

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Lakewood's Only Newspaper And Finest Website

Volume 1, Issue 11, November 15, 2005

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## Lakewood Observer Salutes Our Veterans



**Veterans Special Issue** – Above, Lance Cpl. Samuel Gagliardi handing some candy to an Iraqi child. Sam was part of 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment of Brookpark, that lost 21 members in three days last August. Read his story on pages 8 and 9. On the right is former Mayor David Harbarger and current Mayor Tom George listening to the stirring speech given by Lt. Col. Mike Skomrock at the dedication of the new Veterans Statue in Lakewood Park. You can read his speech on page 11.

Photo by Rhonda Loje



## ...And Spends Some Time Honoring Man's Best Friend

By Mark Timieski

I was cycling through the Metroparks Friday. A little over a mile south of the Detroit entrance, I stopped to take a look at a memorial marker that had

recently been installed: a bronze Yorkshire terrier peeking out of an army helmet. Two men sat across from the marker. After a moment of silence, one of the men spoke up, telling me that the

dedication ceremonies were to be held later that afternoon at 2 p.m. to honor the dogs that have served in the military. The dog cast in bronze is a likeness of "Smoky," a Yorkshire terrier that was found in the jungles of New Guinea during the Second World War in 1944 and was trained by GI Bill Wynne, while serving as a member of the U.S. Army 26th Photo Recon Squad. Smoky learned over 200 commands and hand signals. She performed numerous tricks for troops in camps and hospitals during the war, and even helped run communication cable through a tiny culvert that would have otherwise required excavation and closure of a runway for several days. After the war, Smoky and the owner went on to spend some time in Hollywood, before returning to Ohio. The second man that had been sitting quietly piped up, saying: "That was his dog!" motioning to the first man.

The memorial consists of a life-size bronze sculpture of Smoky in a helmet mounted on a stone base that is approximately four feet tall. Susan Bahary, a nationally recognized canine sculptor, designed the Dogs of All Wars/Smoky Memorial. An interpretive panel was installed by Cleveland Metroparks near the memorial. Information on the panel includes the story of Smoky and other dogs of war.

In 2003, the Smoky/War Dog Committee presented the idea to Cleveland Metroparks of including a war dog memorial to the revitalized memorial area. Cleveland Metroparks committed to adding the proposed Dogs of All Wars/Smoky Memorial to Memorial Field and the committee

agreed to raise the funds necessary to underwrite the costs.

Ultimately, this memorial is intended to increase public awareness regarding the importance of ensuring humane treatment of all dogs of war now and in the future.

For further information check out these reference sources:

<http://www.smokywardog.com/index.php>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yorkshire\\_Terrier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yorkshire_Terrier)

<http://www.yorkierescue.com/articlebill.html>



Photo by Paul Tepley

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# Lakewood News

## Police & Fire Beat Officials Urge Basic Safety Precautions

with Rita Ryland

This week, Lakewood students carried home the following notice:  
November 4, 2005

In light of several reported incidents, Superintendent of Schools Dr. David C. Estrop, Mayor Thomas J. George, and Police Chief Timothy J. Malley issued a letter to parents today reminding them to encourage their children to use basic safety precautions when walking. Three incidents have been reported involving female students being frightened by an older, unidentified adult male while the students were walking alone. None of the students were injured. The Lakewood Police Department, with the cooperation of the Lakewood City Schools, is investigating these reports.

As a precaution, the Lakewood Police Department will be giving special attention to schools areas and additional school personnel will be patrolling school areas immediately following the school day. "The safety of our children is our top priority," said Superintendent Estrop. "Even though none of the incidents have occurred at school or on school property, we will be patrolling in and around our

schools and emphasizing basic safety techniques to students."

Students and all residents are encouraged to follow these safety strategies:

- Always use the buddy system when walking in the neighborhood or to and from school.
- Make sure a parent knows where you are at all times and arrange predetermined check-in times.
- Walk along well-lighted and well traveled routes.
- Report any suspicious activity immediately to the Lakewood Police Department.

"2005 FBI crime statistics show Lakewood to be a very safe place, however, we are taking this opportunity to remind parents, students and all Lakewood residents to practice basic safety precautions and report any suspicious activity to the Lakewood Police Department," stated Mayor Thomas J. George.

In addition, Chief Malley of the Lakewood Police Department asks residents:

1. Report any incidents immediately to the Lakewood Police Department. Call 911.

2. Anyone with information about these incidents, please contact the Lakewood Police Department at 521-6773.
3. Don't walk on the railroad tracks.

4. Try not to walk alone.
5. Don't talk to strangers.
6. Make noise when confronted.
7. Use cell phones to report suspicious activity as quickly as possible.



### Storm Damage

Nancy and Roj Tanden's gigantic oak tree came crashing through the back of their beautiful Victorian home at 1508 Belle Ave. at approximately 1 p.m. Sunday afternoon during high winds. As Nancy was about to put their three-year-old Kate and one-year-old Vijay down for a nap on the second floor, she heard what sounded like a roar and felt like an earthquake. The family was safe, but very shook up. It could be quite some time before the house is architecturally sound. (Photo courtesy of Mary Bodnar)

## Hot Off The Deck

Join the discussion online – visit the OBSERVATION DECK

LAKEWOOD DISCUSSION				
Topics	Replies	Author	Views	Last Post
CitiStat Pilot Program	6	Kenneth Warren	109	Sun Nov 13, 2005 11:13 am
Critical Inquiry				
A salute to Veterans	3	Bill Call	57	Sun Nov 13, 2005 12:51 am
Should Kids Attend School on Election Day?	3	Ruthie Koenigsmark	112	Fri Nov 11, 2005 1:24 pm
Wal Mart the High Price of Low Prices	3	Lynn Farris	144	Fri Nov 11, 2005 10:01 am
Moving Lakewood Forward	7	Thomas J. George	298	Fri Nov 11, 2005 8:49 am
Unsightly signs	6	Thomas J. George	304	Thu Nov 10, 2005 2:01 pm
Keep Your Hands Off My House Pledge	3	Lynn Farris	146	Tue Nov 08, 2005 8:18 pm
Joseph Milan				
Vandalism on Detroit Ave.?	0	Mark Schroeder	91	Tue Nov 08, 2005 3:53 pm
Mark Schroeder				
"Beirut Hilton"?	21	Donald Farris	781	Tue Nov 08, 2005 9:33 am
GLOBAL DISCUSSION				
OK GWB Supporters You still proud?	35	Jim O'Bryan	427	Sun Nov 13, 2005 11:20 am
GWB "We should honor the dead..."	58	Jim O'Bryan	737	Fri Nov 11, 2005 12:49 pm
Get big money out of OH politics- YES on Issues 2, 3, 4 &	7	Tom Powell-Bullock	171	Wed Nov 09, 2005 8:37 pm
The intifada comes to France	10	Bill Call	166	Wed Nov 09, 2005 8:47 am

## 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: publisher@lakewoodobserver.com

**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, e-mail: 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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The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the publisher and staff.



# Lakewood City Hall

## 36 Hours in an Election Day

Lakewood City Council always has a meeting the evening before the Fall General Election. When the election is for our local Lakewood offices and issues, the meeting sometimes has an eerie, surreal quality to it. This article's council report will be a chronicle—one person's view—of the 36 hours from election eve through the day after the election.

A review of the agenda prior to the meeting revealed a perfunctory list of items to be considered. As if by common agreement, this meeting can't contain anything controversial, and it has to be short. A fast meeting is essential because several of the candidates in Tuesday's election are attending. They are tired. There are last minute preparations to be made. Lurking in the shadows is the possibility that there still might be hot embers waiting to ignite from a final weekend of campaign pyrotechnics.

Therefore, a short, dispassionate meeting is in everybody's interest.

That goal was met in fewer than 30 minutes because the agenda items were predominately second readings of ordinances from the Finance Department. These had to do with the establishment of the switchover of income tax collection from a regional agency to the city. Also, the State requires cities to formally

Reported by Stan Austin  
Lakewood Observer City Council Reporter

set the property tax millage rates annually. This was passed by ordinance.

6:15 AM: Tuesday—Election Day. Booth workers have been setting up since six o'clock. Volunteers for the candidates and issues are gathering, mustering up outside the polling locations. They are the poll watchers who will try to persuade or reassure voters as they enter the polling location, that their candidate is the best.

6:30 AM: the presiding judge at each location intones, "The polls are now open."

On the ballot are the runoff candidates who survived the October primary election. For the unexpired term for Ward I council are Ryan Salo and Kevin Butler. Six candidates are vying for the three at-large seats. Veteran election observers have conceded two of the three seats to incumbents Michael Dever and Edward FitzGerald. The remaining third seat is hotly contested by candidates Nikki Antonio, Daniel Brennan, Timothy Carroll and Suzanne Horrigan.

In a campaign, even without a vote being taken, judgments are based on perceived voter opinions. These judgments are then translated into political moves. In a local election these moves are usually manifested by producing and distributing campaign literature. The final weekend's literature featured Antonio, Brennan, and Carroll as competitors, thereby verifying those candidates' perception that only one seat was truly open. The ward one seat was vigorously contested with the distribution of narrowly targeted literature in an effort to move voters at the edges.

Also of local note were two uncontested school board seats and three charter issues.

That's the set-up; now the election and aftermath.

Various voters' reports during the day have indicated light voter turnout and a modest level of volunteer enthusiasm.

The wait, now, is for 7:30 p.m., the close of polls. At that time, the

Cuyahoga County Board of Elections releases the absentee voter results, which have been previously counted by computer. By 9:30 the outcome should be clear.

7:55 PM: a visit to the Board of Elections web site shows some early returns. However, there is too little data to make any predictions.

8:20 PM: the Board of Elections web site has crashed!

8:55 PM: another brief trickle lights up the screen and starts to show an emerging trend for the at-large race with Antonio solidly in third. The Board of Elections web site crashes again. A fast move over to the WKYC web site shows that they have picked up the ball on reporting after the Board has fumbled it.

9:45 PM: finally, enough results have come in to call Butler the winner in ward one and Antonio the winner of the third at-large seat. Two out of the three charter issues are passing.

10:20 PM: with the outcome clear, Mayor Tom George travels to Sullivan's

Irish Pub and Restaurant to congratulate Kevin Butler and Ed FitzGerald. Then it's a quick trip to Niko's Restaurant to the Antonio victory party. Finally, the Mayor makes a last stop at Around the Corner Saloon and Cafe to give Mike Dever a congratulatory handshake.

11:30 PM: it's over. This special election report will wrap up with some thoughts provided by the new winners on Wednesday morning.

Kevin Butler said, "I recognize that this election was a close race. In the end, I think the voters responded to an issues oriented campaign on my part and I want to acknowledge that with a lot of hard work for them as their councilman."

Nikki Antonio said "I did a lot of listening during the campaign and I will continue that. This is an exciting time for Lakewood and I want to bring that excitement and enthusiasm to council."

Mayor Tom George said "Passage of Issues 58 and 59 are important aspects of our long term plan to address our City's financial condition and to address our 100-year-old infrastructure needs."

## Election Results 2005

The Lakewood Observer was impressed with all candidates that ran and hope all stay involved in the process, and remain active in the future of Lakewood.

(With 69 of 69 Precincts Counted)

<b>Lakewood City</b> <b>Member of Council-at-large</b>	
Edward Fitzgerald	5707
Michael Dever	5193
Nickie J. Antonio	4279
Daniel Thomas Brennan	3527
Timothy Carroll	3174
Suzanne Kennedy Horrigan	1769

<b>Member of Council Ward 1</b>	
Kevin M. Butler	1489
Ryan J. Salo	1363

<b>Member of Board of Education</b>	
Edward Favre	5605
Betsy Bergen Shaughnessy	6480

<b>Issue # 57</b> <b>Prop'd Charter Amendment</b>	
Yes	4726
No	5129

<b>Issue #58</b> <b>Prop'd Charter Amendment</b>	
Yes	6406
No	3839

<b>Issue #59</b> <b>Prop'd Charter Amendment</b>	
Yes	5357
No	5082

<b>Issue #60</b> <b>2-n- Local Option</b>	
Yes	111
No	63

<b>Issue #61</b> <b>3-b- Local Option</b>	
Yes	61
No	50

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coffee, beers & art

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Grand Opening:  
Friday, November 25, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Location: LHS – just east of the L-Room and East Gym  
(in the former Main Office)

This is a joint project of the Lakewood Public Schools Alumni Foundation and Lakewood Athletic Boosters. Proceeds from the sale of goods in the Ranger Shop will benefit both organizations. Staffed by volunteers, the shop will be open school days (Mon-Thursday 1-3 p.m., Friday 11 a.m.-3 p.m.) and during most home basketball and wrestling events. Items include: apparel (men's, women's, students', children), holiday ornaments, giftware, etc.



Lakewood Observer

Imagine ParkPlace:

# A “Third Place” Vision for Lakewood Park

*By Mark Schroeder*

There exists a unique physical space within Lakewood Park that could become a jewel of Lakewood ... if we can use it to its fullest potential. It is a place so close to the hearts of our citizens that, once a new vision for it materializes, people will ask, “How did we not do this before?”

This unique space is the under-utilized and decaying Skate House building, located between the Oldest Stone House and the new Lakewood Skate Park. It is a metaphorical bridge between Lakewood’s past, represented by the Lakewood Historical Society’s Oldest Stone House Museum, and Lakewood’s future, represented by the Lakewood Skate Park. This physical space is the ideal location for a new “Third Place” gathering spot for Lakewood residents: ParkPlace.

There are many potential benefits of a Third Place gathering spot like ParkPlace. Third Place amenities provide places for people to get to know each other, which contributes to social capital. They are a neutral ground, providing easy association among diverse groups. Third Places tend to bridge generations, as seniors, adults and youth interact. A successful Third Place unites neighborhoods, helping residents build a sense of local ownership. They comprise “the office” for work-at-home types with WiFi access. Finally, Third Places provide an informal meeting area where local clubs and organizations can come together.

Imagine a Clifton Park mom with



Concept drawing by Cindy Stockman, Stockman Architects



The storage building that is currently at the park.

two-year-old twins putting them in a stroller and jogging to Lakewood Park. Upon arriving at the park, she joins a group of five other mothers with young children at ParkPlace, where they swap war stories while the kids play in a discovery zone. Imagine an elderly tenant of the Gold Coast taking his morning stroll along Lake and Edgewater and then pausing for a cup of tea and a muffin in the lively atmosphere of ParkPlace. Amidst the young moms and lively toddlers he remembers his own parenting years. By chance he meets one of the young moms, the youngest daughter of one of his old acquaintances. They catch up for a few minutes. Revived, his journey home is more joyful. Imagine a young skater, tired

from an exhausting workout, popping into ParkPlace for an energy-boosting smoothie. Watching the moms and their kids interact, he connects. He stops to play with the kids, making his best Miss Piggy voice. Imagine a place where all are welcome, a place that feels almost as good as home, a place where you can meet old friends or make new ones. Imagine a place that feeds body, mind, and soul, a place that bridges generations, a place that you

deserve in your park. Imagine ParkPlace. This vision is closer to being a reality than you may think. The physical space is there. All that is required is for civic vision to become civic action. This will be a public and private partnership that adds great value to our community. I want to create and operate ParkPlace for my Lakewood neighbors.

On Tuesday, November 1, 16 Lakewood residents came together for the first public meeting on the ParkPlace vision. Participants raised key points, including the feeling that Lakewood Park is currently in desperate need of this type of amenity. Park Place would serve many groups, including the walkers and joggers who use the new walk/bike trail, the skaters from the skate park, visitors to the Oldest Stone House, parents and students at the new Lakewood Catholic Academy next door, and Lakewood groups of all colors, shapes, and sizes. Residents believe that a high-end café serving coffee, tea, smoothies and light healthy fare would be an exciting addition to Lakewood Park. ParkPlace will become a jewel of Lakewood Park and a place close to the heart of the community we call home. Imagine ParkPlace. I do.

To find out more about the ParkPlace vision, contact Mark Schroeder at 216-533-4570 or [develop\\_lakewood@yahoo.com](mailto:develop_lakewood@yahoo.com).



Develop Lakewood launch at Bela Dubby on Madison Avenue.

## Extraterrestrials in Lakewood?

*By Steve Hoffert*

We still do not have definitive proof but the truth is out there. On October 11 representatives from the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) and the Cleveland UFO Project gave an informative lecture to more than 60 residents at Lakewood Public Library.

Topics of discussion ranged from local and international sightings of unidentified flying objects to suspected encounters with alien visitors. George Pindroh, an investigator for MUFON, conveyed a convincing and captivating tale of what he believed to be his encounter with an alien life form in 1967. The alleged alien started a conversation with him in a Brookpark bar by saying “Do you play chess?” From that point, George talked through the night and was overwhelmed by this being’s extensive knowledge of all things including objects in space yet to be discovered at that time. He also learned that there are many “aliens” among us sent here to help. After walking the streets of Lakewood, I can almost believe him.

Other interesting tales of sightings from Ohio and details of the investigations were told to the diverse audience



ranging from rabid believers to skeptics. Photos of many of these sightings were displayed as proof of the encounters.

For those interested in pursuing this topic, Aaron Clark ([aclark@clevelandufo.com](mailto:aclark@clevelandufo.com)) offers a course on UFOs this spring at Oberlin college. In addition, the Cleveland Ufology Project ([www.clevelandufo.com](http://www.clevelandufo.com)) meets the third Saturday of each month for discussions.

Whether or not we are being visited by aliens, the controversy carries on across the country. For now, I remain an agnostic awaiting my very own alien encounter in Lakewood.

Develop Lakewood is Inviting Neighbors and other interested parties to join in an open discussion about creating an exciting new Lakewood “third place”.  
**Thursday, December 1, 7 p.m. sharp**  
**Lakewood Public Library Auditorium**  
**15425 Detroit Ave., Lakewood**  
Designated “ParkPlace Project,” this development enhances Lakewood Park with a quality gathering place.  
Spearheaded by Develop Lakewood, this project is an open source development. All are welcome to attend and encouraged to participate. Bring an open mind and your desire to enhance the community we call home.  
**Questions:** [develop\\_lakewood@yahoo.com](mailto:develop_lakewood@yahoo.com)  
Mark Schroeder at 216-533-4570.  
**Add your Voice to this Develop Lakewood Vision**

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# Lakewood Schools



Mayor Tom George, Board of Education members Ed Favre, Deb Sweeney, Chas Geiger, Linda Beebe, and past member Mike Summers joins with students, teachers, and residents in breaking ground at Harding Middle School, as Rick Weir rings the bell. This is truly Lakewood’s Time as the schools broke ground on four large building projects.

## Board of Education President Ed Favre’s Remarks

Good Morning and thank you for braving our first blast of cold weather to be with us here today. Our kids know this type of northern Ohio weather well.

I’d like to take a moment to recognize some officials who are with us.

First, my fellow members of the Board of Education: Vice President Betsy Shaughnessy, Linda Beebe, Chas Geiger, and Debra Sweeney and Mayor George.

This is a historical civic event in

Lakewood. Today we turn the soil where a new school building with rise. Today, we’re planting the seed for the future of Lakewood. You know, ever since I came to Lakewood, I’ve always enjoyed the trees around town. Most particularly, the tall, stately oaks that line many of our streets and are in many of our yards.

These are solid, hardwood trees that endure for generations. These great trees all started with this..., a little acorn. And from acorns such as

this, the trees’ roots grow deep in the soil and it grows as large beneath the ground as above.

So it will be with our new school buildings. They will become deeply rooted in this fertile soil that is Lakewood. Their roots will grow strong and become part of the very fabric of our City.

And from the halls and classrooms of this building will come generations of Lakewood’s children, like the acorns of the future.

We know that public education is a primary American right, and it is a primary obligation of government. Notwithstanding that some do not understand, or refuse to understand, that fact, Lakewood does. And long after this day..., this year..., this time..., this building we start here and now will stand as a monument to the correct decision that Lakewood made about its schools and its future.

Today..., and tomorrow, IT IS LAKEWOOD’S TIME!

# Lakewood Girls’ Soccer Season Ends

By Todd Shapiro

High school soccer’s postseason ended almost as quickly as it began for the Lakewood girls’ soccer team. The Rangers battled the Parma Lady Redmen as well as the swirling, blustery wind before losing 5-3 in a Division I sectional game at Byers Field Wednesday.

With the wind at their backs the Lady Redmen scored four goals in the first 13 minutes of the second half to end the Rangers season at 8-7-2.

Sophomore forward Jamie Meggas scored her sixth goal of the season to put the Rangers on the scoreboard first. The solid defensive work of All-Lake Erie League midfielder Rachael Niemi and senior co-captain Aly Endress held the Redmen scoreless for the first 39 minutes of the game, and the Rangers led 2-0. Then Parma freshman Stephanie Verbiak scored with five seconds remaining in the first half. The Rangers lost the lead for good when Parma scored three times in a period of 1:58 early in the second half. Nonetheless, Coach Randy Martin was still pleased with his team’s effort. “We played with

a lot of heart in the second half,” Martin said. “We had a number of scoring opportunities and played hard until the end.”

The Lady Redmen used an offside trap, a defensive scheme designed to lull the opposition into committing offside infractions, to perfection in the sectional game. Parma Coach Gene Farrell said, “We tried out that defense earlier this season against Strongsville, one of the area’s top teams, and St. Joseph Academy.” Farrell added, “We’ll definitely be using against our next opponent.”

In addition to Endress, the loss was the final appearance in a Rangers uniform for seniors Danielle Rusnak, Kelly Moran, Erin Norton, Liz Gazdick, Katherine Racy and Vicky Thomascik. Thomascik was Rangers leading scorer for the season with nine goals and nine assists. The Rangers, who finished fourth in the LEL, relied on the goalkeeping of Rusnak, who was second among the LEL keepers with a 1.63 GAA and was between the pipes for five shutout victories in the 2005 season.

Gazdick, who was issued Lakewood’s only yellow card in the game’s



Photo by Stan Austin

66th minute, and Niemi had numerous scoring opportunities late in game, but Niemi’s shot from the top of the penalty box with 17:38 remaining provided Lakewood with their only second half goal. Parma goalkeeper Katie Smith not only stopped a number of Lakewood shots but also provided the Lady Redmen with excellent field positions, consistently punting the ball

beyond midfield. Smith, a junior, was a defender most of the season until knee injuries ended the season for the net-minder. With the victory Parma improved to 5-12 for the season. Despite the fact that the Rangers bowed out in the first round of the playoffs, Coach Martin was still pleased with the 2005 season, saying, “It was a great season. The team improved steadily.”



Photo by Ivor Karabtkovic

Lakewood High’s Powder Puff Football Team.



### Spirit Scarfs Available

The LHS Parent Group is offering the scarfs for only \$10. Money raised will be used for new band uniforms. Call 216.226.9945 or e-mail [kmatrixcardi@excite.com](mailto:kmatrixcardi@excite.com)



Lakewood Mail Call

The Law Is the Law

Point

Submitted by Richard Healy

*This is one of the better e-mails I have received in a long time. I hope this makes its way around the USA several times over! "So Be It!"*

THE LAW IS THE LAW

If the U.S. government determines that it is against the law for the words "under God" to be on our money, so be it. If that same government decides that we cannot put the Ten Commandments on a government installation, so be it. Since the government already has prohibited prayer in the schools, so be it.

I say, "so be it," because I would like to be a law abiding US citizen. I say, "so be it," because I would like to think that smarter people than I are in positions to make good decisions. I would like to think that those people have the Ameri-

can public's best interests at heart.

However, since we can't pray to God, can't trust in God and can't post His commandments in government buildings, then I don't believe the government and its employees should participate in Easter and Christmas celebrations. After all, these holidays honor the God that our government is eliminating from many facets of American life. I'd like my mail delivered on Christmas, Good Friday, Thanksgiving and Easter. After all, those are just regular days. I'd like the US Supreme Court to be in session on Christmas, Good Friday, Thanksgiving and Easter as well as on Sundays. After all, those are just regular days. I'd like the Senate and the House of Representatives not to have to worry about getting home for the "Christmas Break." After all, those are just regular days.

The government could save a lot of my "taxpayer dollars" if all government operations would function on Christmas, Good Friday and Easter. It shouldn't cost any overtime since those days are just like any other day of the week to a government that is trying to be "politically correct." In fact I think that our government should work on Sundays, which were initially set aside for worshipping God, because, after all, our government says that Sundays are just regular days.

These are things I never thought about, but from now on I will be sure to question those in government who support such changes. If this idea reaches to enough people, maybe our elected officials will stop giving in to the minority opinions and begin, once again, to represent the 'majority' of ALL of the American people.

SO BE IT...

Please Dear Lord, Give us the help needed to keep you in our country! 'Amen' and 'Amen'

Counterpoint


By Shelly Gould Burgess

Our Founding Fathers\* valued freedom of choice with regard to religion. This is a core American value, and to question it is to question one of the fundamentals of American government, the separation of church and state.\*\* With this in mind, it is unpatriotic to question our government when it enforces this separation. Moreover it is oppressive and offensive to those of us in the religious minority when Christians complain that the government is "giving in" to minority opinions by upholding the separation.

I am a Jew who also practices a yogic system. I have my own holidays, yet I have no choice but to miss work during Christian holidays rather than my own. If I want to take off work to celebrate the holidays of my own faith, I must apply for personal leave and must then make up the work that I missed while the "majority" moved forward with their business. Saturday is the Sabbath for Jews, leaving Sunday for chores. However, Jews cannot get many things done on Sundays because the Christian majority closes businesses early or doesn't even open stores on Sundays. (Anyone want to go out to eat in Lakewood on Sunday at 5:00?) If I walk into a courtroom with the Ten Commandments on the wall and a bailiff who asks me to swear honesty on the Christian Bible, how could I feel assured that I would receive the same justice as a Christian?

In my opinion the government has not done enough to eliminate religious references from our documents and processes, both official and social. There is no truly equal treatment when Muslim, Jewish, atheist, agnostic, Buddhist, Hindu, pagan (etcetera etcetera) people come face-to-face with Christians who think the whole world is like them. Don't wish me a merry Christmas when you ring me out at the grocery store. The intention may be good, but it can't disguise the underlying arrogance that those in any majority tend to have—the arrogant idea that "Everyone is like me." Such assumptions make life uncomfortable at best and dangerous at the worst for those of us in the minority. Sarcastic e-mails that denounce the separation of church and state with the justification that the majority is Christian strengthen the alienation those of us in the minority feel. That is not equal treatment. That is not what the Founding Fathers wanted. It was what they were running from.


In sum, I say to Christians of like minds with the author of that e-mail that it is not YOUR world, and the rest of us aren't just visitors. Minorities are not insignificant. Our beliefs (or lack thereof) are not any more or less important to us than yours are to you. While we may have the freedom to practice our own systems of faith, we do not receive equal treatment when social ostracism, subtle or overt, is as ubiquitous as it is in our present culture.



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# Lakewood Healthcare

## Lakewood Hospital Impacts City’s Economic Health

It’s no secret that Lakewood Hospital offers important health benefits to Lakewood residents. Besides providing the integral services of a community hospital, such as an emergency department with pediatric express care and a birthing center, Lakewood Hospital brings the medical excellence of a Cleveland Clinic facility to our community. Both its Stroke Center and diabetes program recently have been recognized nationally for excellence. It is one of the few community hospitals in the nation that has a Neuro Integrated Care Unit (NICU) for patients who suffer from stroke, cerebral aneurysm, brain injury, epilepsy and other neurological disorders.

What may be a secret, however, is the impact Lakewood Hospital has on our city’s economic health. “The hospital is an economic driver in the city,” says Chief Administrative Officer Jack Gustin. With about 1,400 employees, 25 percent of whom reside in Lakewood, the hospital is the city’s largest employer. While, as a non-profit institution, Lakewood Hospital does not pay income taxes, its sheer number of employees makes it the city’s largest contributor of payroll taxes. In addition, the hospital employees who live and work in the city shop at the local retail establishments and patronize the city’s restaurants, which also add revenue to the city’s tax base. The hospital also makes an annual lease payment to the city of \$1 million annually.

Gustin, who began his career as a paramedic with Lakewood Hospital, says the hospital draws patients from all over western Cuyahoga County and beyond through its Westlake Medical Campus. The recently expanded Westlake facility includes the Lakewood Urgent Care Center, an outpatient physical therapy center, internal medicine and a vein and vascular center.

Where some may see the outpost as just another example of “urban sprawl,” the Westlake campus serves as a feeder to the main hospital in Lakewood. Patients who undergo testing in Westlake are referred back to the main hospital for acute care. “The idea is to

put the tentacles out there, build satellites in convenient locations and, by doing so, build the central core,” says Gustin. “As the central core grows, that will have a positive impact on employment at the main hospital.”

Lakewood Hospital also draws patients from afar through its investments in advanced technology. “There has been tremendous change in imaging technology,” says Gustin, “and we are on the forefront of that development. We have scanners that make it possible to look at the heart and organs and make a diagnosis without ever inserting a catheter.”

The hospital has also recently focused on improving its real estate here in Lakewood. Renovations began in the summer of 2005 on the main building lobby. When completed, the information desk will be more visible, patient

advocates will be more accessible and the interior lobby will have an updated look. The hospital’s 2006 capital budget includes \$4 million designated for further renovations in the critical care and nursing units.

Other future plans include expanding primary care services within the city. The hospital is currently in discussions with developers regarding the possibility of installing a primary care complex near the new Rockport Square development on Lakewood’s east end, followed up with a similar investment in Lakewood’s west side.

The hospital is not, by any means, exclusively focused on facilities and technology. It is also launching a number of new programs to benefit the education of Lakewood’s children. This past summer, the hospital offered a paid internship program for students of Lakewood and

St. Edward high schools. “The kids get to understand how health care works and get one-on-one mentoring,” says Gustin. “And, teaching makes us a better hospital,” says Gustin.

Also this year the hospital launched a new training curriculum for high school students: Health Careers Technology at Lakewood Hospital presented by West Shore Career and Technical District. The training program introduces students to medical careers and allows them to gain hands-on experience and college credit.

Other programs in development that will directly impact Lakewood residents include a physical rehabilitation program to be housed within Lakewood’s new YMCA and the new CARES coalition aimed at working with Lakewood city schools to identify children at risk on a spectrum of health issues, including early onset diabetes.

“Our motto is, ‘Your life is our life’s work,’” says Gustin. “We mean it.”

By Jeanine Gergel for LakewoodAlive

## Acupuncture: 2,000 Years of Observation

By Ann Driscoll, Reg.Ac.

Acupuncture, a branch of Chinese medicine, can be an effective treatment for a broad range of health problems. The placement and stimulation of very thin needles along energy pathways called “meridians” or “channels” are the means of producing changes in the body.

How does an acupuncturist decide which points to use? Would all patients with lower back pain receive treatment at the same points and would those differ from someone who was being treated for migraines? These are among the most frequently asked questions that patients bring to acupuncturists.

There are several assessment tools an acupuncturist can employ. Traditionally, these are based on the five methods of “diagnosis.” That is, pattern identification corresponding to the five senses: looking, smelling, hearing, asking and feeling. Certainly these are not unique to acupuncture, but there are some specific areas that acupuncture emphasizes over other health modalities.

Looking can include observing the posture and noticing structural imbalances. Looking also includes noticing the shape of the finger and toenails, the color of the skin, especially in the area of the temples. Observing the tongue can be a key, telling much about the long term condition of the body through the amount of moisture, the thickness and color of its coating, and the color and shape of the tongue body.

In smelling, an acupuncturist checks for one of five smells that might be faintly or strongly discernible on the patient’s body. Listening to the sound of a patient’s voice, both the quality and strength, points to clues to the underlying imbalance.

Asking is the method that has most in common with conventional medical therapies since it relies heavily on taking a thorough medical history and following that with specific questions about the main complaint. However additional questions about areas that may seem irrelevant to the main complaint are often necessary. Queries

about whether a person drinks hot or cold beverages, or prefers the weather of one season over the others are routine regardless of the health issue.

Feeling refers to palpating the pulses and different areas of the body such as the abdomen. Here it is “pulses” rather than “pulse” because an acupuncturist actually checks both the right and the left arms in three positions at three levels. The acupuncturist does so, not simply to find a pulse rate, but to get a clearer view of the relative strength or weakness of the different meridians. Palpation of zones on the abdomen, the laxity or tightness of the muscles there, or any painful reactions, can offer immediate feedback that gives significant new information or confirms what other methods have already indicated.

An acupuncturist can use all these methods to devise an appropriate treatment plan, and choose efficacious points that address the patient’s individual concern whether the problem is insomnia, chronic nail biting, migraines or lower back pain.

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## Lakewood Military

### Brook Park Battalion Boy

# Lakewood Marine Talks About Life in Iraq

By Victoria A. Policard  
LO Staff Writer

It was national news as media reported that 21 Ohio Marines were killed in Iraq within three days in August 2005. Headlines said it was “The deadliest roadside bombing of American forces in Iraq.” Now, as the 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment of Brook Park fades from national coverage, their ongoing story remains vivid here in northeast Ohio.

With oil prices soaring, no WMD found in Iraq and the death toll climbing on both sides, Americans seem to be fed up with the situation in Iraq. A recent poll said that only 37 percent of Americans support President Bush’s handling of the war. Many residents of Lakewood, a bright blue city in a red state during the 2004 presidential elections, probably wouldn’t disagree.

However, ask them if they support the troops and many people are quick to say that they do.

“I don’t support the war, but I support our troops,” is a popular phrase.

When it comes to the troops, politics and party affiliation seem to be sidelined. It’s about something deeper. The men and women are more than just a number, especially in smaller communities. They’re a son, brother, boyfriend, Eagle Scout, fellow high school graduate, friend and neighbor.

Twenty-five-year-old Lance Cpl. Samuel Gagliardi of the 3/25 Marine Regiment of Brook Park is all of these things to the people of Lakewood.

In a cozy Lakewood kitchen, Sam declined the coffee but ate a donut. He wore his khaki-colored official U.S. military Marine uniform. He’d been stateside for less than two weeks. The



Photo by Victoria Policard

Lance Cpl. Samuel Gagliardi in front of his parent's Lakewood home with Carebear, the family dog.

Lakewood High School alumnus and former wrestler's build is stocky and muscular; but it's his round, youthful face and polite mannerisms that his friends say put people at ease. On the bright, but chilly October morning, Sam discussed his time in Iraq and hopes for his future.

On the same day, over 6,000 miles away in Iraq, former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein wasn't faring as well. Hussein was in the second day of his first trial for crimes against humanity.

Sam considers the latter a victory. “Absolutely, still support the war,” says Sam, a Reservist, who volunteered

for active duty after Sept. 11, 2001.

“They’re (Iraqis) glad we’re there—they see we’re making changes,” he said. “Their water supply is now up 150 percent, we created jobs and tip lines. They aren’t afraid of Americans.”

He added, “They’d rather have the country to themselves, but the insurgents are basically a big gang and they know that. Ninety-nine percent of the people were nice to us.”

Sam lived the western city of Haditha for eight months. It was there that he said he personally witnessed the hospitality of the Iraqi people when visiting their homes.

“I’ve had dinner with Iraqi fami-

lies. They give you chi tea with lots of sugar,” he says with a smile. “And they break out the fine china.”

He adds while gesturing to his wrist, “A watch is a sign of status over there. They’ll talk so you’ll see it—they’ll use their hands a lot.”

“One Iraqi family had eight kids, they counted in Arabic and I counted in English. The kids learned English so fast,” he said with a laugh.

### A day in the life

Sam lived in the Haditha Dam. When describing it, his fellow Marines tell people to envision the Hoover Dam. He was part of the H&S company that consisted of five platoons: cooks, motor transportation, communications, administration and snipers. Sam was part of the 22-member sniper platoon. His platoon broke up into teams of three or four. Sam’s team had four members.

“In the dam, there were bunk beds, a refrigerator, a television. We’d cook up pasta, watch movies, (and) videos games,” he said.

In Sam’s platoon, the two most popular “pin-ups girls” were Angelina Jolie and Scarlett Johansson. If music was playing, it was usually classic rock ‘n’ roll. Not that it was the favorite of all the men, but because it didn’t offend anyone.

Sam said he has good memories of his platoon, but that the majority of the platoon’s time wasn’t spent at the dam—it was out in the field in their teams.

“Out in the field” meant sleeping in the mountains, the middle of the desert or the middle of a city. The living challenges were numerous. He’s been hooked up to IVs “several, several times” for dehydration.

“It’s basic survival—overhead





# Lakewood Military

shelter, you try not to talk,” he said.

While the days were hot and dry, the nights were cold in Iraq when Sam and fellow Marines first arrived in Haditha about seven months ago.

“We had to snuggle—literally. It was that or freeze.”

The kinds of food that would survive out in the field were a challenge too.

“Seventy-five percent of the time, I ate a MRE, meal ready to eat,” he said. “I can’t eat any more tuna!”

The foods he missed the most were steak and root beer floats.

What about the packages to the troops?

Sam said he received packages from people all over the world.

“People send so much stuff, one of our favorite things to get is instant food, like Chef Boyardee, Easy Mac, sardines and shrimp,” he said.

But the best thing to send the troops is toilet paper, according to Sam.

“TP and baby wipes are gold over there!” he exclaimed.

Was there anything he missed about Iraq?

Yes. He said, “I would take the nights there over here, it’s so peaceful.”

## Being home

Since being home, Sam said he’s gained 15 pounds.

“I think I’m almost done going out with every one that wanted to buy me a beer,” he says with a smile.

A Marine from Sam’s team said that one of the best things about being home was walking barefoot. “We wear boots all the time, even when we go to bed at night.”

Sam had a different view, saying that for him, one of the best things about being home was having a working toilet.

He explains, “They have ‘squatters’ over there—porcelain holes. That is what most Iraqi households have too.”

As for the new Marine movie, *Jarhead*, he saw it and wasn’t impressed.

When asked if he thinks that Lakewood has changed much since he left last January, he said no.

“My outlook has changed,” he says in a serious tone. “Life’s in perspective.”

## Fallen friends

Of the 22 men in Sam’s platoon—six died.

Sam says he hasn’t broken down and cried yet, but that recently he came close.

“The other day, I looked over into a car and thought I saw Brad Squires,” he said. “You get a smile on your face and then you realize—Brad’s dead.”

Marine Cpl. Brad D. Squires, 26, of Middleburg Heights was killed in June 2005 by an explosive in Iraq. Squires was also a Marine for the 3/25 Marine Regiment (out of Akron).

Sam admits that the loss of life is a hard reality for Marines.

He quickly added, “Blood, sweat and tears—you see you’re making a difference. My friends, who were lost, didn’t die in vain.”

The personal impact of losing six fellow Marines and friends was espe-



cially hard for one of Sam’s friends in the 3/25.

“He cried the most at the funerals,” Sam said. “He says he cried like a baby.”

After his friend said that to a fellow Marine, Sam’s friend was corrected by that Marine.

Sam recalls the Marine said, “We don’t cry like babies. We cry like men.”

When this story was written, 2,056 U.S. military service members have died since the Iraq conflict began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. Ohio is the fourth state with the highest numbers of deaths reported. To date, the 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment of Brook Park has lost 48 Marines.

## The future

On Feb. 13, 2009, Sam will be completely free of his service obligations to the Marine Corps.

He hopes to be married and have at least one child before that time.

As for a career after the military, Sam says he wants to work in law enforcement, and get a college degree in the field of forensics.

“Prior to leaving for Iraq, I graduated from Cleveland Heights/Tri-C police academy,” he says proudly.

Sam is expected to report for another tour of duty in about a year’s time. It will consist of seven months in a combat zone, with 10 months of total deployment. A Marine can volunteer to go back earlier. Sam said he will not.

Sam’s father, Sam Gagliardi Sr., said he doesn’t want his son to go back to Iraq.

“Not where you want to know your boy’s at. But if that’s his decision, I’ll support him,” he said.

Sam Sr. added, “I’m very proud of all the men and women serving, especially Sam.”

*Marine Lance Cpl. Samuel Gagliardi has been nominated for an award by one of his senior ranking officers for his outstanding service in Iraq, (the award can not be identified at this time), according to Major Jenny Potter, public affairs officer for the 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment of Brook Park.*



There was a nice crowd at the dedication of the Veterans Memorial in the Metropark.



Lakewood Religion

# The Fast of Corrigan Kenny

By Amy H. Kloss

Most kids are not known for their empathy. Like many Americans, they want what they want, as quickly as possible. Corrigan Kenny, however, is an exception.

Corrigan is not a Muslim, nor is anyone in his family. A fifth-grade student at Franklin Elementary School in Lakewood, Corrigan has been friends with Amir Fattah since they attended preschool together. Every year since first grade, Corrigan has watched while Amir and his family fasted during the month of Ramadan (see sidebar). This year, he decided to join them.

“They’ve been doing it for a long time, and it was their religion, so I thought I might respect that,” said Corrigan. I sat down to talk with Corrigan and Amir on the second to last

day of Ramadan. After 29 days of limited food, they were upbeat and pretty casual about the experience.

“It was OK,” said Corrigan. “Some days were worse than others. Right around after school, I would feel my stomach go a little weird.” Both boys agreed that the first days of the fast were the hardest, but quickly their bodies were used to fasting all day. At first, Corrigan said it was hard to keep his head straight and think clearly in school. He explained that when his body’s chemistry adjusted to no food or water during the day, he was fine.

Corrigan’s first experience with fasting came when he was 10 and working on achieving a black belt in martial arts. To demonstrate self-discipline, he was required to go without food or water for 24 hours. That experience helped him to understand why the



Corrigan Kenny (left) and Amir Fattah, friends since preschool, fasted together during Ramadan this year.

## What is Ramadan?

Muslims are people who follow the religion of Islam, which is founded on five duties called the “Pillars of Islam.” One of these pillars is the fast of Ramadan.

The Islamic calendar is based on phases of the moon. The lunar year lasts 354 days, which is divided into 12 months, each consisting of 29 or 30 days. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. This year, Ramadan began October 4 and ended November 2.

Muslims look forward to Ramadan as a time in which to clean and purify their bodies and minds. They make a special effort to be kind, patient and giving to those in need. The Ramadan fast is intended to help Muslims become stronger in their faith and to allow them to sympathize with poor people who regularly do not have enough to eat.

The fast begins when the new moon of Ramadan appears. During the fast, all healthy Muslims go without food or water from dawn to sunset. Exceptions are made for those who are very young, very old, ill, pregnant or nursing.

During Ramadan, the day begins very early with a pre-dawn meal called suhur. After that, nothing is eaten or drunk until after sunset, when the family gathers for an evening meal called iftar. The month of Ramadan is a time of worship and gathering for Muslims. When Ramadan ends, Muslims celebrate Eid-al-Fitr, a festival celebrated on the first day of the tenth month of the lunar year.

fast of Ramadan is important to Muslims. “I was thinking of Amir’s family,” he said. His motivation was learning more about other people and challenging himself.

Corrigan’s mother, Alice Kenny, said her son first approached her with a plan to move in with Amir’s family during Ramadan so that he could fully experience the month. She vetoed that idea, but realized he was serious about fasting.

“I knew when he said he was going to do it, he would go the whole way,” she said. During the month, he was sick with the stomach flu, and even then she had to insist he give up the fast for 48 hours.

Corrigan’s parents helped him by waking him at 6 a.m., when he would eat breakfast and brush his teeth, then go back to bed until 8 a.m. when he would get ready for school. Franklin School allows the Muslim students who

are fasting to skip the lunch period and have extra recess time. Asked if it was difficult to run around and play when they had not eaten for many hours and would not eat again for a long time, both boys said it was no big deal.

“We find the energy to play football,” said Corrigan. “If you have something to do, you forget all about eating.” In fact, they had to be careful not to eat too much when they had meals so that they would not make themselves sick. Corrigan lost three pounds during Ramadan, and Amir said he thought he was down about five pounds.

Fasting for 30 days was tough, but for Corrigan it was a positive experience, one he hopes to repeat next year. “During Ramadan, you’re supposed to respect other people,” he said. The fast helped him to respect the Muslim people for the sacrifice they make every year.

## LO’s & LMC’s Anne Palomaki Celebrating Lakewood United Methodist Church

Seventy-four members at Lakewood United Methodist Church have been members for 50 years or more! On October 30, these members were recognized during worship and celebrated at a gala reception following church service.



Arnie and Millie Davies, Arnie was our longest member in attendance. He joined in 1927. Millie was one of the new 50-year members.



New 50-year member Bill Vejdovec pictured with Edna Emde. Bill Vejdovec retired from the Lakewood Schools as Assistant Superintendent in charge of Human Resources.



Ralph Newby and Della Mesenhimer, LMC’s oldest members, both born in 1907.



New 50-year member Norma Brewer pictured with her husband, Charles, and LO’s Anne Palomaki.



New 50-year member Pearl Cassaro.



# Lakewood Veterans

## Veterans Day 2005 with Lt. Col. Mike Skomrock

This speech was given by Lt. Col. Mike Skomrock, and it was so good we asked to reprint it here.

**(Introduction)**  
**Thank you for that introduction and thank you for inviting me to speak today.**

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month of the year 1918, the world rejoiced and celebrated. After four years of bitter war, the Allied powers signed a cease-fire agreement (an armistice) with Germany in France on November 11, 1918, bringing World War I to a close. The “war to end all wars” was over.

November 11, 1919 was set aside as Armistice Day in the United States, to remember the sacrifices that men and women made during World War I in order to ensure a lasting peace. On Armistice Day, soldiers who survived the war marched in a parade through their home towns. Politicians and veteran officers gave speeches and held ceremonies of thanks for the peace they had won.

Armistice Day officially received its name in the United States in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later. Congress voted Armistice Day a federal holiday in 1938, 20 years after the war ended. But Americans realized that the previous war would not be the last one. World War II began the following year and nations great and small again participated in a bloody struggle. After the Second World War, Armistice Day continued to be observed on November 11.

Beginning in 1954, the United States designated November 11 as Veterans Day to honor of all U.S. veterans. And at 11:00 in the morning, many Americans observe a moment of silence, remembering those who fought for peace. In the United States Veterans Day honors all who served—not just the long-term soldiers, but the two-year draftees of the Cold War era, not just those who died in wartime who are honored on Memorial Day, but those who served in peacetime or who fought and survived, not just the minority of servicemen who saw combat, but the vast majority of the armed forces who provided them with the support necessary for them to succeed.

Today when we think of veterans, we often have in mind the “greatest generation,” the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who fought World War II and who now are passing rapidly from the scene.

Those who fought in Vietnam have not fared as well. This is largely because those who shape popular culture today are often those who avoided service in Vietnam, and transferred their loathing for the Vietnam War to those who fought it. I personally feel that society owes the Vietnam vets an extra dose of respect and honor and I am personally grateful for your service.

Because of the ongoing worldwide war against terrorists, this Veterans

Day is different from many previous years. The events since the attack on our nation—and on world order itself—gave rise to a fresh appreciation for those in uniform. Since September 11th, Americans young and old alike have instinctively turned to our military as the symbolic, yet also very real, source of national strength.

**I serve with pride**

I have often thought of why I serve as well as why many others serve in the military. There are many reasons why people join and serve this great country as a member of the military. I joined the Air Force in 1974 during a time military service was not considered a particularly good career choice. Part of the reason was for educational benefits and yes I received those. Part of the reason was the opportunity to do new and different things, yes I have done those. I can comfortably say that I didn’t join for the money. But far more important was my desire to serve. I feel that all who join the military are driven by this basic instinct—they want to serve. I don’t consider my service as a sacrifice I do however consider it a debt that I am paying to those who have served before me.

Veterans Day is a time for Amer-

on Veterans Day we honor the ideals and values those young Troops stood for and were willing to die defending.

Sadly, many Americans have lost this connection with their history. All too many Americans today view military service as an abstraction, as images seen on television and in movies. For a growing percentage of American people, Veterans Day has come to mean simply a three-day weekend or a major shopping day. Families might still gather for picnics, but for many of them, the patriotic core—the spirit of remembrance—is absent.

Veterans Day, like the military itself, is largely cut off from its historic meaning for many Americans. They have forgotten what the military stands for in the nation’s history.

Many Americans have no experience with or connection to the military. There are many reasons for the disconnect. We have fewer and fewer veterans to share their stories. And many of our older veterans—especially those from World War II and Korea—tend to be reticent. They often don’t talk about their service.

Unlike past periods in our history, the majority of members of Congress today have not served in the military.

one with your fellow citizens. If you are a veteran, share your own stories. Or become an oral historian yourself and collect other soldiers’ stories. Write them down and spread the word. Share military stories with family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. Tell these stories to other American anytime you have the chance. Encourage veterans you know to share their stories. Emphasize the relationship between the nation’s values and the core values of our military.

What is it that inspires and enables ordinary citizens to rise to the challenge of battle, to be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in service to their country? What is it that motivates them to respond and contribute wherever and whenever called upon to do so?

After 30 years in the military I still don’t know but I am very grateful for those that did as well as for those that will continue to. I am drawing near to the end of military career but as I see the youth of today, like my son Robert, who is currently a Staff Sgt in the Air Force, or my son Andy who leaves for basic training in February I am confident that we are in good, strong, patriotic hands. Robert and I spent the summer of 2002 in Afghanistan and last year in Iraq together. Am I scared? Yes, probably more for my sons and the other members than I am responsible for myself. But I have to say that I was very proud to see that my son was one of the first to volunteer for a return trip.

I have had many ask me if what we are doing there is doing any good. I don’t have the long term answer or the ability to see the future but I will say from my experience that I believe we are doing some good. The time that made me feel like we were making a difference was during the Iraq elections last January. In preparation for the elections the roads were closed to all vehicles, the terrorist factions had spread the word that no-one was to vote under threat of death. On the morning of the election we wondered if anyone would show up. Come daybreak that was no longer a question—the roads were filled with people walking to the polling stations some as far as 10 miles. They had a turnout of greater than 70%. The Iraqi people I saw and talked to showed their purple finger with great pride. That day alone told me we were making a difference. Will it work in the long run? It may—it might not. Is that any different than what people probably thought during our revolutionary war? All we are doing is giving a chance for freedom to work.

We in this fine country owe a great debt of gratitude to those who gave a portion of their lives and risked their lives so that we could live free. We can start to pay that debt by not forgetting, by remembering what they did and what they stood for.

**Thank you for coming.**

**Listen to these words by Charles M. Province:**  
***It is the Soldier, not the reporter,  
Who has given us Freedom of the Press.  
It is the Soldier, not the poet,  
Who has given us Freedom of Speech.  
It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer,  
Who has given us the Freedom to demonstrate.  
It is the Soldier, not the lawyer,  
Who has given us the right to a fair trial;  
And it is the Soldier – who salutes the flag,  
Who serves the flag, and  
Whose coffin is draped by the flag  
Who allows the protestor to burn the flag.”***  
***To those of you who have served in the military –  
I salute you.***  
***Please join me in a moment of silence as we all remember  
those who made the ultimate sacrifice.***  
***I ask that you please continue to make a difference with  
your words and actions.***

ica to reconnect with their history and Freedoms by honoring those who served our country and defended the ideals we cherish.

Millions of Americans have served in the military, either during time of war and conflict or during peace time, or both. Each served for different reasons and with different levels of satisfaction, but all deserve our respect. Veterans Day is a day to honor their service in ceremonies such as our presence today. All of you present at this event remember the true meaning of Veterans Day. You come here to honor our comrades by our presence. You understand that

Many Americans do not have any relatives or even neighbors who serve now or have ever served in the military. In fact, many Americans today have never even met a member of the military.  
**What can you do, as one individual, or as a community?**

We can all make a difference with our individual acts. And it is important that we act. It is important that those of us who understand the importance of our history, who understand the importance of our military to help re-connect the American people to the American soldier/sailor/marine or airman.

You can spread the word one-on-



# Lakewood with Rhonda

## From my point of view

By Rhonda Loje

I have been taking photographs for the *Lakewood Observer* since issue #3. I have been sent out on many assignments and feel the photography tells the story by itself, with the help of a small caption. But on this assignment, there was more to be said than the pictures depicted.

I was sent to take pictures of a Virginia Marti College of Art and Design event that showcased the College to potential students.

Taking pictures of current students presenting their exciting new collections and talking to past students about how their education at Virginia Marti affected their path in life, I began to think, “Does everyone in Lakewood know about this College?”

In the next few weeks I hope to help all of you get to know the Virginia Marti College of Art and Design and how this business can also help enhance and grow the city of Lakewood.

This business fits the criteria that were discussed in the “Grow Lakewood Report.” They have students that could and should be enticed to rent



in Lakewood. They graduate students that could and should eventually come back to Lakewood to establish the small businesses that Lakewood needs to survive. And the College itself has business goals to also contribute to development of these small businesses.

As I learn more about this business, I will let you know. The more we learn about businesses in Lakewood, the more we can contribute to their success, the more it helps Lakewood.

For now, please enjoy the pictures.



Steve Barry

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Lakewood People

Nurses’ Night Out

By Victoria A. Policard

Lakewood Hospital Foundation held its third annual Hats Off! to benefit the hospital’s Nursing Advancement Fund. The event has held on Friday, Nov. 4 at Brennan’s Party Center. Along with ticket sales, a raffle was held for 22 themed gift baskets. A Foundation spokesperson said the event raised \$20,000. The Fund is used for continued education and training for nurses, and nursing program development at Lakewood Hospital.



Chief Nurse Executive Michelle Thoman rips off raffle tickets with volunteer Nicholas Krevinko at the Hats Off! benefit on Friday, Nov. 4.




Lakewood Hospital nurses pose at the third annual Hats Off! benefit that celebrates their role and profession as nurses.



Kiwanians Matt Bennett from the Rockport Chapter; John Huetter, president of the Lakewood Chapter, and Marie Adams, chairperson of “Make a Difference Day,” reflect on the recent success of the annual event where food is collected for the needy.



Keep Lakewood Beautiful’s community gardeners. The Lakewood Observer thanks you all.



**LIGHT UP  
LAKEWOOD**  
December 2, 3 and 4

**Who:**  
Lakewood Retailers and Restaurants

**When:**  
December 2, 3 and 4. The festivities will conclude with the city lighting ceremony at Lakewood Park on Sunday Evening.

**What:**  
A list of participating businesses will be publicized and distributed to local shoppers encouraging them to stay in Lakewood for their shopping and dining this weekend. Local businesses are asked to offer discounts and incentives.  
Customers who have visited five or more of the participating locations over the three-day period will be entered in a Grand Prize Drawing.

**Why:**  
To increase interest and sales in our local businesses and to help promote Lakewood’s new Shopping and Entertainment Guide on the LakewoodAlive website, [www.lakewoodalive.com](http://www.lakewoodalive.com)  
If you’re interested in participating, please call 216-226-2900



From left to right: Erin Burckette, Molly Sweeney, Madolyn Fox and Claire Fox, all of Lakewood, are headed off to Columbus this Thanksgiving in the Mid-America Oireachtas, Regional Irish Dance Competition. All are part of “Leneghan Academy of Irish Dance” owned by Lakewoodite Kathy Leneghan. Molly has acquired the highest rating in her age group. Good luck to all.



Doc Unger and his wife Helen at the dedication of the two new monuments in the Metropark to honor veterans and military dogs. “Doc” was just honored with being inducted into the Veterans Hall of Fame. Unger co-wrote a book about his WWII experiences and will be profiled in an upcoming issue of the Lakewood Observer as we look back to everything the Unger family has meant to this city.



Chef Geoff

# Simple and Satisfying Sautés

People often use jargon which is unique to their occupations and interests. Almost every profession has terminology which is readily understood within the profession, but leaves those outside scratching their heads. Being able to understand a group's unique jargon can readily identify one as a member of that group, or label you an outsider. Sometimes, specific terminology is meant to convey detailed information of technique or method. Sometimes, jargon merely confuses when concepts can be conveyed with simpler, easily understood terms. Cooking is no different, and the home cook finds himself faced with a dizzying array of terms, as well as foreign languages, that somehow make following an otherwise simple recipe, an exercise in linguistics. Our pasta must be cooked "al dente". The soup recipe instructs us to "sweat" the vegetables before adding the roasted marrow bones. A filet mignon is a very tender piece of beef, while a fillet is the side of a perch. Your crème brulee bakes in a bain de mare. As your cooking abilities expand, no doubt, you find yourself using French and Italian terms to describe the cooking process, because that process was "invented" by French and Italian chefs who used their language to describe it. So, even when there is a perfectly good English term to describe our culinary activity, foodies resort to their unique jargon. A case in point: the term sauté.

Any carriage trade restaurant, worth its salt, would never think of serving you a plate of fried scallops; that would be far too pedestrian, much too Mickey Deeish. No, the waiter at any Michelin-rated eatery will present you with a dish which has been "sautéed," which, of course, is basically a French term for frying, meaning literally, "to jump." It does, however, have certain implicit implications in technique, which may separate a sautéed item from one which is simply fried. This bit of jargon is not merely interposed to confuse, but does indeed connote certain accepted detailed technique information in shorthand fashion.

To properly sauté, one needs a skillet, with a minimum of lubrication

(preferable extra virgin olive oil, clarified butter or a combination of both). The pan needs to be heated so that the oil almost reaches the point of smoking, and room temperature food is added. The idea with a sauté is to quickly seal the food surface on a hot cooking surface. Adding too much food will dramatically decrease the pan temperature, and so, typically, proper sauté technique requires addition of small batches of food to maintain a relatively constant cooking temperature. As the uncooked side begins to show flowing juices, it's time to turn the food and "seal" the other side. It's a fairly quick process, designed to keep the foods moist and flavorful. Food which is to be sautéed can be unadorned, but can also be coated, typically with a dusting of flour. Once cooked, the food can be removed to a warming tray or heated plate while accompaniments are completed and the meal ready to serve. So, while sautéing may be a fancy way of frying, when one considers the implicit technique, there is a considerable difference. I'd much rather dine on sautéed sea bass than on a similar fish which has been fried.

The real beauty of sautéing is the ability to quickly create a great variety of sauces to accompany the sautéed foods. The process of sautéing releases juices which caramelize in the cooking skillet, as well tiny browned bits of food. These very flavorful "leftovers" provide the base for wonderful sauces. As the sautéed food rests on the heated platter, simply deglaze (yet another bit of kitchen jargon) the cooking pan with stock or wine, add some herbs, perhaps some mushrooms, garlic or capers, allow to reduce slightly and thicken, if needed, with cream or a corn starch/stock mixture, and your plain old chicken breast is reborn with an elegant Madeira, mushroom sauce. The possible combinations are limited only by your imagination. Experiment with flavors, herbs and additional ingredients. Dried cherries, port wine and rosemary make for a wonderful sauce on pork. Lemon, garlic and Vermouth create new dimensions of flavor for chicken. Add a chopped tomato,

maybe a handful of chopped basil or parsley. If your food has been dusted with flour prior to sautéing, the deglazing liquid will self-thicken by virtue of the browned flour remnants in the sauté pan. In very short order, you can prepare elegant dishes, with delightful sauces, that give little clue to the simplicity of using a sauté as the foundation for a wonderful meal. Serve your creation with a pasta or Couscous side dish to absorb the "gourmet" sauce that you have created. Perhaps add a fresh green salad or broccoli, sautéed, then steamed in a bit of lemon and white wine, and you have an infinite number of simple menu variations.

## Sautéed Pork Loin with Brie (serves four)

- (4) 4 oz. boneless center cut pork chops, fat removed
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil (as needed)
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced mushrooms
- 1/4 cup finely diced onion
- 1/4 cup Marsala wine
- 1 & 1/2 cup chicken or beef stock
- 1 tsp. tarragon
- 1/2 tsp. rosemary
- 4 slices brie cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste

Pound the pork into 1/2 inch thin pieces. (I usually layer the meat between heavy duty plastic bags which makes the process easier). Liberally coat the pork with flour, shaking to remove any excess. Preheat a skillet over medium flame. When a drop of water sizzles, add a tablespoon of oil. Sauté the pork, being careful not to overload the pan. The pounded pork will cook quickly, less than two minutes per side. Remove cooked pork to a warmed lightly oiled baking dish large enough to accommodate all meat in a single layer while remaining pieces are cooked. Add another tablespoon of oil, and continue cooking meat until all pork is cooked. Preheat the broiler.

When all pork has been sautéed, increase pan heat to high, and deglaze the pan with the wine, making sure

to scrape off the pan. Add the onions, mushrooms, tarragon and rosemary, Sauté briefly, until mushrooms begin to soften. Add the stock, and cook over medium heat, allowing liquid to thicken and reduce.

While sauce is reducing, place one slice of brie on each piece of pork, and place under the broiler. When cheese melts and begins to bubble (3-4 minutes), plate the pork, and spoon sauce over.

This simple, but elegant dish goes well with couscous, or rice, asparagus (when in season) or sautéed broccoli.

## Sautéed Broccoli with White Wine

- 1 bunch broccoli, trimmed, heavy stalks removed.
- 2 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil.
- 1/4 cup vermouth or Italian white wine (pinot grigio)
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- Coarsely ground pepper (to taste)

Preheat a (covered) skillet. When a drop of water sizzles, add oil. Add the broccoli and sauté, turning once, until lightly browned and bright green. Sprinkle liberally with the pepper; add the wine, lemon juice and cover. Allow to steam 5 minutes. Serve immediately.

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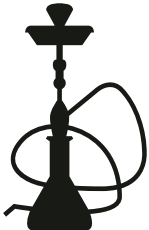
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Lakewood Outdoors

Lakewood Golfing

By Joe Toner

Fie on Pebble Beach and its \$425 green fees. After October 17, when its green fees are reduced to six dollars, I can play 70 rounds at Little Met for the same price. 70! Plus it's three miles away instead of three thousand. Plus I won't lose 30 balls flying into the Pacific. Yes, the smart golfer spurns Pebble Beach and giddily drives to the Metroparks golf courses.

Lakewoodites: paradise is but minutes and couch change away. Three beautiful courses—Little Met, Big Met, and Mastick—shimmer and beckon like oases. This past summer I played on three New Jersey courses, on vapid, hardscrabble, vastly overpriced New Jersey courses, and every time, like Odysseus on Calypso's island, I wept for home.

Home, for me, is Little Met, where every Sunday morning I play with some combination of my brother Bob, my

brothers-in-law Charlie Tardivo and Tom Lukens, and friend Dick Castele, all Lakewoodites who marvel at the price and proximity of this gorgeous course. Our Sunday bonds surpass blood and friendship; all five of us have achieved something we never thought possible: dazzling mediocrity.

All new to the sport last year, then we hacked like laborers in a cane field, emerging with blood on our hands and screams from our souls. This year, after weekly regularity, we have settled into a bogey groove, which can oscillate from balls careening into the woods to Bob's hole-in-one.

I love the camaraderie of these outings. I love that for two hours we say almost nothing of importance. Invariably when I return home, my wife Lainie will ask: "So what did you guys talk about?"

"Talk about? Uhh, nothing much."

"You played all morning and you didn't talk?"



Big Met's 18th hole.

"Well, if one of us hit a good shot, someone would say 'Good shot,' and if one of us hit a bad shot, we would all shut up. That's about it. We did a lot of shutting up today." Yes, we reverentially allow the person to marinate in his own misery.

Misery. Perhaps nothing can be more miserable than golf. Certainly nothing is more humiliating. Nothing in life exceeds the scalding humiliation of teeing the ball on the first hole, being scrutinized by your three partners, the other loitering golfers, the starter, the workers, and the curious who have come to watch a train crash.

With gnarled hands and revving heart, with childhood memories of daddy jabbing a finger and saying "Bad boy," with a montage of flashing failures, I rear back the driver and crush the ball. As my head soars up to see the ball get gobbled up by the clouds, I squint downward. What? The ball hippity-hops through the grass, chasing chipmunks, bouncing off acorns, then plopping in a muddy divot 40 yards away.

The humiliation of that one-second activity takes years and intense

psychotherapy to erase.

And this is the great lesson of golf: how to handle the humiliations of life. Who can't handle success? Who can't handle winning the lottery? You jump up, beat your chest, and cry for the camera. But only a spiritual pilgrim, a Buddhist in baggy, plaid pants, can handle, as I did yesterday, the humiliation of a ball hitting a tree and then ricocheting right back into my face. These are priceless moments that only golf can teach.

Thoreau wrote about the importance of occasionally getting lost: that we can only find ourselves by losing our comfortable ways. Finding the three great Metropark courses is easy, but once there, perhaps with good friends, you will discover the joy of getting lost, of having no idea where the ball is going, of whiffing—and then laughing, of looking like the world's greatest jackass and then returning for more.

All that, plus curving verdure, bewildered deer, waddling woodchucks, crimson maple leaves, and perhaps one good shot per round—all just minutes from Lakewood.



This threesome putts out on Little Met's ninth green.

The Other Side

By Richard Baker

From my past mayoral experience, an abundance of property taxes does not make for better city infrastructure, including streets and services, or guarantee a high ranking of a school district's test scores. The results by both Lakewood governmental bodies reflect that fact. In retrospect a shortage of funds will definitely have an adverse affect on both the city and the schools, but that is not a current issue for Lakewood. In addition to our high property taxes, Lakewood collects 1 1/2 percent income tax from residents and 1 percent from people who commute to work in Lakewood. Lakewood has one of the highest tax rates in the area and historically this city's political and management results are appalling when compared to many cities with lower tax rates.

The long overused and abused excuse by any city bureaucrat or politician: it's always the prior administration that is held responsible for streets that

are deplorable, underground infrastructure on the point of collapse, an overabundance of city employees and union contracts the city granted that dictate minimal shift manning, necessary or not.

Our leaders talk about reducing costs but we have a city staffed with so many vehicles the street and water department crews have to make parking reservations at a work site, a building department staffed with an inconceivable number of people for a built-out city, a valet garbage pickup system, and a bureaucracy that pales only to Washington, D.C.

As Americans we could use the exercise to take out our own garbage to the street. Not only will it reduce personnel and maintenance expenses but it will also reduce the pollution the Cushman carts produce in our air and ears. Yes, we still need to have the pickup service available for people who are not physically able to make the once a week 75-foot walk to the curb with

their garbage. We have a city that continues to finance programs long after the state grants expired that duplicate existing county services and continues to spend funds subsidizing special commercial groups, meaningless studies, surveys, and an ice skating rink that cannot support itself.

I was made aware there might be a political push to increase the city income tax to two percent. Perhaps the people behind this solution may not understand that we are already in the top 10 percent of taxes for the area or then again they may want us to be number one. Do they understand that Lakewood's current tax rate is already starting to affect the property values?

With most of the same council members in attendance year after year, I don't expect hard decisions from any of them to trim the daily operational costs of this city in order to make capital available to repair the city's infrastructure that is so desperately needed. They rather intermingle funds by playing account-

ing games. We have a city council that does not want to openly debate issues at council meetings but rather set the agenda and prophesize the vote results for issues at less attended Committee of the Whole meetings. Additionally, an equitable balance of power between the mayor's office and council does not exist under the current City's charter. Although I don't believe it would make a difference with the current personalities in council and the mayor's office because they lack political ambition to initiate and most importantly sell unpopular recommendations.

A city's management, be it elected or appointed, holds the key to efficient city services and a well-maintained infrastructure at a reasonable cost to its citizens. The City of Lakewood's government has failed in its responsibilities to the citizens of this city unless you want to blame it on our continuing choice of elected officials who continue to blame it on their predecessors, who blamed it on their predecessors...



# Lakewood Observer

## Bring on the Holidays

By Kate Parker

It's nearly the holiday season at last! And it's no kept secret that I absolutely adore the holidays and as such I will be fully decorated soon after Halloween is over. I will waste no time in getting my Christmas gear out and after a few days of careful placement, it will be quite festive around here. So what if pumpkins are still rotting on some of Lakewood's front porches?

With the lights soon to be twinkling and Johnny Mathis soon to be piping out the yuletide musical fare, all we'll need is some snow! Snow you gasp? Yes, snow. As a Lakewoodite,

I've been blessed with the pleasure of being able to experience all of the four seasons on a yearly basis—not everyone can boast of that. So when I hear a neighbor lamenting the snow my reply is usually “be of good cheer for we have the redemption of spring to look forward to. And if that doesn't change your outlook, I hear that Louisiana has some newly vacated lots since the hurricane season, maybe you could move there and avoid snow altogether.”

But then maybe snow exists just so people can have one more reason to complain thus making moving or looking forward to the new greenery of spring pointless. I've considered

this a possibility since I, myself, like snow and wonder why so many others don't. Complaining types like to just, well, complain. Grumbling about the weather is probably a complainer's favorite pastime so maybe it's not that they don't like snow, but rather that they like to pretend that they don't.

Perhaps it's something else altogether. Something known as “Xmasphilia.” Xmasphiles start to yearn for Christmas in July. They hum carols as early as September. They dream of sugarplums before Columbus Day. Xmasphiles are a sizeable lot. Evidence of this can be found on city streets by noting the twinkle lights and tinsel

that sparsely pepper a few homes as early as Election day. Xmasphiles, like myself, hold the holiday season in high esteem—snow included. After all, it's not like Santa's workshop is in Cancun and snowmen are made out of coconuts. What sort of winter wonderland would that be for Mathis to sing about?

I guess that when you decorate for Christmas in the first week of November, you had better be prepared for two months of jolly and you better like snow. Not everyone has the stomach for such gaiety and to them I say “let it snow and ho ho ho ... you're not bringing me down!”

Happy Pre-Holidays, people!

## The Buck Stops Here

### What Should We Ask of Museums ?

By Robert Buckeye

There are occasions when we have to speak that we have to speak in the language of the room. Courts force us to speak in their language, as do classrooms and families, and there are moments we say nothing, because what we have to say cannot be said in their words. Museums also have a language, as it were, and determine what we understand by what they display (to collect, arrange and edit is a form of composition). Sometimes we are silenced by what we see in them. Their past has nothing to do with ours.

Museums are places where we visit the past or view the present. If they were, at first, collections of curiosities—what an enterprising world traveler brought home—or the fruits of empire, they have come increasingly to preserve and display the local. Whatever materials they collect and preserve is put together in a narrative that presents a world view, and thus museums, for the most part today, serve educational purposes. It is good for us to go to them, even if they may remind us of our educational inadequacies. In the movie, “To Sir, With Love,” Sidney Poitier takes his working class students from the London slums to a museum so that they might see that the world is larger than their own.

The gadfly critic Dwight MacDonald once asked whether Americans get what they want or want what they get. We might ask MacDonald's question of museums. Is the history we see in them the one we want or the one we get? Has the past been lost in service to

a manufactured nostalgia? Is Disneyland what we want because it is what we have been given? Culture may be, as some anthropologists argue, what we know, but what we know may not be what museums want us to know. Whose memory? James Clifford asks. For what purpose?

As we know from history books, history is, for the most part, history from above, not below. We read about kings and queens, generals and geniuses, battles won and lost, not the citizens who supported the throne, the soldiers who fought for the generals, the laborers who built the bridges and monuments. “Who built Thebes of the seven gates,” Bertolt Brecht asks in his poem, “Questions From a Worker Who

Reads.” “In the books you will find the names of kings,” he continues,

Did the kings haul up the lumps of rock? And Babylon, many times demolished Who raised it up so many times?...

Where, the evening that the Wall of China was finished. Did the masons go? Great Rome is full of triumphal arches. Who erected them?

A museum of working class life, one, say of the immigrant working class of Lakewood, would include different materials from a museum constructed from the fruits of empire, those vast collections we are familiar with of china and costume from remote areas of the globe, furniture and tapestry, sculpture and paintings of the great and famous. We may read the his-

tory of the working class elsewhere, in letters, government reports, factory regulations, photographs, street cries, songs, newspaper articles, diaries, trial proceedings. Such a history tells a different story.

What should we ask of museums?

In “To Sir, With Love,” Poitier's students come face to face with Greek heroes. They see their hair, what they wear, some of their tools. What does the past have to say to them? What do the students have to tell the past? One needs to face the other and make him speak. Without that conversation, museums are little more than theme parks and our lives no more than yesterday's papers blown by the wind. Like a rolling stone, Dylan says.

### Suburban Birthrates Threatened: Lakewood Safe

By Dan Slife

According to an informal, completely unprofessional survey of bar patrons along the St. James area of Detroit, male to female ratios are seriously out-of-whack within the nomadic packs crawling through nearby bars.

Disproportionately high ratios of men to women occur most often in groups visiting the Lakewood bar scene from other, less-hip, suburbs. Crawlers living within urban space have a higher incidence of equal gender ratios within groups. Pair bonding is most prevalent among natives.

Unscientifically speaking, 7 out of

10 bar-hoppers do not live in Lakewood. A correlation has been drawn between a disproportionately high ratio of male to female patrons and the large percentage coming from other cities. Along these lines, post-social scientists have assumed a correlation between future birthrates and their place of residence. Further studies will be required in order to shakeout the casual relationships between place, pace and relationship trends.

Perhaps it's the short walk from bar to pad that levels ratios among our Lakewoodites. Rental units were still available in prime locations at press time.



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# Living In Lakewood

## Mr. Lou's Living in Lakewood Who Is Mr. Lou and Where's He Been?

By Luis Gutierrez

Greetings, citizens of Lakewood! Listen, I'm really sorry I haven't written sooner but since the publication of our first issue I've been pretty busy grappling with some other stuff—we'll talk more about that later.

In my inaugural column I told you about how it was I happened to end up living in Lakewood. The plan was, and still is I suppose, to tell you a little bit about myself in this second column, just so you'd know—how do the kids put it—"where I was coming from." Hence the first question above, who is Mr. Lou? I'm going to work hard to keep this short because, in just two columns, I'm already weirding myself out with this "me, me, me" beat I'm tapping out.

I am a 48-year-old French-Cuban American who, by choice, works—and works hard—raising his four children and managing his home. The kids are 14, 12, four and one year old. The four-year-old and I are the only males, unless, of course, you count my dog, Smoky. Smoky does have a female counterpart, our cat, Charlotte, who is quite literally the bane of my existence. So, I live in a household where the females outnumber the males 5 to 3. I'd like to think that these are not insurmountable odds but I can't believe that there is anyone

out there that would buy that.

My wife, who is considerably younger than me (is that okay, Sweetie?), and I decided when my son turned nine months that I would leave my job at the Madison Branch of the Lakewood Public Library and stay home. The reasons for this were many and included things like I had always wanted to work out of my home and there was a better chance of that happening if I actually was home, my being home would allow my wife to more aggressively pursue her career ambitions, and my eldest would be entering middle school in the fall and we just did not want her to come home to an empty house.

All I'll say about being Mr. Mom right now is that it is easily one of the hardest things I've ever done. I count my current career as career number four. Starting with what I did after I dropped out of grad school, I have spent 11 years working with adolescents and adults who had autism and/or mental retardation, about 5 years as a cook/sous chef (I don't know how many of you remember Lenard's, but that's when I was a cook; I didn't become a sous chef until they changed their name to Martini's), and then about 4 and-a-half years working for the Lakewood Public Library. Throw in several months telemarketing for Dial America and several months work-

ing for what is now called The Exchange and you pretty much have my entire work history.

In addition to working for money I have always felt strongly that a person is well served if they simply work to serve others. Since moving to Lakewood my service has included some service at St. Malachi's as a member of the Community of St. Malachi, several years with the Lakewood Jaycees, several years with the Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation, and some time assisting, in a very limited way, a board formed by parents to explore how The Lakewood Family Room can better support Lakewood's families.

I could go on: Am I a "red" American or a "blue" American? What do I think about stem cell research? How do I feel about the plans that are in place for updating our schools? I'm sure over time that my political sensibilities and my concerns as a citizen of this community will become evident.

In the meantime, I can think of only one other thing about myself that I think it important for you to know as it has changed me in some pretty profound ways and I think it important that you bear it in mind when considering an opinion I might offer up. I am a cancer survivor. I used to think that being a cancer survivor meant that you

had made it five years with your cancer and I have to tell you that I was kind of disappointed to find out that what it meant was that you had cancer and were alive. I thought it was something you earned, but as it turns out it is merely something you are.

I have 4th stage prostate cancer and it was the appearance of a new growth, the pain, and the necessity for treatment that has kept my column out of the last several issues of the *Observer*. Let it be known that thanks to a crack team of professionals and the wonderful staff that support them, I'm doing terrifically. Thanks to the support I continue to receive from a surprisingly large number of fellow Lakewoodites I expect to continue that way.

The stories that will be at the heart of my column are about how, because I actively and consciously chose to become part of, to become involved in, a community made, what had seemed impossible to do—managing four children, a household and my cancer—possible.

Cancer sucks but it has enabled me to see clearly how rich the community of Lakewood is. In the end I count myself pretty damn lucky.

Mr. Lou looks forward to hearing from you about your experience of community here in Lakewood. You can e-mail him at [redcuban@yahoo.com](mailto:redcuban@yahoo.com).



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Minding The Issues

# In Praise of (Some) Moderates

What kind of creature is a moderate? Some say that moderates are calm restraints to raging partisan passions. Others see them as merely tepid compromisers, unable to commit.

Perhaps this is because there are several reasons for being a moderate. A moderate might be one who moderates his or her stance for the sake of expediency—to be popular with all sides (“go along to get along.”) Or simply to get something done, no matter how insufficient in the long run.

But a moderate might also be one who thinks.

One outstanding example of a thinking moderate is Sandra Day O’Connor, the soon-to-retire Supreme Court Justice. O’Connor of course has amassed a formidable reputation in her role as the political center of the Supreme Court, standing between the liberal and the conservative wings. She has often been termed the swing vote that decided a case in one direction or the other. Her decisions—and this is no coincidence, to my mind—are said to have been marked by great attention (some say excessive attention) to the factual details of each case, while balancing all relevant considerations against one another. Thus she decides primarily on a case-by-case basis, as opposed to making universal judgments. In fact, she has been criticized for failing to provide “bright-line rules.”

To understand the decisions of a moderate such as O’Connor, we have to look at the structure, or form, of decision making in general. Let’s look at a bare-bones description of the process:

When we make a decision, we have two ideas in mind (perhaps way in the back of our minds, but they still have to be there). These lead to a third idea which indicates our decision to act (or not to act). The two initial ideas are embodied in what has traditionally been called premises. The resulting idea is the conclusion.

The premises are of two kinds. One prescribes a goal to shoot for or a principle to follow (the value-premise). The other specifies the facts that show how the goal or principle applies in the particular case (the factual premise). The value-premise shows the end; the factual premise shows the means. To give a very simple example:

I want to get this job. (value-premise)

The only way to get this job is to study the company. (factual premise)

Therefore, I ought to study the company. (conclusion)

The thinking moderate pays attention to both premises, but especially to the factual premise. She also takes care to consider not just one goal or principle, but all those that might apply. That is why her opinions will be decided on a case-by-case basis, rather than on the basis of sweeping generalizations.

An example is found in O’Connor’s opinions on a pair of recent and well-known cases involving affirmative

action (or “racial preferences”). They both involved the University of Michigan but different parts of the university. One (*Grutter v. Bollinger*) concerned Law School admissions. The other (*Gratz v. Bollinger*) concerned college freshman admissions. O’Connor came down on both sides of the question of affirmative action in these two cases; they typify her position as a middle-of-the-roader.

The *Grutter* case addressed an admissions program in which the race of the applicant was one factor in several that affected admission. There was no quota for admission of blacks, and the number of successful minority applicants varied significantly from year to year. Nor was there a specific bonus (e.g. number of points) added to every black applicant’s score (as was true in *Gratz*, the freshman-admis-

sions case). Rather, every applicant was considered on the basis of all the factors that counted for or against his/her admission. Race was just one of several “plus factors.” (The Law School aimed for diversity in several areas, not merely race).

In *Grutter*, O’Connor wrote the majority opinion in favor of the Law School’s affirmative action program. In doing so, she rejected several possible reasons for affirmative action, including reparation for past wrongs. But she accepted one reason, namely diversity of the student body as a way of acquainting students with the real world they will practice in.

She also accepted the manner in which the Law School aimed to achieve that end. She pointed out that the Law School program featured no quota system and no automatic bonus awarded to minorities. Overall, she said, it was “flexible,” “individualized,” and “narrowly tailored” (meaning, roughly, that it was the program best designed

to bring about diversity and only that). On this basis she found for the Law School, approving its affirmative action program.

In the case brought against the freshman admissions program (*Gratz v. Bollinger*), she found otherwise. This program featured the award of a 20-point bonus to each minority applicant. The Court found against this program, and O’Connor wrote a concurring opinion in which she explicitly contrasted the freshman program with that of the Law School, saying “the Office of Undergraduate Admissions relies on the selection index to assign every underrepresented minority applicant the same, automatic 20-point bonus without consideration of the particular background, experiences, or qualities of each individual applicant. ... this mechanized selection index score, by

Thinking moderates contrast with those liberals and conservatives out on the wings, known as “doctrinaire” or as “ideologues.”

The case of liberals is especially illuminating.

and large, automatically determines the admissions decision for each applicant. ... precludes ... consideration of each applicant’s individualized qualifications. ...”

Thus O’Connor is not merely “splitting the difference” or seeking the “middle ground” in these two cases, as some commentators implied. Rather, she is thinking her way through to justified decisions, and the justified decisions in the two cases happen to be opposed. Her thinking begins with the proper goal to pursue, namely diversity, and looks at the facts to see how that goal applies to each of the cases at hand. In terms of the pattern outlined above, her thinking can be roughly summarized in a two-step argument. First, for the Law School case:

Racial preference programs narrowly tailored to achieve diversity (and only those) are justified.

Individualized and flexible programs are narrowly tailored to achieve diversity.

Therefore, individualized and flexible racial preference programs are justified.

The Michigan Law School program is individualized and flexible.

Therefore, the Michigan Law School program is justified.

In the case of the freshman program, the first three of these lines would remain, but the last two lines would be as follows:

The Michigan freshman program is NOT individualized and flexible.

Therefore, the Michigan freshman program is NOT justified.

Thinking moderates contrast with those liberals and conservatives out on the wings, known as “doctrinaire” or as “ideologues.” The case of liberals is especially illuminating.

Liberals in general are committed to equality, and therefore, instead of resting in the mainstream, they favor policies benefiting groups who have been mistreated or neglected. Thus they are sometimes seen as mere servants for such groups. (Conservatives of course have their own groups—think of the National Rifle Association—but their reason for supporting such groups is seldom the principle of equality.)

There is absolutely nothing wrong with advocating for the poor and the excluded. But liberals become subject to the First Law of Partisan Politics: Commitment to principle tends to become commitment to the constituency served by the principle. When this happens, whatever appears to favor the liberals’ constituency, or whatever its constituency’s leaders demand, becomes a fire bell for such liberals. For example, they tend to support affirmative action just because it is affirmative action. Hence “knee-jerk liberals.” (Conservative ideologues tend to the opposite course, for no more reason.)

Thinking moderates, on the other hand, do not jump to conclusions, but run all policy claims through the grist mill of reasoning. They ask, in each case, what exactly are their principles and goals (including all those that are relevant)? What are the facts of the case? What conclusion follows?

And they ask these questions separately. Their commitment to principle doesn’t control their view of the facts, nor vice versa. Thus a moderate may share principles with a liberal (or conservative), even though their final conclusions may be opposed to one another. To speak of a moderate liberal or a moderate conservative makes perfect sense. But, again, let’s note what this means—it means that they share principles, not that the moderate is trying to compromise or merely to cooperate.

One practical lesson: In looking at the decisions of our judges, legislators and other decision makers, we should ask not merely what position they take on a certain issue, but rather what principles and goals they believe in, what their estimates of the facts are, and only then what conclusions they draw.

### Book Note:

I recommend Robert W. Merry’s *Sands of Empire*, a critique of American foreign policy in the current fight against terrorism, with some recommendations on U.S. foreign policy in general. I have some disagreements with the book, for example the dismissive characterization of opposition to the Vietnam War as “liberal isolationism.” (This is one of five strains in U.S. policy he sees, the others being imperialism, conservative isolationism, liberal/humanitarian interventionism, and conservative interventionism. It is the last that Merry favors. It guided U.S. policy in the Cold War, he maintains, and he bewails the fact that it isn’t the U.S. policy against terrorism.)

My criticisms are mere quibbles, however, besides the points of wisdom in the book. Merry criticizes in all directions, but his treatment of the Bush administration is especially devastating.



# Lakewood Pets

## It's a Bummer! Local Cat Shot, Paralyzed in Backyard

*By Mike Deneen*

The fun of Halloween weekend quickly turned tragic for an Atkins Avenue family when its seven-month-old cat was brutally shot and paralyzed with a pellet gun on Sunday, October 30. The cat was playing in its backyard when it was struck, the pellet lodging in its spinal column and resulting in paralysis of its back legs. Lakewood Police are investigating the case, but information is needed to apprehend the shooter.

Doris Fecser, an 83-year-old widow, lives on Atkins Avenue with her beloved cat "Bummer," whom she adopted in June. Fecser's daughter, Linda Riigel, was visiting on the afternoon of October 30. The family was looking forward to attending a confirmation party later that day, and decided to carve pumpkins in anticipation of Halloween. At around 1 p.m., Riigel was carving pumpkins in the backyard, where Bummer was playing. Riigel went inside for a few minutes, and when she came back outside she was shocked to

see Bummer bleeding and dragging herself toward the house using only her front legs. Riigel scooped up the cat and rushed her to the veterinarian.

At first Riigel believed that Bummer had been hit by a car, or perhaps bitten by a large dog. However, the vet discovered that Bummer had been shot with a pellet gun. The pellet penetrated her skin and lodged in her spinal column, resulting in paralysis of her back legs. The shooting is mystifying to the family, since the cat never left their large, fenced-in yard.

Although doctors say that Bummer has substantial spinal damage, the family is fighting for her life. Despite over \$1400 in vet bills, the family intends to keep Bummer. Bummer's life will be a struggle, but the family is hoping that her mobility will improve. Just days after the shooting, Bummer was moving around the veterinarian's office. However, she will need special assistance getting around, and even with routine tasks such as urination.

Bummer's life started as a stray,



Bummer the cat and Doris.

born this past spring. She was found by Riigel living near the Hayes Elementary School construction site. Concerned for the animal's safety, Riigel brought the kitten home and searched for her owner. After weeks of looking, it became apparent that the kitten, which they named "Bummer," was homeless. Linda, an animal lover that has helped strays in the past, sought out a good home for Bummer. She found the perfect owner right under her nose. Her mother, Doris, lost "Blackie," her cat of 22 years, three years earlier. When she met Bummer she knew she had to have the spunky little cat. They have spent many days and nights together keeping

each other company.

Needless the say, this incident has shaken the family. Not only is Bummer paralyzed, but Linda is concerned for her mother's safety. Doris is legally blind, and Linda is worried about her safety in the backyard. The Lakewood Police are investigating the crime, and intend to file animal cruelty charges when the shooter is found. However, they need the public's help.

A reward is being offered for information leading to the capture of Bummer's shooter. If you have any information on the case, please call Detective Fritsch at the Lakewood Police Department (216) 529-6764.



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## Pet-Proofing Our Homes

*By Lisa Ellis*

Having pets can be a lot like having small children. We childproof our homes for our children, but we also need to do this for our pet companions, regardless of their ages. I was recently reminded of this when my one-year-old cat, Oscar, ingested a small piece from one of his toys. The piece became lodged in his intestine, requiring emergency surgery.

Some tips to prevent a similar situation from happening in your home:

Keep all garbage cans covered with a tight lid. In the kitchen, pets may be attracted to food odors—bones, empty cans and wrappers. Pets may also remove dental floss from the bathroom garbage cans. The dental floss may be chewed, and subsequently swallowed.

Don't allow your pets to play with string, yarn or rubber bands. If ingested, these items can cause intestinal blockage.

Move cords from lamps, telephones, electronics and window blinds out of your pet's reach. Wrap the window blinds so that pets cannot chew on the plastic ends.

Use childproof latches for cupboards and closets that contain food or harmful chemicals.

Keep all medications secure. Many

human medications are toxic to pets.

Inspect all toys for small pieces that can be broken or chewed and swallowed.

Don't leave the toilet lid open. Pets may drink the water and ingest toxic cleaning chemicals.

If your pet ingests a poisonous substance or a foreign object, symptoms may include:

- Listlessness
- Muscle Tremors
- Abdominal Pain
- Diarrhea
- Lack of Coordination
- Vomiting
- Fever

If your pet exhibits any of these symptoms, call your veterinarian or an emergency vet clinic. Keep these numbers handy at all times. If you are out of town and are having someone watch your pets, make sure they have these numbers.

I was alerted to a problem when Oscar began vomiting repeatedly during the day. He was x-rayed at the veterinary office, revealing a foreign object in his intestine. Fortunately, his story had a happy ending. Oscar's surgery was successful, and he is now fully recovered.

Sometimes curiosity gets the best of our pets. They need us to use our best judgment to keep them safe.

### Numbers to Keep on Your Refrigerator:

- Your veterinarian's name and phone number
- Your local emergency veterinarian clinic (for the westside of Cleveland, call 216-362-6000)
- The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center operates a hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 888-426-4435 for a fee of \$50 per case. (Be prepared with the name of the poison your animal was exposed to, the amount and how long ago; the species, breed, age, sex, and weight of your pet; and the symptoms the animal is displaying. You'll also be asked to provide your name, address, phone number, and credit card information.)



The Lakewood Observer's Publisher's wife showing all the wrong things to do when caring for pets.



Lakewood Observer

Let's Stroll with Rita

# Lakewood Community Meals

By Rita Ryland

Did you know that most evenings you can get a free hot meal in Lakewood? You don't have to sign up, sign in, or qualify. You are a welcome guest at the table.

Twenty-three churches and Saint Edward's High School participate in the Lakewood Community Meals program. Twenty of the churches are in Lakewood. The other three churches are located in Rocky River, Westlake, and West Park, just across the Lakewood border.

According to Alice Owen, a long-time resident of Lakewood, the first community meal was served at Grace Presbyterian Church in November 1983. Alice has been a member of Grace Presbyterian Church for over 40 years and involved in the Community Meals program for 15 years.

Mrs. Owen recalls that in 1983, the pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church and two of its members associated with the Lakewood Christian Service Center, had identified a need for a meal program. They suggested the last Thursday of the month because that's when money was running out for people living on Social Security and pensions. People were hungry. In addition to hunger, many people lived alone and were lonely. "We figured we were not only feeding their bodies, but their souls. This was a way of socializing. It's a time of fellowship."

When the Grace Presbyterian congregation was presented with the idea in 1983, they readily said "yes." Grace Presbyterian Church on Rosewood Avenue continues to offer the community meal on the last Thursday of each month.

The Lakewood Community Meals program is coordinated by the Lakewood Christian Service Center. This center is located on Marlowe Avenue, a few steps south of Detroit Avenue and east of Lakewood Hospital.

The coordinator of Lakewood Community Meals is Rini Gauntner, a Social Worker. "There's a need," says Ms. Gauntner, "every day our agency gets more and more new people." Some people are victims of domestic violence, some are awaiting disability, and, for others, it's a way to stretch a very limited budget.

Ms. Gauntner's words were echoed by a man, awaiting a meal, standing in line at the West Side Church of Christ on Warren Road. He leaned on his cane. He pursed his lips, as he took controlled breaths. His breathing machine was at home. "I am a Vietnam Vet," he said. "I live on less than a thousand dollars a month." Eating at the Lakewood Community Meals program allows him to pay his rent and utilities, and buy some additional groceries.

At six o'clock, on Tuesday, October 13, Reverend Keith Owen, the Rector of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

on Detroit Avenue, led the diners in prayer. Over one hundred guests, ranging in ages from eight to 80, lined up for rice, chili, corn bread, and pound cake with peaches and whipped cream. Coffee and lemonade were self-serve.

One woman's hands were too shaky to carry her plate to her table. Moments later, I placed a dinner where she sat with six other elderly women.

"Do you like my jacket?" she asked. Her eyes lit up, as she touched the lavender down parka.

*"We figured we were not only feeding their bodies, but their souls. This was a way of socializing. It's a time of fellowship."*

—Alice Owens

"Yes," I replied.

"I bought it at a second-hand store. It still had the tags," she said.

According to Rini Gauntner, tags are a big deal. "Many people can't buy anything that hasn't already been worn."

Every community meal is unique, yet the same. There are greeters, members of each congregation at the door, with a smile, and a helping hand if needed. Dinner starts with a prayer. The food is prepared by volunteers.

Some churches choose to order meals prepared by the Cleveland Community Kitchen at the Food Bank. Others use the Cleveland Food Bank to purchase food at reasonable prices and the volunteers make the entrée from scratch. Others may not use the food bank at all.

Last week, we had our first cool fall evenings and most of us were thinking a warm bowl of chili sounded about right. On Tuesday, St. Peter's Episcopal served a meat chili. On Friday, West Side Church of Christ served hot dogs with chili topping. The gentleman, the Vietnam Vet, at Church of Christ said that the night before he was served venison chili. "It was delicious," he said. Then he told a story about hunting as a young man.

Some churches offer live music, others recorded music. Dorothy Lewis, a member of Lakewood Presbyterian, played piano for over a hundred guests at Grace Lutheran on Monday, October 17. St. Luke's Catholic Church and Grace Lutheran partner on the third Monday of each month. Toward the end of the meal, Rini Gauntner led a family of four in song. "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine..." A six-year-old boy danced, holding on to his mother's hand.

I asked Lois Laws of West Side Church of Christ if they had any behavior problems. Lois shook her head. "We certainly have no concerns with our guests," she said, stirring up another gallon of iced tea. According to Ms. Laws, "We're just sailing along." That evening, they had eight volun-

teers. Some served the main course; some walked from table to table with hot coffee and iced tea. One member of the congregation handed out gift bags of Halloween candy. They served over 40 guests.

With churches facing a decline in population, and a difficult economy, continued financing is a concern. In some churches, the Community Meal is a line item in the budget. Some churches have a special collection for Community Meals. Others have fund

raisers such as plant sales. There have also been individuals who have written a check and specified that it be used for the meal program.

The Lakewood Community Meals program receives donations from many sources. In addition to members of the church congregations, the Cleveland Food Bank, Giant Eagle, Tops, and Heinen's grocery stores contribute food. Elmwood Bakery on Madison Avenue donates baked goods.

Several dentists donate toothpaste and tooth brushes which Church of Christ hands out twice a year. Students from Lakewood Catholic Academy made placemats for the dinner at Grace Lutheran. Saint Edward's High School "is a real family affair," Mrs. Gauntner said, involving the students and their parents. The list goes on and on. That's because the generosity of the Lakewood community and its neighbors goes on and on.

At Grace Lutheran, a couple in their 60s ate a hot beef stew dinner. "These meals are helping my husband to get better," the woman said. "They're nutritious. His cough isn't so bad. God bless you." That God bless you is meant for all of you in Lakewood.

From me, I'll sign off, like I did the first time. "Don't you love it here?" the sales person asked. "Yes, I do."

**Postscript:**  
*I've lived in Lakewood for two months. In my first article for the Lakewood Observer, I declared my love for the city on the lake. I agreed with others, that Lakewood is walkable and safe. And, I admitted, that I was in the honeymoon phase of my love affair. Some of you might have said, Wait. We'll see. Well, hold on to your skepticism.*

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	<b>7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.</b>	<b>Family Skate</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.</b>	<b>Adults Only</b>
	<b>4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.</b>	<b>Skills Practice</b>
		<b>/All Ages</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>8:30 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.</b>	<b>Adults Only</b>
		<b>(Live Organ Music)</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>8:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.</b>	<b>All Ages</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.</b>	<b>All Ages</b>
	<b>2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.</b>	<b>All Ages</b>
	<b>8:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.</b>	<b>All Ages</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.</b>	<b>All Ages</b>
	<b>8:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.</b>	<b>All Ages</b>

**Special Skating Sessions**

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Wednesday, Nov. 23 8:30-10:30 PM All Ages.  
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# Gallery Watch

By Chelsea L. Waschek

CLEVELAND'S SCREAMING PHOTO SHOW!!



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sat dec 3rd opening 6pm  
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bela dubby gallery  
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for more info on this show, please contact jim@hellbomb.com

**The Pop Shop 17020 Madison 228-8440**

The True Value Vintage Show is not about the holidays, it's about childhood. The show opens Saturday December 3 with an opening reception from 6-9 p.m. and an after party at Mullen's, next to the gallery. The title of the show reflects the theme, anything reminiscent of childhood, in all mediums will be displayed. Included are pieces involving toys, games and other memories of the recent past decades. The show aims to be "a reminder of what we had," says 25-year-old gallery owner Rich Cihlar. The show will also be interactive with 3-D glasses to get the full effect of some pieces.

Hours: 4-10 p.m. on various days, or call 216-228-8440 for an appointment

**bela dubby 13321 Madison 221-4479**


The month of November marks bela dubby's one year anniversary! Currently featured are paintings by Randy Rigutto. You can also find the most unique gifts at the Holiday Art Bazaar! On Saturday November 19 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. local artisans will be selling: hand knit items, jewelry, ceramics, handmade purses and pillows, handmade soaps and much more!

Hours: Tues-Thurs 10 a.m.-10 p.m.  
Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m.-12 a.m.

**Local Girl Gallery 16106 Detroit 228-1802**

The Nifty Under \$50 Holiday Open House kicks off November 25, 26 and 27. You can find a variety of works for under \$50! This is a great way to save on one of a kind gifts for family and friends, and especially yourself!

Hours: Tues., Wed, Thurs., 12-5 p.m. Fri. and Sat. 12-6 p.m.



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## Local Celebrity Chef and Restaurateur Competes on “Iron Chef”

By Kate Bennis

He's a past Lakewood resident, a St. Edward alumnus, a current Cleveland restaurant entrepreneur, prior host of "Melting Pot" on the Food Network and "one of the 10 best chefs in America," according to *Food and Wine* magazine (1998.)

Michael Symon gets his 15 minutes of fame on television—again.

Symon of Tremont's highly acclaimed restaurant, Lola (now Lolita), was pleasantly surprised with the announcement of "white and green asparagus" as he competed against "Iron Chef" Masaharu Morimoto on the Food Network's "Iron Chef" last month. Morimoto has almost 70 victories to date. It was the first appearance for Symon. Both men were to come up with their most creative dishes containing the secret ingredient.

"I was relieved it wasn't fish, as Morimoto is so well known for his sushi," Symon said.

To prepare for his appearance, Symon and his two friends, co-chefs Frank Rogers and Matt Harlan, brainstormed a few different menus based on basic food groups. The three have worked together for a combined 23 years.

"We thought of fish, meat, and vegetable menus, but no particular items," he said.

Symon brought his Mediterranean-style cooking to the 60-minute program's Kitchen Stadium with dishes

such as lemon and egg soup with white asparagus puree, asparagus-ricotta gnocchi smothered in asparagus-pistachio sauce, and lamb loin with roasted asparagus and goat-cheese stuffed phyllo pastry. Although he claims to have a tendency to struggle with desserts, the judges seemed to savor Symon's cinnamon and asparagus churros.

The judges for this battle included *Vogue's* food writer, Jeffrey Steingarten, contributing editor of *Esquire*, Ted Allen (best known as a member of the "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" cast), and restaurant publicist Karine Bakhoun.

The judges were enthusiastic about the menus created by both chefs, but Morimoto's creations were chosen over Symon's. However, Symon has no regrets.

"Chef Morimoto has participated in more than 90 competitions, so there were no surprises for him. We needed to overcome our first time," Symon said.

Symon's career seemed to begin with a touch of fate. As an athlete at St. Edward High School, he received numerous college scholarship opportunities as a wrestler. He worked in local restaurants like Geppetto's in his spare time. In his junior year, Symon broke his arm during a wrestling practice and, in turn, lost his wrestling scholarships. To save money for school, he began to work more, and soon discovered that he had a passion, and talent, for cooking.

The St. Edward alumnus' roots in Lakewood sprouted to his stepson, Kyle, who also graduated from the high school last year.

In addition to running Lola with wife Liz Shanahan, Symon also teaches cooking classes once a month at their restaurant. Classes typically include a two-hour cooking demonstration along with champagne, followed by a three-course dinner with wine afterwards. The focus of each class varies, and past lessons have included French, Italian, and Greek-style cuisines.

So what meal would an award-winning chef make for himself? "Foie gras with black truffles cassoulet—a stew of duck legs, pork sausage, pork shoulder, bacon, potatoes and beans," he said. And for dessert, he'd make a banana split. "With just bananas and chocolate sauce."

It appears that, in the end, everyone has a tendency to keep it simple.

Join the Discussion at: [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)



# Lakewood Theater

Beck Center for the Arts Presents

## The Phantom Tollboth

By Mary Bodnar  
De facto Theater Critic

The Phantom Tollbooth, recently running live on the Mackey Main Stage at the Beck Center for the Arts, was surprisingly well orchestrated for a bunch of child actors ranging in age from about 6–16 years of age. While I didn't necessarily see any future Shirley Temple's, these talented kids handled in stride, a script that was very demanding. The vocabulary alone would be daunting to most adults I know. (Ok, Ok, that doesn't reflect well on the circle of friends I hang with)

The story encompasses a too-young-to-be-bored-by-life boy named Milo and his adventures through the Land of Wisdom, Dictionopolis, where only the alphabet reigns, Digitopolis, the land of numbers, and the Land of Ignorance. The relationship between the people of Dictionopolis and Digitopolis is antagonistic at best.

Beatrice Aldrich is outstanding in her portrayal of Azaz the Unabridged, the ruler of Dictionopolis. Equally impressive is Kevin Ballou in his role as the Mathemagician, ruler of Digitopolis. Tricia Stepanek, displays her talent as Milo's sidekick, a watch dog named Tock. The play emanated with puns and double meanings and really



kept the audience on their toes, vernacularly speaking. (Is that a real word?)

I went to this play accompanied by four children (three of my own and I borrowed one since my husband bailed out on me and decided to attend the World Series of Wine at the Terrace Club that evening with my father-in-law. How convenient.) The humor was very subtle and witty and for the most

part was over the heads of the six, seven and eight-year-olds with me. Still, there was enough there to keep the three of them enchanted. On the other hand, the play was fully within reach of my 10-year-old son's intellect. This play should be required material for all High school students.

Meg Chamberlain did an exceptional job directing this play based on the book by Norton Juster and creatively portrayed the Dodecahedron. (Not any easy feat to stick 12 kids into one costume!) Kakafonous A. Dischord was played by talented Griffin Dudley, who was totally at ease on stage, despite being encumbered with gigantic ears.

### Excerpt from Phantom Tollbooth:

**Whether Man:** My, my, my, my, my, welcome, welcome, welcome, welcome to the Land of Expectations, Expectations, Expectations, Expectations! We don't get many travelers these days: we certainly don't get many travelers. Now what can I do for you?

I'm the Whether Man.

**Milo:** Uh....is this the right road to Dictionopolis?

**Whether Man:** Well now, well now, well now, I don't know of any wrong road to Dictionopolis, so if this road goes to Dictionopolis at all, it must be the right road, and if it doesn't, it must be the right road to somewhere else, because there are no wrong roads to anywhere. Do you think it will rain?

**Milo:** I thought you were the Weather Man.

**Whether Man:** Oh, no. I'm the Whether Man, not the Weather Man. After all, it's more important to know whether there will be weather than what the weather will be.

**Milo:** What kind of place is Expectations?

**Whether Man:** Good Question, good question! Expectations is the place you must always go to before you get to where you are going. Of course, some people never go beyond Expectations, but my job is to hurry them along whether they like it or not.



## Beck Center for the Arts Presents A World Premiere Comedy: T.I.D.Y.

By Award-winning Cleveland Playwright Eric Coble, November 18 – December 18, 2005

Lakewood, Ohio – Named "Cleveland's Best Theatre Company" in 2002 and 2004 and "Best Controversial Show that Wasn't" in 2005 by *Scene Magazine*, the Beck Center for the Arts proudly presents a world premiere comedy by award-winning Cleveland playwright Eric Coble. *T.I.D.Y.*, opening November 18 and running through December 18 in the intimate Studio Theater, will be Coble's first world premiere produced at the Beck Center.

*T.I.D.Y.* is a dark comedy about a woman whose quiet evening at home with her cat is interrupted by the discovery that she is at the heart of the global conspiracy to end all global conspiracies!

Directed by Roger Truesdell,

*T.I.D.Y.* features Sarah Morton, Nicholas Koesters, Rhoda Rosen, Ali Hernan-Garrigan, Tracy Fields, and Kevin Joseph Kelly.

"I am very happy to be back directing in Cleveland," says Truesdell. "I have been a strong champion of this play. It is really funny with a strong moral message about personal and political responsibility. This is the fourth play of Eric's that I have directed and I have enjoyed working with him on this script immensely. I am very lucky to have this cast who I consider the very best."

Scripts written by Eric Coble, one of Cleveland's most successful and widely produced playwrights, have been produced throughout the U.S.

and internationally. Most recently, Cleveland audiences have enjoyed Coble's *Ten Minutes from Cleveland* at Dobama, and *Bright Ideas* at the Cleveland Play House. Coble's awards include AT&T Onstage and National Theatre Conference Playwriting. He is a member of the Cleveland Play House Playwrights Unit. Coble writes for several nationally broadcast radio programs and has three screenplays in the labyrinth of Hollywood.

The Beck Center's production of *T.I.D.Y.* is sponsored by 90.3 WCPN, *Cleveland Scene Magazine*, LaCentre Conference & Banquet Facility, Lakewoodbuzz.com and is presented with the generous support of the Board of Cuyahoga County Commissioners.

Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$26 for adults, \$23 for seniors (65 and older) and \$15 for students (22 and under with I.D.). Rush tickets for students (22 and under with I.D.) are offered for \$10 each for Sunday matinees only, 30 minutes prior to curtain, based on availability. All individual ticket sales are subject to a \$2 administrative fee per ticket applied at the time of ticket reservation. Discounted rates are available for groups.

For tickets call 216.521.2540 or visit [www.beckcenter.org](http://www.beckcenter.org).

The Beck Center is located just 10 minutes west of downtown Cleveland at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood.



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# Lakewood Mysteries

## Where in the World Is the W?

By Natalie Schrimpf

Bright as a beacon of light. Blue as Lake Erie on a bright summer day. Visible for miles around.

For more than 40 years the shining blue neon W proudly crowned the Winton Place condominiums at 12700 Lake Ave., serving as Lakewood's marker for identifying its famous Gold Coast high-rise apartment buildings. But earlier this year, the local aging icon mysteriously vanished from its 35-story throne in the sky, leaving some Lakewoodites wondering, "Where in the world is the W?"

Similar in shape to a three-dimensional triangle, the W was comprised of three separate signs: one side facing the lake, one side facing southwest and the third side facing southeast. This design enabled it to be seen from numerous angles, according to Bill Baker, Winton Place building manager. The sign had become an increasing monumental maintenance expense and safety hazard, he explained. In fact, two sides were in such poor condition that they were completely discarded upon removal.

"Water was getting inside the structure and there was danger of sheet metal pieces falling off because they had rusted through," said Baker, who has worked at the Winton Place for 18



Dave Boyer of Boyer Signs stands next to one of the Ws from the top of the Winton Place, not sure when or if it will ever return.

years. "Nothing had actually fallen yet, but this was a safety precaution."

"The building's sign maintenance company, Boyer Sign, recommended removing the Ws because they were beyond repair," Baker explained. "We were concerned about high winds and we noticed pieces were becoming loose," he said. "It's difficult to repair something that high up."

"In response to the recommendations, the Winton Place last February

hired Frost Building Maintenance, a local steeple jack company, to remove all three signs," said Baker.

And while there is a strong sentiment to replace the sign, there also appears to be a practical mindset by others to leave it off altogether, according to building residents.

"In fact, some time prior to the sign's removal, the building's condominium association surveyed its 351 unit owners, bringing the increasing

maintenance costs to light," Baker said. "About half of the respondents were in favor of its removal and the other half wanted the W on top," he added.

According to some residents, the Winton Place's façade is not quite as identifiable without its illuminated blue sign. The sign is even regarded as nothing less than a Lakewood landmark. "Most residents found it an appealing signature of the building," said Robert Secrist, president of the building's condominium association.

"I miss seeing it," echoed John Curri van, a resident since 1995 and board member of the building's condominium association. "I think it ties in nicely with the fact that we have the Pier W Restaurant, and it was something that people could see from miles away, especially from downtown Cleveland. I hope we find a way to put it back."

In fact, a new and improved W just might reclaim its rightful place in the sky once again in several years. "When the signs were discarded, one sign was actually stored as a prototype. In addition, the framework still remains on the building," Baker said.

He added that the Winton Place's condominium association board of directors has tentatively included provisions in the budget to construct two new signs, possibly as soon as 2008. It's in the long-range planning.

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