

The Barberton Herald

LIFE

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LIFE NOTES

Get fit for the new year

Coventry AARP 3820 will meet Monday, Jan. 14, 1:15 p.m. at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Club Civic Center, 725 Portage Lakes Drive. Start your new year out right with fitness trainer Lisa J. Kelleman-McClain demonstrating exercises to help mature muscles get moving. Free refreshments will be served and all seniors are welcome.

Dispose of unwanted prescription medications

The Barberton Police maintain two secure medication drop-off boxes for use any time. One is a red box in front of the Barberton main fire station, 580 Wooster Road W., and the other is in the basement of the City Building, 576 W. Park Ave, in the police department. Barberton residents may phone 330-745-2181 and arrange for an officer to pick up the medications.

Book donations sought

The Friends of the Barberton Library are seeking the donation of gently used, undamaged books for their book sales. The inventory of children's books, in particular, is very low. If you have books to donate, they may be dropped off at the main library, 602 W. Park Ave., during normal business hours. Questions should be directed to Caroline at 330-801-2887. The Friends of the Barberton Library is a 501c3 organization whose primary purpose is supporting the library. New members are always welcome.

Free programs available

Join Lakeview United Methodist Church, 211 Third St., NW, Barberton (northeast corner of Lake Anna) for several free programs. Hygiene and toiletry items and pizza are offered every first Wednesday of every month 5:30-6:30 p.m. Join us every Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for a meal, groceries every last Wednesday from 1-2 p.m. There is a program every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., and every Thursday 4-7 p.m. and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. for free clothing and household items.

Investigation will look for spirits in Goodrich tunnels

Karla Tipton
Herald Staff Writer

Spirits may be roaming the tunnels beneath the old B.F. Goodrich complex in downtown Akron. For the first time, the site will be opened to the public for paranormal investigation, in association with the Summit County Historical Society.

On Saturday, Jan. 12, psychic Laura Lyn will lead members of the public through the historic site, which houses a steam piping system and was once used by the rubber company to transport supplies. The tunnels were closed many years ago. Tickets are \$45 for tours scheduled at 5, 7 and 9 p.m., and available online through <https://www.anglereader.net/events>. Proceeds will go to benefit homeless shelters in Summit and Stark counties, as well as the historical society.

When she first entered the tunnels, Lyn said, "I heard a man say, 'I was in World War I.' It made me stop and say, 'You were?'"

She knew none of the security guards accompanying her that day were old enough to be World War I veterans, "but I heard it clear as day. While we were



COURTESY PHOTO/
BFG Collection, University of Akron Archival Services

Psychic Laura Lyn will lead a tour through historical B.F. Goodrich tunnels and point out areas of paranormal activity.

walking through, I could feel the spirit energy. They knew exactly what was happening. They're excited to be recognized and felt."

Lyn and the historical society began working together more than 10 years ago. "They've been really very open to all of this. We do different paranormal tours," including events at the Glendale Cemetery and Perkins Stone Mansion. "They look at it as a way to bring interest to history."

Hear the angel voices



COURTESY PHOTO

Fourth-grade choir members from Barberton Elementary East visit the Village at Anna Dean to entertain residents with Christmas songs, Dec. 10.

Historically Speaking

By Sarah Hayes
Local History Librarian
Barberton Public Library

O.C. Barber, the founder of Barberton, strived to build a city of industry, and from its founding in 1891, the city and the industry thrived for decades. Despite a slow decline, industry still lives in the Magic City.

One of the factories in early Barberton was Barber's own Diamond Match Company, near Second Street in south Barberton. Prior to moving to Barberton, the factory

Barberton's history tied to industry

was in Akron and had over 700 employees, more than any other factory in Akron at the time. Barber had not initially planned to relocate his production facilities from Akron to Barberton. However, the Panic of 1893 caused many of the new village's early factories, including American Alumina and Creedmor Cartridge, to go out of business. Barber decided to give the village a boost by moving his match company's manufacturing operations to Barberton.

Diamond Match's Barberton factory opened in 1894. Initially, it had 33

match making machines that could produce 4,000 cases of matches, enough to fill between five and six train cars, every day. A new building was added in 1905 to produce the new safety matches patented by Diamond Match.

In June of 1922, the company suffered a blow when one of the worst explosions in Barberton history reminded everyone of the dangers of match-making. In a series of three explosions, every window in the Diamond Match plant was broken and the roof was blown off one of the nearby Babcock

Local artist shares his work



HERALD PHOTO/Cierra Thompson

Cierra Thompson
Herald Staff Writer

Artist Robert Redman, resident of Barberton, is working on a piece to show tribute to his friend who died in early December.

The portrait of Michael Wilsterman of Norton, is on display at Kave Coffee Bar. Wilsterman is known for his active involvement with the Kave Open Mic Night events. Redman painted the portrait to tribute him. He said Wilsterman was an expert at all string instruments and performed at the events because he was passionate about music.

He said he loves to draw people performing and doing things they are passionate about. He said he likes to put himself out there with his work so people can see it and talk to him directly about it.

Redman sketches and paints pets, people, boats and cars.

He started drawing and painting at a young age. "In high school I was really good at art," said Redman.

After high school, he worked in a factory and strayed away from art for nearly 30 years.

He always told people he was an artist and when they asked him if they could see his art, he said he didn't have any. So after he retired he devoted time and returned to doing what he is passionate about.

Redman explained how art has helped him overcome challenging obstacles in his life.

"When I was younger I was so afraid to speak with people because I had a stutter. I was able to overcome all of that and art helped me," said Redman.

Redman said his biggest goal is to teach affordable art classes in town.

"I'm willing to volunteer my time and efforts to try get something established," said Redman about starting a class.

He said he would love to have younger artists bring their work to him for him to help and critique it.

"I work toward making people trust each other more so they can learn to grow," said Redman.

and Wilcox buildings. Hundreds of plate glass windows in the business district were shattered. The blast was heard for miles. Rumors spread throughout the city, causing a state of panic. Damage was estimated at \$200,000.

Despite this tragedy, Diamond Match resumed operations and continued to be an important part of Barberton's thriving industrial base for several more decades. In 1960, Babcock and Wilcox bought much of the plant site, but in 1962, fire damaged several of the buildings that were

then razed. Babcock and Wilcox later donated the six remaining buildings to the City of Barberton, including the original structure.

On Jan. 16, the Local History Room will present Made in Barberton, a program focusing on some of the products that have been produced in Barberton. The program will be held in the Spillette Meeting Room at 2:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Come join us for a look at what Barberton made and what made Barberton an industrious city.

Let there be lights



HERALD PHOTO/Rich Muller
Holiday lights throw festive reflections on Barberton's Lake Anna, Dec. 30.

Change benefits D.O.G.S.



HERALD PHOTO/Rich Muller
Supporters of WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) at Barberton Elementary West donated \$162 to the organization at El Jalapenos, Dec. 28, for a Change 4 Change fundraiser. The monthly program is sponsored by Mayor William Judge.

Spirits

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Ohio Metaphysics and Paranormal Research team will be on site to demonstrate their use.

Parking for the event is free. On the corner of West Bartges Street and South Main Street sits several Canal Place buildings. The

last driveway on South Main before West Bartges (heading south on South Main) is a driveway named Jackson Street, which sits between buildings 1 and 2 on the left and building 17 on the right. Pull in between these buildings and park behind building 17. The entrance to the event is in building 1 and 2 that are joined together.

VIEWS
LINE
234-200-6961

24
HOURS

A DAY

HERALD AROUND THE WORLD



Neighbors in El Jobean, Florida take turns reading the Herald.

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