

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Lakewood's Only Newspaper and Finest Website

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HOSPITAL WINS AWARD Increases Organ Donations

by Leslie Basalla

Saving lives is part of Lakewood Hospital's daily business, but in the last few years, the hospital has worked closely with LifeBanc, a local organ procurement agency, to preserve even more lives through organ donation.

The two organizations' efforts have been successful, and recently, the United States Department of Health and Human Services recognized their collaboration, awarding Lakewood Hospital and LifeBanc with medals of honor for achieving an organ donation rate of 75 percent or more over 12 months.

Lakewood Hospital received its award at the Organ Donation National Learning Congress in Pittsburgh on May 19. It was one of only three hospitals in Ohio to qualify for the medal. On June 29, the hospital celebrated the award with a special presentation in

Wasmer Auditorium. In attendance were administrators, doctors and staff from both organizations whose work made the award possible. WKYC Channel 3 health anchor Monica Robbins hosted the presentation.

Robbins began the ceremony by asking organ donation recipients in the audience to stand up.

"Ninety thousand people in the United States need an organ transplant," Robbins said. "The gap between supply and demand is a pressing issue. Every day, 17 people die waiting for an organ transplant. We need to raise awareness about organ and tissue donation."

The speakers who followed Robbins, including Fred DeGrandis, chief executive officer of Lakewood Hospital, and Debbie May-Johnson, executive director of LifeBanc, stressed a similar message, noting a critical shortage of organs for transplant and a



Left to right, front row: Rev. David Walker, Lynn Larsick, RN, Arthur Dick, M.D., Cheryl O'Malley, RN; back row: Michael Mervart, M.D., Christine Staviscak, RN, Terence Kilroy, M.D., Jack Gustin, CAO

need to educate the public about how organ donations can save lives. Those who spoke also vowed to continue working together to increase organ donation, both at Lakewood Hospital and throughout the Cleveland Clinic Health System, of which Lakewood Hospital is part.

"If every hospital employed the practices we use here at Lakewood, many lives would be saved," DeGrandis said, congratulating the organ procurement teams. "You are the model and you are the best practice."

One of the most moving speeches came courtesy of Bruce Weir, whose 1989 heart transplant saved his life. Since his operation, Weir has worked locally as both an activist and advocate for organ donation, extending a supportive ear to those about to undergo transplant surgeries.

Recounting his story, he said. "As I lay in my hospital bed, I thought, 'if I make it though this I am going to do something.'"

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of individual certificates to organ procurement and transplant staff at Lakewood Hospital and LifeBanc.

Lakewood Mayor Thomas George also issued a pair of proclamations to the two organizations, congratulating them on the federal awards and applauding their efforts to increase awareness of organ donation and save lives.



A Perfect Fourth of July

Thousands of Lakewood residents enjoyed a day of fun at Lakewood Park, starting with the traditional parade and ending with a great fireworks display. Perfect summer weather added to the enjoyment. **See page 10 for all the highlights.**

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Eva sez:

Don't forget to check out my favorite article on page 20.

Around Lakewood

Lakewood Farmers Market Opens July 20

The Lakewood Farmers Market returns to town Wednesday, July 20, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Market will continue on a weekly basis every Wednesday through October 5. Located adjacent to Kauffman Park, across from the Main Branch of the Library, there is plenty of free parking in the lot behind Drug Mart. The market is operated by the North Union Farmers Market.

Available will be fresh tomatoes, corn, potatoes, salad greens, exotic mushrooms and other assorted vegetables. Local fruits including peaches, berries and apples appear as the season allows. Baked goods, jellies, jams, honey and salsas, produced by local kitchens, will also be available for purchase. Another favorite item is fresh-cut flowers at very reasonable prices.

Guest chefs will conduct cooking demonstrations, using ingredients chosen from the market's stands that day. Learn new recipes for local produce and get free samples too.

The North Union Farmers Market (NUFM) operates authentic producers-only farmers markets around Northeast Ohio in order to educate the public about the benefits of eating locally grown food.

NUFM is a not-for-profit organization, co-founded in 1995 by Market Manager Donita Anderson with the opening of the Shaker Square market in Cleveland. On the first day there were six farmers who sold out in half an hour.

From that beginning, NUFM has expanded to four other markets in Lakewood, Parma, Olmsted Falls and Westlake. It now includes over



Everyone loves shopping at Lakewood's Farmers Market.

87 regional farmers and many local artisans who participate throughout the season and boasts foot traffic of over 2,000 at the Saturday Shaker Square location.

For more information about

NUFM, contact:

North Union Farmers Market
P.O. Box 201074

Cleveland, OH 44120

e-mail: northunionfarmersmarket@yahoo.com

The Patriarch of Blade Runners

by Kenneth Warren

They came with sharpened blades to Lakewood Park on Father's Day morning. A man looking like Santa Claus wielded a special safety blade given to him upon retirement by employees at City Hall. Like others in the crew, he was doing what he had been told to do. The crew took care of kids.

The crew had a history with the city, a connection to track, even a special place in the park.

The crew had a patriarch who could teach the newbie how to slice, how to offer the cut up without a whimper.

Watermelons purchased at Tops for \$6.99 each formed the perfect target. The knife-wielding crew spread slices out on picnic tables and waited for runners to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Only there were no signs telling who they were or why their blades were flashing on Father's Day. The service of their blades to the good vibes in Lakewood Park is just that humble. Good publicity is not the point.

For the past 25 years, the Kiwanis Club of Lakewood has been sending a crew of blade runners and watermelons to The Two for the Road Race, a fundraiser in Lakewood Park for the Lakewood High School cross-country track team.

Dee Dee McNamee Gold headed up this year's crew, which included President Don Fox, Immediate Past President Marie Andrews, John Brink-

man, Greg Hillow, Tim Mohr, Ron Lewis and Les Wilson.

On Father's Day 2005 these committed individuals were exemplars of a deep Lakewood civic tradition. Together, as members of the Kiwanis Club of Lakewood and its Community Services Committee, they made sure that The Two for the Road event would stay a cut

above the rest for another year.

With 24 years of watermelon cut-work, Les Wilson, president of Wilson & Son Landscaping, is the patriarch of the knife-wielding crew.

"I call him my dad," says Greg Hillow. "He called me this morning at 7:30 a.m. and told me to get up and get to work."

Become an Observer!

The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 18-100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers, and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help.

If you are interested, e-mail to: editor@lakewoodobserver.com or register online at <http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum>

News releases—If you have information on an event, organization, program or news on *anything* that has to do with Lakewood, send it to: city.editor@lakewoodobserver.com

Calendar of Events—To appear on our calendar of events, just send an e-mail to: events@lakewoodobserver.com

Newsies/Delivery People—The Lakewood Observer is looking for people that would like to help deliver the newspaper. If interested, e-mail: delivery@lakewoodobserver.com

**We need you to get involved!
If you have or know of a story, we want it!**

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Your Independent Source for
Lakewood News & Opinion

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City Hall Beat

Fireworks, Charter Chatter, and Chocolate River Walls

Lakewood City Council was called to order by Vice President Edward FitzGerald at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 5, 2005.

The day after Independence Day still afforded visions of fireworks blasting in people's imaginations. Perhaps you were one of thousands at Lakewood Park to watch the celebration. Many neighbors provided an audio backdrop to the pyrotechnics. On some streets, Paul McCartney's song "Freedom" provided the perfect accent to the evening.

As you watched the festivities, did you imagine that painting of the Founders in Independence Hall in Philadelphia where they debated the merits of our Declaration of Independence? So much of our early history revolves around documents such as the Declaration and the Constitution.

Therefore, it is appropriate that at our most local level of government, the City Charter was the topic of old business.

Council chose five of the Charter Review Commission's proposals for action.

The first proposal was to change the number of unclassified Civil Service positions. Under the previous charter, nearly all City Hall positions were under Civil Service. This effectively reduced or eliminated the mayor's ability to direct the work of many top-level administration employees. The employees were not responsive to any one boss. The new proposal increases the number of unclassified positions.

The second proposal requires council to respond to the Civil Service Commission recommendations on setting the mayor's salary. In a 1990 referendum, the mayor's salary was subject to voter approval in an election. Prior to that, the Civil Service Commission would make a salary recommendation to council based on comparable salaries of other mayors and the cost of living changes between past salary adjustments. Council would then act on those recommendations within a prescribed period of time. Elizabeth Koululias, the prime citizen activist behind that referendum, voiced her displeasure at council's action.

The third proposed change was to give council the power to set water rates and service charges. This rate setting power was turned over to voter approval after a 1990 referendum. According to the Charter Review Commission, this action limited the city's ability to maintain a capital improvement fund for water line replacement. The commission felt the city had to regain the rate setting power to avoid using general revenue funds for water main replacement. Koululias, who also spearheaded this referendum, again objected.

The fourth and fifth items referred to changes in the initiative and referendum procedures. The threshold of signatures required to put an initiative

or referendum item on the ballot will be raised to 10 percent of the number of votes cast in the gubernatorial election from the current 5 percent of the votes cast in the mayoral election.

In other remaining old business was the continuation of the debate over extending a smoking ban to bars and restaurants. This issue continues to wind its way through the Committee of the Whole.

In new business, Human Resources Director Terry Novak requested council approve a \$100 membership fee so Lakewood may join the Cleveland Southwest Safety Council. This group approach allows for reductions in Workers' Compensation premiums.

In "Corridor Comments" (an exclusive feature of the *Lakewood Observer*), Novak indicated that Lakewood would save \$14,000 in premiums this year alone through this change.

Council member Ryan Demro (Ward 2), in a communication to council, indicated that the Ohio Department of Transportation tore down an old chain-link fence on the south side of Lakewood Heights Boulevard bordering Interstate 90. Residents had long ago planted shrubs to hide the fence and deaden highway noise. ODOT ripped those out as well.

Demro wanted council and the administration to investigate sound barriers. Council member Michael Dever (at large) said that his knowledge of ODOT's construction schedule indicated a five-year wait period before Lakewood would be in line for any such walls.

Council member Patrick Corrigan (Ward 1) cautioned against any wall that looked like the ugly chocolate milk-colored walls recently erected in Rocky River.

Public Works Director Tony Beno pointed out that Lakewood might have to contribute as much as \$1 million per mile of wall.

That communication was referred to the Public Works Committee.

In public comments which follow the regular council meeting, Coletta Graham rose to speak. She had been



Photo: Bob Metelko

Lakewood's Mayor and First Lady, Tom and Jane George wave to the large Fourth of July crowd.

"Mayor for the Day," winning that designation in a contest in which her family had entered her. She sat behind Mayor Thomas George throughout the evening's meeting. Earlier in the day, she took full advantage of her temporary position to examine the city's departments.

She graciously thanked Mayor George for his enthusiastic support as well as the department heads. In the audience, she found proud support from her husband, former Council President Edward M. Graham. She left to a wide round of applause.

Reported by Lakewood Observer City Council Reporter Stan Austin.

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Lakewood Schools

High School Dress Code Revised

Members of the Student Conduct and School Climate Committee, made up of parents, students, community members and school staff members, presented a plan to the Superintendent and members of the Lakewood Board of Education to address the school climate and conduct at Lakewood High School. The Lakewood Board of Education approved the plan and adopted a more clearly defined dress code for students at Lakewood High School.

The plan also includes a more thorough orientation process, Alternative Education Program, and developing homeroom as a more substantial and meaningful part of the school day.

In an effort to focus attention more on education, the district will enforce a revised dress code for the 2005-2006 school year. Below is a partial list of the general guidelines. Additional guidelines and photos of appropriate shirts and tops can be found at www.lakewoodcityschools.org. More photos will also be added.

General Guidelines:

- All clothing must be of appropriate size and fit neatly.
- Oversize, saggy, baggy or tight-fitting clothing will not be permitted.
- Low necklines will not be permitted.
- Tops and bottoms must overlap at all times, including when arms are raised.
- No writing or pictures are allowed on any clothing. Small logos (no larger than the size of a half dollar) are acceptable.
- Lakewood logos or other "Lakewood spirit wear" that has been approved by administration is permissible at any time.
- Clothing that is in disrepair, worn out, ripped or contains holes is not permitted.
- Any material that is sheer or light-weight enough to be seen through is not permitted.
- Shoes, sandals or boots must be worn.
- Hats, bandanas, sweatbands or other headwear may not be worn.
- Jackets, coats and hooded tops may not be worn during the school day and must be kept in a locker.
- Visible body piercing, other than in the ears, may not be worn.
- Unnaturally colored hair, including but not limited to blue, green, purple, etc., is not permitted.
- Any article of apparel, clothing and/or accessory that promotes drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, violence, or is offensive or degrading is not permitted.
- Anything that may cause a distraction to the educational process or is deemed inappropriate by administration is not permitted.

Jay Foran Honored as 2005 Ohio Friend of Education

The National School Public Relations Association of Ohio has honored Jay Foran with the "2005 Friend of Education" award. The organization believes Jay deserves this prestigious award for the sincere devotion to students, education and the community of Lakewood that he demonstrates through the countless hours, tireless energy and positive spirit he brings to serving the children, parents and community of Lakewood and the Lakewood City School District.

Jay worked hard as a community leader on the "Designing Our Next 50 Years Committee," the facilities planning project that earned the coveted NSPRA Pyramid Award in 2003. He then worked as one of the leaders of the successful bond issue campaign to fund the facilities plan.

This year, Jay is serving on several committees, including Design, Transition and Coordinating, as the district works with the community to begin the process of moving to a system with fewer buildings, decommissioning some schools, and building several new structures in the first phase of the facilities plan.



Jay Foran and family

Jay developed a video highlighting the efforts of the schools and community working together to create a facility master plan for the district. He devotes numerous hours to listening to the community, working side-by-side with citizens, teachers, parents and administrators to help move the plan forward.

Jay also worked with other community members to plan a community celebration day, "Raise the Roof," that celebrated a historic moment in our community's history in which we are embarking on a period of rebuilding, of change, of renaissance.

Jay also puts his talents to work on additional community-wide projects, including his efforts as a charter member of a new organization called "LakewoodAlive," which hopes to build on Lakewood's assets and strengths to not only survive as a viable community but thrive.

Jay was raised in Lakewood, spent some time in California, and then returned to his roots. Since returning, he has worked tirelessly to make our great community even better and to secure a stable and exciting future for the students of our school district.

Superintendent David Estrop says, "Jay's hard work, tremendous amount



Good News from our Students and Staff

The Girls Rugby Team took home the National Plate Championship in Milwaukee recently. Competing against the top 16 teams in the nation, they ended top in their bracket, placing ninth in the nation. In the final game, it was senior Luca Bilaver who scored two tries and junior Erin Norton who kicked for penalty points that won the game. "We are all very proud of these girls," said LHS Principal William Wagner.

of time, and dedication to Lakewood and Lakewood's children are invaluable to our efforts."

Jay is deeply devoted to his family, the community, and the children of the Lakewood City School District. He works tirelessly to ensure a quality school district and community for all to enjoy. We are fortunate to have him in our school community, and we are thrilled that he received this statewide recognition. Congratulations, Jay!

Clothes 4 Kids Helps Those in Need

H2O (Help to Others) is organizing its annual clothing drive again this year to provide affordable back-to-school clothing for Lakewood families. Any gently worn infant to adult clothing is greatly appreciated. Donations may be dropped off at any Lakewood fire station seven days a week from June 13 through July 23. The Super Sale will be in Lakewood High School's East Cafeteria on July 30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Clothes aren't the only items being collected this year. H2O is also asking for gently used school supplies. Anything from markers to pencils to scissors can be recycled to make back-to-school kits. These kits will be distributed to students and families through Lakewood Christian Service Center this autumn. Contact H2O for more information at (216) 529-6045.

On Their Way

Four hundred and eighty Lakewood High School seniors are on their way to the next phase of their lives. Seniors crossed the stage of the Civic Auditorium on a beautiful Sunday afternoon to become graduates of Lakewood High School. These high school seniors, now the graduating class of 2005, have a world of opportunities before them.

They are well-prepared academically for the next steps they choose to take. We wish them the best as they move forward and meet the challenges and opportunities waiting for them. Congratulations to the class of 2005 and their families!

City Works with Schools to Save Money

The City of Lakewood is assisting with the school building project in a number of ways, including helping the district and taxpayers to save money.

The city has restructured the cost of building permit fees as part of an Economic Development Incentive Package. Mayor Tom George and Lakewood City Council worked with the school district to develop this program which will result in \$500,000 in savings for the school facility program.

"We are grateful for the city's ongoing support of our school district, both in working with us to save taxpayer dollars and the involvement of city staff members throughout the facility planning and design process," said Superintendent David Estrop.

The city and school district are working hard to stretch every dollar, save whenever possible, and deliver education and services in an efficient and cost-effective way.

"Working together will only benefit the residents of this community," said Mayor George. "This measure is part of our comprehensive strategy to encourage economic development which will benefit the schools as well as the community in general."

Teacher Named PTA Educator of the Year

Harding Middle School language arts and social studies teacher Nancy Pommerening earned the Ohio PTA District 11 Educator of the Year award. Mrs. Pommerening donates her time and creativity to make learning fun and challenge her students. "As educators, we are responsible for creating life-long learners that are creative and critical thinkers," Mrs. Pommerening said.

How to Reach Us

Have a question about registration? Want to see what is new in the district? Now you have several options for reaching the Lakewood City School District. You can visit our web site at www.lakewoodcityschools.org. You can also watch us on Cox cable channel 74, call our Hotline at 529-4727, or e-mail us at asklakewoodschools@lakewood.k12.oh.us

Lakewood Business

Sweetly Designing a Better and Bigger Business

by Dan Slife

Sweet Designs, Lakewood's unparalleled chocolatier, will soon celebrate its 10th year in business. In the process, proprietor Ines Rehner has built life-long relationships and has invested her life in the community.

Ines and her husband relocated to the greater Cleveland area after living in New York City for six years. A native Croatian, Ines left her homeland at age 20. Like many immigrants, she settled first in New York City and fell in love with the area.

"New York City has everything. It still has small shops that make just about everything, and you don't have to walk far to get it. It's easy because of the dense population," says Rehner. In New York City she found a spirit of adventure and experimentation.

Moving to the greater Cleveland area, she noticed how different the population was from that of New York. "In New York City they're more adventurous, that's the feel I get." Ines continues, "Here, people are skeptical." She found that, in general, Midwesterners tend to gravitate toward what is familiar and "safe."

Her first years were difficult. She was trying to sell a unique product. Many passed by the small storefront on Madison, but few stopped in to shop.

"It was so sad in the beginning, when everybody was flying by and nobody wanted to stop. They were all heading to the mall." It took time and gentle coaxing before the fruits of her labor began to blossom. She didn't have a play book, just an intense entrepreneurial spirit and an Old World work ethic.

Rehner was a novice when she began to craft handmade chocolates on the corner of Madison and Woodward. "There isn't a family recipe behind this or anything, it's me. I created it out of not knowing how it had been done the old way." Through trial and error she was able to perfect the chocolate making process and simultaneously produce a distinctive product line.

How is such success possible? This era is one in which corporate products are pathetically over-marketed, with little intrinsic value. Like many Lakewood small businesses, Ines delivers highly personalized customer service; i.e., she shares meaningful relationships with her customers.

She sums this up with a simple comparison between Lakewood and New York City. "New York is so big that it has lost that personal touch. People are so busy that they don't have five minutes to spend asking how you're doing, what you're all about, and where you are from. They don't care." In Lakewood, she continues, "when they do finally come into the store they want to spend a few minutes with you and they want to know where you're from, how long you've been here, why you are doing this, and how they can help you. You don't get that in a big city. The

support here is so strong that, when I went back to New York City, I thought to myself, 'how could I have lived here.' I will not go back."

The high quality of Sweet Designs chocolates is more than enough in itself to best the competition. Word-of-mouth advertising has built not only her local customer base, but now Ines sells her products online, sending chocolates domestically and internationally. "Once people try our chocolates, they want to know where they were made."

Experiencing and savoring the confections produced a spate of dedicated customers who appreciate and promote Sweet Designs.

Ines urges Lakewoodites to give each and every small business a chance. She sees Lakewood as a mini New York City with a great potential for redevelopment that lies in the restoration of existing structures and encouragement of start-up businesses.

"You have Madison Avenue and you have Detroit Avenue; make the best out of it by improving these buildings. We don't need to build Crocker Park; we don't need the West End. When people from other cities see the unique shops we have here, this will become a destination. If we have more neat shops in Lakewood, people will come here and spend money that will stay in the community."

There is currently an overabun-



Photo courtesy of Sweet Designs

Ines Rehner stands behind a case of her delicious chocolate creations in the new, larger store on Detroit Avenue.

dance of modern retail space in Cuyahoga County as a whole. The cost of renting or leasing such structures tends to favor franchise establishments rather than organic, home-grown businesses like Sweet Designs.

"Try to start a business in Crocker Park and see how much your rent will be over there. Unless it's a nationally owned [chain], you probably can't even touch it. Lakewood offers the opportunity for every new businessperson to start without being a big money-

backed corporation, and they need to welcome that," says Rehner.

The logic is simple. Lakewood has something that other communities don't. As other communities engage in a fight for the newest, most "innovative" development project, Lakewood has the opportunity to resurrect a resource none of them can re-create.

After living in another suburb for several years, Ines and her husband,

(see **Sweetly**, page 19)

Pet's General Store – Happy in Lakewood

by Han Liou

Most people would either give a blank stare or write you off as insane if you told them you could find serpent starfish, horseshoe crabs, seahorses and live coral in Lakewood. Aquarium aficionados and pet enthusiasts, however, will tell you that one needs only to go as far as the corner of Madison and Atkins avenues to see these rare and exotic animals in person.

Greg Schnupp, owner of Pet's General Store since October 2002, is an expert on aquatic and land animals and has been selling and working with pets since 1981. Since taking ownership, Schnupp has remodeled, expanded inventory, and most importantly, nurtured good relationships with customers that have been coming into Pet's General Store for years under previous owners.

"Sales have doubled," Schnupp says with a smile of satisfaction. The primary key to his success, he says, is the outstanding service he provides those who enter his store. In fact, Schnupp's day includes much more than typical store maintenance. He serves as an animal advisor, diagnosing and solving problems like marine parasites, emaciated snakes that refuse to eat, and litter training neurotic cats.

"It's a very personal business,"

Schnupp says. "People see pets as family."

This perspective comes naturally to Schnupp, who has been fascinated with animals since he was a young boy. "Oh, yeah," he says of his childhood, "I was down in the Metroparks all day long looking for toads, snakes, whatever I could find."

Like any small business owner, however, Schnupp is forced to find creative ways to make his store stand out from the rest. In an age of one-size-fits-all mega-retailers, Pet's General Store is a diamond in the rough and Schnupp puts in 14-hour days to stay competitive. Anyone can go to the national chain for their pet needs, he says, but as soon as they try his unique products and service, the choice becomes easy.

For instance, Schnupp describes how the pet food he carries is from independent companies that produce human grade pet food, much healthier and ecologically friendly than brands carried at big box establishments. These products, he says, have become very popular at his store because they are higher quality at a lower price, a combination that makes any consumer smile.

However, the most popular attractions, without a doubt, are the exotic saltwater fish and rare mammals. One crowd pleaser he frequently carries is the sugar glider, a tree dwelling marsupial found in Australia and Indonesia,

similar in appearance to a flying squirrel. Animals like this cultivate curiosity and spark enthusiasm for pets and wildlife, he says.

Schnupp employs three people, including his 19-year old son, Jon. In this case, it's easy to see that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, as Jon has been helping his father with pets since he was eight years old.

"I've been breathing small business for more than 10 years," Jon says, twirling an aquarium net in his hand. Both Greg and Jon agree that being in Lakewood for the past three years has been an interesting and enjoyable experience. "Small businesses help each other here," Schnupp says. "And there's great diversity."

Pet's General Store is just getting started and plans for expansion are already in the works. The western wall of the store has been converted into an entire saltwater section, and Schnupp says he's going to continue to build on these assets.

More than anything, Greg is just happy to be in Lakewood doing what he does best, introducing people to unique animals and helping them give the best care to their pets.

Jon agrees. He summarizes the Schnupp business attitude in one sentence. "I've been doing this for 10 years and I haven't worked a day in my life."

Lakewood Library

What's Going On

Despite soaring temperatures, the Lakewood Public Library brings you a host of informative, rhythmic and/or soothing programs smack dab in the middle of the summer. The air-conditioning is purring along on high and we've applied a healthy coat of zinc oxide to the most sensitive areas of our collection.

Best of all, the price is certainly right. That's right, it's all free. Which means more lemonade money for you when you enjoy summer entertainment at the Lakewood Public Library.

On Sunday, July 10 at 2 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium, The Friends of the Lakewood Public Library present "An All-American Sunday" with Bob and Shelly Orlandi. This husband-and-wife team will play well-known songs from across the spectrum of American music.

Mid-month, we'll change gears for "Your Historic House" on Tuesday, July 19 at 7 p.m., also in the Main Library Auditorium. There you can learn about your home's past and its place in Lakewood history. Lakewood Historical Society Director Mazie Adams and Trustee Mary Gagen will provide everyone with a step-by-step guide for investigating the story of their home.

But what about the books? Yes, we still have books at the library. If you specifically like mystery books, then

perhaps you'll consider checking out "Booked for Murder"—a book club for lovers of murder, mystery and mayhem. This month, the gang is reading *Haunted Ground* by Erin Hart, wherein farmers cutting turf in a peat bog make a grisly discovery. If you haven't read this book, don't worry. We have plenty of copies available for checkout. And if you have read it, then stop on by the Trustees' Room on Thursday, July 28 at 7 p.m. and we'll share our thoughts. Just don't tell the cops!

Music will once again fill the Main Library Auditorium on Sunday, July 31 at 2 p.m.—this time with an exotic twist. The Friends of Lakewood Public Library proudly present: "Passport Project." Dancers, poets and musicians will gather around Jeremy Bleich performing on the oud, an Arabic ancestor of the modern guitar.

For more information on these and other upcoming programs, visit our interactive, online calendar at www.lkwdpl.org/calendar or call 226-8275 ext. 127.

Library How-to: Searching for Newspaper Articles

Looking for a newspaper article? Come to the Lakewood Public Library and utilize our varied resources. The library has several newspaper and magazine titles in our 35-mm microfilm archive. In our technology lab we offer

computer access to specialty databases provided by the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN).

Our 35-mm microfilm archive has many local titles to assist your search. Whether you are looking for a recent *Plain Dealer* article or an older *Cleveland Press* piece, the microfilm archive can help. Our local newspaper collection has the following coverage of selected titles:

Plain Dealer: 1968–present

Lakewood Sun Post: 9/27/1917–

12/25/1919; 3/23/23–present

Cleveland Press: 1970–6/17/82

New York Times: 1968–present

Wall Street Journal: 1969–present

Whether you are at home or at one of the Lakewood Public Libraries, you can use the Internet to access newspaper articles through the OPLIN databases Ohio Newspapers (Newsbank) and Newspaper Source (EBSCOhost).

Newsbank allows you to search many Ohio newspapers at one time. Available newspapers titles include *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *Akron Beacon Journal*, *Toledo Blade*, *Cincinnati Post*, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, and *Dayton Daily News*.

If you need to broaden your search to include national newspapers, Newsbank also can search prominent newspapers such as *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Miami Herald*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Detroit Free Press*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*,

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, *The Buffalo News*, and *The Indianapolis Star*.

Newspaper Source from EBSCOhost contains more than 200 national, regional and international newspapers. Many of the newspapers offer full text access, including *The Boston Globe*, *The New York Daily News*, *The San Jose Mercury News*, *The Toronto Star*, *The Times (London)*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *USA Today*.

Newspaper Source provides selected full text for nearly 30 national and international newspapers, including *USA Today*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Washington Post*, *The Times (London)*, *The Toronto Star*, etc. The database also contains selected full text for more than 200 regional newspapers, including *The Boston Globe*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Detroit Free Press*, *The Miami Herald*, *The New York Daily News*, *The San Jose Mercury News*, etc.

In addition, full text television and radio news transcripts are provided from CBS News, FOX News, NPR, etc.

Visit our home page www.lkwdpl.org and click on the OPLIN Databases link. The remote access page will appear, then choose Lakewood Public Library from the drop down list and enter your library card number.

For further information, contact John Guscott, Manager, Electronic Services, Lakewood Public Library, 216-226-8275 ext. 113.

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Literature

Michael Hogan Interview

Man Out of Time (One bright lawyer, one brilliant mistake)

by Ruth Sylvester and Robin Sylvester

Michael Hogan is a writer currently living in Lakewood. The nameless hero in his wonderfully written first novel is an up-and-coming lawyer in a prestigious New York City law firm in the 1970s. Everything should be great for a young man in his situation, but the protagonist can't help but feel that he is in the wrong place at the wrong time. It was easy enough to wear the right suits and make it to the job, but playing by the firm's rules wasn't quite so simple.

RS/RS: Michael, first tell us a little about your book, *Man Out of Time*, and what inspired you to write it?

MH: *Man Out of Time* was really the first attempt to write a story that got past 67 pages. I had written many short stories, but I never seemed to get beyond page 67. I wanted to write about my experiences at law school, life as a lawyer, New York City, and about being young.

I always wanted to write a book that has a sort of dual timeline, like a duality of interest, where you have one story going on and then, all of a sudden, you focus in on these hard nuggets of experience insofar as they tend to impel and structure how we then behave in our normal day-to-day world.

What I wanted to show was that this person's experiences in his youth didn't necessarily excuse his behavior in his life later on, but you get an idea where it came from.

[There are flashback scenes to childhood events, some very painful, that allow the reader to share these experiences. These scenes are artfully set in a different script, and they pull the story into something that's more meaningful than a mere glimpse into the life of a failing lawyer who doesn't play by the rules. In these sections we get into the heart of the character.]

MH: You grow up in a family and, depending upon the success or the failure of that family to provide a safe, nurturing and caring environment, it determines whether you're going to seek a family elsewhere. There is sibling rivalry, parental and peer pressure revealed in these sections of the book.

RS/RS: There was almost something "tribal" in the way that everybody had to wear the right clothes, carry the right briefcase, and drink enough coffee to stave off yet another hangover. Could you elaborate on that?

MH: Back in '70s Manhattan, they were very concerned that your fashion harkened back to club school days, and Brooks Brothers worked because it was safe. The classic look was safe. It was sort of a sign of breeding and stability.

On the one hand I embraced it because I figured that I could learn these rules as well as anybody and it made it easy. It was only years later, after other experiences in life, that I began to hold the whole sort of "tribe mentality" in disdain. The clothes were

just an outward symbol of "this is what you do to join us."

[*Man Out of Time* is also the title of an Elvis Costello song. Hogan chose this title partly because he's a big fan of Costello, and it's one of his favorite songs. One of the lines seemed to sum up the book's subject, "You drink yourself insensitive and hate yourself in the morning."]

RS/RS: There is one character who shows up briefly in the beginning of the book, a woman in a wheelchair that the main character meets at a party. She seemed to be very significant and she's witty and sarcastic and very likeable, but he lets her go. What did she represent in this novel?

MH: She represents his inability to complete anything, really. He's unable to stay with anything longer than his current state of sobriety or drunkenness allow him to.

Really, what drunks do is that they

do a lot of things, but at a very shallow level. This guy is definitely on the fringe. He has no visible characteristics that would place him on the fringe, but he is definitely on the fringe. He is too sensitive. He sees too much. He hates too much, he loves too much, and yet he doesn't have that internal energy ... he has nothing to stand on ... he can't choose to leave the tribe that he belongs to.

He has to know that he's utterly, totally kicked out of the tribe that he was never even let into before he can even think twice about forming a life for himself. Her physical disability is an outward expression of something different. His disability is more internal and not as visible, except maybe when he drinks too much.

You really start to question what's "normal" and what's "not normal." I mean, years later you go to a shrink and you tell him these things that hap-

pened to you, thinking that everybody had these experiences, and only then do you find out that some of these experiences were extreme, and that they weren't normal. And you get a glimpse of the damage that alcoholism can do to a family, to good people. They were not bad people, but they were awful drunks. When you mix booze and religion, it's a combustible combination.

RS/RS: Michael, who are some of the writers that have influenced you and what are you currently reading?

MH: Actually three writers come to mind: Raymond Carver, Ernest Hemingway and Leo Tolstoy. James Joyce was important to me also. Now I mostly read mysteries and art history.

Hogan has also written screenplays in Los Angeles, and he is currently working on a second novel. You can find his book at Border's Bookstore in paperback. We look forward to his next venture.

Book Review: Man Out of Time

Michael Hogan. Delta. 2003. 306 pp. \$11.95 pb.

by Vincent O'Keefe

Michael Hogan's *Man Out of Time* tells the story of a young lawyer fresh from law school starting his first job at a high-powered Manhattan practice. The promise that this scenario holds for him, however, quickly degenerates through a series of misadventures and personal problems. Perhaps Hogan's finest achievement in the book is the first-person narrator's distinctive voice. The unnamed protagonist's mixture of insight, sarcasm and humor is quite striking.

The narrator's wit is most frequently displayed when he pokes through the facades and pettiness of his law firm via comical descriptions of its key players. He notices the shallowness of the environment upon first meeting a higher-up.

"I think: This is a guy who's used to introductions. He takes my hand, and his body lets loose with about a million alpha waves smoothing the area with this enforced calm as he speaks in a low, FM-DJ molasses voice. ... He sizes me up, and, after he takes whatever he wants from the introduction, he returns to [his friend]." Upon meeting another senior associate, the narrator detects more posturing: "He's a short guy with thin lips and reptilian eyes. His suit is padded about the shoulders and tapered at the waist; it looks a little like Joan Crawford's suits from the forties. ... He tries to smile in deference to some auto-response of office etiquette, but it would have been better if he hadn't."

The narrator's satirical descriptions gradually become absurd, as when he describes an overly ambitious new associate: "... he watches me with all

six of his little refracted eyes suspended like pebbles of peppercorn in the lenses of his glasses." He even derides the secretaries in the firm for their pretensions: "... some people think it's a special thing to have a secretary who has an accent ... which is why so many executive secretaries have this affected British accent, which isn't British at all, but is a cross between Masterpiece Theatre and overbite." Not surprisingly, the narrator frequently complains that so many people are "phony," a word reminiscent of Holden Caulfield's narration of *The Catcher in the Rye*.

In the beginning of the novel, the narrator's biting humor serves to make readers laugh. While some of it is mean-spirited, the humor is entertaining. But as the novel progresses, it becomes clear that the narrator's savagery also functions as a coping mechanism, or distancing device, for his traumatic past as the child of alcoholic parents.

Most of the narrator's story is told chronologically in present tense and focuses on his first two months at the new job. But embedded within the main narrative are five brief vignettes that describe important, painful memories from the narrator's earlier years. These memories involve being humiliated by drunken parents, bullied by classmates, and subjected to his mother's slow death.

Significantly, the vignettes are narrated in past tense and in second-person, as if a type of split personality developed to gain more distance from the memories. Such distance is conveyed poignantly in the vignette describing his parents' drunken criticism when he was younger: "It went on for hours, and by about three o'clock you started to get tired and you discovered that you could survive the whole thing if you just grew small inside yourself so that the person that was

you became this dark little stone that resided somewhere deep behind your heart ... from deep down in the smallest, most precious place where you hid and protected your true self, you watched them dispassionately, viewing them from the distance of another reality, withdrawn, so that the person who took it was no longer you, but took it for you."

In addition to his vicious sarcasm and second-person narration of painful memories, the third and most detrimental coping mechanism the narrator uses is alcohol. Hangovers and nausea pervade the narrative, particularly in the early stages. Such alcohol abuse serves to distance him further from potential friends at work and from former friends at law school. Adding to his troubles is an important incident at work in which he accidentally offends a senior associate named Mark Stillman.

According to the narrator, he makes an "ill-timed comment" that is not "meant to be funny," but it is misinterpreted as ridiculing Stillman in front of the beautiful secretary Stillman is trying to impress. Stillman takes revenge on the narrator by sabotaging his work, a deed so elaborate it ends up jeopardizing the narrator's job. Because much of the novel's second half revolves around this conflict, it is surprising that the incident is not described in more detail. Hogan misses the opportunity to capitalize on the immediacy that present-tense narration can effectively achieve. On the other hand, perhaps the narrator's vagueness is meant to underscore how inoffensive he considered his comment.

The last sections of the novel focus on the narrator's frantic attempts to find an important document that Stillman claims is missing from a closing

(see **Book Review**, page 19)

Arts

Maks Velo: Albanian Artist Comes to Lakewood

by Kenneth Warren

Lakewood celebrated the achievement of Maks Velo, an internationally acclaimed Albanian artist, who visited Lakewood Public Library on Sunday, June 12, to discuss and present his paintings.

With a brilliant portfolio of nearly one hundred works, Velo spoke in English and Albanian about his art and life to a crowded auditorium filled with proud Albanians and delighted Lakewood neighbors.

Relishing freedom in good company, which included Councilman Dennis Dunn, Library Board Vice President Nancy Seibert and novelist Michael Hogan, Velo, one of Albania's most prominent dissident artists, explained how Albanian folk tradition informs his modern approach to art.

During the communist regime of Enver Hoxha, Velo's modernist tendency led tragically enough to the destruction of three hundred paintings, sculptures and collectibles, and to his imprisonment.

Throughout the hour-long presentation of artworks created since the early 1990s, Velo circled his paintings with a joyful sway. In doing so, he captured the essentials of a freedom dance with figures in Balkan space, which were now opening eyes in Lakewood's imagination.

In his paintings, Velo often places primitive Balkan figures, steeped in rich historical subtexts, in a somewhat bouncy abstract space. Velo's appealing combination of abstract and primitive vernaculars conveyed deep feelings of

joy and sorrow, feelings that resonated powerfully with the Albanian community and their Lakewood neighbors touched by the artist's gifts.

Velo's art captures the dynamics of the human figure negotiating a profound balancing act. In fact, his colorful images are sometimes inspired from circus life, where the high wire is the reference point. His more somber images are inspired from the primitive labor expended at construction sites.

Velo's paintings capture the life stream of movement in Albanian history. Mother Teresa, a daughter of Albania, is the subject of a series of images, which are published in book form. As artist, poet and critic, Velo has published nine books.

An architect by training, Velo is especially attuned to the process of settlement wherein the human figure lifts planks into the air and sink stakes into the ground.

Velo remarked that French critics believe that the primitive dimension of his work owes a debt to Africa. "That's not true," he said. "I have never been to Africa." With an evident pleasure in the next moment's inspiring contradiction flashing in mind, he continued to qualify his previous statement, "But it is true. The art of the primitive opens to one space."

Velo's art advances a profoundly moving sense that the bones and sockets of the human figure in action across the Balkans have become energetic points of consciousness and color that, now free, will compel commemoration and honor from Albania to America.



Maks Velo's "Making Pizza"

Romancing the Bone

by Stephen Calhoun

Walking through the backyard garden of a newfound connection, I noticed, plugged into fetid mud and moss, animal skulls and other bones. The owner of the garden whispered that "some might find this peculiar," but I simply thought to myself, "it is of a piece" as a smile broke across my inner plane. I mused to myself about the toss of a femur at the beginning of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and, next, thought of the archaic pre-Gautama Bone Religion. More pieces fell, each drawn out by an encounter a short 30 minutes before with the art and person of Albanian Maks Velo in the basement hall of the Lakewood Public Library.

Velo's art travels with the artist. This is its first paradox, because Velo's expressiveness means to travel at the same time it recovers the olden bones of Albania, bones found in their soul place. As it was standing amidst the backyard garden (itself a Lakewood soul place) in a spot a world away from all those gardens of fine artifice, the observer's sense of Velo's work is that it has always been there!

Like this true garden, like all true gardens, Velo's naturalism is intensely

veracious. It romances the bone, captures the perilous and fragile and resilient and sturdy assembly of life's raw stuff in images austere and primal and ancient. Velo reduces his vision into captures so stark that they come across like great strikes of flint against stone. Some of these sparks, as Velo made clear, are "40,000 years old."

The equivalent in effect are the cave paintings of Lascaux, Chauvet-Pont-d'Arc, Altamira, Pribaikalje. Beyond olden, before archaic, the precedent is recovered again by the alloys of Velo's sense, a sensibility hard-fired in the primitive kilns of his life as creative person, philosopher, dissident, gardener of freedom.

What puts the skull in the mud? What naturalism is so honest? I imagine it's the way the act of recovery happens when it is stripped completely of artifice. An act both of baring and bearing; it is so much so, that only the bones remain, alive via their transmission, cutting in their honesty and integrity. Each work that Velo showed, with almost an alien modesty, spoke surely of other space and time odysseys, through eons, landing one after another—after a long toss—on an easel in a library basement on Lakewood.

Rosavelt's Rollercoaster

by Matthew Charboneau

This week, Clevelanders will get one last chance to savor the rambunctious roots-rock live show of Cleveland-based band Rosavelt as they headline a CD release party at 9 p.m. Friday, July 15, at the Beachland Ballroom and Tavern in Cleveland's Collinwood area. The show is being billed as "an evening with Rosavelt" and will celebrate the band's fourth and final release titled "Goodbye Rollercoaster."

The release of a new album should be a joyous event for any band. This evening may be tinged with nostalgic melancholy. Amid recent lineup changes and the impending relocation of member Miles Loretta to Los Angeles, the band has collectively decided to make this upcoming show their professional swan song.

Going forward, Chris Allen, guitarist/singer/main songwriter and founding member, plans to continue with a solo project. Currently he is working on an album with producer Don Dixon, best known for producing and influencing some of R.E.M.'s finest early albums.

As closure of sorts, Rosavelt's new CD will only be available locally and through their website. Allen and the band made a conscious decision not to distribute this final recording beyond

the Cleveland area—essentially bringing the band's practical existence to an end on their own terms.

Throughout its career Rosavelt has released and distributed recordings on both local and national labels, played unfathomable numbers of gigs, toured Alaska, the west coast and Europe. The band even played two political rallies for 2004 presidential candidate John Kerry (that noise you just heard was the collective longing sigh of thousands of Democratic readers).

Often lumped in with the "roots-rock" and "alternative-country" movements in American music, Rosavelt's sonic and stylistic influences run the gamut from the trashy yet lovable abandon of early Replacements albums to the clever musicality and arrangements of R.E.M. in its independent heyday.

Allen and the band are reticent to accept the erroneously homogenous tag of "alt-country" though, noting that any discernible twang of a guitar or drawl of a vocal line are more a result of a Midwestern upbringing than any conscious effort to emulate country-flavored acts such as Uncle Tupelo or Wilco (to whom Rosavelt has been favorably compared throughout their career).

(see *Rollercoaster*, page 19)

Minding the Issues

by Gordon Brumm

What I Know and Think I Know About Social Security (Part 1)

Rarely if ever has a subject of public importance been so obscured by demagoguery, endlessly recycled rhetoric, and misplaced emphasis as Social Security and its problems. But, after some modest research and a great deal of thought, I may have broken through the smoke and mirrors.

To begin, we must understand that the Social Security system performs two functions. It is a *social insurance* program, and it is a *redistributive* program.

The social insurance part is pretty much self-explanatory. All workers who are covered by the program pay premiums in the form of social security taxes. These payments go into the Social Security trust fund, which by law is invested in government securities. Out of this trust fund they receive monthly benefit checks upon retirement (or in case of disability or a few other situations which are not the center of debate).

To say that Social Security is redistributive means that those at the lower end of the income scale get proportionately more than those at the middle or upper end. This is accomplished by means of a progressive benefit formula, through which those who have earned the least get a greater percentage of their earnings in benefits.

Specifically, benefits are calculated in this way: When a worker retires, the system goes through a complex process to compute his "Averaged Indexed Monthly Earnings," or AIME. The AIME reflects, roughly, the amount earned over a lifetime and therefore the amount contributed to the system. From this AIME amount, the worker's initial benefit is calculated according to a formula that yields a greater percentage for smaller earnings. Currently the formula is: 90 percent of the first \$627 of AIME, plus 32 percent of the next \$3,152, plus 15 percent of everything over that.

But the progressivism holds only up to a point, namely the earnings cap, which is currently \$90,000 per year. Beyond that figure, earnings are not taxed for Social Security.

These two aspects of the system—social insurance and redistribution—fit together to make the system stronger and better suited for its purpose of ensuring every retiree a decent living. The largest benefits, relative to income, go to those with the largest need, but every worker has a stake in the system, thus ensuring strong support.

The term "indexed" means that the benefit amount is adjusted to economic conditions. This takes two forms. First, the worker's earnings through the years are indexed to the average wage increase, with her initial benefit based on that. For example, suppose the worker retired in 2000 and her first earning-year was 1965, and suppose that the average wage in 2000 was three times that in 1965. Then her 1965 earn-

ings would be multiplied by three.

Second, monthly benefits after retirement are indexed to the cost of living, expressed in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which has risen less slowly than average wages.

This double type of indexing makes sense, for when a person is working she is an *earner*, and credit for her earning should not be degraded by wage inflation. But when the worker has become a retiree and is receiving benefits, she is a *consumer*, and the value of the benefits she receives should not be degraded by price inflation.

The Problem

As we all know, the Social Security system has a problem (a solvency gap, as I will call it). Somewhere down the road it will run out of money, because there will be more and more retirees taking money out while fewer and fewer workers put money in, and because retirees are living longer.

All this has been belabored long and hard, and I'm not going to belabor it any more, except to note the two crucial dates: In 2018, it is predicted, the outgo in benefits will begin to exceed the inflow from taxes, and the trust fund will have to be drawn down. In 2041 the trust fund will be empty. (But these are only approximations, based on a number of imponderables such as the exact demographics and the state of the economy.)

Thus the question that has brought Social Security to public attention: How to close the solvency gap. This is the one need on which everyone agrees, but I suggest that we should also meet the following requirements:

- preserve the social insurance aspect so that the system continues to receive widespread support from the public,
- continue to provide an adequate safety net for those at the bottom,

- be realistic, that is, responsive to the factual situation and the purpose(s) of the system.

Before going on to consider how these requirements might be met, I want to look at a widespread but totally erroneous opinion, namely: "*The Social Security trust fund is nothing but worthless IOUs because the government has already spent the money for other things.*"

The Social Security trust fund, by law, is invested in U.S. government bonds. In this the trust fund is no different from individual, corporate or foreign-government investors. Money received for these bonds is used by the government for other needs—after all, why would it want to sell securities if it didn't need the money? Will the government default on these securities, i.e., renege on its "full faith and credit?" Of course not. Where will it get the money to redeem these bonds? From the same place it gets the money to redeem any other government securities. Whatever difficulty arises from the Social Securities trust fund is merely part of the overall problem of the government's debt.

Bush has been the poster boy for the claim of worthlessness. In a speech at the Bureau of Public Debt in Parkersburg, W.Va., on April 5, he stood in front of a filing cabinet containing Social Security bonds and said, "There is no trust fund—just IOUs that I saw firsthand." At a press conference on April 28, he talked about the pay-as-you-go feature of the Social Security system and said, "And all that's left behind is the cabinets full of IOUs." (Apparently he did not use the word "worthless," but in saying "There is no trust fund" he clearly implied that the bonds were worthless, and some of his partisans must have used the term because it appears constantly in news articles on the subject.)

Bush's claim is astounding—he is impugning the integrity of the gov-

ernment of which he is chief executive—and shows the ultra-extremes to which he will go in hyping the "crisis" of Social Security. More on this later.

The Solutions

To resolve the Social Security problem, there are a number of possible solutions (other than Bush's proposals). Here are my top five:

1. Raise the earnings ceiling. As mentioned above, earnings subject to the Social Security tax are capped at \$90,000 currently. A change upward would bring in more revenue and make the benefit schedule more progressive.

2. Raise the retirement age (i.e., the age at which workers can claim full benefits). This change is already in progress—the retirement age will gradually rise until it reaches 67 in 2027. But it could be raised faster. This would be a realistic policy change, responding to the overall increase in life expectancy as well as advances in health care that allow those in their 60s and older to lead a more active life.

3. Reduce benefits slightly at the top of the schedule. The benefits could be reduced slightly and high-income recipients would hardly notice.

4. Raise the income tax on Social Security benefits. At present, benefits are subject to the federal income tax according to a breathtakingly complex formula. The formula could be changed to bring in more revenue, and the additional revenue could be funneled into the Social Security system.

5. Revise the Consumer Price Index downward. The CPI governs increases in benefits. Some economists complain that, as now formulated, it is an overestimation of the true cost of living. Revising the CPI downward would mean a decrease in benefits, but it would be a bow to realism.

(see **Social Security**, page 19)



Lakewood Observer Looks Back at The Fourth of July

by Bryan Wroten

For those Lake Avenue residents who decided to sleep late Monday, the sounds of marching bands, bagpipes, honking horns, and children yelling for candy probably woke them.

The city's Fourth of July celebration kicked off to its usual start with the parade down to Lakewood Park. Local businesses, organizations and school groups marched through town, passing out candy, DARE cups, and library fine exemptions.

There were no empty picnic tables near the pavilions at the park, all filled by families grilling and barbecuing, sending the smell of charcoal and burgers through the air. Those who couldn't find a picnic table settled down under the shade of trees.

A boy giggled in his squirt gun fight with his mother while a daughter tried pushing her father on a swing in the playground.

By evening, the park quickly filled for the fireworks. Families played catch in the baseball field near the Oldest Stone House. Kids skated in an unused tennis court, feet away from the empty skate park. The line from the concession stand near the pool lost to the lines for the bathrooms. Young teens met in groups to talk and gossip near the playground while older teens gathered and played volleyball on the other side of the park.

The Lakewood Project performed again this year, ditching their usual black shirts for a more festive red, white and blue. They entertained listeners until the lights dimmed at 10 p.m.

The fireworks evoked a few "ahhhs" from the crowd, accompanied by the occasional car alarm. Although mostly quiet through the show, the audience jumped to its feet in applause following the grand finale.

The day ended as it had started: a parade of slow moving vehicles and people walking with lawn chairs and blankets.



Photo: Kit Hoffert

Tim Kanak, Stan Austin and Mark Timieski (robot) lead Lakewood Observer's Newsies and members of the Lakewood Motoring Society and The Choppers down Lake Road. Lakewood Observer is proud to be part of the Madison Village Car Culture Show, August 13, in Madison Village.



Photo: Bob Metelko

What seemed to be hundreds of kids and their parents represented the Catholic Academy.



Photo: Jeremiah Hull

General Grant (Ken Bach) rode in style.



Photo: Bob Metelko

Sen. George Voinovich rode along.



Photo: Rhonda Loje

Lakewood Motoring Society members Steve Hoffert and Super Hank ride in front of The Choppers' Ruth and Jerry Koenigsmark in their beautiful tangerine, flaked, streamlined baby—a 1959 Ford Thunderbird—with The Crazy Kops in hot pursuit.



Photo: Jeremiah Hull

Lakewood Rangerettes were something to cheer about.



Photo: Jeremiah Hull

The Veterans (above) and Color Guard (below) helped us remember what the Fourth of July is all about.



Photo: Jeremiah Hull

Dennis Kucinich knows Lakewood is the best place to spend your Fourth of July.



Photo: Bob Meteiko



Photo: Jeremiah Hull

St. James Cub Scout Troop 36 gets ready for the parade.



Photo: Bob Meteiko

Little Miss Fourth of July waves her flag at the new Lakewood police car.



Photo: Jeremiah Hull

Bob Togliatti in his 1959 VW Panel Truck.



Staff Photo

Patrick Hoffert, a part of Taft's Unicycle Club, speeds past.



Photo: Rhonda Loje

Tom Metzner was dressed to the nines.

The Buck Stops Here

by Robert Buckeye

Jean Amery. *On Aging* (Indiana). If anyone is patronized more than children, it is the elderly. At least children grow up. Retirement is a life sentence, with no time off for good behavior. With so much stacked against them, the old are expected, nevertheless, to age with dignity. Death is the only end, and if that means at some point they (we) must accept it—the death that is in them (us)—Amery argues that revolt is the only answer. So much has been taken away, lost, gone that one needs to rebel even more just to live, though it will not last. One may be considered eccentric, foolish, even crazy, but drastic circumstances require drastic responses. “They are not heroes,” Amery says of the old, “just whoever they may be: just as heroic as every whoever that ages and will die.”

Nelly Arcan. *Whore* (Grove). Not since Kathe Koja’s *Skin* have we had writing so powerful. Language careening headlong down a one-way street against the right-of-way. Arcan is in a graduate program at UQAM, but pays the bills through prostitution. (The extent to which the teacher prostitutes himself in schools goes unspoken in the academy.) Her thesis is on Daniel Paul Schreiber, who Freud famously put under his microscope. Arcan puts men under hers. The book should come with advisory warnings, although parental guidance is not advised. “It isn’t your problem,” she writes, “if I see the world from my mother’s bed.” Of course, she knows her father occupies the same bed. She loves her mother, but cannot be like her. She despises her father, but cannot escape him. Men take the hit, but so does Arcan. It’s complicated and it is not just Arcan’s problem, but ours as well.

Jonathan Caouette. *Tarnation*. The letter to the editor, Walter Benjamin notes, convinced everyone he was a writer. The example of Caouette’s film

may suggest that anyone with a camera can also be a filmmaker. *Tarnation*, his autobiography, stitched together out of home videos, scrapbook photographs, audiocassette diaries, answering machine tapes, favorite songs, clips from movies and television, shot footage of interviews, was put together using iMovie editing software for \$218. If *Tarnation* is a home movie, it is also a movie about home, or what passes for it. Caouette films and narrates his life growing up gay in Texas, the institutionalization of his mother, and his reunion with her in New York, where he now lives. “Caouette has said he suffers from depersonalization disorder,” Stuart Klawans writes, “which leaves him experiencing his own life as if he were watching a movie.” Not everyone can make a movie of the movie we watch.

Laura Kipnis. *Against Love* (Pantheon). “Falling in love,” Kipnis writes, “is the nearest most of us come to glimpsing utopia in our lifetimes.” Why is it, then, that so many of us fall in love more than once? That the utopia we chase has become a dystopia? “If love is the latest form of alienated labor,” Kipnis asks, “would rereading *Capital* as a marriage manual be the most appropriate response?” Desire is a rush, and we need that rush in a society that lets the air out, but if desire goes, and after that, love, working at it doesn’t bring it back. We may seek it elsewhere, with, Kipnis says, “industrial-strength guilt.” A study of fidelity and betrayal. A study of the individual and the place society decrees for him. Kipnis calls herself an anti-feminist feminist.

Lynne Ramsay. *Morvern Callar* (video). Morvern (Samantha Morton) returns from work as a supermarket stacker to discover her boyfriend lying dead under the blinking lights of the Christmas tree. He has left a suicide note, his bank card, the novel he

wants her to send to his publisher, and a tape, “Music for You,” his Christmas present. It is not the holiday Morvern anticipated, and it is one she needs to escape. At the last moment, Morvern puts her name as author on the title page before she sends the book to the publisher, then takes her boyfriend’s bankcard, Christmas tape and a girl friend for a vacation in Spain. They arrive at a Club Med from hell, and the two girls soon split for the Spanish countryside. Camus for teenagers, Ramsay calls the Alan Warner that is the source for the film. It is one more road movie in a genre that has, of late, been the province of women from *Mesidor*, *Butterfly Kiss*, *Thelma and Louise*, *Baise-Moi*. The novel hits it big, and Morvern escapes the supermarket and her dreary small town. Throughout the vignette “Music for You” has been her defense against the world. It can be “Music for Us” if we but listen. Ramsay is currently at work on a film version of Alice Sebold’s novel *The Lovely Bones*.

Alice Sebold. *Lucky* (Little Brown). Sebold’s memoir of her own rape, which became the basis for her bestselling novel, *The Lovely Bones*. *Lucky* is how the police describe her rape, suggesting it could have been much worse. “I was now on the other side of something they could not understand,” she writes of her family, friends and teachers. “That officer lived on my planet.” If *The Lovely Bones* convinces us that everything will be okay—“We’re here,” Susie’s ghost says at the end of the book, “all the time. You can talk to us and think about us. It doesn’t have to be sad or scary.”—*Lucky* tells us that everything is not okay. Rape says we are never anything more than flesh. Sebold will never be at home in the world again. It is scary.

The Superhuman Crew. Painting by James Ensor. Lyric by Bob Dylan (J. Paul Getty Museum). When

you look out from “Desolation Row” (1965), it is Ensor’s painting, *Christ’s Entry into Brussels* (1888), that you see. Everyone is accounted for: the blind commissioner, Dr. Filter, a jealous monk, the fortune telling lady, the Good Samaritan, insurance men. If the Ensor painting is, as Greil Marcus characterizes it, “an unanswerable last word,” Dylan’s song, recorded a little more than a week after he was booed at the Newport Folk Festival for going electric, is his answer. In the Ensor painting, thousands crowd into Brussels to celebrate Mardi Gras, and Christ is among them, though he has nothing to celebrate. “They’re selling postcards of the hanging,” Dylan says. Nat Hentoff asked Dylan in an interview what he would do if he were President. “I would immediately rewrite ‘The Star-Spangled Banner,’” he answers, “and little schoolchildren, instead of memorizing ‘America the Beautiful,’ would have to memorize ‘Desolation Row.’”

Eliot Weinberger. *9/12: New York After* (Prickly Paradigm). Weinberger, who lives a mile north of the World Trade Center, writes of his reactions the day after, three weeks, four weeks, a year and 16 months later. His first response is of the neighborhood New York became afterwards, “the sense of community, the common humanity” the attacks generated. Half of New York’s inhabitants he notes were born in another country, and “we are now experiencing what the rest of the world has known too often.” His analysis of what happened that day and what followed leads him to conclude that we are the world’s largest Banana Republic and “have suffered the first coup d’etat in its history.” Weinberger, who is the translator of Paz and Borges and writes of poetry as well as anyone, can only say in the face of America today, “We no longer have the words to even think about what is happening.”



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Cars Around Lakewood

Lewis Steams Past Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

by Jim O'Bryan

At Easter dinner, Lakewood resident Phil Lewis looked over the table and said, "I hear you like old cars. What's your oldest?" Always happy to talk cars, I replied it was a 1958 BMW. The response was a snort and "...that's almost new! I have one from 1911, and one from 1906, and a newer Ford from 1932." With that his wife, Pat, smiled and said, "Go on, tell him about them."

What followed was a car junkie's dream: an airplane hangar filled with exotics that included a 1932 Ford Phaeton, 1918 Model 750 Stanley Touring Sedan, and an extraordinarily rare 1906 Stanley Steamer Racer. I could hardly believe my ears. The next words Mr. Lewis uttered were a dream come true, "when it get warmer, come on out, and we'll take them for a ride."

On June 25, I was in my backyard, working on a car getting nowhere, when the call came. "I got the car running, get out here." I grabbed the wife, jumped into the car, and blasted to the airport. As we approached the hangar, a beautiful robin's egg blue Stanley Steamer was coming down the road, making a big turn. Lewis looked over and said, "Do you want a ride? Well, come on, follow me." The car seemed magical, spewing steam and discharging noises unbeknown to any auto. We gaped in awe as the car pulled away.

At the hangar, Lewis pulled in next to my brother-in-law's 1922 Hot Rod and olive green 1932 Ford. Over in the corner I savored my first look at the 1906 Racer with its hood up and massive boiler caked in asbestos. It was long, on tall narrow tires, and I had to remind myself that this monstrosity was the first car able to race at 120 mph.

"Well, come on, let's go for a ride," Lewis said. I eagerly opened the back door for my wife and then climbed into the front.

As Lewis worked the knobs, levers and brakes, all you could hear was clanging—the sound of a Steamer. Except for the zany din, the ride was incredibly smooth. We were sailing down the road, when all of a sudden, BANG! The car shuddered, and Lewis slowed down. "Pickel, open the floor.

What's making that noise?"

My brother-in-law pulled back the wooden floor while my wife grabbed a fire extinguisher. Lewis climbed out the front and exclaimed, "We blew the top off the boiler!" I felt for Lewis, but was glad it wasn't a fire, as the extinguisher turned out to be a propane tank.

Before long Lewis and my brother-in-law looked up, told us to hop back in, and off we went for a short ride. It was incredible. I have been in and owned some of the wildest cars in the world, from a 1933 Bugatti, to a Peugeot Pro Rally Car, to a Rolls Royce, to a 2004 Ferrari Challenge Stradale. Nothing, I repeat nothing, compared to that experience.

Lewis bled off the steam with such force and heat we were obligated to stand 20 feet back. The smile would not leave my face; it was truly a once-in-a-lifetime escapade.

Back at the hangar, my brother-in-law, an avid pilot, took me on a tour of some of Lewis's other "toys," including an Aerostar 700 twin-engine airplane. The Steamer's dash was a challenge, but the dash of the 700 really was completely mind-boggling. When we returned to the other hangar, Lewis looked up with a grin and asked, "Ready for a ride in the Phaeton?"

Off we went, flying down country roads, with Lewis working the clutch and knobs, even turning the headlights on to burn off a little voltage. A very smooth ride for the passengers, but again, we were overwhelmed by everything Lewis had to do to keep the Phaeton running.

Back in the hangar, our gracious host reviewed the experience, complete with the history of the Stanley Motor Company. After holding court for a half hour, he sheepishly picked up his cell phone, called his better half, and offered to be home for dinner.

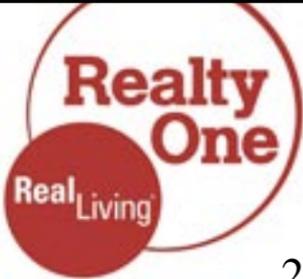
At 78 years young, his energy level is enviable, his mechanical ability great, his enthusiasm contagious. We left one of Lakewood's finest tinkering in the hangar and headed home. As we pulled out of the airport, all I could think of was the ride he promised in the Racer. But that will be another day and another story.



Phil Lewis's 1906 Stanley Steamer Racer was the first car to go 120 mph and was purchased out from under "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno.



Lewis bleeds off the pressure from the Stanley Steamer.



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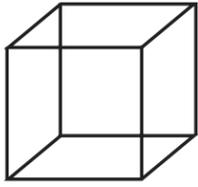
Experiential Martial Arts

by Stephen Calhoun

"The phenomenological world is not the bringing to explicit expression of a pre-existing being, but the laying down of being. Philosophy is not the reflection of a pre-existing truth, but, like art, the act of bringing truth into being."

—Maurice Merleau Ponty

It is the case, and sadly so, that the larger portion of child's play is stripped from the adult over the course of their maturation. We wander through the world as adults and we miss a lot. Fortunately, with a modest commitment of time there are any number of awareness-softening calisthenics grown-ups may do to recover childlike capabilities.



1. Block Walking

Pick a block, any block. You'll have to start as a beginner, but your walking chops will be recovered quickly. This exercise requires about 120 seconds every day.

Start from a stop and walk the block slowly. Name what is perceived: "sidewalk slab," "window," "futon," "sign," "person," "slab," "smile," "window," "door." You get the idea. Do this once a day for several weeks and soon enough the naming will drop away. Let the block become your train of aware-

ness. The only hard part is extracting the necessary 120 seconds every day. Do this for two minutes every day, do it for 30 days. See what results from giving up 60 minutes to this over the course of a month.

2. Ball-Bouncing

Buy nine rubber balls and be sure to test them. They must be bouncy enough to bounce right back into your hands. This exercise requires five minutes three times a week. Also, you'll need to find two neighbors to join you. Yes, they can be your roommates if need be!

Pick a time and stand at the end of your front walk and, with your two companions, bounce the balls for five minutes. It is almost a sure bounce that after several weeks of doing this other persons will want to join you. This is what the other balls are for. If you approach this with any discipline at all, over the course of several months, you may find most of your block has joined the bounce. (If you need more balls, go buy 'em!) Enjoy what results.

Stephen Calhoun is principal of square-ONE: experiential toolmakers. He is a theorist, researcher and facilitator of adult transformational learning (www.squareone-learning.com).

Slife of Life

by Dan Slife

Observing Planet Lakewood

This summer Lakewoodites walking, biking and hanging out on our city streets should take notice. *The Lakewood Observer* is listening to the community voice at ground level. We're patrolling the streets of Lakewood to capture the pulse of our community.

What does the *Observer* want to know? We're out to discover each person's story, why you are here, what might retain you, your experiences as citizen, and what you'd like to see happen. By tapping into this diverse universe of personal stories, we hope to understand and articulate more fully the city we love.

The Lakewood Observer is working to fulfill its mission of a civic journalism that is wholly receptive and participatory. Tell us your story—we're listening.

On every block and in every neighborhood there are individuals who have something to teach us about the city and ourselves. Highlighting these perspectives on the Lakewood

experience will allow all of us to gain a better understanding of what our city really is and how we could transform it.

The possibilities for civic innovation lie within the imaginations of the body politic. In Darwinian terms, our ability to transform as a municipality in an age of job scarcity and a widening income gap will depend on both the adaptation and variation of the experience and knowledge in our midst. Through sharing our experiences and knowledge as citizens we can become a City of Citizens engaged in strategic long-term planning.

Can a city of 55,000-plus, packed densely into six square miles of civic space, collectively develop a voice of resistance to the forces that might diffuse its assets and dilute its character? If you think we can, watch for the *Lakewood Observer* socio-anthropological assessment team this summer and tell us your story. We're listening. And better yet, join in the discussion at www.lakewoodobserver.com/forum.

Letters

More Parking Woes

In your newspaper, you asked about parking problems.

I live near Richland and Madison, by the Richland Cafe and across the street from Lakewood High School. Parking here can be a nightmare. Bar patrons take up street parking, leaving no room for residents of the apartment buildings to park. We literally watch out our windows and race each other to spots when a bar patron leaves. Even when there is just metered parking available, the meter maids come early in the morning, making it difficult for those of us who work second- or third-shift jobs. I have paid hundreds to the city in parking meter tickets, and even had my car towed once because of them.

Bar patrons are not always sensitive to our on-street parking either. Many drunk patrons have hit on-street parked cars before. Many drunk patrons have urinated on our cars. Once, we found a sofa that presumably was on the lawn for pickup was placed, literally, *on top of* our car, as some sort of prank.

When there is a football game or an event at the football stadium, the problem is multiplied a hundredfold. I have often had to park down by Franklin and Wyandotte during football season. This is especially frustrating when carrying groceries or something of the like. I cannot even bring things into the house without receiving a ticket from the cops that are out and about during these times to ticket illegal parkers! I get very angry when I cannot even park in the vicinity where I live! How is this fair?

Some apartment residents have more than one vehicle. Once they are lucky enough to get a non-meter parking spot, they will tie that spot up for months, moving one vehicle to the spot to reserve it for their other vehicle, leaving none of the other residents a fair chance to park there.

Parking issues have become so frustrating and annoying, that we are considering moving. It is such a shame, because we love where we live.

—Melissa Nelson



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Lakewood Eats

Tango Anyone? Lakewood's Cozy Cantina

by Kristen Barker and Bob Togliatti

El Tango Taqueria is a delightful eatery located at 14224 Madison Ave. Take a seat in the festive cantina and munch on fresh chips and salsa while you sip homemade vanilla-lemonade. Your taste buds will thank you.

The fare served at El Tango is fresh, colorful, original and delicious. Start with one of the homemade soups, fresh daily. Some of our favorites are Chicken Lime Tortilla, Portuguese Garlic, and Spanish Roasted Tomato.

The daily specials are noteworthy. Our star pick is Pollo Alma, a Guatemalan cinnamon-honey chicken dish served with rice and fresh vegetables. The Quesadilla Grande is another fine choice, chock full of carrots, potatoes, onions, cheese, your choice of meat, and a hint of cinnamon. We recommend Cuban Key Lime Pie, Jalapeño Apple Pie with vanilla cream (subtle hints of jalapeño), or Chocolate Rum Cake for the perfect finish to a charming meal.

El Tango opened in 1999. The owner, Antonio Carafelli, spent much of his life out west and those experiences shaped and influenced Carafelli's talent for Southwestern-Mexican style cooking. He was drawn to Lakewood to open his eighth successful restaurant because of the high population



Antonio Carafelli and sous-chef Tauland Dano.

and affordability of the city. His right-hand man and sous-chef, Tauland Dano, came to Lakewood from Albania five years ago. Dano had no prior experience cooking Mexican cuisine,

but now plays an essential role in creating many of the innovative recipes.

El Tango's cozy cantina seats approximately 30 people, with tables that seat six comfortably. Place your order with

the cashier and your food will be delivered to your table. For carryout orders and information on daily specials, call 216-226-9999. Business hours are Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Chef Geoff

by Jeff Endress

Culinary Recollections

We are very fortunate here in Lakewood as far as the current restaurant scene goes. Beyond the usual array of pizza places (a topic we'll return to at a later date), we have a wonderful variety of dining opportunities beyond the standard franchises found in places like Westlake, à la Applebee's, Outback, and the like.

From the buffalo wings at Around the Corner and burgers at the West End Tavern to the more upscale menus of 3 Birds, Players and Swingos, along with the view at Pier W, Tina's kibe, and Aladdin's hummus, there are some really fine food experiences within walking distance. But I remember a time when the choices were fewer, but the memories more meaningful.

Growing up in Lakewood, it just wasn't Mother's Day without dinner at Miller's Restaurant. It wasn't anything particularly fancy, but my mouth still waters whenever I think about their sticky buns. Don't bother with the tenderloin tips on noodles or chicken paprikash—just bring me a basket of those hot, fresh sticky buns.

Waitresses would bring around a salad tray with (it seemed) dozens of choices. There was molded Jell-O, tossed salad, Waldorf salad, fruit salad, and you always wondered if the one

you chose was the best, thinking, "well, next time I'll get the cherry Jell-O mold."

It was always important to finish your meal, because you wouldn't want to miss the wonderful homemade cakes and pies (à la mode please).

I remember seeing people in suits and ties—people who actually weren't wearing baseball caps! And those who did wear a hat politely removed it while they dined. Miller's has been gone for some time, fallen victim to a fire and replaced by a Hollywood Video store.

Then there was Clark's at West 117th and Clifton. At one time, the management of Clark's ran a number of successful restaurants about town. It was my place of choice for a birthday celebration. After all, I was a member of the Clark's birthday club. So, in addition to that beautiful piece of roast beef with mashed potatoes and mushroom gravy, I could get a side of spaghetti with a meat sauce that was thick and had just the right amount of spice, plus a dish of fresh parmesan cheese.

And, if all that wasn't enough, after your special birthday dessert, there was the trip to the treasure chest. I always went for the rubber band-powered, string-pulled helicopter. And, wonder of wonders, because it was your birth-

day and you were a member of the club, it was free! Clark's begat the Blue Fox, which begat another eatery before the building was converted to a CVS.

As I grew a bit older, with more sophisticated tastes and an adventurous palate, there was Friends. I think my fondest memories lie there. In the 1980s there were people who actually traveled from the East Side, crossed the Cuyahoga, to dine at Friends. Small and intimate at the corner of Marlowe and Detroit, it was a welcoming place—sort of like "Cheers" with a Michelin rating.

If there exists a genesis of Lakewood fine dining, I believe it lies here. We would now refer to the cuisine as Continental, though I always thought of it as French. It was special without presumption. I loved the wonderful scents of those magnificent sauces, the artful presentation of the dishes, and the opportunity to be adventurous, not to mention the cozy dark booth with a server who knew you well enough to ask after the family.

I think Friends was my first "special" restaurant. Although, at the time, places like Sammy's in the Flats (now gone) were where you went to be seen, Friends was where you went to be at ease. Alas, as sometimes happens, suc-

cess bred a desire for bigger and better, and hence Friends begat L'Escargot near Great Northern Mall (which is now an Olive Garden), and Friends became the Lakewood Hospital resale shop.

It has been suggested that sometimes our memories are artificially enhanced over time. I suppose it is possible that the spaghetti at Clark's was bland, the Escargot Salade at Friends too rich, and the apple pie at Miller's no different than what you get from the freezer case. Perhaps it's possible, but in my mind and memory, that sticky bun still makes my mouth water.

Kitchen Gadget Contest



The first five people to guess what this is win a *Lakewood Observer* T-shirt, and a \$5 off coupon from The Reagle Beagle. Send to: Culinary Contest, PO Box 770274, Lakewood, OH 44107.

Lakewood Eats

Beyond the Farmers Market

Building the Case for Regional Agriculture

by Holly Whisman

A farmers market is an asset in any community. Lakewood is no exception, and the Wednesday afternoon North Union market is not to be missed. The abundant variety and colorful selections draw shoppers from all walks of life, while providing area farmers a direct link to the community they serve. Beyond the enjoyment of spending time on a summer afternoon sampling local peaches or organic honey and picking up some groceries, market participants have the opportunity to make a positive impact on our regional economy and local community.

The concept of "food miles" is a growing concern for those involved in food issues. The farther a food has to travel before reaching the plate of the consumer, the more food miles it is said to have acquired. The significance of measuring food miles stems from the overall effect our food choices have on fossil fuel consumption, resulting from both transportation and refrigeration, and therefore on the economy and the environment.

Food that is highly processed, after being shipped to multiple facilities and warehouses, accumulates high mileage. On the other hand, food that is locally produced and minimally processed, such as the food one can find at the North Union Farmers Markets, is said to be low in food miles, since it was produced, and will mostly likely be consumed, in Northern Ohio.

In a time a when globalized trade has opened up markets and standardized food production, items from around the world can be available virtually anywhere. Obviously, this convenience does not come without a price. The hidden costs of mass-marketed food products include a negative impact on the regional economy and diminished food security for those living in the region.

Arguably, any population needs to be able to provide its citizens with an adequate food supply. As city dwellers, we tend to be disconnected from our food sources, both physically and mentally. Food security is an important urban issue, however, and densely populated communities require a con-

stant supply of food. As farmland on the outskirts of the city and in surrounding counties gives way to suburban housing and shopping centers, the region loses some of its capacity for feeding its residents. In times of rising fuel costs, threats to public safety, and global instability, our choices as a society have left us vulnerable and dependent on faraway food sources. The security of our food supply is at the mercy of an industry that does not have a vested interest in the well-being of our region.

By contrast, family farmers are small business owners making a contribution to the local economy. According to the Center for Farmland Preservation, a nonprofit based in Peninsula, Ohio, "Privately owned agricultural land generates more in tax revenue than it requires in related services. The community services that have to be provided to new residential development include police and fire protection, water and sewer services, and educational costs. Cost of community services (COCS) studies have highlighted the fact that farmland demands far less in community services than it pays in yearly taxes."

In addition to being an economic asset, small-scale farming operations are more likely than large, corporate farms to practice sustainable methods, such as organic or biodynamic farming. Small family farms often market their products directly to the consumer through farmers markets, cooperatives or roadside stands. By purchasing food directly from the producer, consumers eliminate the big business of food, while supporting a family owned and operated enterprise that is inherently interconnected with the future of our community.

In addition to the economic aspects, shoppers can take advantage of the health benefits of eating seasonal, locally grown foods. Some nutrients are less stable than others, such as vitamin C and particular B vitamins. These vitamins begin to diminish as soon as produce is harvested. Anyone who has experienced the difference between a fresh vine-ripened tomato and the average grocery store variety can attest to the value of freshness.



Fresh from the farmer's field to your table.

The good news for those trying to eat fresh is that the summer months in Northern Ohio provide abundant produce. Our climate provides all the right elements for a widely varied and lengthy growing season, and local farmers give the community an opportunity to make the most of the season.

Community supported agriculture (CSA) takes the beneficial aspects of the farmers market to the next level. CSAs are formed when farmers ask members of the community to invest in their efforts, in turn providing those families or individuals with farm-fresh goods throughout the season.

CSA members buy shares in the farmers' season, providing their business with an infusion of capital, and limiting the risk and uncertainty inherent in farming. Members are rewarded for their support with the freshest foods available, ranging from produce to organic, free-range eggs, meats and prepared foods, depending on the farm. Because many benefits can accrue to both members and farmers, CSAs continue to grow in popularity.

Amy and Chris Sheffield operate Trout Lily organic farm in Ashland, Ohio, and are offering 18 CSA shares this year. When asked about their reasons for getting involved in community-oriented agriculture, Amy, who also works with nonprofit food security organizations, is quick to emphasize the social importance of food. "Doing the CSA was really important to us," she says. "We're very community minded. We want to know who's eating our food, and to cultivate relationships. A close-knit community has always been important in our lives, so we want to keep it local."

Chris, fresh from the field, is too hot and dehydrated to comment, and defers to Amy. "It's exhausting," she continues, "but we feel responsible to be different from [larger farms] where not as much attention is paid to quality. It's been a big learning experience for us. As young farmers we have to be willing to be creative, to combine

the CSA, farmers markets and sales to local businesses, and we want to be able to make a living at farming. It takes a lot of time, but it's worth it to create a community around the food ... and to share big meals with friends."

One drawback to the CSA model is the seemingly cost-prohibitive initial investment. Many farmers offering CSA shares are willing to accommodate members with a flexible payment plan, and some CSAs offer a reduction in fees for members willing to volunteer on the farm or help with distribution. Other programs are being developed to help those most needing this type of access to fresh foods—low-income urban residents.

This year marks the first season the nonprofit organization City Fresh, a project launched by Northeast Ohio Foodshed Network with the cooperation of many local businesses and national organizations, is operating in Cleveland. With plans to expand to a second westside neighborhood next year, City Fresh is coordinating a CSA by organizing area farmers and offering CSA shares to area residents on a sliding scale based on income.

City Fresh is working with area restaurants and grocers to increase their offerings of locally produced foods, thereby attempting to keep more food dollars in the regional economy. City Fresh is tackling urban nutrition concerns with educational programs about cooking with and using fresh ingredients. In addition, City Fresh is organizing community gardens to help supply neighborhoods with fresh foods and in some cases entrepreneurial pursuits.

Maurice Small, the Food Center Coordinator for City Fresh, energetically spreads his knowledge for growing food and his passion for building strong food-centered communities throughout the Cleveland area. "There's no experience like gardening," Maurice proclaims.

"You have to be at the grass roots,

(see **Market**, page 19)



Fresh, organic, affordable vegetables are just one of the benefits of regional agriculture.

Lakewood Gardens

Lakewood Garden of the Month: Herb and Renewal

by Jill Timieski, Garden Editor

This month I introduce you to Silvia Spotts Weber, someone who shows her love of Lakewood through gardening. Silvia takes care of her own spectacular garden with the help of her husband, Gerry, and mom, Margaret Spotts, as well as several other spots of greenery around town.

She tends to the Adopt-a-Spot garden in front of the Drug Mart near the library, works on the Lakewood Garden Club's Pocket Park next to The Place to Be Deli, and donated the planters and plants that are in front of the businesses on Madison Avenue between Wyandotte and Bunts.

That is a lot of gardening. That is also a lot of love for the people of Lakewood. Although her work provides personal satisfaction, Silvia understands that by planting and caring for these gardens, she is giving others some beauty where there would only be concrete. She says that a beautiful, well-maintained green space is a gift to the neighborhood, and the peace and beauty of it can affect people in profound ways. She is often touched by the gratitude of a neighbor who walks by her house and has his or her spirits lifted or someone who uses the pocket park to unwind.

It took a great deal of preparation to achieve a lush landscape in the Webers' yard. Before they began planting, they removed a layer of our notoriously bad clay soil from the top of the yard and replaced it with good topsoil. This was a critical step.

Silvia included a fountain in her garden because it reminded her of one she had seen in New Orleans. The side yard is filled with hostas, hydrangea, astilbe, clematis vines and other various plantings.

A section of the backyard is a potager, a French term meaning "kitchen garden." Silvia was inspired to create hers by a contest the Cleveland Botanical Garden sponsored in 2002.

There are, however, big differences between a potager and a standard vegetable garden. The potager is meant to provide herbs, vegetables and flowers for the table all year around rather than an abundance of vegetables for canning during the summer. A potager is also laid out with style rather than in straight rows of plantings.

Other garden areas in the backyard include a pond, complete with many water plants, frogs and gold fish. Beyond the pond, farther back in the yard, irises are the dominant plant. To the right of the pond is a grove of lilacs that have survived for many years.

Silvia is kind enough to share advice on how to get the most out of your plants. She uses a mixture of cow manure, peat moss, sand, leaf humus, topsoil and Osmocote in plant containers. The Osmocote helps retain moisture in the soil. The fertilizers she uses are organic.

Silvia also composts. In fact, the Webers keep three compost bins: one for fresh scraps, one to cook, and one from which to take out soil. When she puts a plant into the ground, it goes in with a mixture of Osmocote and compost.

Our biggest challenge in Northeast Ohio is the soil. Silvia has worked hard to introduce rich organic material into the soil and reduce the amount of clay with which the plants have to deal. It has certainly paid off.

Take a drive down Madison and admire the lovely planters in front of Weber Architecture, Angelo's Pizza, V&S Die & Mold and Wink's Barber Shop—all provided by Silvia.

The offices of Weber Architecture were formerly in the building across the street from Drug Mart. The city



Photo: Jill Timieski

Reminiscent of a New Orleans garden.

was neglecting the plot and Silvia could not bear to look at this eyesore, so she took it upon herself to transform the eyesore into a new garden.

Lakewood is certainly richer and more beautiful for having a good neighbor and loving citizen like Silvia Weber. Remember to stop and admire the gardens and planters when you are out and about, and thank Silvia if you see her.

For additional information about the Webers' home garden, check out the Fall 2004 edition of "Garden, Deck & Landscape," a special interest publication from *Better Homes and Gardens*.

To reach this reporter, e-mail: ILoveLakewoodGardens@hotmail.com



Photo: Jill Timieski

One of the many planters in the yard.



Photo: Jill Timieski

A statue of a cat oversees the back corner of the garden.

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Rangers' Diamond Hits Homerun as Braves Look On

by Tim Kanak

An opportunity to play major league baseball does not come around very often. Well, okay, maybe just once a year. The Atlanta Braves came to town scouting area kids to continue their organization's storied success—the kind of winning that merits 13 division titles in a row.

Nearly 200 kids showed up, from as far away as New York and as close as down the street here in Lakewood, ranging in age from 14 to 29. Six scouts from the Braves held the tryout. The Braves' supervisory scout, Sherard Clinkscales, directed the tryout along with his associate scouts, Reggie Sanders, Rob McKinley, Emmit Carney, Rick Benefield and Scott Marks.

When asked how many kids have a real shot, Clinkscales said, "Out of these guys, you may have only two or three with true major league ability, but the star today was this field; it's beautiful." Clinkscales went on to say that scout Reggie Sanders found out about the field from living in the area

and passed on that information. "Reggie did a tremendous job. This field is unbelievable. We are definitely doing this here again next year," he said.

There were about 20 players from surrounding communities, but a few of the hometown boys also showed up to play. Matt Pickens, 17, a Rangers ballplayer, said, "This is a great way for guys to gauge their skills against older players and see where they're at."

Former Rangers and current Eastern Michigan player Eric Pelot, 19, shared his view of the warm reception his hometown stadium received, "Obviously the Braves heard about our facility and its new Astroturf playing surface. It shows off our community, especially with such a nice field. It makes the city and school look good. To get this kind of attention is pretty awesome."

After testing all their skills, Clinkscales had about 11 players stay to hit batting practice. None of the others received that chance. Clinkscales explained that "Getting the chance to see them hit is the last step in the try-



From left to right: Rick Benefield, Sherard Clinkscales, Reggie Sanders, Scott Marks, Emmit Carney and Rob McKinley are all scouts from the Atlanta Braves.

out process. Not only can you evaluate their other skills, but once they hit, we can get a better feel for where they may fit in."

Sanders put his spin on the day, "These tryouts give kids something to look forward to and see what we look for in major league prospects. It can also give them an idea where they are as far as their game goes. If you can impress us, then you could have

a legitimate shot at getting signed to a contract. If they are too young, we will just watch them as they progress." Sanders, a former Cleveland Heights standout, spoke of the Rangers' home field with affection. "It is a state-of-the-art facility. I've seen maybe one or two fields close to this at the high school and college level."

At the end of the day all the scouts were in agreement, they will be back.

Capsule Crash Lands in Ireland – Space in Transition

by Leslie Basalla

Among regular patrons at Capsule, Madison Village's retro-futuristic bar, rumors that the high-concept hangout was about to be sold began circulating early this year. An impending takeover by an unknown buyer was a regular topic of conversation among frequent customers. Owner Cathryn Sunday acknowledged the rumor, but would neither confirm nor deny speculations. Even employees were kept in the dark.

On May 3, it seemed the gig was finally up. The bar's fiercely loyal Tuesday night crowd filled the orange vinyl-upholstered stools and crowded the floor, hoisting glasses, dancing and laughing, as DJ Ben Vendetta spun his usual mix of Britpop, garage rock and whatever else struck his fancy. It was a celebration, tinged with sadness, as the group who called the bar home several nights a week faced the task of looking for a new gathering place.

The next night, however, Capsule was still in business, and the next night, and the one after that. It went on until the following Tuesday, May 10.

It came as a great surprise to everyone when new owners took over the space the next day. Even employees were caught off guard. "I didn't find out about it until literally an hour before I thought I was supposed to start my shift," bartender Eric Koltnow said. "Cathryn called me and told me not to come in because the bar was sold." Arabella Proffer, Capsule's bar manager, was not informed of the sale until Thursday. She had booked a band to play for Saturday and was forced to cancel the show on short notice.

As quickly as the new owners moved in, a new crowd did too. The changes promise to continue apace, as the bar is transformed from a space-age lounge inspired by *2001: A Space Odis-*

sey and *A Clockwork Orange* to an Irish pub. Posters in the windows announce the upcoming transformation, through which Capsule will become the Nugent Tabhairne. With its Irish-Gaelic name and a conspicuous leprechaun logo, the new bar seems poised to be the polar opposite of its predecessor.

New owner Eric Nugent said he planned some very ambitious changes for the space, but added that he expects the bar's new identity will pay off. "I plan to get the spaceship look out," Nugent said. "I'm going to put in granite countertops, mahogany chairs and a hardwood floor. We're going to put some deeper colors up on the walls to warm the place up. ... I've been renovating houses for 10 years, so this doesn't seem like such a massive undertaking to me," he added.

Some of the changes are already visible. The orange stools are gone. The two Macs in the back where customers checked e-mail have disappeared. A new, computerized jukebox featuring a touch screen and 130,000 songs

has been installed, and much of the old décor has been removed.

Under Nugent's management, the bar will open at 2:30 p.m. daily. He said he expects the kitchen will be up and running in about two months. "The food will be bar basics," he said. "If customers want a full meal, they can go next door to Sullivan's."

Nugent was also quick to distance the Tabhairne from its super-authentic Irish neighbor. It's not really going to be an Irish-theme bar," he said. "The name is really the only Irish thing, I'm going to try to make it the most eclectic place in Lakewood."

Since the change of hands, Nugent has started to fulfill that mission by booking diverse musical entertainment, from rock and reggae bands to hip-hop DJs. He said the bar has been busy, but admitted that with the renovation and redesign just beginning, the new concept is taking time to catch on.

It was Capsule's unusual, slightly upscale atmosphere, in a city filled with corner taverns, that might, in



New owner Eric Nugent charts a course for change.

the end, have contributed to the bar's demise, Proffer noted. Nugent seemed to agree.

"I think that whole thing is dying. It's been played out," he said. "We're definitely going to get away from the retro look, and make the place a little more sophisticated."

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Spilled Ink

Market *continued from page 16*

with all income levels, all mentalities, all age groups. You have to reach each level of society. And you can become like the worm, burrowing through the happiness of the garden," Maurice betrays his adoration of the benefits of composting, brew-waste and vermiculature. In addition, he suggests "utilizing the [formerly] industrial areas along Lakewood's borders," to develop gardening projects.

Family and community gardens offer a tangible way for people to get involved with local food issues. The importance of individual gardens should not be overlooked. In addition to providing food, gardens can spawn community involvement, bring neighbors together, and reconnect urban residents with their natural surroundings. Lakewood is a community of many gardens, and by strengthening existing networks, the city can promote local food production as a component of our development toward a sustainable 21st century economy.

Some Lakewood residents view gardening as a sort of backyard revolution in which any of us can take part. Others have discussed the potential of rooftop gardening and planting fruit trees such as apple, pear or peach to provide fresh fruit during the summer months. These are potentially useful ideas aligned with the goal of attaining food security.

Around the country, progressive communities are developing school-based programs that provide educational opportunities as well as fresh,

locally grown and produced foods to area school lunch programs. According to the Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch program, "Farm-to-school projects support and promote local and sustainable agriculture in the short term, through direct purchases, and in the long term, through education of the next generation of consumers."

Programs such as Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch, the Food Systems Project in Berkeley, Calif., and other farm-to-school initiatives provide a model for educators, parents, school administrators and others wishing to bring the discussion of sustainability and community development into the classroom and lunchroom.

Lakewood is a community at a crossroads. As we consciously consider the progress we'd like to achieve, food should play a significant role in our blueprint for establishing and maintaining a sustainable inner-ring community. Since food is essential to our survival, every day brings a new opportunity to make a positive impact on our regional economy and general well-being. Northern Ohio's farmers and Lakewood's community gardeners provide the key to moving beyond the farmers market.

Sweetly

continued from page 5

John, settled where they felt most at home. "We left Westlake and moved to Lakewood," Ines says giggling. "Our whole lives are here. That's why I want to see it improving." She points to expansions at the YMCA and library as signs of civic health. "They definitely need to put their life into the library, because if there are brains, there's a future."

Ines advocates programs of support for small business owners who are willing to purchase storefront properties and "put their lives into these buildings." She says, "Being from Europe, I've always believed in taking care of what you have or own and cherish that."

Living in "the ownership society," we are fortunate to have an owner like Ines. She purchased the building into which Sweet Designs has recently relocated. Customers can find Sweet Designs on the north side of Detroit Avenue, between Westlake and Cranford.

Ines urges potential entrepreneurs not to be discouraged by the start-up "hump," advising that "after a couple of years my location didn't matter anymore."

Loyal customer Greg Shaughnessy attests to this fact, saying, "no matter where you go we'll follow you." That kind of commitment cements the bond between small business proprietor and customer.

Can we amplify this phenomenon? Lakewood has the retail space. An army of do-it-yourself restoration artists could transform our empty retail space—just take a look at Sweet Design's new building and you'll agree.

Rollercoaster *continued from page 8*

When it comes to our guys in Rosavelt, the alt-country label is truly a misnomer. Musically, the band owes as much to prototypical noisy American bands such as Hüsker Dü as it does to Hank Williams or Johnny Cash. While Allen and company enjoy and admire these two country music legends, they are quick to point out that Rosavelt has always been a back-to-basics rock band, weaned on healthy doses of Bob Dylan, The Clash, Carl Perkins and Bruce Springsteen.

The less-is-more aesthetic of the band is evident in its straightforward and passionate vocal delivery. Tom Petty-esque guitar lines chime and then alternate with rough and bullying chords atop a stripped-down meat-and-potatoes rhythm section.

Rosavelt is a lesson in musical economy. There are no wasted musical parts or meandering vocals to detract from the well-crafted frameworks of Chris Allen's songs.

In that sense they approach the brilliant balance between rag-tag musical delivery and through-composed

poetry achieved by Dylan on seminal albums such as "Highway 61 Revisited." It is reckless musical abandon acting as a backdrop for autobiographical storytelling.

The group's ties to Lakewood are numerous—Allen was born and raised in Lakewood, drummer Loretta is a recent convert to our fair community, and former bassist Keith Hanna comes from a very large Lakewood family. Keith and keyboardist brother Chris have played prominent roles in the local music scene over the last dozen-plus years.

When asked how Lakewood has influenced him as a person and musician over the years, Allen points out the strong sense of community among friends and family. He noted the mixture of metropolitan and bohemian culture with the small-town feel that exists in Lakewood.

An Evening with Rosavelt: 9 p.m., Friday, July 15th. Beachland Ballroom and Tavern, 15711 Waterloo Rd., Cleveland, 216-383-1124.

Social Security

continued from page 9

These changes are superficial: They don't touch the basic nature of the system, but only adjust its present features. Furthermore, they are flexible: The adjustments can be expanded or contracted in the future, as experience corrects initial estimates.

No one change would eliminate the solvency gap, but by all accounts some combination would do so. (And, if necessary, other similar changes could be introduced, such as bringing local and state government workers into the sys-

tem.) They would also meet the other requirements I've listed above.

As to the exact combination of changes, that is for the Congress to decide. My point is this: The Social Security problem can be solved through modest and superficial changes such as these. We don't need basic, system-wrenching changes such as private accounts.

Bush, as we know, has put forth a proposal for private accounts. This is what I will take up next issue.

Book Review

continued from page 7

binder for a high-stakes deal. Curiously, the narrator's account of his plight at the firm is often less compelling than the plights in his personal life.

One reason, it seems, is that even though he works at a prestigious Manhattan firm, he is not highly driven to succeed as a lawyer. He states repeatedly that he never really loved law but went to law school to please his parents. Factor in his alcohol abuse and sarcastic demeanor, and the nameless narrator seems an aimless drifter on a ship aiming full steam ahead. He seems to lie somewhere between hero and anti-hero. Indeed, he says of himself: "I know I'm half-phony."

Overall, Hogan's *Man Out of Time* features a memorable narrator who captures the nature of life for many 20-somethings. This review will stop short of revealing a few surprise twists at the novel's end, but the reader can be assured that some hope does emerge for the narrator.

Most poignant is the level of intimacy he finally achieves with his father, which is directly reflected in the tone of the narration: "I put my arms around him, and I hold him. ... I hold him hard. Enough time has passed that we can do this now."



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Animals Around Lakewood

County's Best Dog Park Breeds Diversity

by Mike Deneen

Lakewood Dog Park, one of Lakewood's most popular locations, recently turned two years old on June 27. Designed as a place for dogs to enjoy, it is often their owners that get the most pleasure from visiting the park. The park brings together people and pets from all walks of life, and provides a welcome retreat from the hectic pace of modern living.

The people that use the park are as diverse as their four-legged companions: young adults and senior citizens, blue collar and white collar, conservatives and liberals. They come to the park to give their dogs a chance to run free and play with other dogs in a secure, fenced environment. However, it never takes long for park visitors to strike up conversations with their fellow dog lovers. After all, nothing breaks the ice between strangers like the playful antics of their dogs.

Bringing people together is nothing new for the dog park. During the height of the West End controversy, a tumultuous and divisive time in Lakewood's history, the community managed to set aside its differences and rally around the park's construction.

A citizen's group was formed in early 2002 to build support for the project. Co-chairs Brittany O'Conner, Whitney Callahan and Shelly Gould-Burgess led efforts to collect hundreds of signatures from citizens.

The group's founding members were united in their belief that a dog park would enhance Lakewood's livability for all residents, as evidenced in other communities nationwide. Councilman Denis Dunn and State Representative Mike Skindell also worked very hard on the project during its formative stages and were instrumental in bringing the issue to the city's attention.

After much deliberation over the location, the fall of 2002 brought agreement from the city to allow the construction of the dog park at its current site near the Water Treatment Plant in the Metroparks valley. The city also agreed to contribute in-kind services to the project; however, the dog park group was responsible for raising funds for the park's construction. Among the expenses would be establishing fencing, seeding grass, and installing a water fountain. They raised \$15,000, and the park opened on June 27, 2003.



Bob Sheppard takes a break in the shade with Beatrice and Jack.



Tim Dunder loves using the park for socializing dogs and working with them.

The Protein In Lakewood's Backyard

by Kelsey Paras

Ever wonder about those small swarming summer insects? They are midges and belong to the family Chironomidae.

Although they resemble irritating mosquitoes, these six-legged wonders do not bite. In fact, the only time they eat is during their four-week aquatic larval stage. A female midge lays her eggs in the water. The white larvae, which emerge, eat decomposing vegetation on the bottom of the lake or pond. After the larval stage, an immature midge becomes a pupa. From this form, the larvae are transformed into adult midges.

Midges hatch on the surface of the water and this is when they are most commonly viewed. They live only long enough to reproduce. The swarming

masses seen in the summer months are here to mate. Once they have mated and the eggs are laid, adult midges die.

Despite their bad rap, midges are an important part of the food chain. Both larvae and adults are a favorite summer treat for many freshwater fish, as well as early morning swimmers. These insects sometimes confuse outdoor pools for lakes and ponds, thus accumulating in our Foster and Madison pools. At 5:45 a.m. it is not uncommon for Lakewood Recreation Swim Team diehards to consume a little extra protein.

Their life span is short, but midges make their presence known through the sheer volume of specimens which inhabit Lakewood. Just remember, they do not cause any harm to humans, so the best thing to do is sit back and enjoy nature.

The community has remained highly involved with the dog park. The citizens' group, now Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park (FLDP), worked with Mayor George's administration to renovate the park in spring 2004. The park's original grass surface, which quickly turned to mud, was replaced with a special gravel material throughout most of the park, providing a cleaner surface for the dogs. The renovation was a success, as the Lakewood Dog Park was named "Best in Cleveland" by *Scene* magazine in 2004.

Members of FLDP continue to support the park. They raise money for maintenance and upkeep, as well as provide waste bags for park users. Vol-

unteers perform routine maintenance such as refilling the waste bag stations. FLDP also informs the public on dog park etiquette and safety via its website and appearances at local events.

Lakewood's success with the dog park has inspired other northeast Ohio communities to follow its lead. Brunswick opened a dog park in 2004 and Cleveland opened its first dog park in June 2005. Communities such as Westlake and Oberlin are also exploring the idea.

For more information about the dog park, including park rules and directions, please visit the Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park website at www.lakewooddogpark.com.

HAPPY TAILS

BY LAURA DUMM

