more than 650 newspapers worldwide, including The Plain Dealer.

Signed copies of his new title, "Pearls Falls Fast: A Pearls Before Swine Treasury," will be available for purchase. Enjoy the continuing saga of the whole crew plus two years' worth of the award-winning, New York Times best-selling comic strip Pearls Before Swine.

Joseph-Beth Booksellers is donating a percentage of all book sales to Rocky River Public Library. For additional information, call Rocky River Public Library at 440-333-7610 or visit www.rrpl.org. •



Stephan Pastis and friends



Casey's Irish Imports: Celebrating 25 Years of Bringing Irish Treasures to Cleveland

By Kathleen Casey Proctor

Cead Mile Failte, One Hundred Thousand Welcomes, awaits you at Casey's Irish Imports, Inc. in Rocky River. After just celebrating 25 years of business in October, the Casey family and staff are gearing up for another brilliant St. Patrick's Day!

Original founders, Vera and Tom Casey fulfilled a lifelong dream of importing the treasures of their native Ireland to America when they established their business in 1988. Today, two of their daughters, Maureen Casey Brubaker and Kathleen Casey Proctor, along with an exceptional and knowledgeable staff, continue to run this unique family-owned business.

Casey's prides itself on outstanding customer service, always willing to research or special order a product to meet its customer's needs. Last month in Dublin Ireland, Casey's Irish Imports was awarded the Celtic Warrior Award by NACTA (North American Celtic Trade Association) "in recognition of active participation in the Celtic market thereby supporting and promoting Celtic Heritage in his/her community, in North America and in the Celtic nations." Casey's also has been voted the best gift



shop in Cleveland on the Fox 8 Hotlist.

Casey's carries a wide range of products including Celtic and Claddagh jewelry; Waterford and Galway Crystal; traditional aran knit sweaters, Irish themed clothing for infants through adults; communion and christening gifts and attire; Irish foods and meats; gifts for the home and garden; and everything you need for the St. Patrick's Day parade!

So next time you are looking for that perfect gift for someone special on your list, stop in at Casey's Irish Imports. The store is located at 19626 Center Road in Rocky River. For more information, visit www.caseysirishimports.com or call 440-333-8383. •

Kathleen Casey Proctor is co-owner of Casey's Irish Imports, Inc.

ROCKPORT FILES

Recruiting Irish Maidens

By Kathy Luengo

The Northern Ohio Rose Centre, an affiliate of The Rose of Tralee International Festival in Tralee, Ireland, is seeking applicants from Ohio for its fourth annual Northern Ohio Rose Selection Celebration to be held August 25 at LaCentre in Westlake.

The maiden chosen as the “2014 Ohio Rose” will receive an expense-paid trip to participate in The Rose of Tralee International Festival’s Regional Finals in Portlaoise, Ireland, the second tier of its annual search for the 2014 Rose of Tralee. The Regional Festival is held May 29 through June 1.

Those who are chosen in Portlaoise to advance to the final selection round will return as Festival guests for The International Rose of Tralee Festival, a time-honored Irish tradition held in August.

The Rose of Tralee International Festival is based on William Pembroke Mulchinook’s ballad “The Rose of Tralee,” a story of unrequited love between the son of wealthy parents and a young maid in their employ. The spirit of the Festival embraces the essence of his attraction: “Yet ‘twas not her beauty alone that won me; Oh no, ‘twas the truth in her eyes ever dawning.”

Festival eligibility requirements and a local application packet may be requested by emailing inquiries@northernohiorose.com. Completed application packets must be received by March 21. Additional information



Photo courtesy of The Rose of Tralee International Festival.

Kelsey Higgins, the 2013 Ohio Rose, in Portlaoise, Ireland, with Festival emcee and Irish television personality Dáithí Ó Sé.

can be obtained from The Rose of Tralee International Festival’s website: www.roseoftralee.ie The Northern Ohio Rose and The Rose of Tralee International Festival also have facebookpages.

The local Rose selection is the annual fundraiser for Westlake World Partners Co., a non-profit organization supporting educational, cultural and civic exchange between Westlake and its Sister Cities of Tralee, Ireland and Kingsville, Ontario, Canada. •

A Note from the Publisher

As we roll into the month of March with Fat Tuesday, the beginning of Lent, March Madness and St. Paddy’s Day, the winter blues will quickly fade as spring arrives.

We have a new writer, Dale Drottar, who is set to increase our awareness of how we are driving. This blends in with our philosophy of asking all our readers to consider what is happening around them - observations, events, questions - and write to share their thoughts with the community.

Given the continued momentum in our growth, we have asked some of our initial supporters to purchase ads to encourage more business owners to partner with us to promote their ventures. We were overwhelmed with the positive response. Thank you to those who stepped up to the plate! Remember to support our local entrepreneurs, who support our community.

A few items of note in this month’s issue...Congratulations to Mayor Patton and her team on the award to develop Morton Park. Don’t miss our picture by Tom Harper focusing on the beauty of The Rocky River! And, be sure to catch some of the remarkable events and programs that our libraries have created for the community’s enjoyment.

Finally, most important, thank you for picking this up, taking a look, and giving it a go. We hope you find something you enjoy and pass it along to a friend.

— LuAnn Leonard
Publisher

St. Patrick’s Day Wishes to our Readers

May you get all your wishes but one so you always have something to strive for!



The Rockport Observer Hosts Adult Skate

March 23rd
7:30-9:30 p.m.
Rocky River Ice Rink
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Rocky River, OH 44116
\$6.00 admission



THE ROCKPORT Observer

Volume 1 | Issue 9

Community news powered by the citizens of Rocky River & Fairview Park

Check out our Web site at TheRockportObserver.com

With a current circulation of 5,000 copies distributed to over 250 locations in the Fairview Park, Kamm’s Corners, and Rocky River community and via our Web site, The Rockport Observer is a community media initiative whose mission is to involve, engage, inform and converse with neighbors in what was once known as Ohio’s Rockport community. The views and opinions expressed in the publication do not necessarily reflect that of The Rockport Observer, its publisher or staff. Copyright 2014-The Rockport Observer, All right reserved. Any reproduction or use of the content within without expressed written consent is forbidden.

The Rockport Observer is a locally-owned and operated citizen-based news source written by community writers. Stories are accepted in the order received (save for time-sensitive community event material). The Rockport Observer reserves the right to edit all entries and items for publication.

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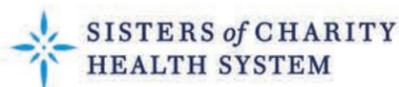
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Rotary Foundation Awards over \$46,000 in Grants

By Lynn Donaldson

Over \$46,000 from the Lakewood-Rocky River Rotary Foundation will be used to provide scholarships, recognize student achievement, purchase dictionaries, and fund grant requests made by Lakewood and Rocky River community organizations. The awards focused on three main areas – community health and wellness, food and nutrition, and programs that encourage and foster youth leadership.

The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River will award \$9,500 in

scholarships to high school seniors, and \$4,500 to student winners in the club's annual speech, music and art competition at the Beck Center on April 7.

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

Magnificat High School received a \$2,500 grant for its Seeds of Service project. With construction of the "hoop house" greenhouse on Magnificat's

property, the project is slated to involve over 150 students and deliver more than 200 pounds of fresh, organically-grown produce to Rocky River and Lakewood food banks.

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

Lakewood Community Services Center

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

Additional community service grants were awarded to the following: North Coast Health Ministry, Lakewood Hospital Foundation, Barton Center, Rocky River Senior Center, Rocky River United Methodist Church "storm team", Trinity Lutheran Community Outreach, Rocky River Assistance Program, Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp., and Meals on Wheels in Lakewood and Rocky River. •

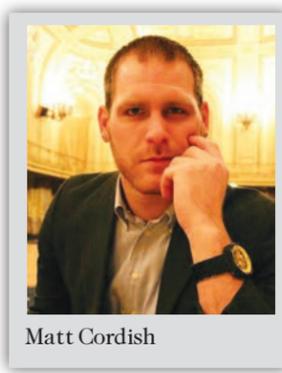
Gay Games Speaker, Matt Cordish, at Democratic Club

By Jane Reilly

The Fairview Park Democratic Club meeting on March 6, 7 p.m., will feature a presentation by Matt Cordish, Marketing Manager of the Gay Games, presented by the Cleveland Foundation. Learn more about the events, opportunities and festivities heading our way August 9-16. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion immediately following the presentation.

The meeting will be held in Fairview Park City Hall's lower level Dunson Room, 20777 Lorain Road. Fairview Park Democratic Club is open to all Democrats and Independents. For further information on the Club, visit fairviewparkdems.org, or contact the Club at fairviewdems@gmail.com. •

Jane Reilly is a freelance political, medical, religious, and social community commentator.



Matt Cordish

Support the Lakewood Animal Shelter

By Dawn Pyne

Come out March 11 and support CCLAS and the Lakewood Animal Shelter at "Pay It Forward" Tuesdays at Jammy Buggars! Bring your appetite - Jammy's has one of the best menus in the city, including burgers, gourmet fries, and several vegan/vegetarian options. The restaurant is located at 15625 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood.

Jammy Buggars will donate 15% of all food sales from our supporters who stop in for lunch or dinner or appetizers. We hope to see you there! And don't forget to MENTION that you're a supporter of the Lakewood Animal Shelter.



For more information about Citizens Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter, visit www.cclas.info. •

Dawn Pyne is the Board President of CCLAS, the non-profit volunteer support organization for the Lakewood Animal Shelter.



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Kathy Babareka	Loft 2	Sherri Shepherd	Loft 11
Katie Bilovol	Loft 4	Tina Erwin	Loft 1
Kim Hlavin	Loft 15	Victoria Koch	Loft 19

Salon Lofts, a beauty industry innovator credited with creating a salon concept that allows beauty professionals to own and operate their own businesses, is now open in the Westgate Shopping Center 3141 Westgate Drive, Fairview Park, Ohio 44126.

Salon Lofts is expanding its unique salon model in several markets in the United States, thus creating more opportunities for beauty professionals to own their own businesses and provide consumers with more high-end options for beauty services.

"Beauty professionals in Central Ohio have been embracing the Salon Lofts model for more than a decade now," explained Salon Lofts CEO Daniel Sadd. "With the addition of The Fairview Park location we continue to dominate the marketplace by offering beauty professionals the very best opportunity to own and operate their own businesses in prime commercial locations.

Consumers can access Salon Loft's Open Chair Service, a value-added benefit that enables customers to pick a beauty professional based on location, service or price, and to compare service providers and view testimonials. Consumers can book appointments online through Open Chair. No one in the industry offers a comparable tool.

For leasing information in Cleveland Contact:
Heidy Valentine-Market Manager
hvalentine@salonloftscorp.com
216-407-3417



DAILY DRIVER

The Daily Driver

By Dale Drottar

Drive Time! Having retired from a satisfying career in law enforcement and currently working as a driving instructor, I'm taken aback by some of the bad - and dangerous - driving habits I see every day.

So I had an idea. My thought was to try to make our roads safer by keeping the public updated on driving laws and by sharing safe driving tips. My idea was to have potential and current drivers submit questions or observations that I would answer or comment on.

The Rockport Observer has afforded me the platform and opportunity to do this. Our goal is to work together and with the public to keep everyone more informed and more conscious of his or her driving habits. We hope to increase awareness of the fact that when you are driving a car, you are operating a machine, one that can change lives forever in the blink of an eye.

Mostly I teach new students, students who are still in high school, 15 1/2 years old and up. It is amazing to listen to the

students, who are just learning the laws and the correct way to drive, relate to one another what they witness their parents doing while their parents are driving. These parents are unknowingly setting examples for our youngest and newest drivers. Remember that when you are driving with your kids in the car, they are watching and learning from you. If you are disobeying the laws or just being thoughtless and careless, they'll assume it must be okay. This assumption could prove dangerous for everyone.

A Pet Peeve

Sometimes it's the "littlest" things in life that bother one the most. Let's start with a pet peeve of mine: The good old turn signal, or should I say, the lack of use of the good old turn signal!

Every car manufactured has a simple way to activate the turn signal, so that a driver can let other drivers know what his intentions are. Most commonly, the turn signal lever is located on the left side of the steering column. Lift the lever upward, it indicates a right turn. Push the lever downward, it indicates a left

turn. This seems like an easy procedure, but apparently it is not, to some drivers! The lack of use of the turn signal rates in the top five reasons for road rage, an area where none of us wants to tread.

Proper use of the turn signal is to activate it about 100 feet before the actual turn. Activating the turn signal too early may indicate to someone who might be waiting to enter the road that you will be turning before reaching them and they might pull out in front of you. (That's why you wait for commitments, which we'll talk about in a later column.) Activating the turn signal too late might not give drivers enough reaction time.

Also, please be aware: Activating your turn signal to enter a turning lane, change lanes or enter a highway does not necessarily give you the right of way. How many times have you seen a driver activate his turn signal then immediately change course without yielding when needed? This could end up as a police report.

So let's all use our turn signals. Being considerate of one another is an important - and often overlooked -



aspect of courteous driving.

Hopefully, as drivers, we can grow together with this column. Until next time, keep both hands on the steering wheel and your eyes on the road! •

Please submit your questions and observations to Dale through our website. Click on Submit a new story and choose the Category, DailyDriver.

Dale Drottar is retired from the Avon Lake Police Department. He is currently an instructor at a driving school located in Rocky River.

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Take a Tour with Diana: An Artisan of Travel to Italy

By Francesca Mignosa

Diana Maiola Cirino is the owner of two Rocky River based businesses: Italian Tours & Travel by Diana and Anna Mia Jewelry. Both boutiques are located in the Old River shopping district and offer customized experiences based on Maiola's Italian heritage. Maiola says she feels fortunate to be able to share and represent her deep, longtime passions for both Italian jewelry and travel to Italy.

Starting at a young age, she was involved in designing jewelry and wearing custom pieces. Maiola's love of travel, especially to Italy, evolved into a business 10 years ago, when her jewelry clients asked her to bring them to Italy. The tours are custom crafted, like her jewelry. Maiola says, "We just don't resell someone else's tour. It's like you become a member of our family in Italy, not a tourist."

Maiola makes many trips to Italy –

some personal, some for tours, and some related to business. Groups are small and private. Each includes a private driver and transportation from start to finish, private guides and superior boutique hotels. Restaurants offer travelers a taste of the most authentic regional cuisine and wines. Of course Maiola and staff provide 24/7 personal concierge service or accompaniment allowing travelers the ease of a smooth and seamless journey.

If group tours are not what you are looking for, Maiola and her staff can help you design the custom journey of a lifetime to Italy, Sicily, Malta or France. They are artisans of travel in these specific regions and thrive in sharing their unending love and passion for these corners of Europe. They work with private individuals, small groups, families, businesses and cultural organizations. Maiola and her staff can also offer villa or apartment rentals in these locations as well as shore excursions

off Mediterranean cruises in key cities in Italy or France. If you are getting married soon and are looking for a special honeymoon, they can help you design a romantic and exclusive journey for two!

There are still some available spots on the following tours:

- **La Forchetta Culinary Journey with Chef Dante Boccuzzi**, May 18-28: \$4,464 per person
- **La Bella Italia Tour**, September 19-28: \$3,884 per person
- **Romantic Sicily and Rome Tour**, September 27-October 5: \$3,888 per person
- **Pace e Bene Spiritual Journey**, October 8-16: \$2,975 per person
- **Rustic Italy Culinary Tour with Chef Jeff Jarrett**, October 18-26: \$3,964 per person



Diana Maiola Cirino enjoying an historical spot on one of her tours to Italy.

Located at 19059 Lake Road in Rocky River, both boutiques are open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 p.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 440-895- 0011 or visit www.italiantoursbydiana.com or www.annamajewelry.com or the Facebook page: Italian Tours by Diana. •

First Federal Lakewood's First Time Homebuyer Seminar

By Lee Fields

For centuries home ownership has been the essence of the American Dream. For most of us, it becomes reality only when we realize that we are just as worthy of that dream as our landlord. The ability to pay yourself each month, let alone paint your walls any color other than "renter's white", is a goal that's within reach. First Federal Lakewood

wants to help you get started. Join us for our free First Time Homebuyer Seminar on Saturday, March 15 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the University of Akron, 14725 Detroit Avenue, just across the street from the First Federal Lakewood Branch.

Unlike some banks that use seminars solely to promote specific mortgage services, First Federal Lakewood is a mutual bank, which means we are first interested in investing in our community and in you - our neighbor. While we of course want to be your bank of choice, offering these seminars is an extension of our commitment to the economic vitality of Lakewood.

The home-buying process can seem overwhelming, and it is difficult to know where to start. However, our First Time Homebuyer seminar is presented in a simple, easy-to-follow format which

makes understanding the home-buying process accessible.

We begin by talking about how to manage your money, and that begins with budgeting. Taking control of your personal finances is the first step to home ownership. We will teach you how to create a budget and achieve your savings goals. We will also help you understand credit, including why you need it, how to use it and how to establish a good credit history.

Our First Federal Lakewood team will then take you step-by-step through the actual home-buying process, including topics such as determining how much home you can afford, getting pre-approved, negotiating a purchase agreement and more.

You don't have to be ready to buy a home to attend. The refreshments

and answers to your questions are free and the information you receive invaluable. However, if you are on the cusp of ownership and are interested in becoming pre-qualified for free, simply bring proof of income (pay stub, tax return or W-2) and we will meet with you after the seminar.

So, whether you are ready to plant roots or still in the planning, considering, or dreaming stage, attending the First Federal Lakewood First Time Homebuyer Seminar is the first step to your next step...owning your own home! To reserve your seat, contact Heidi Finniff, Lakewood Branch Manager, at (216) 529-2682 or hfinniff@FFL.net. •

Lee Fields is a Vice President and the Community Development Manager at First Federal of Lakewood.

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Is the Cloud Right for You?

By Don Shadrake

There is a lot of buzz right now about working “in the cloud”. If you have a Yahoo, Gmail, or AOL account for email, or use web backups, or share pictures and updates on social media, you are in fact working in the cloud – you’re just borrowing resources on someone else’s hosting machinery.

Pushing your company resources to a cloud platform can make sense, especially if you have a large territory to cover, with lots of highly mobile employees. It’s usually not a hard transition to make and, depending on needs, can be very cost effective. The benefits can include quick setup of new offices and workers; reliable systems that are not affected by weather, disasters, or circuit outages; and 24/7 access to important information on

laptops, tablets, or smartphones.

Before your company makes the leap, you just have to weigh options, costs, and your own requirements. Some big ones are the following:

Security. Do I need to ensure all data is encrypted, including backups, to comply with regulatory or business requirements? Does my security needs mean I CAN’T work from a shared host environment, where systems are shared by many companies? How do I prevent or respond to any attempted breach of my security systems?

Bandwidth and Redundant Connections. How many people will be connecting to my system at one time? Do I need to provide “failover” circuits so that an outage with a local carrier doesn’t affect anyone’s ability to get to my systems? How much Bandwidth is sufficient for my needs?

Management. If I have my own systems and servers, who is managing them day

to day? If I am in a hosted environment, what kind of support can I get from the hosting organization, and during what hours? Do I need equipment failover, so that if one server stops working, another automatically takes it place?

Software. Do my systems speak cloud? Can I migrate the programs we use to a cloud-based environment? Is now the time to redesign how we work, to better support mobile devices?

Most local and national hosting companies can answer a lot of these questions, as they have years of experience with the things you want to consider.

My company has been “in the cloud” for many years now; I’d be happy to answer questions as well. We’ve been very happy with the many advantages of cloud computing, and can’t imagine doing it any other way as we’ve grown and evolved. For more information, contact dshadrak@trnstaffing.com. •



Don Shadrake

Don Shadrake is the CIO of The FocIS Group, the technical division of The Reserves Network. The company is located in Fairview Park. Don has been a technology specialist for more than 30 years.



Unique Treasures at Ark too

By Julie Kline

Local natives Jennette Bando and Julie Kline decided to bring a taste of the sunny Southwest to Cleveland. Thus, in their first business venture, the pair opened The Ark too in Rocky River last April. With items from around the world and local artisans, The Ark too is a community-oriented business that prides itself on featuring unique gift items.

Putting a local spin on the Southwestern idea, Bando and Kline order products from other small businesses and carry several limited edition, handmade items. Currently, The Ark too has stuffed animals from bijoukitty by Rocky River’s own Susan Hank and ceramics and jewelry from other local artists, as well as a natural personal care line from Olmsted Falls.

The Ark too’s teal walls and tangerine accents evoke the Southwest, as does the assortment of traditional sterling silver jewelry and semiprecious stones. It also hosts a wide assortment of home decor, apparel and other original gift items. With a large collection of unique cards, including a local handmade line from RNR Creations of Valley City, The Ark too has something for everyone.

For the international selection, the shop offers several fair-trade items, made by people in developing countries. Under fair trade, workers are provided employment with fair wages, training and good working conditions. They receive money directly from the sale of their items. The Ark too carries Firefly jewelry from Guatemala and clothing from Lost River. Bando and Kline are constantly looking for more seasonal fair-trade items that will appeal to the local community and benefit the communities that make them.

Drawn to the environment along Detroit Road where their shop is located across from the Beachcliff Market Square, the pair like the family-oriented, small business feel of the area. Both have stated that it was easy to connect with other entrepreneurs, such as the owners of the Apple Core consignment shop and Erie Island Coffee – yet another reason to love the area. The Ark too is currently providing art for the coffee shop and has worked with Mad Tex and other area merchants in the recent past.

So whether you are looking for an unusual gift for a friend or just window shopping after a meal at Sweet Melissa’s, stop in. The Ark too is sure to have something that will make you smile. •



Jennette Bando and Julie Kline are the proud owners of The Ark too.

Sport Clips Haircuts Makes It Good to be a Guy

By Lori Yeager

Sport Clips Haircuts, a place that makes it good to be a guy, has just opened in the River Commons Shopping Center on Detroit Road in Rocky River. This is the first Sport Clips location in the city, adding to the more than 1,000 shops across the country. “What’s better than being in a relaxing environment with sports on TV everywhere you look, well-trained stylists, and no need for an appointment when it’s time for a haircut?” said Lori Yeager, Team Leader for the new Sport Clips. “These are just a few reasons why we know Sport Clips will be a hit for the guys in Rocky River.”

Sport Clips offers clients:

- The MVP Experience – precision haircut, massaging shampoo, steamed towel treatment, and neck and shoulder massage
- Stylists who specialize in male hair care and stay up-to-date on industry trends
- Haircut services without an appointment
- Large, flat-screen televisions playing sports programming at each haircut station and in the lobby
- Special lighting and massaging chairs in the shampoo area to promote relaxation
- Male-focused hair care and styling products

“It’s exciting to open our doors and let people come in and experience it for themselves,” said Yeager. “The Sport clips concept continues to grow as a hair care option for guys, a great place for stylists to work and as a franchise business investment opportunity. We’re glad to be a part of it.”

The new location provides free “MVP upgrades”, including a massaging shampoo, hot steamed towel treatment, and neck and shoulder massage, to all first-time clients who purchase a haircut service.

Sport Clips is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.haircutmenrockyriveroh.com and check us out on facebook (Sport Clips Rocky River). •

Lori Yeager is an owner of Sport Clips Haircuts.

SportClips
HAIRCUTS

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OR

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Reg. Varsity Haircut: \$17 • Reg. Jr. Varsity (10 & Under) Haircut: \$14. Not valid with any other offer. Void if bartered, copied, traded, or sold. Valid only at Rocky River Location.
\$8 HC V: 2420 • \$8 HC JV: 2425 • \$5 OFF: 2430

Women Face Challenges as Entrepreneurs

By Perry Haan

In the 21st century, it would seem obvious that female and male entrepreneurs would be treated equally. However, that is not necessarily true. Although most new businesses are started by women, some men still do not deal with women business owners in the same that they deal with business men.

Maryann Winterich, owner of Innuendo, a women's clothing boutique in Rocky River, has been in business for 22 years. She has little experience with this issue. "The vendors and sales reps I have worked with have always treated me with respect and professionalism. It is their job to sell me their products and merchandise. Their behavior has always been appropriate."

Moreover, since her customer base is mostly women, the issue is almost moot for Winterich. "Most of my customers are women, with a few husbands thrown into the mix. They all seem to appreciate my knowledgeable and creative customer service."

Winterich, however, has on occasion had issues with some service providers, particularly those who represent credit card services and utilities. "Sometimes I feel that, because I am a female, [they think] I must have no knowledge of numbers and mechanicals. In fact, one

reason that I chose my current credit card provider was because the woman who represented it was so knowledgeable and helpful!"

Marylou Palazzi, owner of Palazzi Interiors, said the interior design business was "professionalized" by two women a century ago, Elise de Wolf and Dorothy Drapery, so it is accepted as a field for women. "I have not experienced issues that other women entrepreneurs have had to face because of this. But a consistent problem I have to face is working with male contractors. I expect them not to accept and they expect not to accept me, all based on previous experiences. I do not know if that will ever change, could be a great team though."

Wild Flour Bakery in Rocky River is celebrating its 20th anniversary in just a few weeks, according to its owner, **Sue Johansen**. She has not felt she has been treated differently. However, prior to opening her business, she worked in a grocery store bakery. "It was a highly sexist environment that was passed down from the management. I do feel this was an isolated circumstance based on the ownership of that particular business," she stated.

"I think the greatest attributes that have led to part of my store's success are compassion, humor and fairness. I

don't know that being a woman really had anything to do with it. If anything, my maternal instincts have been both a positive and negative in the store's history," Johansen remarked.

Funding Is a Hurdle

Lack of access to funding is a big hurdle for female entrepreneurs. Nationally women own fewer companies than men, a common reason for the funding problem. According to The Center for Women's Business Research, women head only 28.2% of all businesses in the U.S. Yet, more women are starting their own businesses to avoid having to deal with the glass ceiling of larger organizations.

However, things are getting better for women seeking funding. A study found that companies with at least one female founder secured a record 13% of U.S. venture capital through September 2013. By comparison, in 2004, women-led companies secured only 4% of venture capital. Two industries stand out in terms of growth in recent years: Female-founded companies in the retail business received about 40% of the venture capital and in the consumer services industry, 33%.

Several organizations have been created specifically to assist women entrepreneurs. The Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Women's



Dr. Perry Haan

Business Ownership created a loan program that makes it easier for women entrepreneurs to obtain SBA financing. The SBA also established a Women's Network for Entrepreneurial Training that links women mentors with those in need of help. In addition, many states including Ohio have programs to promote women entrepreneurs.

For more information, Dr. Haan can be contacted at 419-618-2867 or haanpc@tiffin.edu. •

Dr. Perry Haan is Professor of Marketing and Entrepreneurship, and former Dean of the Business School at Tiffin University. He resides in Rocky River.

Entrepreneurship for Women (and Men!)

By William Ferry

As we return from the long holiday hiatus to our workplaces, we settle into our workaday routines. But for some among us, there's no pride in settling—and there's no fun in routine. We seek a sense of adventure and creativity, to express our can-do spirit, and we desire more control over our daily work. If you're feeling that way, you just might be an entrepreneur.

In America, an entrepreneur usually brings to mind the young hotshots of the software industry. But originally in its Old French root word form, entrepreneur means one who *undertakes* an activity or a business. I have translated it, sloppily, from modern French as one who is between (entre-) takings (prendre). It is in this in-between period where the entrepreneur is most alive—after walking out on the routine of a job and before the new business has made any money. It is in this crucial time that the creativity, the risk-taking, the love of craft, and the fear of failure combine. It is

from this exciting mix that our greatest companies have emerged.

Turning Passion...

Most often, the entrepreneur is a person who is skilled or passionate about a product or service and driven to bring that vision of a better world to the marketplace—Edison with his lightbulb, Ford with his automobile, Jobs with his computer on every desk. It's hard to remember that the lightbulb or automobile were ever visionary, crazy ideas. And as recently as 1958, IBM's chairman thought there was a world market "for about five computers!"

But how can one take her passion and turn it into a business? A great book I give to every one of my business clients is "The E-Myth Revisited". The myth in that book is that someone who can bake really great cookies can run a really great cookie baking business. Or that someone who is really great at music can run a really great music store. Or...you get the picture. To run a business well, a person needs also to be a great businessperson.

...Into a Business

Fortunately, business skills are easier to acquire than baking or music-making talent. In part, every entrepreneur will learn many business skills on her own. But you don't have to become an expert by getting bogged down in the legal or accounting or insurance aspects of your business.

What a lawyer might say about entrepreneurship is that behind every visionary is a whole team of people who are very specifically *not* visionaries, who practice in the real world of the here and now and bricks and mortar. And every entrepreneur, including Edison, Ford, and Jobs, both needed and benefitted from that support.

My advice for all of my entrepreneur clients is to form a team. Instead of pitcher, catcher, first base, and left field, may I suggest attorney, accountant, insurance agent, banker, marketing expert, etc. This is *your advisory board*. Invite them over for coffee and scones, or wine and cheese if appropriate, and get them talking—to each other—about *your* business. If you've picked your team well, they'll show up for the free stuff, give you a piece of their mind, and not send a bill.

Most who hold themselves out as advisors to entrepreneurs understand that yours is a long-term relationship, and that your growth as a businessperson will some day translate into success for them and their firms. In time you and they will learn the appropriate division of responsibilities between your expanding business skills and their professional advice.

Finally, entrepreneurial businesses are not always about computer software. Indeed, the example of really great cookies is one of our country's greatest entrepreneurship stories. In 1977 Debbi Fields started Mrs. Fields Cookies, an idea that was decidedly low-tech, unsexy, and just a bit crazy. Entrepreneurs can be found in every field, in companies from pre-startup to mom-and-pop to mega-corporation, and with varying levels of business skill. But those companies we remember are the ones where the vision and passion of the entrepreneur combines with the wisdom and experience of trusted advisors, early and often. •

Ferry Legal, LLC offers legal counsel in the areas of estate planning law and entrepreneurial business law to individuals, families, and businesses of Cleveland's West Side communities. Mr. Ferry can be contacted at 440-331-1221 or by visiting www.ferrylegal.com.



William Ferry



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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Diabetes Alert Day!

By Sabrina Powers

Do you know your numbers? One in four people has pre-diabetes, a condition that puts you at a higher risk for developing type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. There are no clear symptoms of pre-diabetes, so you may have it and not even know. The first and most important step is to know your numbers - studies show that treatment with modest lifestyle changes can often return blood sugar levels to normal and lower the risk for developing diabetes by at least 58%.

Join Lakewood Hospital and the American Diabetes Association for Diabetes Alert Day on Wednesday, March 26, to receive a free blood sugar, total cholesterol and simple diabetes risk assessment plus foot, eye and body mass index (BMI) screenings. All results will be reviewed by diabetes educators and everyone screened will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 Giant Eagle card.

Are You at Risk?

Everyone should be aware of the risk factors for type 2 diabetes. People who are overweight, under active (living a sedentary lifestyle) and over the age of 45 should consider themselves at risk for the disease. African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and people who have a family history of the disease are also at an increased risk for type 2 diabetes.

Unfortunately, diagnosis often comes seven to 10 years after the onset of the disease, after disabling and even deadly complications have had time to develop. Therefore, early diagnosis is critical to successful treatment and delaying or preventing some of its complications such as heart disease, blindness, kidney disease, stroke, amputation and death.

Take Charge of Your Health

Studies have shown that type 2

diabetes can often be prevented or delayed by losing just 7% of body weight (such as 15 pounds if you weigh 200) through regular physical activity (30 minutes a day, five days a week) and healthy eating. By understanding your risk, you can take the necessary steps to help prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes.

For those diagnosed with diabetes, the Lakewood Hospital Diabetes and Endocrine Center offers disease management, education and prevention, as well as treatment for other endocrine disorders. The center is staffed by Cleveland Clinic endocrinologists and diabetes educators (nurses and dietitians) who work with patients to help manage and improve their conditions. For more information on The Lakewood Hospital Diabetes and Endocrine Center, visit



Free diabetes screenings will be held in the Wasmer Auditorium of Lakewood Hospital on March 26.

lakewoodhospital.org/diabetes

Diabetes Alert Day serves as a one-day wake-up call to inform the public about the seriousness of diabetes. On March 26, screenings will be held from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Wasmer Auditorium of Lakewood Hospital. No registration is required for this free event. For more information, call 216-529-5312 or contact gigavl@ccf.org.

Free Lecture Hosted by Lakewood Hospital: The Power of Stress Relief

By Sabrina Powers

Stress. We all have it and many times struggle with the question, "What can I do?" Receive expert insight on Wednesday, March 26, at the free Lakewood Hospital hosted lecture, "The Power of Stress Relief". The featured speaker is Cleveland Clinic Center for Lifestyle Medicine behavioral health specialist, Jane Ehrman, M.Ed, CHES.

Jane has spoken internationally on a variety of topics including stress management, mind/body medicine, cancer recovery, women and wellness and spirituality. Having worked in the field of health and wellness for over 35 years, Jane focuses on helping patients

turn their crises into opportunities for healing and personal growth.

Jane's own experience with breast cancer 23 years ago profoundly shaped her view of life in positive and powerful ways. She candidly shares her insights with high energy and humor. Jane also works with patients to help them learn the skills needed to turn their crises into opportunities for healing and personal growth.

The lecture will take place in the Lakewood Hospital Wasmer Auditorium from 12:15 p.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is required; lunch will be provided to the first 75 attendees. Call 1-877-234-3488 (FITT) to register. For more details, call 216-529-5312 or contact gigavl@ccf.org.

New Name: North Coast Health

By Jeanine Gergel

North Coast Health Ministry has changed its name to North Coast Health, in response to patient and consumer feedback on how to communicate our services to the community more effectively.

"Our board decided to shorten our name to bring more clarity to our role as a provider of medical care," said North Coast Health Executive Director Lee E. Elmore. "We learned through research in the community that our previous name caused some confusion among the people who need our services. We don't want to be the 'best-kept secret' in Cleveland but

instead want to be able to serve as many people in need as we are able."

While the agency's name has changed, its mission of providing charitable care to the low-income medically underserved in Greater Cleveland has not. While historically the agency was a free clinic that provided free care to the uninsured only, North Coast Health now provides care to the uninsured, "under-insured" and individuals covered by Medicare and Medicaid and other insurance programs. The clinic is located at 16110 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood. •

Jeanine Gergel is Assistant Executive Director of North Coast Health.



North Coast Health

Keeping Our Brains Healthy

By Cara Gallagher

Experts are now saying we need to exercise our brains. When we think of staying fit, we often think from the neck down. But the health of your brain plays a vital role in almost everything you do - from working and reading to simple everyday tasks. There are a few things we can do to keep our brains healthy and sharp.

Stay active. When we are physically active, we help maintain a good blood flow to the brain. Pick an activity that you enjoy such as bike riding, swimming or yoga. It really doesn't matter what the activity is as long as you get your body moving.

Adopt a brain-healthy diet. There is growing evidence that a diet rich in dark vegetables and fruits which contain antioxidants may help to protect brain cells. Learn to cook healthier recipes rather than always grabbing a frozen meal to heat up. Learning a new skill such as healthy cooking will exercise your brain and, at the same time, provide essential nutrition to your body.

Continue to be mentally active.

Research has found that keeping the brain active appears to actually generate brain cells! Attend a lecture or enroll in courses online or at a local college. Never stop learning. There is always something new to discover.

Remain socially active. Social activity not only makes physical and mental activity more enjoyable, it can reduce stress levels, which helps maintain healthy connections among brain cells. Go to a play, volunteer, join a club. Any of these activities provide encouragement and camaraderie to keep your brain healthy.

You don't have to go to extremes. Start small, like a daily walk, and continue to add changes. You want to use your brain, so you won't lose the power of this valuable organ.

Are you a senior citizen who is looking for some companionship to keep your brain healthy and sharp? Or maybe you might enjoy having someone to go to a play or a museum with?

Seniors Helping Seniors® is a non-medical homecare company that can provide these and more services to you. Our caregivers, mostly seniors themselves, provide understanding and quality care to those we serve. Our goal is to help who would like to age in their own homes gracefully.

We can be contacted at 440-759-0319 or by email sdjones@shsohio.com. Our website is www.seniorcarecuyahoga.com and like us on Facebook at Seniors Helping Seniors/Western Cuyahoga. •

Cara Gallagher is a Client Relations Manager for Seniors Helping Seniors in Fairview Park.



Report of the Westshore Council of Governments Meeting of February 12

By LWV observers Conda Boyd and Susan Murnane (Bay Village chapter)

This report, which contains observations and selected highlights of a meeting of the WCOG, is not an official statement of the LWV. Official minutes are prepared by Mayor Patton's office.

Present: Mayors Bobst (Rocky River), Clough (Westlake), Kennedy (North Olmsted), Patton (Fairview Park), Summers (Lakewood), and Sutherland (Bay Village).

Also in attendance: Dave Greenspan, District 1 Representative, Cuyahoga County Council; Steve Presley, Fiscal Officer.

Old Business

Crisis Intervention Training: Mayor Patton and Police Chief Upperman will follow up with Bill Denihan to arrange training for West Shore police, and possibly city employees with extensive public contact.

Fire District Study: The mayors of Bay Village, Fairview Park, Rocky River, and Westlake will meet Monday, February 24 at 11 a.m. in Westlake. Mayor Clough will chair in 2014.

FirstAid4Autism: Akron Police Sergeant Mark Farrar is available to conduct training. Council Member Greenspan may be able to help with funding. It was agreed that holding three to four open sessions in different cities can maximize the number of people trained at a minimal cost.

New Business

Regional Civil Service Exam: The objectives of sharing exam dates are to generate a larger applicant pool, save advertising costs (about \$1,500 per exam), and save applicants' fees and time.

Regional Dispatch: Cuyahoga County wants to consolidate all 911 dispatch centers to six sites and to expand the service to include police as well as fire and EMS. Lakewood declined to join the Westshore Central Dispatch Center

(WCDC), and Mayor Summers expressed skepticism. WCDC has the capacity to add police calls, but for Lakewood, which receives 50,000 calls per year, it would be a "game changer". Although consolidation might save on some expenses, it would not be worth the cost in lost local knowledge and thus slower service.

Mayor Sutherland stated that the majority of Bay Village's 12,000 calls are not emergencies and, because a police officer must be on the premises, consolidation would not result in personnel savings. Furthermore, a police officer must be present in the station if anyone is in the jail.

Mr. Presley stated that some East Side cities are pursuing consolidation, and he noted that the county has also proposed regional jails.

Mayor Patton stated that despite initial resistance, the WCDC has been a success. She will call State Representative Nan Baker and ask her whom to contact for further information.

Health Insurance: Mayor Patton stated that as of January 1, Fairview Park has a three-year contract with the Cuyahoga County health pool under Medical Mutual and the Cleveland Clinic. The new cost is \$1.3 million, a reduction of \$500,000.

Suburban Water Regional Council of Governments: Rocky River and Fairview Park are among 28 communities that have signed a maintenance agreement with the Cleveland Water Department; 40 cities have not signed.

MARCS Radios: The \$20/unit/year user fees, which pay for the tower system, are under statewide discussion. Additional monies are expected to reduce the fees and pay for additional radios. Mayor Bobst is on the task force.

Marine Patrol: Rocky River, Lakewood, and the Metro Parks are collaborating on a Homeland Security grant for a \$266,000 patrol vessel, with the Metro Parks picking up the \$60,000 match portion.

The Westshore Council of Governments was founded in 1971 "to foster cooperation between municipalities in all areas of municipal service." All meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will be March 26, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., in the Fairview Park Gemini Center's Birch Room. •

Report of Westshore Regional Fire District Study Meeting of February 24

By LWV observers Susan Murnane and Marty Mace (Bay Village Chapter) and Jean Seasholtz (Westlake-North Olmsted Chapter)

This report, which contains observations and selected highlights of a meeting of the Westshore Fire District Study Meeting, is not an official statement of the LWV. Official minutes will be prepared by Mayor Clough's office.

Present: Bay Village-Mayor Sutherland, Fire Chief Lyons, union representative Steve Kaye, Law Director Ebert; Fairview Park - Mayor Patton, Fire Chief Williams; Rocky River - Mayor Bobst, Fire Chief Flynn, union representative Kevin Bednarski; Westlake e- Mayor Clough, Acting Fire Chief Hughes and Assistant Fire Chief Mortis, union representatives Clayton Kovats and Patrick Graelis; Northern Ohio Fire Fighters President Astorino; Westshore Central Dispatch Center Supervisor Pishnery; WCOG Financial Officer Presley.

Mayor Clough was elected Chairman, with Chief Lyons as Alternate Chairman.

Past Chairman Mayor Sutherland updated the committee. Ohio's Local Government Innovation Fund notified her in July 2013 that the \$100,000 grant application for the Westshore Regional Fire District Phase Two Feasibility Study had been approved. While the grant is supposed to be used by July 8, 2015, Mayor Sutherland has been assured that an extension can be sought.

Mr. Ebert stated that three of the four city councils must pass ordinances accepting the grant. The Westshore Council of Governments must also pass a resolution supporting the study.

He will prepare the ordinances. The process should take three to eight weeks, depending on the number of readings. Mayor Clough expects Westlake City Council to pass the ordinance on first reading. Mayor Patton suggested the fire chiefs attend their council meetings to answer questions.

Once the grant is accepted, the group will advertise for a project leader with experience in fire fighting to lead the study. Meanwhile, Mayor Clough will compile job description and qualification suggestions. Once the leader is hired, the actual feasibility study will take 12-18 months.

Chief Lyons said that at the last meeting there was discussion about the differences between a fire authority and a fire district. According to a June 20, 2012 memorandum prepared by Mr. Ebert, ORC 505.371 authorizes the creation of a joint fire district and grants it the power to levy a tax, requiring no changes to current funding.

Mayor Clough asked whether any city charters would need to be changed in order to create a joint fire district. Mr. Ebert said that he would have to examine all of the city charters, but the Bay Village Charter would not need to be changed. Chief Lyons said that it was his understanding that Bay Village's charter provision requiring a fire department would be met by the joint fire district.

The Westshore Regional Fire District is a joint venture among the Cities of Bay Village, Westlake, Rocky River and Fairview Park. All meetings are open to the public. No date has been set for the next meeting. •

Report of the Rocky River Wastewater Treatment Management Committee Meeting of February 4

By LWV observers Conda Boyd and Sue Fink (Bay Village chapter)

This report, which contains observations and selected highlights, is not an official statement of the LWV. Official minutes are prepared by WWTP staff.

Present: Jeff Harrington (WWTP Superintendent), Mayor Bobst (Rocky River), Mayor Sutherland (Bay Village), Paul Quinn and Robert Kelly (Westlake), Rob Berner (Fairview Park)

Also in attendance: Keith Bovard and Christine Gottwald (WWTP); David Matty (legal counsel); Michael Thomas (Rocky River Director of Finance); Bob Greytak (CT Consultants); and Bill Kasberg (URS Corporation)

2013 Sewer Flow & Strength Study Follow up

In keeping with the WWTP agreement, a 60-day study of sewage flow and strength (particle concentration) is conducted every four years to determine WWTP cost allocation among the four cities (Bay Village, Fairview Park, Rocky River, and Westlake). The spring 2013 study, conducted by URS, was accepted by the four cities in August. In December, Bay Village City Council questioned its allocation increase from 16.36% to 24.80%. Bay Village engaged CT Consultants to review the URS study. CT, URS, and the four cities' engineers reviewed CT's findings.

Mayor Sutherland stated no changes were made to the sewer system to account for the large increase. CT has been unable thus far to pinpoint a reason. Mr. Kasberg agreed to give CT all raw data.

The discussion turned to possible methodology improvements for the next study. Mr. Kasberg recommended putting another sampler on Bay Village's 42-inch pipe to verify strength. Mr. Greytak noted that a few days into the study, Bay Village may have made a minor change to a sewer. All agreed on the importance of good communication and of suspending changes during the study.

Mayor Sutherland suggested increasing the study's frequency to every two or three years from four years. Mayor Bobst believes such a change would make sense, since all four cities have been conducting significant projects to meet US and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency requirements.

District One Public Works Integrating Committee Update

DOPWIC has awarded over \$1.4 million in grants and \$1.2 million in a no-interest, 25-year loan for WWTP capital improvements for 2014-2017. An additional \$800,000 will come from the WWTP capital fund.

Part of the planned improvements will increase screening of waste to meet more stringent EPA requirements for deposits on farmland versus landfill. Currently, the WWTP sends sludge to a local farm for eight months per year at \$17 per wet ton and to a landfill at \$45 per wet ton for the other four months.

No Feasible Alternative Analysis

Diversion during peak wet weather requires EPA review. Because planned capital improvements would skew the required NFA study, the WWTP is seeking a deferral until the next permit cycle. •

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LeVeck Enters Race for State House District 16

By Todd LeVeck

I am ready to be the next Representative of the people of the 16th State House District. I have watched for the past six years as our schools, local governments, and essential services have been slashed to pay for handouts to special interests. I am running for state representative because I know we can do much better for our schools, our communities, and the families of the 16th District.

I was born in Cleveland and spent the first 22 years of my life in Northeast Ohio. I spent eight years on active duty in the Navy, serving in the first Gulf War and earning my B.A. in Sociology and M.S. in Education. I left active duty in 1998 and have served in the Navy Reserve for most of the past 15 years, as the Senior Enlisted Leader in my last two unit assignments. Along the way, I earned three Navy Achievement Medals and was chosen as the Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year for the Cleveland Reserve Center in 2005. I will officially retire this summer.

In 1998, I began teaching computer science in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. During my teaching career, I have been a department head, peer coach, and in numerous leadership positions. I have always been an outspoken voice for public education. In 2011, I was chosen to be among a select group of teacher leaders to represent the Cleveland Metropolitan School District in the First Ring Leadership Academy, and I recently earned my Master Teacher credential and Teacher Leader endorsement. In addition to teaching, I am also the Athletic Director at Max S. Hayes High School.

My wife Naomi and I have been married for 22 years, and our three young children attend Westlake schools. Like many of my neighbors, we chose to raise our children in Westlake because of the excellent reputation of our public schools. Unfortunately, our current representative has aligned with special interests and allowed failing charter schools to grow while our local schools are faced with budget constraints. The

end result has been layoffs, cuts, and costs being passed to families and homeowners through pay-to-participate fees and the continued overreliance on property tax levies. The current leadership and our representative in Columbus have failed to adequately address an unconstitutional school funding system, instead forcing our schools to continue to ask the community for increased property taxes.

I know that we can fix school funding. Continuing to ignore the problem, or continuing with our current representation in Columbus, is not an option, if we want to see things change. I did not plan my life around a run for state representative, but my life has prepared me for this opportunity. My experience as an urban educator has made me appreciate the importance of investing in our children. My military service has taught me the importance of putting the needs of our country ahead of our personal needs. I know that leadership is about listening to people, hearing their concerns, and seeking ways to work



Todd LeVeck

within existing systems to find solutions, while having the courage to look “outside the box” or “across the aisle.”

I am excited about this race. I'm looking forward to serving my community as the next State Representative of Ohio's 16th District. The campaign can be reached at 440-253-9406 and at leveckforohio.com.

News Releases from the Ohio House of Representatives

Award to Rape Crisis Centers

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine has awarded almost \$1 million in new grant funding to rape crisis centers statewide. Among the 25 rape crisis centers to receive funding is the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, which in 2012 supported nearly 18,000 survivors of sexual violence. One in six women and one in 33 men are survivors of sexual violence, according to the center's website.

Voices for Children

On February 20, Representative Nan Baker (R-Westlake) received an award as a 2014 “Legislative Champion for Children” by Voices for Ohio's Children. Voices for Ohio's Children is an advocacy group that promotes the well being of Ohio's youth and families through the private, public and non-profit sectors.

“I would like to thank Voices for Ohio's Children, and I am honored to have received the Legislative Champion for Children award,” Baker said. “I hope to continue working on legislation that will benefit the youth of our state.”

Mixed Skate



If each were a year, they'd be a glorious collection
Skating week after week with their happy mix
Of friends and classmates, kindergarteners
Gradeschoolers, middle schoolers, high schoolers

And the slim, grown-up instructors gliding
Smoothly backwards, in long looping turns
With arms out and heads up, smiling and calling
Directions to their flocks of following skaters

Girls in pink, rose, scarlet, fuchsia, purple
And sparkling blue, and one boy in black, all
Trying to perform those same graceful moves
Some succeeding, others failing spectacularly
But all far exceeding the coolly controlled teachers
Who smile and laugh, having been there too

—Mark F. Herron



The Accident: Recent Work
by Nicky Nodjoumi

Dinner by Design:
Art of the Table

Two exhibitions open March 28: the politically charged work of Iranian-born artist Nicky Nodjoumi; and an exploration of how we dine by students in the ceramics, glass, and jewelry+metals departments at CIA.

Cleveland Institute of Art
Reinberger Galleries
cia.edu

Mar 28–May 2, 2014
Opening reception
Fri Mar 28, 6–8pm

CIA

Nicky Nodjoumi courtesy of Taymour Grahne Gallery, New York

WHO KNEW?

West Shore Career Tech's Work Ethic Awards

By Larry Faulhaber

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

Linda Thayer, Director of Career-Technical Education at West Shore Career-Technical District, and Patty Ryan, CEO and President of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce presented the awards to the students. Each student received a certificate plus a door prize and a gift bag of items donated by Lakewood Chamber-member businesses.



Award winners in the West Shore Career-Technical District

Congratulations to the 2014 Outstanding Work Ethic Award Winners!

Bay High School

Hannah Chambers, Interactive Media

Rocky River High School

Summer Williams, Service Occupations Training

Westlake High School

Derek Bratsch, Automotive Technology

Rachel Meek, Community-Based Training; Rae Ann Suburban Nursing Home

Kevin Kruger, Networking / Cisco

Lakewood High School

Zachary Sanderson, Biotechnology

Tanya Kona, Business Management

Brian Kolenz, Community-Based Training; The Bonne Bell Company

Nick Roche, Construction Trades

Anthony Ferrone, Culinary Arts/ProStart

Morgan Reddy, Early Childhood Education/Senior Services

Deena Mansour, Electronic Technology

Gabrielle Myers, Health Careers Technology

Sam Byrd, Medical Office Management

Leaf Holland, Project Lead The Way

Foundation, District Grants to Fund 'Seeds of Service'

By Lynn Donaldson

A portable year-round greenhouse that will allow Magnificat High School students to expand on the school's highly successful Seeds of Service project will be funded by a \$5,000 grant from the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River and Rotary District 6630.

With construction of the "hoop house" greenhouse on Magnificat's property, the project is slated to involve over 150 students and deliver about 200 pounds of produce to the Rocky River and Lakewood Food Banks. In addition to the greenhouse, funds from Rotary will be used for gardening equipment and a commercial-grade produce scale.

Seeds of Service addresses Rotary's priorities in the areas of job training,

youth leadership, and health ministry. The project's long-term goal is to produce enough food to expand donations to the Domestic Violence Center and St. Colman's parish in Cleveland.

Mary Jo Rawlins, director of the project, has served on the staff of Magnificat High School as Campus Ministry Associate for seven years. She has a Master Gardener certificate through The Ohio State University Extension program.

Ms. Rawlins established Seeds of Service as a pilot program at the Rocky River Community Garden last year. She was honored with a Certificate of Special Recognition by the City of Rocky River and Mayor Pamela Bobst.

A Unique Program

The Seeds of Service Project is the only local school project specifically organized

to engage students in sustainable agricultural activities on school grounds and to donate its harvest to community food banks, ensuring that those most in need have access to fresh produce.

The "hoop house" is a semi-permanent, 16' x 32' greenhouse that can withstand the elements, is ADA compliant, and can accommodate 25 students. The greenhouse will include a rainwater irrigation system and suspended growing benches. Its addition will allow the project to deliver enough produce to supplement 305 meals per month, nine months of the year.

Magnificat students enrolled in biology, earth sciences, and chemistry classes will gain hands-on experience in establishing and maintaining the garden. Students in the Sustainability Club, Social Justice Club, Key Club and Business Club will

learn to build and operate a financially self-sufficient community service operation.

Ms. Rawlins estimates that each year, over 2,000 families in the Rocky River and Lakewood communities will benefit from the donated fresh produce, and about 170 students will benefit from the leadership training.

Each spring, students in the Seeds of Service Project will cultivate seedling plants and seeds for sale and offer community workshops on eco-friendly gardening to raise the funds for sustaining the program.

Rotarians will assist by tending the garden in the summer, mentoring the Business Club students in executing the sale of seedlings and seeds, and transporting the produce to the food banks. •

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EDUCATION & SCHOOLS

WHO KNEW?

Magnificat Dance Team Wins National Title

By Karen Uthe

The Magnificat Dance Team competed at the AmeriDance Winter Open Nationals in Columbus, Ohio on February 15 and brought home another National Grand Championship title and trophy. The team competed in 13 team and ensemble dances, and 15 solo performances, winning first place in many of those competitions. And besides winning the Grand Champion title, the team was awarded the Spirit Award, which honors sportsmanship and work ethic.

Then on February 22-23, the Dance Team participated in the Company

Dance National Tour in Detroit, competing in 17 team and ensemble dances and eight solo events. With well over 200 entries from several states and Canada, the team won second place overall in the Senior Group division. Several team members also received scholarships to attend another Company Dance convention for next year's tour.

Congratulations to all team members and coaches! Next up: The Dance Team travels to Pittsburgh for the West Coast Dance Explosion. Good luck, ladies! •

Karen Uthe is the Director of Marketing for Magnificat High School.



The Magnificat High School Dance Team recently won the AmeriDance National Championship Title.

Happenings at Magnificat High School

By Karen Uthe

- **MagnifiZoo Event for Girls in Grades 5-8**
Saturday, March 29, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Magnificat Humility of Mary Center
A Day of Animal Appreciation

Magnificat High School is partnering with Cleveland Metroparks Zoo to bring the ZOO to YOU! This event is open to Future Blue Streaks in grades 5-8. Participants will get close to small animals and will learn from female Zoo education staff what skills are required to take care of them. Guests will then research their assigned animal and create presentations with their small groups, assisted by Magnificat students and faculty. The event will take place at Magnificat. Please call the Admissions Office at 440-331-1572, ext. 274, for more information.

- **Spring Open House**
Thursday, April 3, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Magnificat High School

If you missed our Fall Open House, please come and see us for our Spring Open House. Take a tour with a student, and speak with faculty, staff and coaches about Magnificat and all it has to offer. Contact Mrs. Heather Schmuhl at 440-331-1572, ext. 248, with questions.

- **It's Easy Bein' Green Event for Girls in Grades 5-8**
Tuesday, April 8, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Magnificat High School

Future Blue Streaks will learn how Magnificat students reduce, reuse and recycle on a daily basis at school. Participants will interact with Magnificat faculty, staff and students and will learn sustainability tips to take back to their own school communities. For more information, contact Mrs. Heather Schmuhl at 440-331-1572, ext. 248.

- **The Magnificat High School Fathers' Club Fish/Shrimp Fry Dinner**
Fridays, March 14 and 28, and April 11 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., in the school's Marian Commons cafeteria area

The dinners include a 1/2 pound of Lake Erie perch, shrimp or a combo dinner, with fries and coleslaw. Pierogies, beer and wine are available for purchase. Adults, \$13; seniors, \$10; and kids meals (macaroni and cheese or pizza), \$5. Drive-thru service is available. Phone orders are not accepted. For more information, please contact Mrs. Patsy Kelly at 440-331-1572, ext. 293. •

Rotary Accepting Scholarship Applications

By Lynn Donaldson

The Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Foundation is offering grants for study in any accredited post-high school educational institution. Three grants of \$2,500 and one grant of \$1,000 will be awarded toward the cost of one year's tuition. Applications must be received by 3 p.m. on Monday, March 17. The awards will be presented on June 9.

Applicants must be a member of the 2014 graduating class of any accredited high school and be a resident of Lakewood or Rocky River; have an academic rank in the top one-third of his or her high school class; have applied to a specific college, university, community or junior college, or trade or professional school; and have no direct relationship to a Rotarian or Honorary Rotarian.

Required information must be submitted on the application form that can be downloaded or completed online at <http://www.lakewoodrockyriverrotary.org>. Guidelines for submitting the application, as well as other criteria, are included. •

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LIBRARIES

Audra Bednarski Re-elected President of RRPL Board

By Kitty Sommers

Audra Bednarski has been re-elected to serve a one-year term as the president of the Rocky River Public Library board of trustees.

Bednarski, a resident of Rocky River since 1994, works with River Snow Management, LLC in Rocky River. She has served as a trustee on the library board since 2009. She is active in the Beach Cliff Garden Club and at Rocky River United Methodist Church. Her husband, Kevin, is a captain for the Rocky River Fire Department. They have three daughters.



Audra Bednarski has been re-elected to serve a one-year term as the president of the RRPL board of trustees.

"We are looking forward to another exciting year at Rocky River Public Library. The board so appreciates our community's loyalty to the library during the Hampton Road construction project," said Bednarski. "We are committed to continuing our nationally recognized services and programs in 2014, with all credit going to our outstanding staff and volunteers for the remarkable work they do each day. It is absolutely a privilege to serve on the RRPL board of trustees," she said.

Other officers elected at a recent board of trustees meeting included Jean M. McQuillan, vice president, and Patrick Burke, secretary. •

Kitty Sommers is Director of Marketing at Rocky River Public Library.

New Cowan Pottery Museum Curator Appointed

By Kitty Sommers

Lauren Hansgen has been appointed the new curator of the Cowan Pottery Museum/Historian at Rocky River Public Library. She is responsible for the activities of the museum and assists with the Library's archives and historical activities. Lauren was previously employed as the executive director of ARTneo (formerly the Cleveland Artists Foundation). She succeeds Carol Jacobs, who recently retired after seven years in this position.

The Cowan Pottery Museum at Rocky River Public Library can be viewed at any time during regular library hours. You can also arrange for a **free guided tour** for yourself or for a group of 20 or less. To schedule a tour, please contact Lauren Hansgen at 440-895-3763. The museum holds the largest publicly owned collection of Cowan Pottery in the world, a distinctive form of American art pottery produced in Rocky River from 1920-1931. •



Lauren Hansgen is the newly named curator of the RRPL's Cowan Pottery Museum.

FAIRVIEW PARK BRANCH LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

March 6 at 1:30 p.m. Come join a **librarian-led book discussion** of "Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail" by Cheryl Strayed at the Fairview Park Senior Center. All are welcome. Books can be picked up at the circulation desk.

March 11 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Celebrate **Irish & American Music with Tapped Out!** The local Irish duo - Tapped Out! - will entertain with Irish music. Band members, Sarah Pap and

John Cundiff, will perform with fiddle, bodhran, guitar, mandolin, whistle and harmonica. The audience is welcome to sing along, clap and dance. Sponsored by the Friends of the Fairview Park Branch Library. Registration required.

March 12 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The first in a five-week series of **Interfaith Study and Discussion** about how diverse religious and ideological viewpoints can strengthen and connect communities. The meetings will

be facilitated by a Communities in Conversation leader. The following four meetings will be held on Wednesdays - March 19, March 26, April 2 and April 9. Registration required.

April 9 at 7 p.m. Book Beat Book Discussion Group meets to discuss "Aviator's Wife" by Melanie Benjamin. Bring a friend to the library staff-led book discussion. Books can be picked up at the circulation desk.

April 16 at 7 p.m. Coterie Book Discussion Group continues with its Year of Mystery theme. This month's selection is "The Cutting Season" by Alicia Locke. Bring a friend to the library staff-led book discussion. Books can be picked up at the circulation desk.

For additional information or to register for an event, call the Fairview Park Branch Library of Cuyahoga County Public Library at 440-333-4700 or visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org.



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THE GOOD LIFE

The Etiquette Corner

What Does R.S.V.P Mean Today?

By Colleen Harding

What does R.S.V.P. mean and what does it mean today? R.S.V.P. comes from a French term: *répondez s'il vous plait*. Translated: Please respond.

It doesn't mean only respond if you **are** coming or if you **are not** coming. It means please respond and let the person know whether or not you are coming.

It is important to define the term because we have become rather lax in taking this request seriously. Some may see an R.S.V.P. request and think it means respond when and if you feel like it rather than by the date requested.

Protocol dictates that not only should you respond but that you should respond within three days of receiving the invitation. If you wait to respond, you could be giving the impression that you are waiting for a better offer. If nothing better comes up, you will attend. A response date may be provided, but it represents the last date the host or hostess would like to hear from you.

We make time for things that are important to us and we do it quickly. Given that someone is planning, organizing, and undergoing the expense of entertaining and has included you on the guest list, the polite thing to do is to respond ASAP.

Entertaining today is difficult. It is hard to gage who is going to attend because they have told you they will and who is going to attend because they feel like showing up. If you are fortunate enough to be invited to someone's home or to an event and there is an R.S.V.P. request, be kind to the host or hostess and respond quickly. It will help them plan appropriately and make them feel good about including you on the guest list.

Please submit your questions to Mrs. Harding through our website, click on Submit a new story and choose the category "Mrs. Harding".

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Upcoming STARRS Programs

By Ann McCauley

Rocky River Senior Center continues its highly entertaining STARRS series of free programs. On Wednesday, March 12 at 1:30 PM, Michael Roy will present *Cirque du Papier, One Square of Paper- Magical Possibilities*. His presentation is not your grade school teacher's origami, but Michael Roy's mind-bending, paperfolding, dazzling, digital dexterity.

He will morph single flat squares of paper into 3D creatures by mere folding. He uses no cuts, tears nor glue! Without missing a crease, Michael will keep guests amused with a nonstop offbeat witty repartee and fascinating information about the secrets and history of folding art as he performs his paper magic. This program will be held in Rocky River Civic Center on the City Hall campus. Call 440-333-6660 to register.

And mark your calendars for the April STARRS program to be held on Thursday, April 10 at 1:30 PM. Outback Ray will host his *Amazing Animal Show!* Outback Ray has been doing animal shows since 1987. He breeds, trains and studies exotic animals. Outback Ray will bring a variety of his exotic animals to the presentation and share his knowledge of the species. See these animals closeup as Outback Ray explains the world of exotic animals. This program will be held at Rocky River Senior Center and registration is required. •

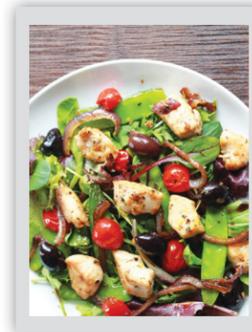
Ann McCauley is an Administrative Assistant at the Rocky River Senior Center.

The Best of Both Worlds: Get Your Greens and Eat a Warm Meal

By Alyssa Wiegand

There's no question that we crave hot comfort food during these cold winter months. We tend to save salads for the warmer months, when simply the thought of turning on an oven or slaving over the stove makes you sweat. This Mediterranean chicken salad bridges the gap between the desire to eat a warming, satisfying meal during the winter and the need to eat your greens. It's healthy, filling and delicious.

Use one chicken breast for a light meal and two chicken breasts for a larger meal. This salad would also be fantastic with sautéed shrimp instead of chicken.



Warm Mediterranean Chicken Salad

Serves 2

1 or 2 boneless, skinless chicken breast (2 for a larger meal)
1.5 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil (fans of The Olive Scene might want to use Tuscan Herb Olive Oil!)
1/2 red onion, thinly sliced
1/2 cup snow peas, trimmed
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1/4 cup pitted Kalamata olives
1/4 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
1 clove garlic, minced
1/2 teaspoon lemon zest
3 cups of your favorite salad green, such as spinach
1 tablespoon high-quality Balsamic vinegar, such as The Olive Scene's 18-Year Traditional Balsamic Vinegar
1/2 tablespoon lemon juice
sea salt and fresh pepper

Preparation

Cut the chicken breast into 1 inch cubes. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Heat 1 tablespoon of the oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Add chicken and sauté until cooked through, about 8-10 minutes. Remove the chicken from the pan and set aside.

Add the remaining 1/2 tablespoon of oil to the pan and allow it to get hot. Add the onions and sauté until they begin to soften, about 5 minutes. Add the snow peas, oregano, olives, tomatoes and garlic and sauté until the garlic is fragrant, but before it starts to brown. Remove the pan from the heat.

Add the lemon zest and reserved chicken (with any accumulated juices) to the pan. Toss to combine.

Dress the lettuce with the balsamic and the lemon juice. Crack fresh pepper over it. Divide the lettuce between two plates. Plate half of the chicken mixture on top of the greens on each dish. Enjoy!

This recipe is brought to you by The Olive Scene in Rocky River. We carry the freshest, healthiest and most delicious olive oil available from all over the world. We also have a wide selection of flavored and traditional balsamic vinegars, as well as gourmet food products to help you create amazing meals at home. Stop in or visit the store www.theolivescene.com.



Photo courtesy of Tom Harper

Lest you forget, this is the beautiful "before" picture.



May you always have walls for the winds,
A roof for the rain, tea beside the fire,
Laughter to cheer you, those you love near you,
And all your heart might desire.

ROCKY RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY · CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 4 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Problem Solving Seminar is a fun evening for the entire family! Dr. Edwin R. Meyer, director of the Gedanken Institute for Problem Solving and chairman of the physics department at Baldwin Wallace University will discuss optimal strategies for preparing young people for success in the 21st century. Dr. Meyer will describe how to develop the crucial skills of critical thinking, problem solving, and communication in this hands-on and interactive presentation. Grades 7 and up (and their families).

March 6 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. It's hands-on technology fun! From iPads, tablets and e-readers to Lego® Mindstorm and Minecrafters, the Library has plenty of technology to explore on **Teen Tech Thursday**. Grades 7 and up.

March 8 at 3 p.m. The whole family can come to enjoy our featured **Family Flick**, "Cars" and a snack. A caregiver must be present.

March 10 at 6:30 p.m. The "The Iran Job" is next up as we continue our **Indie International Film Fest**, featuring selections from the world's top film festivals. This 2012 documentary focuses on a year in the life of American pro basketball player Kevin Sheppard, who signed on to play for the upstart Iranian Super League team A.S.Shiraz. You are invited to stay for a brief discussion afterward. Enjoy fresh, hot popcorn.

March 13 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Do you love watching awesome videos on YouTube? Learn how to make your own videos and publish them to YouTube at **Teen Tech Week: DIY@**

Your Library. Bring your ideas to the program, and we will help you make it happen. Grades 7 and up. Registration required.

March 13 at 7 p.m. Join the **Adult Rocky River Readers** to discuss "Beautiful Ruins" by Jess Walter, a dazzling, roller coaster of a novel that whisks readers back and forth from the lavish film set of Cleopatra in 1962 to the back lots of contemporary Hollywood.

March 18 at 7 p.m. The **Men's Book Group** discusses "A Curious Man: The Strange and Brilliant Life of Robert "Believe It or Not!" Ripley," by Neal Thompson. You've all heard of Robert Ripley, and maybe even visited one of his museums, but do you know his story? This book has it all.

March 19 at 9:30 a.m. Languages and Cultures will prepare you for a trip to another country or widen your horizons about languages and culture. Free library and Internet resources are at your fingertips to learn valuable information about other cultures.

March 19 from 3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Join our brand new **High School Book Club**. We'll enjoy snacks and lively discussion. Stop by the Reference Desk to register and pick up a copy of the current book. Registration required.

March 20 at 7 p.m. The Amethyst Strings plays music from Masterpiece's miniseries "Downton Abbey" and its era on **TUNE IN THURSDAY**. Be transported to another time with the beloved theme music and more.

March 22 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Be a part of the **Guild of the Brick** for ages 5 and older. We provide the Legos®, you bring

the imagination.

March 24 at 3:30 p.m. It's Movie Monday for students in grades 3-6. Drop in for the hit movie "Frozen" after school and enjoy free popcorn and drinks.

March 25 from 6 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Play Dungeons & Dragons. Locations vary, so call for details. Join us for this classic fantasy role-playing game with other teens. Learn how to create a character and embark on fantastic adventures. There is plenty of room for extra Dungeon Masters too! Grades 7 and up. *Registration required.*

March 26 from 3:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. Drop in for **Get in the Game!** for students in grades 3-6. Meet up after school to hang out with your friends, play games and munch on snacks. Different games are featured each month, including Wii Just Dance, PlayStation Rock Band, party games and board games.

March 26 from 1 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Learn how to **Think Like An Entrepreneur** when Vision 21 Consulting presents this workshop. Starting and running a new business isn't for everyone. Regardless of your previous career, there's something to be said for the entrepreneurial spirit. A little entrepreneurial zeal can give you a distinct advantage in your professional life, whether you think you would ever strike out on your own or not. Train



The Amethyst Strings play at Rocky River Public Library on March 20 at 7:00 p.m.

yourself to think like an entrepreneur - learn to apply the process in daily life. For information, call 216-367-3011.

March 27 at 7 p.m. An Evening with the Arts presents storytellers Norma Powell, Janelle Reardon, and Dan Ruminski. Explore the fine art of storytelling when these three professionals share the ways in which they connect with listeners on an emotional level. This is your opportunity to join in the discussion and discover what it's like to make others see and feel your story.

March 28 at 12 p.m. It's the day for **Lunch and a Movie** in the Auditorium. Bring your bag lunch and enjoy a free film selected from our popular new releases. We'll provide the hot popcorn and refreshments. Adults of all ages welcome.

AARP Free Tax-Aide Help is available at the Library now through April 15, by appointment only. Appointments are available on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Taxpayers can make an appointment by calling the library at (440) 333-7610 or by stopping at the greeter's desk in the library's lobby. Tax-Aide will prepare federal and State of Ohio tax returns free of charge and will also e-file returns for taxpayers who participate in the program. IRS-certified volunteers are ready to help income taxpayers of all ages. You do not need to be a member of AARP to receive this service. You must bring a photo ID and Social Security card when you come for your appointment.

For additional information, call the Rocky River Public Library at 440-333-7610 or visit www.rrpl.org.



St. Patrick's Day is an enchanted time - a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic.

-Adrienne Cook



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COFFEE OF THE MONTH:
The Nutty Irishman - a blend with flavors of Kahlua, Irish Cream and Frangelico.

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