Beating cancer, step by step

E.C. chamber raises more than $1G to fight disease

By William V. Foley
For The Chamber

ELLWOOD CITY — Lawrence Avenue for the first time became the focal point of the 22-year-old Ellwood City Relay for Life, which drew hundreds of visitors and walkers to a festival-like downtown and provided an opportunity for supporters to visit participating organizations such as the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce’s “Chamber Combats Cancer” initiative was sponsored by Medevac Ambulance Service in Ellwood City, according to Raymond Santillo, the chamber’s executive director.

“We are serving the

Amanda, Gio, Dante and Vanessa Venezie walk along Lawrence Avenue during the Ellwood City Relay for Life on June 10.

Raymond Santillo, right, executive director of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce, speaks June 10 with the chamber’s Relay for Life sponsors, Elaine and Ed Heitman, owners of Medevac Ambulance Service, Ellwood City.
99 battle in shamble!
Top squad posts 3-stroke win at Olde Stonewall

By William V. Foley
For The Chamber

North Sewickley Township — Mike Kaufman, Randy Chesko, Mike Friel and Dan Laciniski fired a 126 on June 26 to claim a 3-stroke victory in the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce’s 29th annual Golf Open.

Among the 99 golfers who competed in the 18-hole shamble on Old Stonewall Golf Club’s 7,103-yard layout were Brenton Gilmore, Tim Kurnock, Michael Farner and Jarrod Takah, who as a team finished in second place with a 129.

Don Hester won closest to the pin on No. 5, and Jeff Martin edged Howie Marshall by 1 inch in being closest to the pin on No. 7.

Steve Jurinko and Val MacWhinnie won closest to the hole prizes on No. 14 and No. 15, respectively; Joe Jurinko had the longest drive among men.

From left, Brenton Gilmore, Tim Kurnock, Michael Farner and Jarrod Takah are shown June 26 with Raymond Santillo, executive director of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce, after the 29th annual Golf Open at Old Stonewall Golf Club in North Sewickley Township. Above, golfers focus rivals that of a curious squirrel. Below, participants putt around.
LIBRARY’S ‘ART ON THE AVENUE’ TO DEBUT

Tempt your palette, palate!

July 28 gallery, reception to celebrate works of E.C., area artists

By William V. Foley
For The Chamber

ELLWOOD CITY — The Ellwood City Public Library’s first “Art on the Avenue” will engage visitors with an evening of celebrating the paintings, sketches, stained glass, photographs, sculptures, and fiber, wood and metal creations designed by up to 40 artists with ties to Ellwood City on July 28.

Inspired by a crowd of 250 at “Write On!” an April 2016 event attended by 26 authors who were born in, relocated to or who have relatives in Ellwood City,

“A portion of a crowd of 250 is shown in April 2016 at “Write On,” a fundraiser for the Ellwood City Public Library whose interest and attendance inspired “Art on the Avenue.”

Ellwood City

Among the programs are three-year-round book discussion groups for pre-teens and teens — for boys and girls in sixth through eighth grades; for girls in ninth grade through 12th grade; and for boys and girls in ninth grade through 12th grade. Another two groups are added over the summer, for children who are entering fourth grade; and for those entering fifth or sixth grades, Pacella said.

Programs near 300

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“Write On” and “Art on the Avenue” have joined a small number of events to fund programming at the library, which itself is debt-free — “thanks to the generosity of the community, major contributions, a state grant and grants from private foundations,” Pacella said.

Those events generate $5,000 or less and assist in funding nearly 300 annual programs for children and families, adults and senior citizens, Pacella said.

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130 students participate

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ELLWOOD CITY COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
2nd show, 2nd crowd of 250!
Plaza a hot spot for music fans on 79-degree evening

By William V. Foley
For The Chamber

ELLWOOD CITY — A second consecutive crowd of 250 visitors filled the Ellwood City Community Plaza on a balmy 79-degree evening to hear a 90-minute concert staged by the Allegheny Brass Band, which featured Lee Caldwell, Lincoln High School band director, on tuba, and Justin Miller, Lincoln High assistant marching band director, on lead trombone.

The 32-member band, based in Sewickley and appearing at the Community Plaza for the first time, performed 18 songs, including the Beatles’ “A Hard Day’s Night,” “Yesterday,” “Ob-La-Di Ob-La-Da,” “All my Loving,” “Eleanor Rigby” and “Hey Jude” while playing coronets and soprano coronets, flugelhorns, euphoniums, baritones, English tenor horns, trombones, double e-flat tubas and b-flat tubas, drums and bells.

Dan Franus, the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce’s second vice president and volunteer with the Ellwood City Community Enrichment program that stages the series, estimated the June 24 crowd at 250, matching the attendance of that drawn to hear the Harmony-Zelenople Community Band on June 17.

Ellwood City Community Enrichment has begun fundraising efforts to add 18-foot high triangular arches that would support lighting and allow shows to continue after nightfall at the $2.2 million plaza.

A portion of the crowd of 250 applauds the performance of the Allegheny Brass Band on June 24 at the Ellwood City Community Plaza.

Far left, Lee Caldwell, Lincoln High School band director, plays tuba with the Allegheny Brass Band. Above left, the shadow of Sean O’Neill, associate director, stretches across the Ellwood City Community Plaza. Below left, Justin Miller, Lincoln High assistant marching band director, plays lead trombone.

See Show, Page 8
Swing by SOI for USO Dance!

Step back in time ... and keep in step with Dante DiThomas band

By William V. Foley
For The Chamber

ELLWOOD CITY — The 1940s were a time when everyone was working together for the good of the country, when there was so little of everything to go around and something as small as a dance was “a big thing,” Dan Franus says.

“It was a time of sharing,” says Franus, second vice president of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce, “a time of extreme patriotism and a time of enjoying the small things in life.”

Those small things in life will be seen on page 7.

All the women get dance cards so they can keep track of who dances with them throughout the night, just like the original USO Dances.

Above, dancers swing into action at the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce’s 2016 USO Dance. Left, Caroline Golmic, president of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce, and chamber member Tracey Hughes are shown at the 2016 USO Dance.
KICK UP HEELS JULY 22 WITH ELLWOOD CITY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE!

Swing by SOI for USO Dance!

Dance, From Page 6

celebrated in a big way July 22, when the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce holds its third Stars and Stripes USO Dance at the Sons of Italy Lodge 608, located at 808 Lawrence Ave.

"The SOI is the perfect site because it resembles the type of hall that a USO dance would have been held during World War II," Franus said. "The hall will be decorated with buntings, red, white and blue streamers and balloons. We even have World War II-style posters just like those that would have been seen at a typical USO Dance."

It was a time when Glenn Miller's "Moonlight Serenade," The Andrews Sisters' "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" and Artie Shaw's "Begin the Beguine" were being heard on radios that were becoming more and more prevalent in American living rooms.

The Dante DiThomas Swing Band will perform 1940s-era music, and visitors are encouraged to wear period attire or military uniforms.

According to vintagedancer.com:

"During World War II, the USA war board placed restrictions on men's clothing. Suit pockets in the 1940s could not have flaps, trousers could not be more than 19 inches around or be cuffed, and suits were sold without vests (waistcoats). The cuffed look was so popular that men quickly figured out you could purchase longer length pants and cuff them at home."

"The very clothing that caused such turmoil during the war years, the Zoot Suit, was the single piece of fashion that influenced men's post-war clothing. Longer, looser, jackets, double pleated pants, big hats, and even wider ties made their way into late '40s men's fashions."

"Special men" should bring pen

Women's fashions in the 1940s was about "creating a certain silhouette: wide padded shoulders, nipped in high waist tops and A-line skirts that came down to the knee," vintagedancer.com reports.

This was the everyday shape for clothing, from suits to dresses. Even pants had a similar shape. 1940s fashions were all about the hour glass figure with broad shoulders, tiny waists and full hips. If you were not naturally an hourglass shape, the clothes were designed to help you achieve the look.

Visitors can also wear military uniforms or costumes to the event, for which free group swing dance lessons begin at 6 p.m. Dancing will be held from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

"All the women get dance cards so they can keep track of who dances with them throughout the night, just like the original USO Dances," Franus said. "We even leave the back of their dance cards blank so they can write down the telephone numbers of any special men they may meet."

The cost of admission -- $25 per person, $45 per couple, with current military members or veterans admitted free -- includes light refreshments, "just like an original USO Dance," Franus said.

The SOI will provide a cash bar. Proceeds from the event benefit Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce activities, Franus said.

LAWRENCE AVENUE NEW HOME TO RELAY FOR LIFE

Beating cancer, step by step

Step, From Page 2

Relay for Life and providing literature to the community," Santillo said.

The Ellwood City Relay for Life, which benefits the American Cancer Society and was previously held at Helling Stadium in Ewing Park, included a "Chalk the Town" sidewalk art contest, performances by Lincoln High School cheerleaders, Diamond Dance Studio, Dance Expressions and Studio F, Vic Rangel, Scott Patterson and TerraChain Sky.

The purple-themed June 10 event also held significance for Ed and Elaine Helman, owners of Medevac Ambulance Service, who sponsored the "Chamber Combat Cancer" with a $500 donation, provided a tent for use along Lawrence Avenue, and donated a $100 gift basket.

All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society, Santillo said.

Elaine Helman's mother, Josephine Jacobs, of Ellwood City, an 82-year-old nonsmoker, vegan and former YMCA aerobics instructor, died in 2013, on the day after her 82nd birthday, from lung cancer.

"It was stage four when she got diagnosed, and it spread," Elaine Helman said. "She fought. She died Aug. 20, a minute after her birthday. A minute after midnight."

"It was like she didn't want to die on her birthday."

Daffodils not $700

Jacobs, Ed Helman said, was a "physical fitness buff."

"She taught aerobics classes here in Ellwood City into her 70s," he said. "She never smoked a day in her life and she was very conscious about everything she ate. She was a very healthy eater. And very active. And she suddenly developed lung cancer. And within six months, she had passed."

Her mother lived her whole life preaching "to us and anyone she could what to do to prevent cancer," Elaine Helman said. "She made my dad quit smoking and to eat healthy. She would know what foods were healthy for him. She was very proactive her whole life against cancer."

The Ellwood City Relay for Life drew Kim Rangel, of Ellwood City, and Kristin Oberg, a former Ellwood City resident who lives in Beaver. By midafternoon, they had walked 7,000 steps as members of "Rangel's Angels."

They were participating in Relay for Life in honor of Rangel's father-in-law, Vic Rangel, a cancer survivor.

"He has a great prognosis now," Kim Rangel said, "and things are going well for him."

The Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce also sold 70 $10 bundles of daffodil to raise money for the Ellwood City Relay for Life, Santillo said.
2nd show, 2nd crowd of 250!

Upcoming shows at the 4-year-old plaza are the Beaver County Wind Symphony, July 8; Wrangler Band, July 15; the Harmony-Zelenopole Jazz Band, July 29; Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass, Aug. 9; and NOMad, Aug. 19.

Admission is free to the shows that begin at 7 p.m. Visitors can bring their own chairs. Shows will be held in the Lincoln High auditorium in the event of rain.

Visitors to the plaza June 24 heard Allegheny Brass Band musicians also perform “Men of Harlech,” “The Celt of Glencoe,” “Bugler’s Holiday,” “Lassus Trombone,” “Shenandoah,” “Toccata and Fugue,” “John Williams Epic Themes” “Cute,” “Valero,” “Fairest of the Fair,” “Armed Forces Salute” and “God Bless America.”

A portion of the crowd of 250 views the Allegheny Brass Band on June 24 at the Ellwood City Community Plaza.

CHAMBER’S 29TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

99 battle in shambles!

Competitors hear tournament instructions before teeing off in the 29th Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Open on June 26 at the Olde Stonewall Golf Club in North Sewickley Township.

on No. 18 and Kelsey Monteleone, the longest drive among women on the same hole.

Platinum sponsors for the tournament were DoubleTree by Hilton, Pittsburgh Cranberry; and ember&vine. Giant Eagle was the breakfast sponsor; Venzie Sporting Goods & Apparel, the lunch sponsor; Ellwood City Force, the dinner sponsor; and Pete's Uptown Beer & Beverage, the beverage sponsor.

Other sponsors were WesBanco, carts; Medevac, putting greens; and McElwain Motor Company, hole-in-one.
37TH ELLWOOD CITY ARTS, CRAFTS AND FOOD FESTIVAL IN EWING PARK

A crowd listens to music on July 2 at the Ellwood City arts, crafts and food festival in Ewing Park.

Adam Walmsley, of Butler, draws a caricature of Zoey Jane Hottie, 4, of Calvert County, Md., on July 2 at the Ellwood City arts, crafts and food festival.

Far left, Meagan Harding, of New Castle, views a butterfly. Near left, top, Joan French and Dorothy Buzo work the Ellwood City Area Historical Society booth. Near left, below, Debbie Rounce, of Darlington, examines crafts.
The band TeraChain Sky, of Ellwood City, performs July 2 at the Ellwood City arts, crafts and food festival. Inset, guitarist Jake Parks entertains a young fan on stage.

Carlow Morrow, 4, of Ellwood City, gets Spider-Man airbrushed onto his arm and keeps an eye on artist Michelle Hunt, of Chipewa.

Lisa Greco, of Ellwood City, and Christian Gregory, of Mercer, roll dough for fried dough at the Holy Redeemer parish food stand at the Ellwood City arts and crafts festival.

Michael Perry, of Michael’s Furniture Plus, and Raymond Santillo, executive director of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce, serve up fish as members of the Ellwood City Wolves Club.