

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER



Lakewood's Only Newspaper And Finest Website

Volume 1, Issue 12, November 29, 2005

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Lakewood Historical Society Christmas Sale

By Anne Palomaki

The Lakewood Historical Society is holding a Christmas Sale on the grounds of the Nicholson House, 13335 Detroit Avenue, on Saturday, December 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, December 4 from Noon to 4 p.m. This is Lakewood's newest Christmas sale. New and nearly new items for sale include antiques, collectibles, Christmas decorations, nativity sets and other unique gifts. Many of the items at the sale are new in their original packaging. This sale will replace your shopping at the "Twigbee Shop"—children can shop for their parents and grandparents. Everything for entertaining for the holidays can be found at this sale: linens, glassware, brass, and silver items. This is the first time in several years the Nicholson House has been open to the public at the holidays. Traditional Christmas cookies and was-sail will be served. This sale is not to be missed!

The Nicholson House is the oldest frame home in Lakewood and has been restored by the Lakewood Historical Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of the study of the regional cultural heritage of Lakewood. Call 221-7343 for more information.



Valerie Mechenbier and Paula Reed get ready for the Lakewood Historical Society Christmas Sale at the Nicholson House.

Slander Alert

The No Child Left Behind Act Rears Its Ugly Head

By Gordon Brumm
Lakewood Observer's Logic Master

Parents of students in the Lakewood public schools have been receiving a letter from the State Department of Education stating that Lakewood is in need of "District Improvement."

On October 7, however, the State Board of Education delivered a diametrically opposed appraisal. In a letter that began "Congratulations," the district was commended for its "exemplary performance" and advanced to the designation of "Effective."

What accounts for this discrepancy?

It's this: The more recent letter of censure was mandated by the federal government in accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act, which requires that school districts meet certain standards – standards much stricter than the Ohio standards – or risk losing federal funds. Under NCLB provisions, the state must exact severe penalties if the standards are not met. (And they are severe. If a district fails to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for four years, the state must institute a new curriculum, replace key district personnel, establish alternative governance for particular schools, appoint a receiver or trustee, or withhold Title I funds.)

So what was it that brought down the wrath of the feds?

Under the NCLB school districts are rated not as wholes but on the basis of a number of categories defined by ethnicity, economic status, and ability, as well as the two subject areas of reading and math. Lakewood must deal with 112 categories. (Different districts have different numbers of categories — about which more later.) The enormous number of categories results from



the fact that categories cut across each other; any student is in at least two categories (racial and subject-matter) and possibly in several.

Of the 112 categories, Lakewood was deficient in two, "Students with Disabilities" (Special Ed) and Math. (Actually this was just one group of students, Students with Disabilities, but they have to be counted also under Math, the subject category they were deficient in.)

In short, the entire district was condemned for failure with a small

number of students whose needs and abilities are markedly different from those of the rest. Alternative measures narrowly targeted to the specific problem (e.g., more attention and more funding for Special Education) made no appearance. And of course the district's good work in launching the rebuilding program and in other directions was ignored.

Meanwhile, the district did well by the more broadly-based state standards, as attested by the "Effective" designation. A glance at the 2004-2005

Report Card shows that on the broadest measure, Performance Index Score, the district scored a 93.9 (up from 87.6 the previous year). In terms of "State Indicators" (defined by subject and grade), the district exceeded the required 75% level in 14 out of the 23 measures, and in the other nine Lakewood exceeded the score of the typical "Similar District." The overall picture is one of appreciable achievement and improvement; the deficiency in the two categories is definitely not the tip of an iceberg.

The letter announcing the "District continued on page 16

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Lakewood Events

Holiday Open House at the Oldest Stone House

By Anne Palomaki

The Oldest Stone House, located at Lakewood Park will be open to all for a candlelit tour on Sunday, December 4 from 4 to 7 p.m.

The house will be decorated with displays of beautiful dresses, special gifts and lovely china, bringing the holidays of Lakewood's past alive again. The Museum Gift shop will be open with handmade and unique gifts for purchase. Lakewood pottery and afghans and a variety of local history books will also be available. Visitors can purchase copies of *Lakewood Lore*, recently reprinted by Dan Chabek, *Lakewood: the First 100 Years* by Jim and Susan Borchert, and *Lakewood* by Thea Becker.

The Oldest Stone House was built in 1838 and stood at the corner of St. Charles and Detroit before it was moved to Lakewood Park in 1952. It was restored by the Lakewood Historical Society. It is furnished with artifacts from the 1800s and is open as a museum. Call 221-7343 for more information.



Saturday, December 3, 2005



**CITY OF LAKEWOOD
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LAKEWOOD DISCUSSION

Topics	Replies	Author	Views	Last Post
Business in Lakewood	1	Mark Crnolatas	47	Sun Nov 27, 2005 9:18 pm
Merry Christmas or Happy Holiday's?	2	Bill Call	56	Sun Nov 27, 2005 6:45 pm
No Child Left Behind?!	23	Jim O'Bryan	426	Sun Nov 27, 2005 2:36 pm
Fire Department Overtime	2	Bill Call	183	Sun Nov 27, 2005 10:22 am
All Night Eatery	5	Mark Crnolatas	136	Fri Nov 25, 2005 10:31 am
Wal Mart the High Price of Low Prices	5	Lynn Farris	245	Thu Nov 24, 2005 11:01 pm
Sauk Center R Us	6	Gordon Brumm	143	Wed Nov 23, 2005 11:12 am
Lakewood Observer is now a Google News source!	3	stephen davis	88	Sun Nov 20, 2005 11:34 am
Hey City' What's the Rule?				
Thanks it was nice				
MADISON VILLAGE 2005 or THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE SoHO	19	Matthew Charboneau	624	Fri Nov 18, 2005 9:20 am
GLOBAL DISCUSSION				
uncivil discourse and the global forum	11	kate parker	120	Mon Nov 28, 2005 9:35 am
GWB "We should honor the dead"	80	Jim O'Bryan	1033	Mon Nov 28, 2005 9:49 am
Our Congressman Kucinich	8	Jacqlyn Avis	1073	Sun Nov 27, 2005 4:40 pm
Economy 2	1	Mark Crnolatas	29	Fri Nov 25, 2005 6:15 am

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The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 15-100, 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!

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for
Lakewood News & Opinion

The LAKEWOOD OBSERVER is published biweekly by Lakewood Observer, Inc., 14900 Detroit Avenue, Suite 309, Lakewood, OH 44107.

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Lakewood City Hall

Spending, Safety, and Haluska

Council President Robert Seelie called the November 21st meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. As is prescribed by the agenda, the Clerk of Council calls the roll as instructed by the president. This is usually a routine step. Mary Louise Madigan (ward 4) was absent. An absence must be excused by a vote of council members. Legislative courtesy usually prevails and the absence is excused. However, council member Ryan Demro (ward 2), since first taking his seat, always inquires as to the reason for a member's absence to maintain public accountability for a member missing a meeting. Council president Seelie usually does not divulge reasons for absences. Courtesy prevailed and council voted to approve the absence.

The first docket item was Lakewood's proposed membership in the Northeast Ohio Sourcing Office. This is an effort by several neighboring cities to combine their purchasing power to achieve savings that a consortium might command as compared to a single city. This third reading passed with a cautionary note by Mayor Thomas George. The mayor indicated that Lakewood gets better prices on some of its supplies than the larger group.

This group, the Northeast Ohio Sourcing Office, could be viewed as a step towards regionalism. When Mayor George first took office almost

Reported by Stan Austin,
Lakewood Observer City Council Reporter

two years ago, he appeared on the television show "Feagler and Friends" which is broadcast on WVIZ. He was asked about his view of regionalism and at that time, he stated that he felt that Lakewood citizens would like to see cooperation on a functional basis, not a comprehensive approach. This step toward combined purchasing fits the functional approach.

Safety issues occupied council's attention at this meeting. Expanding the right turn on red restrictions at the intersection of Belle and Lake passed a third reading. This measure was first introduced by council member Michael Dever (at large) because of changes in student foot traffic as a result of the new Lakewood Catholic Academy. Restrictions were also added for intersections on Madison Avenue at Cohasset and at Halstead. These intersections are now used by students who previously attended Harrison Elementary School. They now attend school at temporary quarters at St. Hedwigs while Harrison is being rebuilt.

Council then addressed the issue of motorized conveyances that was first brought up by council member Patrick Corrigan (ward one). Electric motors powering skateboards and scooters

have become popular with kids, so a category of motorized conveyances was added to the section of the law that covers bicycles and motorcycles in order to regulate their use. In addition, helmets will be required for those under eighteen years of age who use these motorized boards and scooters.

Council member Demro introduced legislation which would tighten the residency restrictions imposed on convicted sexual offenders. This is an attempt to deal with a recent spate of incidents involving Lakewood school kids. The mayor and school superintendent David Estrop had also responded to concerns by sending a letter home to parents with safety tips from Police Chief Malley.

Finally, the curious reader might want to know what haluska is.

City Council and the Mayor joined in a resolution congratulating Tony Beno (Director of Public Works) as 2005 Fraternalist of the Year. Beno is a past president of the National Fraternal Societies and he has been a mainstay in his local Lakewood Slovak Society.

In corridor comments, the Observer took time to talk with Beno so he could give a history of the ethnic fraternal societies in the Cleveland region and Lakewood.

Tony's grandparents emigrated to the United States from Slovenia along with thousands of other fellow Slovaks at the turn of the twentieth century. They settled in Pittsburgh, West Virginia, and Cleveland. Here in Lakewood, they were the primary workforce in the National Carbon factory and settled in Birdtown.

Ethnic groups created fraternal organizations in order to collect money for burials. According to Beno, there were no death benefits then and this was a way to provide for that eventual-ity. The societies expanded their scope to include social activities. At one time, Beno points out, there was a Slovak Hall at Madison Avenue and Lewis.

Today Beno said that fraternal organizations have moved into the charitable arena stepping in after the churches and Red Cross have left. They have been very active in New Orleans in the aftermath of Katrina.

In Lakewood, the Slovak Society is an outlet for drama and plays along with its charitable activities. Beno proudly points out that the Lakewood society is 105 years old and has been closely aligned with SSt. Cyril and Methodius church which it helped to build. St. Peter and Paul Lutheran church on Madison also has heavy Slovak ties.

When asked what his favorite Slovak dish was, Beno replied "haluska, which is cabbage and noodles." This tasty dish can be purchased at the Madison Park Festival every year at the St. Peter and Paul booth.

Holiday Band Concert



Sunday,
December 4, 2005

1:30 p.m.

Lakewood Civic Auditorium,
14100 Franklin Boulevard

A free concert featuring the
Lakewood Hometown Band

Sponsored by the City of Lakewood and the
Recording Industries Music Performance Trust
Funds in cooperation with Local No. 4,
American Federation of Musicians



Holiday Lighting Festival

Sunday,
December 4, 2005

4:30-7:00 p.m.

Lakewood Park



- * Reading of The Polar Express & 'Twas the Night Before Christmas
- * Lakewood Park Tree Lighting
- * Visit from Santa Claus
- * Lincoln Elementary School Choir
- * Photos with Santa (kids 10 & under)
- * Candlelight Tours of Oldest Stone House Museum

Sponsored by: City of Lakewood, H2O, Keep Lakewood Beautiful, Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, Lakewood City Schools, Lakewood Historical Society & Lakewood Public Library



Lakewood Roots

Lure of Pipe and Drum Connects Local Family with Scottish Roots

By Kathleen South
LO Contributing Writer

The Wemyss household is marching to the beat of a different drummer.

Not to mention the drone of bagpipes.

Andrew, 14, and Alex, 9, were drawn to the bagpipes and drums, respectively, by their Scottish ancestry and the sheer enjoyment of the instruments.

"It's a lot of fun and we're Scottish, sort of," said Andrew, whose grandfather immigrated from Scotland in 1955.

"Some people think it's (bagpipe music) so mysterious. I think it's cool," Andrew, a student at Horace Mann Middle School, said. "It's so creative."

While bagpipe music is not what one would normally expect coming from a young man's bedroom, that is part of the appeal for Alex, a student at Lincoln Elementary School.

"It is so unusual. You don't hear it a lot," he said.

Because of its association with funerals, some think it's sad music, but Alex disagrees.

"It's kind of jumpy. I think it's more happy than sad," he said.

Andrew, who has been playing the bagpipes for three years, started play-

"I didn't know it would take so long," he said with a chuckle.

Both boys are part of a bagpipe band called Black Bear Caledonia, which was



Photo by Victoria A. Pollicard

Brian Borowski, Lovell Geddes and Lakewood resident Andrew Wemyss.

ing through an adult education class in Lakewood.

He admits he was in for a surprise when his studies began.

started by Andrew's instructor, Scott MacLeod. Andrew is a charter member and Alex was drafted shortly thereafter.

The 22-member band, lead by



Photo by Victoria A. Pollicard

MacLeod of Berea, 25, is made up of youngsters and adults. Andrew is the only teenager who plays the bagpipes.

MacLeod, 25, has been playing the 'pipes for 18 years. MacLeod who moved here from Nova Scotia, said bagpipes are also part of his family's tradition.

"I grew up with the Gaelic and Celtic arts," he said.

MacLeod said he started the band to give his students the experience of playing with other musicians and to hone their skills.

"I teach all these guys and I wanted to set a higher musical standard," he said.

Dominic Tancrei, 24, of Cleveland directs the drum portion of the music. He has been playing since before he was 12 years old. He came into the pipe and drum genre almost by accident.

"I stumbled into an ad in the newspaper wanting a drummer. I answered it and it turned out to be a bagpipe band," he said.

The band focuses on traditional music.

"A lot of this stuff has not been played for 10, 20 or 30 years and we incorporate the new stuff, too," he said.

The band is involved with both performing in competitions as well as competitions.

Mark Sweeney, 52, of Lakewood said he has always wanted to play the bagpipes, and he got his chance four years ago in a night school class. He is still awed by the sound of the instrument.

"When you get out in the field with 100 people playing, it's so powerful," he said.

There is a certain spirit embodied in the music.

"It is nice and kilt swinging," he said, with a grin.

The band wears the Ancient Holyrood tartan, which is blue, brown and gray because it stands out from the predominately red attire of most other area bands.

His sons' music and the heritage behind it form a winning combination, according to their father, Barry Wemyss, volunteer services supervisor for the city's Division of Aging.

"That's why this dad is so proud," he said.

For more information, call Scott MacLeod at (440) 239-8381.

Lakewood Library

	Tuesday 11/29	Wednesday 11/30	Thursday 12/1	Friday 12/2	Saturday 12/3	Sunday 12/4	Monday 12/5
Featured program			6pm DEVELOP LAKEWOOD				
Cultural Program	7pm Acting Out Center Stage Variety Series			6pm movie: The Hidden Fortress	2pm ELEGANCE musical favorites for the holiday season		
Childrens programs *both Main & Madison	4pm Marvelous Mysteries	4pm Twist, Shout, Act It out	4pm Games Galore	[10:30am 2:00pm 7:00pm Monkey Business *] 4pm Make-It Take- It	[10:30am 2:00pm 4:00pm Monkey Business *]	[2:00pm Monkey Business *]	4pm Make-It Take- It
Book Discussion	Next ones in January 2006						
Computer Program 226-8275 x 127 to register	7pm Powerpoint	2pm Computing Basics for Seniors			3pm Word (word processing) Basics		

	Tuesday 12/6	Wednesday 12/7	Thursday 12/8	Friday 12/9	Saturday 12/10	Sunday 12/11	Monday 12/12
Featured program	7pm Parenting: Baby Signs						
Cultural Program					7:30pm Comic Jan C. Snow & Santa- claus- trophobia		
Childrens programs *both Main & Madison	4pm Marvelous Mysteries	4pm Twist, Shout, Act It out	4pm Games Galore	[10:30am 2:00pm 7:00pm Monkey Business *] 4pm Make-It Take- It	10:30am 2:00pm 4:00pm We Are Family *	2:00pm We Are Family *	4pm Make-It Take- It

On The Police Beat

Crackle, Crackle... Lakewood Dispatchers

By Rita Ryland

Every day, I walk with my dog, Emma, along Lake Avenue. Given the weather and my mood, some walks are longer than others. Since September, I've heard the life-affirming sound of children's laughter as I walk past a school playground. Since October, I've heard the death knell of nature's Technicolor show—leaf blowers. And, no matter when I walk, I often hear a siren. Several times, I've seen an ambulance turn onto Edgewater Drive. I've watched a patrol car rush toward 117th Street.

"911," the dispatcher says. Her voice is calm. Her fingers move silently along the black keyboard.

"There's someone upstairs," the young caller says.

"Your address?" the dispatcher asks. Sometimes the address and phone number appear on the monitor in front of the dispatcher. Sometimes they don't.

"I'm watching my brother," the caller says.

"Your address?" the dispatcher asks. And while the dispatcher is eliciting information from the caller, she is typing and sending it to a police cruiser.

"Stay with me," the dispatcher instructs the caller. Then she asks, "Your phone number?"

Within minutes, a patrol car arrives.

This example was provided by Detective Leslie Wilkins of the Lakewood Police Department. Detective Wilkins was a dispatcher for three years before becoming a patrol officer, the first woman Lakewood Patrol Officer.

In an interview at the Lakewood

Police Station, Detective Wilkins pointed to the radio room, "You don't know stress unless you sat in there."

Lakewood dispatchers field 50,000 911 calls a year. In addition to the 911 calls, the dispatchers answer the non-emergency calls to the police department; another 50,000 a year.

In one 911 call, the dispatcher serves as the lifeline and the link between the caller and emergency personnel. The dispatcher must get a location and circumstances surrounding the incident. She then relays the information to police and fire personnel. Take the example given above. It could simply be that there is no one upstairs. The caller is nervous. It's her first time babysitting. The arrival of the patrol officer provides the reassurance the sitter needs. It could also be that there is an intruder upstairs. By the dispatcher's demeanor and by giving instructions, she is attempting to calm and, very possibly, save the life of the caller and her brother.

The dispatchers work for the police department. They wear police uniforms. They are not civil service employees. Most are in their 20s and



30s. At the urging of her father, Warren Day, a Lakewood Fireman for 38 years, Leslie Wilkins applied for a dispatcher position when she graduated from high school.

Lakewood has 12 dispatchers, all women. They work permanent shifts, days, evenings, or nights, three to a shift. Three dispatchers rotate shifts to cover days off and vacations. The dispatchers embody the concept of team work. "They support each other," Detective Wilkins said. She spoke lovingly of the dispatcher, Dotty, who trained her some 20 years ago. To this day, Dotty and Leslie remain close friends.

The dispatchers work in a one-room office filled with monitors, headsets, and keyboards. One set of screens monitors the female section of the jail. In addition to 911 and Police Department non-emergency calls, the dispatchers book female prisoners, supervise meals and showers,

and observe the inmates. In 2004, Lakewood jail had 460 women in custody. The dispatchers also control the patrol officers' lunch hour.

This is definitely a job that involves the ability to multi-task. "It's a stressful job," Detective Wilkins said. "You have to be the kind of person who likes that work to do well at it."

What kind of person does it take to be a dispatcher? "They need to be somebody who can make a decision," Detective Wilkins said. Given the demands placed on the dispatchers, they need to be able to prioritize. They need to be assertive. They need confidence.

When Lakewood's Police Chief, Tim Malley, interviews a prospective candidate for a dispatcher position, he is looking for someone who can, "take control of a situation, remain calm, and get the information they need." He's also looking for someone who is trustworthy, someone who can treat information with respect, maintaining confidentiality when needed. Chief Malley's wife, Patty, worked as a Lakewood dispatcher for 12 years.

Every year, the State of Ohio accepts nominations for the Gold Star Award, an award given for professionalism, innovation, leadership, initiative and problem solving. In 2004, Lakewood Dispatcher Bridget Lahowe was nominated for this award. Ms. Lahowe processed a shooting incident, aided the victim, and assisted in the apprehension of the suspect. While showing me a copy of Ms. Lahowe's award, Chief Malley said, "We're proud of our dispatchers. Proud of their dedication. It's not a job everyone can do."

Now, as I walk along Lake Avenue with Emma, I think of the siren sound so familiar to us all, so reassuring to the person waiting for help, and I think of Detective Wilkins' words, "It's not just a job."

Just so happens that the police department is currently looking for a dispatcher. Anyone interested can contact Human Resources at City Hall.

Sunday, Dec. 4, 2005

Lakewood Hometown Band Holiday Concert



Lakewood Hometown Band Holiday Concert, Sunday, Dec. 4, 2005 at 1:30 p.m., Lakewood Civic Auditorium, 14100 Franklin Boulevard, Lakewood, Ohio 44107. Don Santa-Emma, conductor; Jim Mehrling of WCLV, announcer. A musical program of marches, patriotic music and holiday selections. The program is free. Sponsored by the City of Lakewood and the Recording Industry Music Performance Trust Fund. The band has been sponsored by the City of Lakewood for 36 years and is an attraction at the annual Summer Concert Series at Lakewood Park. Hear them indoors at this special concert.

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Lakewood Sports

Ranger Cagers Look Forward to a Good Season

In the NFL, a last-place finish is usually rewarded with an easier schedule the upcoming season. Unfortunately for the Lakewood Rangers boys' basketball team, the Lake Erie League doesn't operate like the NFL.

Coming off a 4-17 season with a schedule that reads like a list of the area's top teams it would appear the Rangers could be in for another tough season. But Head Coach Kirk Culler thinks that a busy off-season regimen of team camps and open gyms could provide the continuity necessary to propel the Rangers out of the LEL basement. "Both myself and the players have a better idea what to expect this season," Culler said.

With a roster that features just two players over 6-foot-2, the Rangers will need to rely on speed and defense in the highly competitive Lake division of the LEL. The Rangers will play a pressing defense and Coach Culler has set a goal of holding opponents under 40 percent shooting for the season. Last season the Rangers opponents shot almost 45 per-

cent from the field.

Forward Mike Evans, a 6-3 junior forward, will help to lead Lakewood's defense. Evans averaged nearly five rebounds a game and blocked 10 shots coming off the bench in the 2004-05 season. Evans will be joined in the frontcourt by sophomore Kevin Knab. Knab, a 6-5 center, shot 48 percent from the field and grabbed 19 offensive rebounds in limited varsity action as a freshman.

Guards Kenneth Miller and Dan Toole will man the backcourt for the Rangers. Miller, a 6-1 senior, was fourth on last year's team with 1.4 assists per game. Toole, a 5-9 senior, will assume point guard duty after recently completing a stint on Lakewood High School's district champion soccer team.

According to Coach Culler seniors Jack Wise and Gabe Bruno will compete for a final starting spot. In the 2004-05 season Bruno started 12 games averaging 2.9 point a contest. Wise played

sparingly grabbing seven steals and 10 rebounds in just 79 minutes of action.

Lakewood will get a taste of home cooking in the first month of the season when they play five of their first six games at home. The Rangers open the season Friday with a non-league contest at home against Midpark. The Mentor Cardinals, led by Holy Cross recruit Adam May, travel to Lakewood in the LEL opener for both teams on Friday December 9.

The December schedule also includes visits by Euclid and Shaw high schools before the Rangers conclude the non-league portion of their schedule. On December 23, the Eagles of St. Edward will land at Lakewood's gymnasium to renew their cross-town rivalry.

The Eagles, who are ranked third in Ohio in the pre-season JJ huddle.com division I poll, loom large on the Ranger schedule. "The kids look at the St. Ed's game as the big game," Culler said of the rivalry. Away games at

Rocky River and St. Ignatius close out the December schedule.

The January portion of the schedule features a January 10 trip to take on the Bedford Bearcats, the favorites in the Erie Division of the LEL. After a January 24 inter-divisional showdown with Garfield Heights the Rangers take to the road for five of their final six games. The home portion of the season concludes with a February 17 game against Lorain Admiral King. All Lakewood home games tip-off at 7:30 PM and are preceded by junior varsity contests at 6 p.m.

There will be some new faces on the bench for the Ranger this year and Jeff Wensing and Bernie Clark have joined Kirk Culler's coaching staff. When choosing the 05-06 squad, Coach Culler said the coaching staff put nearly as much emphasis on character then just raw ability. "We picked athletes we enjoy being around. Players spend a lot of time together during the season so we chose kids who work hard and play well together."

Rangers on Ice, Also Looking at the New Season

By Todd Shapiro

The Ohio High School Athletic Association calendar says the first date of hockey practice was November 4. However, the Lakewood Rangers High School hockey team has been hard at work since summer preparing for the upcoming season.

According to Head Coach Scott Little, the Rangers have been hitting the pavement and the weight room since Labor Day working to improve on last seasons 9-12-1 record. All of the play-

ers who were not involved in fall sports have been running sprints and lifting weights all fall with the goal of winning the Blue West conference of the Greater Cleveland High School Hockey League.

The Rangers have just two seniors returning from last year's squad that tied for fourth place in the Blue West. Defenseman Dana Parker and Center Kyle Loudin will also serve as co-captains in the 2005-06 campaign. Last season Loudin led the Rangers with 46 points and tied for the team lead with 21 goals.

There will some new competition in the Blue West this season. 2005 champion Bay and Olmsted Falls have moved on to the newly created White West division and the Patriots of Valley Forge have dropped out of the league, leaving the Rangers with old foes Brooklyn and Parma, as well as new opponents in Garfield Heights and Holy Name. The Bulldogs dropped down from the Blue Central division and Holy Name is a first year varsity program.

Despite their first-year varsity status coach Little thinks the Green Wave will be tough. "Holy Name could be the team to beat, they played well against Bay in a recent scrimmage," Little said.

The Rangers open up conference play with a showdown against Holy Name Saturday at 6 p.m. at Winterhurst. The game is also the Rangers home opener. Both teams should be well prepared for the contest after having participated in last weekends Holy Name Thanksgiving Tournament at the Brooklyn Recreation center.

During December the Rangers will also have conference battles with Parma and Brooklyn and participate in the Bay Village and Brooklyn holiday tournaments. The Bay tournament takes place Dec. 16-18 at Winterhurst which serves as home ice to the Bay Rockets as well as Lakewood.

Little, in his sixth season as the

Rangers coach, believes that his team will be ready these tough early season challenges, "They are a positive group, they have worked hard and they will come to compete every night."

The success of the Rangers will be highly dependent on the success of goalkeepers Pat Kvasnicka and Billy Snyder. Last year Snyder was third among Blue West net minders with a 3.19 GAA and .892 save percentage in conference play. Snyder is also a starting offensive lineman on the Rangers football team. According to Little Snyder and Kvasnicka, a junior, will alternate between the pipes for the Rangers this season. Little has high praise for both of his goalkeepers, "they are the backbone of our team with a young defense they really are our last line of defense."

In addition to playing a home and home series with each of their Blue West foes the Rangers will play a home and home series with Massillon Jackson and a January 2 holiday matinee against neighborhood rival Rocky River.

Lakewood wraps up the regular season with a pair of home games against Parma on January 28 and Garfield Heights on February 4. For the Rangers to consider the 05-06 season a success they will need to advance past these contests and secure a spot in the season ending Baron Cup tournament for the first time in almost a decade.

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Lakewood Currency

Shopping in Lakewood

Harnessing the Power of the Gift to Honor Good Citizen Merchants

By Kenneth Warren

To give a gift is to re-shape the social fabric. Marcel-Israël Mauss, the father of modern French anthropology, lays a foundation for exploring how the hearts and wallets of Lakewood shoppers might become harnessed to the power of the gift this holiday season. According to Mauss gift-giving is steeped in morality and power. In *The Gift: Forms and functions of exchange in archaic societies*, he describes the obligations and moral bonds that arise between persons exchanging gifts. The gift is deeply rooted in the social landscape. There are economic, familial, legal, magical, mythological, personal, political, practical and religious dimensions to gift-giving.

With holidays approaching, Lakewood citizen consumers are rightly concerned about how a community attracts people to spend money in it despite living in the age of globalization, Internet shopping and regionalized sprawl. The "Big Box" retail model always consumes more from the local economy than rock bottom prices would suggest. Lakewood's good citizen merchants and consumers alike face enormous economic pressure. That is why it is important to

everybody who loves Lakewood for us to understand the circulation of dollars and the power of the gift in a moral economy.

Dollars that leave Lakewood build neither the local community nor economy. However, dollars circulating in Lakewood sustain local amenities, generate jobs, produce income, and release calculations from the greedy order of self-interest. It is wise, therefore, to reflect deeply on the power of gift-giving in a sacred season and to rally smartly together in holiday actions that increase exchange rates and community solidarity levels.

Light Up Lakewood, scheduled for the weekend of December 2nd, presents ideal and real grounds for re-connecting with a moral economy that defies the suave grip of Crocker Park. The faux neighborhood shopping experience in Crocker Park is, from a psychological perspective, likely to generate more shame than honor, especially for souls sensitized to gift-giving in the sacred season.

The honorable way to shop for holiday gifts is, of course, to Light Up Lakewood. This joint Lakewood Chamber of Commerce/LakewoodAlive program seeks to improve the city's ability to capture local dollars,

honor our local amenities and renew the social fabric. By dining and shopping together in Lakewood, citizen consumers save time, strengthen the neighborhood economy and create human intimacy.

From Arc Ancient on the West End to bela dubby on the East End, from Lion in Blue downtown to Arts Scents and Accents on Madison, Lakewood consumers know that local good citizen shops are a welcome change from corporate franchises. Lakewood's locally owned stores and restaurants create the circuits of commerce, identity and reciprocity that help all of us feel good about the human scale of exchange in our city.

In another sense, the sacred season of payback time compels us to shop in the stores belonging to Lakewood's good citizen merchants. Local good citizen merchants are always giving something back to the community. Who can forget that Chas Geiger, the local owner of Geiger's and a Board of Education member, has contributed so much to re-shape the social fabric of Lakewood in immeasurable ways? By shopping at Geiger's Lakewood citizen consumers not only obtain the highest quality goods but also register honor and gratitude for the intangible and

tangible gifts given so generously over the course of decades.

There are new good citizen merchants bringing fresh creativity and tasteful selections to Lakewood this holiday season as well. On Lakewood's Emerald Canyon, for instance, Vanessa Rodriguez and Gloria O'Neill have created an amazing zone of total sensory experience. From beautiful furnishings to bodywork skills, from candles to locally produced lotions, Arc Ancient, 1391 Sloane Ave, is a fabulous new Lakewood site for obtaining healing products and relieving holiday stress.

Let's keep in mind this powerful theoretical framework for overcoming the anxiety and stress of giving in the sacred season. Quite simply, buying locally-available goods and services this holiday season, and every season for that matter, is an ethical choice. The act registers one's commitment to a moral economy of a local commerce beyond the grip of the corporate market place. By shopping in Lakewood, moreover, the gift-giver stops consumption leakage from undermining the city's independent amenities. It is our ethical choice to enhance the sustainability of local commerce and to support owners who truly build our community. Let's Light Up Lakewood.

LakewoodAlive Retail and Entertainment Guide Features Lakewood Merchants

LAKEWOOD, Nov. 17 – Where can you find something for everyone on your holiday shopping list, from delectable homemade chocolates, to one-of-a-kind artifacts from local artists, to antique, mod and contemporary home furnishings?

You'll find those things and more in Lakewood, with the help of the *LakewoodAlive Retail and Entertainment Guide*, now available on the LakewoodAlive Web site (www.lakewoodalive.com). With more than 100 Lakewood retail and dining locations listed, you can complete your holiday gift buying and actively contribute to Lakewood's economic vitality.

"All Lakewood retail and restaurant locations were invited to

participate, so you'll find shopping for everyone on your list," said Mary Anne Crampton, president of LakewoodAlive. "In addition to discovering the unique offerings found only right here in Lakewood, by keeping your shopping dollars in Lakewood, you'll help to sustain our independent retailers and restaurateurs."

Kathy Berkshire, executive director of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, echoes that sentiment, "Supporting our local businesses during the holidays and throughout the year keeps our local economy strong."

The LakewoodAlive Retail and Entertainment Guide will also be helpful during the Chamber's "Light Up Lakewood" celebration December 2-4.

A printable shopping card, available on the Chamber's Web site, marked by five participating merchants allows you to enter to win a holiday gift basket (no purchases necessary). More information is available on the

Chamber of Commerce Web site at: www.lakewoodchamber.org

For more information, visit www.lakewoodalive.com, www.lakewoodchamber.org, or call the Lakewood Chamber at 216-226-2900.

LakewoodAlive:

LakewoodAlive is an independent nonpartisan citizens' group devoted to promoting economic development in Lakewood and enhancing how Lakewood is perceived inside and outside its borders. LakewoodAlive's efforts benefit all Lakewood residents by stabilizing and building our tax base, attracting and retaining residents, and preserving and improving the unique quality of life our inner ring community offers.

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce:

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, located at 14701 Detroit Avenue, is organized for the purpose of advancing the commercial, industrial, and professional interests of the community of Lakewood.

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Lakewood Shopping Guide

Lakewood Storefront Stories

By Victoria A. Policard, LO Associate Editor
Photos by Rhonda Loje

Hixson's Flowers

14125 Detroit Ave.
521-9277
A Lakewood business since 1952

From Detroit Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue

The famous Raggedy Ann doll is in the window at Hixson's – it must be close to Christmas. Owner Bill Hixson, who decorates his store as well as the White House, has decorated for the Reagans, Bushs, Clintons and now the Bushs again. He jokes, "They don't ask me how I vote." His tone turns serious though when asked about what's going on at Hixson's this holiday season. He says, "Well, all the kids say that the real Santa is here at our store in the evenings – real belly, natural, white beard. They say all the others are fakes." A photographer will be available or shoppers can bring their own camera for photos with ol' Saint Nick. Other things this year include ornaments, primarily from Germany and other parts of Europe which can be personalized and old-fashioned candy.



Rozi's Wine and Liquor House

14900 Detroit Ave.
221-1119
A Lakewood business since 1939

"It's all here."

Rozi's has more than just beer and wine. "We have chocolates, gourmet foods, wine glasses, champagne flutes..." says Corey Rossen, the owner's son. "We don't want you to have to go to the grocery store." Rossen also said that store will be offering several wine tastings this month. Biggest sellers around Christmas: wine, gift baskets and Great Lakes beer kegs. Purchases can be personally delivered in the Greater Cleveland area by a Rozi's employee or shipped through UPS.



Lakewood Shopping Guide

Lakewood Storefront Stories

Geiger's Clothing and Sports

14710 Detroit Ave.

521-1771

A Lakewood business since 1932

Socks, scarfs, sweaters and snowboards

Looking for the traditional new tie for Dad or the latest snowboard? Charles Geiger says the store is busy with people looking for those things and everything in between. "People shop at Geiger's for their unique gifts, personal service and knowledge about our products," he said. The biggest sellers around Christmas time: men's Pendleton and North Face clothing. Geiger said one of the best things about working at Geiger's every December is seeing children come in and pick out "that special item" as a Christmas present, or their pride in being fitted for their first skis or snowboard.



Malley's Chocolates

14822 Madison Ave.

529-6262

A Lakewood business since 1935

Some smores?

"People still come in for our ice cream even when it's freezing outside," said Michelle Baetzold, manager. She added, "They also come for the decorations and warm environment." What about the people who remember such Malley's moments but now live outside of Ohio? Malley's has been shipping their chocolate all over the U.S. even before the Internet was popular. Most requested item in December: chocolate-covered pretzels. New this year: smores.



Lakewood Shopping Guide

Lakewood Storefront Stories

Wings Hobby Shop

17112 Detroit Ave.
221-5383A

A Lakewood business since 1947

Trains, plains and automobiles!

“We have a large selection of plastic models of aircrafts, ships, military vehicles, as well as paint-by-numbers, jigsaw puzzles, but our model trains are our biggest seller,” said owner Al Cicerchi. The trains come in four scales. Cicerchi’s father opened Wings Hobby Shop over 55 years ago. Cicerchi has worked at the shop for 40 years. He said in the next month people of all age will be coming into the shop seeking gifts for others ... and themselves.



Lee Everden and Son Jewelers

14813 Detroit Avenue
226-9434

A Lakewood business since 1950

Diamonds sparkle for December engagements

Some things never change. After 56 years, George Everden, the original owner’s son, says he still sees many men in his store come December. They’re looking to buy engagement rings. “I sold at least a dozen last year,” Everden said. He did admit one thing has changed — the way it’s done. “Now, most of the time, the female is involved in getting the ring too,” he said. Cultured pearls, diamond jewelry and colored stones are also among the store’s more popular items in December.



Lakewood Shopping Guide

Plantation Home

14401 Detroit Avenue
(216) 227-4663

Furnishings, accessories, lighting, style tips, consultation... Stop in to see what they have for your Lakewood home.



Scents & Accents

14319 Madison Ave.
(216) 221-1450.

A great little art and gift shop. Everything from beading supplies and classes to original oil paintings, ceramics, jewelry, clothes, candles and gift baskets. Coffee always on. Check it out.



River Colors

Fiber Studios
1387 Sloane Ave.
(216) 228-9276

Whatever you might need in yarn or fibers Rive Colors Studio has it in stock or they can get for you. New in town, they are a great addition to the city of Lakewood.



Lion and Blue

15106 Detroit Ave.
(216) 529-2328

The ultimate gift shop in downtown Lakewood. Lion and Blue has become the place for clothing, shoes/ Birkenstocks, and gifts. Right next door to Phoenix Coffee. Another place all Lakewoodites need to check out this holiday season.



Local Girl Gallery

16106 Detroit Avenue
(216) 228-1802
Hours: Tues-Wed-Thurs 12-5, Fri-Sat 12-6

Local Girl Gallery was established to bring the arts to a neighborhood community while showcasing the talent that lives within it.

"We offer a fine selection of artwork from sterling silver jewelry, hand painted silks, acrylic and oil paintings to blown glass, pottery, photography and more," said Linda Goik. "In addition to the artwork on display, we also offer adult and children's classes in a variety of mediums."



Cosmic Collectibles

14532 Detroit Avenue
(216) 221-1085
Hours: Tues. 12-6, Wed. 12-4
Thur. 1-7, Fri. 12-4, Sat/Sun 12-5

Furnishings, collectables, a fun mix of vintage and new items. A nice stop on any Lakewood shopping trip.



Lakewood Holiday Shopping

Lakewood's Music Stores:

All the Hits and So Much More

By Bob Ignizio

I've been an obsessive music fan for a long time, so even before I lived here I always had a special place in my heart for Lakewood. As a teenager living in the Akron area during the eighties, my friends and I would make special trips to Lakewood just to go to Chris' Warped Records because they had stuff you just couldn't find anywhere else.

Sadly, Chris' Warped Records recently closed their doors after 30 years of operation. But there are still a number of great places to buy music in Lakewood. Whatever kind of music you like, chances are there's a music

store in Lakewood that has what you're looking for. buy anywhere else. We carry a lot of specialty CDs from DJs that you aren't going to find at the bigger chains." It's a highly specialized market, the store has built a loyal customer base. Doug thinks that's because, "People know they can count on us as having consistent quality, and there are people here that can help the customers out in making selections who have a lot of experience behind what they do."

Another long running music store



My Mind's Eye at 13727 Madison Ave is getting ready to expand into the storefront next door. If Charlie and staff cannot find your vinyl, then it can't be found!

store in Lakewood that has what you're looking for.

Of the music stores currently open for business in Lakewood, **The Exchange** (15100 Detroit Avenue) has been around the longest, and their selection is the broadest. Manager Bobbi Linnick says, "Our rock section is probably the biggest chunk of our sales, but there are gems in all the sections." Aside from rock, those sections include blues, country, jazz, classical, and soundtracks. The Exchange even has some honest to goodness records. Bobbie says, "We carry new and used vinyl. We get imported vinyl as well, like picture discs." The Exchange also boasts a large section of used CDs, and carries DVDs and video games, too. Overall, it's a great general interest music store. But if you're a hardcore fan of musical styles outside the mainstream such as various genres of electronic music, progressive rock, and heavy metal, you might do better to check out some of Lakewood's smaller, more niche oriented music stores.

Grand Poo-Bah (11823 Detroit Avenue) has been in business since 1994. Owner Doug Burkhart says, "Our niche is that we concentrate on mostly vinyl for DJs. All different kinds of DJs from drum & bass, house, trance, hip-hop, and all kinds of electronic music. We also cater to fans of that music so we have CDs for people that are into those styles. Most of the stuff you can't

that specializes in electronic sounds is **Mindwave Records** (13318 Madison Avenue), which has been in business for 10 years. But there's not much overlap between Mindwave's stock and Grand Poo Bah. Owner Jack Koch says, "We carry gothic and industrial music.

Experimental. Trance. A lot of imports. It's a specialty store, definitely." If you're looking to find that album the DJ at The Chamber was spinning last weekend, this is the place to look.

While not a music store per se, since opening five years ago, **Diverse Universe** (12011 Detroit Avenue) has stocked a large selection of music. Proprietor Marshall says, "We're a gay and lesbian department store, so we cater to a lot of the music being played in the clubs. Also a lot of the standard "classic divas" like Cher, Barbara Streisand, and Blondie. And we carry a lot of underground stuff from the U.K. Some show tunes, stuff like that.

We tend to stay away from the Top 40 and rap stuff." Marshall says his customers know if they want the same dance mix version of a song they hear at the clubs, they'll be able to find it at Diverse Universe.

On a completely different end of the musical spectrum is **My Mind's Eye** (13727 Madison Avenue). My Mind's Eye has been in business for about six

years. According to owner Charles, his store specializes in, "The rock n roll that sort of slips through the cracks of other places." If you're looking for progressive rock, hard rock, classic metal, punk, garage rock, and even jazz, blues, and older country, chances are you'll find it here, often on both vinyl and CD. My Mind's Eye has caught so much music that's "slipped through the cracks" that they have to expand the store. Because fans of the kind of music My Mind's Eye specializes in know they can find what they want in stock, the store pulls in a lot of out of town customers. Charles says, "I wish I had more Lakewood customers, but to be honest I think we're more of a destination store."

Another music store that has folks driving into Lakewood to check out their stock is **Hodad's Music and Collectibles** (13413 Madison Avenue). Although proprietor John Mack stocks a few used and local artist CDs, the main focus of Hodad's is vinyl. John says, "Mainly we focus on vintage 33rpm vinyl.

One of the biggest sellers here, especially among the younger kids, is classic rock vinyl. I never expected

that when I opened." Whether you're looking for that particular pressing of a particular record, or just looking for a cheap used copy of Led Zeppelin II, if vinyl is your thing you should check out Hodad's. Just be aware that the store's hours are limited at present: Monday thru Friday from 6pm to 9pm, Saturday from 12pm to 9pm, and Sunday from 12pm to 5pm.

That's a lot of music stores for one town, and I didn't even mention **Bent Crayon** (11600 Detroit Avenue), which specializes in indie rock and is located just over the border in Cleveland. Okay, I just did. Anyway, the point is this. All these stores fill valuable niches for music fans. The proprietors of these businesses are actually knowledgeable about the music they sell, and can help you discover new artists you might like. Hard to find music you'd otherwise have to special order or search for on Ebay is on the shelves here in town at My Mind's Eye, Grand Poo Bah, Mindwave,

Diverse Universe, and Hodad's. Sure, Target or Best Buy might have the latest hits on sale, but so does The Exchange. And they might just have a used copy even cheaper. So if you're a music fan and you haven't checked these places out, what are you waiting for?





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Lakewood Civic Groups

Volunteers Really Dig The Dog Park

By Mike Deneen

As we all know, many people really love their dogs. They pamper them with toys, treats and affection of all kinds. Some even dress their dogs in little outfits, or push their dogs around in a stroller. But how many love their dogs enough to shovel and move heavy gravel in 30 degree temperatures? In Lakewood, the number is over 20.

On Friday, November 18, the Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park conducted its first volunteer clean up and renovation effort at the park. Over 20 volunteers gave up their Friday afternoon to spruce up the park, which has been open since June 2003. In addition to picking up broken toys and other debris, the group took on the heavy task of leveling the park's gravel surface.

In spring 2004, the park's grass surface was replaced with a specialized gravel. The gravel prevents the dogs from getting muddy during rainy periods. However, since the park is built on an slight incline, wind and rain have gradually shifted the gravel toward the lower side of the park. The volunteers brought rakes, shovels and wheel barrows to return tons of gravel to the higher areas of the park.

August Armstrong, new president of Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park, organized the volunteer effort. "It was a great turnout ... it was great to see so many people take pride in the park. They did a great job." The event was one of many ideas she has to improve the park and the "Friends" organization. In the coming months, the group's website will be updated and hand sanitizers will be added to the park.



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Recreational Skating Sessions

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

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DJ skates / Live DJ at rink side!

Admission for DJ Skates is only \$5.00
Friday December 16, 2005

Skate With Santa

Saturday 12/17 2:00-4:00 PM

Christmas Vacation

Monday 12/19	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages
Tuesday 12/20	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages
Thursday 12/22	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages
Friday 12/23	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages
Monday 12/26	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages
	8:30-10:30 PM	All Ages
Tuesday 12/27	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages
Wednesday 12/28	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages
	(No Adult Only Today)	
Thursday 12/29	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages
Friday 12/30	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages
Monday 1/02/06	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages



CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE & NEW YEARS EVE AT 4:00 PM. CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY BUT WE WILL HAVE A CHRISTMAS DAY EVENING SKATE AT 8:00 PM-ALL AGES. NEW YEAR'S DAY WE WILL HAVE NORMAL SUNDAY SESSION-2:00-4:00 PM & 8:00-10:00 PM ALL AGES. JOIN US FOR A SESSION OR TWO THROUGHOUT THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

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LakewoodAlive – Citizen Survey Regarding Grow Lakewood Report

By Jay Foran

LakewoodAlive is conducting an online survey of Lakewood residents' attitudes regarding the findings of the recent Grow Lakewood Report. The survey is intended to help determine the level of community receptiveness to the report.

"The Grow Lakewood Committee reported that Lakewood is at the tipping point and given the LakewoodAlive mission to help keep our residents informed and engaged, we think it is important to understand whether our residents concur and to what degree. We hope every citizen will go online and complete the survey. It is a wonderful way for residents to be advocates within our community" stated LakewoodAlive member Paul Beegan.

The Grow Lakewood Report is available online at the LakewoodAlive website for anyone who would like to review it prior to participating in the survey" added Mary Cierbiej of LakewoodAlive.

The seven question survey is being made available for a limited time period to all Lakewood residents until December 22 on LakewoodAlive's Website: www.lakewoodalive.com. The survey is composed of multiple choice questions, however, each question offers the respondent the opportunity to provide additional comments.

Results will be tabulated and shared broadly via the LakewoodAlive website in early 2006.

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Lakewood Students

Through Death and Into Eternity

By Rachel Mravec
L.H.S. Contributing Writer

"Write an essay about who you admire most and why?" my boyfriend Dan asked skeptically, tossing the college application on the wooden kitchen table already completely covered by a few trees worth of paper.

"Isn't that a little..."

"Don't start," I warned him. Exasperated, I already knew exactly what he was going to say.

"I'm just saying, it's getting a tad redundant." I sighed, knowing from experience not to bother trying to stop him. "Do they honestly care who you admire most and why? What does that have to do with getting into a pre-med program, huh? If you ask me..."

"Which no one did," I said. Only to be completely ignored.

"It's a waste of time. You got a 1590 on your SATs and you're in the top 3 percent of the whole school. You could write about how you admire Barney, or worship chocolate pudding and you'd still get in. Not to mention, how many ways can they possibly phrase the same question? Who you admire most? Who do you look up to? Who's your inspiration? Hero? Someone you'd like to be like? Why don't they just ask you who you spend all your free time stalking and get it over with?"

I couldn't help but laugh at his rant.

"It'd be better if I had a more original topic. Or even a different one for each application. Am I even allowed to do this, use the same idea for all my essays?" The thought hadn't even occurred to me until now, I looked at Dan worriedly.

He shrugged, "What difference does it make? I don't think all the colleges in the country get together and go over the applications of every student, just to compare and contrast essay topics."

I nodded. He had a point, it shouldn't really matter. He was almost always right when it came to things like this; I was a compulsive over-thinker.

I loved how my boyfriend could always be so carefree, at ease with everything that was happening, accepting to it all. I kidded him about being Zen, and how he should become a Buddhist.

In actuality, I was tempted to write about him for one of these essays. (They were becoming mind-numbing.) Dan had a personality that just drew me in; it's what I loved most about him. He reminded me of my little sister. It had been pointed out to me many times that almost no one else would ever find that to be an attractive feature to have in a boyfriend. Most people find it odd. But I didn't care. Sid was the one who taught me not to care.

I glanced down at the heading on one of my most recent essays. 'In the opinion of my little sister, opinions just don't matter,' it started, 'I was eight when my little sister was born. I knew from the second I first saw her that our family would never be the same again.'

It was the truth. For as long as I can remember, before Sid's birth, everything in our house had been neat, orderly and tidy. My mother and father were both chemists. Their way of living, and mine, for eight years, was one that centered on predictability. Cause and effect were ground rules. It was the way I learned. The effect of me throwing a tantrum was that I get a time-out; conclusion: I no longer threw tantrums. Basic logic.

As soon as they brought Sid home from the hospital, everything changed. She didn't seem to accept anything as

basic or logical. She threw paint at the wall, just to see what would happen. She was constantly touching things, her baby brain insistent on finding out how everything felt. She'd crawl out of bed, as soon as she was big enough, every night. My parents would find her asleep in the morning in different parts of the house. My father would actually call the doctor to get his medical opinion. Each time the good doctor simply chuckled and said that his toddler was exploring the world around her. For years my sister stupefied my parents, and she only got worse as she got older.

Dan went out to his car for a moment to get something, and I was left starrng at random lines from my paper.

"I was raised to believe that what you looked like on the outside was as important as who you made yourself to be on the outside.' My parents had always been like that, they made me dress appropriately. They made sure my shoes matched my outfit. Brushed my hair back in even pig tails.

I chuckled out loud remembering Sidney's first day of school.

"Come put on your new dress, Sidney," my mom had called.

"Why?" My parents had gotten used to this question over the years. It had been the first word to ever leave Sid's mouth. However, when they did not have logical reason for doing something, they answered with, "Because I said so." This never went over well.

The arguments were legend in my house. Sid was always so passionate. She'd take an idea and run with it, no matter what anyone else thought. Even at that young age, she never let anyone

stop her. I still have a picture of Sid on her first day of the first grade, clad in a bright orange T-shirt, black shorts, a green ski cap (despite the 80 degree weather) and ballet slippers.

"You look silly." I had told her then. She simply shrugged and said, "I don't care. Why do you care so much?" I had just scowled at her then, unable to produce a good response. Because I didn't know. I couldn't explain to my six-year-old sister why the opinions of other people mattered.

Dan re-entered the kitchen just then.

"You OK," he asked, knowing that the stress of applying to colleges was not the only thing on my mind.

"I just miss her, I guess." He nodded sympathetically. I continued, "You know she never complained. Not once."

It was that year. A year after that silly picture had been taken. A year after she started school. That's when we found out that Sid had cancer.

We'd gone to dozens of doctors, spent thousands of dollars, but they'd all said the same thing.

The cancer was terminal. My little sister was going to die.

And she never complained. Not once.

On the nights that she was strong enough I spent hours in her room, talking about everything. In so many ways, my seven-year-old sister had been so much wiser than me. For close to two years, she was bed-ridden. I'd come home everyday after school, go straight up to her room and tell her about my day.

Whether it was a bad grade on an English composition or a boy I liked who didn't like me, my sister always had advice. I didn't always follow it, but just listening to her had made me feel better. She always had hope.

She told me constantly that I should take more risks, stop caring so much what the other kids thought about me. I lived in a world where I found comfort in books and school. Sid told me to stop hiding and that I was making myself unhappy.

Sid was always happy. She was content with everything. She saw a world where imperfections were beautiful, and all you had to do was believe in yourself, and nothing else mattered. She was born with that outlook on life; and she died with it and managed to pass it on to me.

'Sid died when she was nine years old,' I read my own writing and smiled, 'but not before showing me all the gifts that life has to offer us. Not before teaching me what's truly important, what really matters. She taught me how to open up and embrace the world. My little sister: the person I admire most, and will always look up to through death and into eternity.'

Rachel Mravec is a junior at Lakewood High School. She'd like to attend the University of Akron to pursue a career in psychology or writing.



Teresa Coyne Andreani '82, Executive Director of the Lakewood Public Schools Alumni Foundation, with Lisa Wingle throw open the doors to the new Rangers Shop at Lakewood High.

Minding the Issues

Patriotism

By Gordon Brumm

"Patriotism" is such a brass-band word that it's hard to get a handle on. We're all familiar with the martial trappings of patriotism – the thrill of pride at our country's triumphs, the urge to sacrifice, the homage to veterans who have made the sacrifice. But is that all? Where is patriotism when danger disappears? If patriotism is love of country, what kind of love is it? What, at bottom, is patriotism?

The first step on the road to understanding is to make distinctions, so let's begin by distinguishing between two kinds of government – dictatorship or absolute monarchy on the one hand, and democracy on the other. In a dictatorship or absolute monarchy, the individual is a subject – he is subject to laws and dictates that originate from on high – and patriotism requires no more than obedience. In a democracy, by contrast, the individuals are citizens. Through voting and other political activity, they decide on the course of government. In a democracy, citizens are in control and they bear responsibility.

Think of this in terms of a family. In an absolute monarchy or dictatorship, the government is like a parent inasmuch as it has control of its children, the subjects. In a democracy, the relationship is reversed; the citizens are the parents, in control of the government and responsible for it.

If you believe that our government should operate like an absolute monarchy or dictatorship, you can stop reading now. But if you think of yourself as a citizen in a democracy, please continue.

In a democracy the citizens are parents to the government, and democratic patriotism – love of country – is like the love of parents for their children. That love expresses itself most in the children's upbringing. Good parents make every effort to teach their children the principles of morality and wisdom, and when children take the wrong path, good parents call them to account. To be sure, parents have obligations to their children, but obe-

dience and acquiescence are not among them; "My child right or wrong" is not a proper formula for parenting. To be sure, parents want to be proud of their children but not at the cost of being blind to their defects.

Wouldn't good and loving parents try to correct their children if they were bullies? Wouldn't good and loving parents try to correct their children if they were unconscionably selfish? Or arrogant? Wouldn't good and loving parents try to save their children from harmful addiction?

Likewise, would not citizens who love their country criticize their government if it was aggressive or selfish or arrogant? Or if it encouraged a lifestyle that is self-centered or self-destructive? Criticism of one's government is not only a right but a duty.

Democratic patriotism is patriotism of principle, not obedience. Patriotic citizens will see to it that their government adheres to the principles of justice and wisdom, and they will call the government to account when it goes down the wrong path, just as good parents call their children to account when they err.

However, patriotism of obedience must have its place, and the place where it is most prominent is in the hearts of soldiers. Soldiers must obey orders, and their orders call for sacrifice. Their patriotism, therefore, consists of suppressing their own judgment and desires and sacrificing their own comfort, perhaps their own lives, as their government demands. This is as it should be, but the patriotism of soldiers should never be confused with or encroach upon the democratic patriotism of the citizen.

No one wants to believe that their efforts are worthless, much less efforts that are attended by great sacrifice. Therefore the soldier in war is moved to believe that his sacrifices are worth-

while and justified. But if the soldier is to believe that his sacrifices are worthwhile and justified, then he must believe that the war as a whole is worthwhile and justified. So -- as we see all too often -- the soldier's patriotism breeds a belligerent and chauvinistic attitude in civilians as well as soldiers. When this happens, patriotism is taken to mean that one must support every war and avenge every slight on the nation's honor, suppressing any expression of doubt and any murmur of criticism. The soldier's patriotism of obedience runs wild and crowds out the citizen's patriotism of principle.

This should not and need not happen. We can, and should, maintain a clear dividing line between democratic patriotism – the patriotism of principle – and the soldier's patriotism of obedience. The latter is appropriate when one has to fight for one's country. The former is appropriate at all other times.

Just as good and loving parents must sometimes show tough love to their children, so democratic patriotism sometimes requires that citizens harshly criticize their government. For this, such citizens are often said to "hate America." Such a charge is of course bogus; if I criticize policies of the American government, it no more means that I hate America than parents' criticism of a child's behavior means that they hate the child. In criticizing my country's policies, I am acting on my patriotism of principle; I am being a citizen. Conversely, the slanderers are mired in the politics of obedience.

Critics of American policy are also belittled as chronic pessimists who cannot see America's promise. We can all agree that the U.S. has great promise, but only an outlandish Pollyannism would deny our country's faults for the sake of an unquestioning loyalty, shutting down our adult intelligence in

favor of a childlike acquiescence.

If we are to carry out the obligations of democratic patriotism, we must see our country clearly, with all its faults as well as its virtues. We must speak out and we must do what we can to raise our nation and its government as close as possible to the great principles it aspires to.

Supreme Court Note

During his confirmation hearings, Chief Justice John Roberts stated that a judge should be an umpire and merely call the balls and strikes.

Well, as every good baseball fan knows, different umpires have different strike zones. In coming years the country will discover what Justice Roberts' juridical strike zone covers. Let us hope it encompasses humanity, compassion, fairness, and a respect for all persons.

In any case, I hope that he doesn't conceive his umpire's function to be that of divining the original intent of the Founders, or the original meaning of their words. That is a fool's errand for at least three reasons, as I have argued (August 23).

We must attend not to the meanings of the Constitution, but to the meanings behind the Constitution.

Of course, "originalism" may simply be judicial cover for denying many of the rights that have enhanced the lives of the American people over many decades.

From someone of Justice Roberts' surpassing intelligence, his remark is surprisingly naïve. But that is understandable as one more indication that legal education, like most professional education, runs deep but narrow. Or to put it more plainly, professional education and the frame of mind that goes with it almost invariably contain an element of institutionalized foolishness.

Bravo West Wing

Those who watched the November 6 episode of West Wing saw what a political debate could, and should, be like.

Lakewood Air Keepers

By Jan Greenfield

Several citizens of Lakewood have come together over their dismay at the once-or-more-times a week when they have smelled polluted air in the Lakewood neighborhood. Upon investigation, it has been learned that the Cuyahoga Pollution Control Agency has contracted with Lakewood to monitor our air pollution. However, there is no monitoring equipment located in Lakewood, so the Cleveland Division of Air Pollution Control is dependent upon citizen complaints to establish that there is an air pollution problem in Lakewood.

Difficulty is, we Lakewood residents have often detected the smells of polluted air at night and in the early morning hours when a Cleveland official is not available to respond to our

complaint and to physically appear to investigate the pollution. Thus, we are trying to build a group of active Lakewood residents to work with the Cleveland Pollution Control Agency on this problem.

We have named our citizen group "Lakewood Air Keepers" and we are dedicated to finding the source(s) of air pollution in Lakewood and working toward their elimination. We believe this is a quality of life issue for Lakewood residents and are convinced that we are not smelling merely "nuisance odors" but that these odors are indicative of adverse effects to our health and, especially, to the well-being of our vulnerable Lakewood children and health-impaired population as well.

If you would be willing to keep and share your log of Lakewood air pollution as you detect it, please send

your written results to our group. We will then present a collection of your citizen logs to the Cleveland Pollution Control Agency.

You can snail-mail or e-mail your log -- with your written record over the course of two weeks to one month -- to:

Jan Greenfield
1198 Hall Avenue
Lakewood, OH 44107
or
jan.greenfield@mac.com

We would like you to include the date, time and exact location where

you detected air pollution. If you can also describe the odor you smelled, that would be helpful. Below you will find a sample Pollution Log form which you can print and use; you're also welcome to construct your own written record if you prefer.

If you would like to join our "Lakewood Air Keepers" task force and attend our meetings, please contact us at either the snail-mail or e-mail address above and we will keep you informed. We look forward to making positive strides toward an each-and-every-day high quality of air over our fair city of Lakewood, Ohio!

Lakewood Air Pollution Log

Your Name: _____
Your Street Address or Phone Number or E-Mail Address: _____

DATE _____ TIME _____
LOCATION _____ TYPE OF ODOR _____

Lakewood Churches

Celebrating Its Centennial

Lakewood Congregational Church

Compiled by LCC members

The First Congregational Church of Lakewood, Ohio (now known as Lakewood Congregational Church-United Church of Christ) was organized by seven families on December 8, 1905, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Newell (1113 Forest Road) with a charter membership of 27.

The first building was a portable chapel (25'X50') that was located south of McKinley School and close to where the chapel is located today on West Clifton Blvd. Members used this chapel from 1906-1915 (photo shows congregation in front of chapel circa 1915).

In 1914 the 200 members began to build a new church at West Clifton and Detroit Rd. The cornerstone was laid on August 15, 1915 (see groundbreaking photo at right). For its time it was very well equipped with two parlors, a Sanctuary with a full balcony, several bowling alleys used by various leagues and a recreation hall where basketball games were played. The first Cub Scout pack in the county west of the Cuyahoga began in this church. In 1952 an education wing, chapel, and social halls were added. At this time there were 600 children on the rolls and a membership of 1,275.

On June 27, 1975 the church became a United Church of Christ, by the merger of the Congregational

Christian Church denomination with the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Today the church is vital to the community in so many ways. The church hosts the Haynes Nursery School (a weekday preschool), serves a monthly Community Meal, performs the annual Boar's Head Festival that benefits the Lakewood Christian Service Center, hosts the Pio Padre School (a Catholic private elementary School grades K-5), supports the Interfaith Hospitality Network (providing housing, meals, and social interaction for recently homeless families), holds AA meetings, and supports Project Angel Tree (gifts to children whose parents are incarcerated.) Women's circles include Hope and Genesis.

The youth of the church volunteer at the Cleveland Food Bank and once a month provide a Sunday morning service for residents of the Eliza Jennings Home. In the spring they perform a musical (e.g., Godspell, Jesus Christ Superstar, The Wizard of Oz, Narnia, Fiddler On the Roof, Cotton-Patch Gospel). Each year the mid and senior highs go on a Mission trip.

In 1995 the church started a Gift shop, The Ark, with proceeds benefiting the music of the church. Each year the church hosts a Festival Arts Series that features local and nationally known professional musicians.

The Reverend Mark Thomas began

his ministry at Lakewood Congregational Church in September, 2004. He is the eleventh Senior Minister.

A Centennial Celebration kickoff was held September 11, 2005 with a display of banners, dedication of a Centennial Garden and personalized bricks, and the unveiling of a Tile Mural designed and painted by the children of the church under the guidance and expertise of ceramic artist and former Lakewood resident, George Woideck. Former Lakewood resident and composer, David Conte, was com-

missioned to write an anthem that will be performed at the worship service on December 4, 2005. The birthday celebration will take place after the December 4 worship service in the Social Hall with some surprises in store.



Lakewood Congregational Church as it looks today. At the right is the groundbreaking ceremony.



Slander *continued from Page 1*

Improvement" rating was accompanied by a letter from Superintendent David Estrop, in which, among other things, he pointed out that NCLB was "stacked against large school districts with diverse populations." In support of his argument, Estrop cites a study by Harvard University's Civil Rights Project, authored by Christopher A. Tracey, Gail L. Sunderman, and Gary Orfield.

The Harvard report, titled "Changing NCLB District Accountability Standards: Implications for Racial Equity" summed up as follows:

"NCLB district accountability has a disparate impact on districts with large low-income and minority populations. ... NCLB's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) mechanism, which is used to identify districts for improvement, contributes to these disparities in three ways:

"AYP subgroup rules make it harder for diverse and large districts to make adequate progress because they must meet more performance targets than more homogeneous districts and smaller districts. AYP's reliance on mean proficiency, which requires all students to reach the same proficiency levels in reading and mathematics, fails to take into account the starting point for each district. ... AYP's participation rate requirements can result in high performing districts being identified

for improvement...."

It is the report's first complaint – bias against large and diverse districts due to greater numbers of performance requirements – that Estrop is most interested in. Here some additional explanation is in order.

As I mentioned above, the student body of each district must be divided into categories based on ethnicity (African-American, Hispanic, White, etc.), economic status, and ability (Limited English Proficient, Students with Disabilities).

Enter a key point: If the number of students in a given category within a district is less than a certain minimum threshold number (45 for students with disabilities, 30 for all other categories) then no requirements are placed on the district for that category; in other words, the district is not accountable for that category of student, and for NCLB purposes it doesn't exist. For example, if a district had only 20 Students with Disabilities, no requirement would be placed against that category; a big "NR" (Not Rated) would appear against that category on the progress report. (Lakewood has "NRs" for two categories, American Indian/Native Alaskan and Asian/Pacific Islander.) This is why I said above that different districts have different numbers of categories.

The resulting bias against diversity

and larger size is evident:

If a district is less diverse, it will have fewer students in minority categories; thus fewer categories will have the minimum threshold number of students. So a more homogenous district will have fewer categories to be concerned with and at least some of its more challenging students can be ignored for NCLB purposes.

If a district is small, even if diverse, it will tend to have fewer students in each category. Thus it will probably have fewer categories in which the number of students reaches the minimum threshold number, with the same result as in the case of less diversity.

The Harvard study succinctly sums it up: "Since diverse schools contain more subgroups than their peers, they have many more ways to fail."

Thus the smaller and less diverse districts are able to ignore some of the same types of student that offer the greatest challenges for the larger and more diverse districts such as Lakewood's. Estrop puts it this way: "I think we have an obligation to do the very best we can for all of the students. Unfortunately, the measures used in NCLB exclude some children and some districts from being held accountable for education of all the children."

And we might note in passing that the districts benefiting from the bias

against diversity and large size are the outer suburbs and small towns.

Suppose that the bias in the NCLB against diversity and large size did not exist. Suppose all districts were judged on the same basis. We would surely witness a different view of the smaller and more homogenous districts. In all probability, instead of a picture of failing urban and pristine suburban districts, we would be getting a picture of districts "failing" everywhere, due to an arbitrary and capriciously severe rating system. Further, we would be getting a different reaction to the NCLB itself – the hue and cry against its provisions would be even greater than it is now, as those districts now privileged to escape its lash would join in.

So put away for the moment all the doubts about standardized testing in general; accept the No Child Left Behind Act on its own terms. It still has, as Superintendent Estrop put it in his letter, "a fundamental flaw" in its bias against large and diverse districts. That, along with the severe penalties it imposes and the inadequate funding it offers, have led some to suspect that its underlying purpose is not to aid the school systems of core cities and inner suburbs (presumably its chief target, given that "the soft bigotry of low expectations" is most prevalent there), but rather to set them up for failure.

Chef Geoff

Cooking With Kids for the Holidays

By Jeff Endress

It is never too early to introduce a child to the culinary arts. I find that frequently people who claim that "they can't cook" have never been given the opportunity to learn early on. Perhaps because of that they have developed a certain aversion to the kitchen. Of course, an early introduction to cooking requires parental supervision and direction, but more importantly the undertaking should be fun with an end product that will be something a child can truly appreciate.

While it may be a simple and straight forward cooking lesson, I would refrain from introducing your child to culinary techniques by working on steamed vegetables or other such endeavors that the child will not appreciate regardless of how successful the end product.

With the oncoming holiday season we are presented with a perfect opportunity to bring our children into the kitchen and introduce them to the joy of cooking with an end result which they will not only enjoy but for which they will demonstrate unbridled enthusiasm. I am, of course, referring to baking Christmas cookies and the excitement of providing decoration with multi-colored sugars, candies and icing. From deciding where to place the buttons on a gingerbread man to choosing what color icing to use on a star such a project not only fuels a child's imagination, but also provides treats which the child can take pride in leaving for Santa on Christmas Eve.

From mixing the ingredients to rolling out the dough to cutting out the shapes, you have the opportunity for a lesson in culinary artwork that can fill some of the boring hours after school has recessed while the impatient countdown towards the holiday approaches. There are a good number of recipes for Christmas cookies and undoubtedly most every reader has some family treasures that have been handed down for special holiday baking.

My all time favorite combines the fascination of constructing with baking and decorating. The finished product will serve to delight all as a centerpiece for any holiday table. I am referring, to the magic of a gingerbread house. The shape and size of any gingerbread construction is only limited by your imagination and the size of your oven. What I am providing to the novice is a very basic pattern and instruction for a simple gingerbread cottage (ala the wicked witch in Hansel and Gretel I suppose), but there is no reason why you should be limited to such a simple structure as your skills increase.

More complex structures require more complex patterns, and I have had success in constructing my gingerbread house first out of foam core board, measuring and trimming until the pieces all fit when pinned together and then using those pieces as the patterns for cutting out the gingerbread. Once you have completed the shell of your structure your imagination is the only



limitation to the decoration. Of course, there are the fanciful, traditional candy decorations with gum drops, peppermints and perhaps a Necco wafer tiled roof. A good deal of realism is also possible and quite fun by using seeds and nuts to simulate stones, shredded wheat halves for a thatched roof (frosted if you want snow) and so on. In fact, if you are going for realism, there is no reason why the frosting that serves as the "glue" cannot be tinted to achieve a cement mortar effect. The possibilities are endless, as is the fun to be had in creation of the project.

While the process is not terribly time consuming, I would strongly suggest that the pieces of the gingerbread house be baked and allow to dry and harden a day before are assembled. Once they are assembled, the structure should be allowed to sit for at least three or four hours to allow the joints to harden so that it can be decorated. A word of caution before the project begins, make sure that you have on hand double the decorations which you think you will need because assuredly half will never find their way to your gingerbread creation, and of course that is part of the fun.

The Cottage Pattern

The pattern provided will produce a cottage that measures approximately 8" X 5" X 7". The illustration, while providing you some guidance, will have to be enlarged using graph paper. Windows and doors are indicated, but optional.

Assembly

The gingerbread house is best assembled on a firm base: 3/4" foam core works well and you will require a piece 12" X 8".

On the foam core board, place a heavy bead of icing outlining the final shape of the gingerbread house. Take one side and put a heavy bead of icing on the vertical edge, place the side upright on the appropriate icing bead and affix

the front piece to it. Repeat the process for the remaining ends and side.

This is similar to building a house of cards where once the pieces are in place, they provide support for each other. If additional support is required

while the icing dries, walls can be sandwiched between juice glasses to keep them properly centered and vertical. Allow the icing to set for approximately two hours.

While the upright structure is drying, I found that it helps in the placement of the roof to cut a square of thin cardboard approximately 6" by 6" folded in half and using the icing, glue it to the underside of the roof halves to provide added support for the roof. Let everything set for a couple of hours.

Placement of the Roof: Put a bead of icing on all of the upright vertical walls and center the roof on the walls. If it is necessary to keep it from sliding, again, a juice glass can be propped under the edge to keep it upright. Allow the structure to dry another two hours.

At this point, any gaps can be "caulked" with additional icing and you will be ready to decorate. Decoration is straight-forward and the icing is used as a glue to affix candy, nuts or other decorations to the walls, sides, etc. When choosing the decorations, remember that the heavier the piece of candy, the more likely it is to slide before the icing dries and so generally smaller is better.

Gingerbread

5 cups flour	3 tsp. powdered ginger
1 tsp. baking soda	1 cup sugar
1 tsp. nutmeg	1 tsp. salt
1 cup shortening (Crisco)	1 cup unsulphered molasses

Melt the shortening and add the sugar and molasses, mixing well, until sugar is completely dissolved. Sift all dry ingredients into a bowl. Add 4 Cups of dry ingredients to the shortening, one cup at a time, making sure flour is fully incorporated before adding more. Turn out on a pastry board or counter top and knead the remaining 1 cup of flour into the dough. Divide into 3 equal balls. Place each ball on an ungreased cookie sheet (I recommend lining the sheets with parchment). Roll out each ball to a 1/4 inch thickness. Cut the sides from ball one, the front and back from ball two, and the two roof halves from ball three. Chimney may be formed from excess dough. Cut the windows and doors as desired BUT DO NOT REMOVE. Bake in a preheated 375 oven 13 to 15 minutes, until lightly browned. Remove from oven and re-cut windows and remove the cutouts. Remove the gingerbread to wire racks and allow to cool fully.

Icing (four batches will be required): 1 egg white, 1 & 1/2 cup confectioner's sugar, 1/2 tsp. cream of tartar Beat the egg white until light peaks form. Add sugar and cream of tartar and beat to a smooth creamy texture. Place in a zip lock bag to use as a pastry bag, cut off a corner to pipe icing. Clean bowls and utensils immediately. The icing will set up quickly and be as hard as cement.

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Gallery Watch

The Beck Center

The Beck Center is currently featuring the 9th Annual Accessible Expressions Ohio 2005 visual arts exhibit from VSA Arts of Ohio. This vibrant, colorful touring collection includes forty-three pieces by Ohio artists with disabilities. Since 1986, VSA Arts of Ohio has been promoting the arts education and creative expression of children and adults with disabilities. The Accessible Expressions 2005 exhibit is free to the public and on display in the Beck Galleria until January 3, 2006. Several of the pieces are for sale and proceeds will go directly to the artists.



Lakewood resident Nona Hamilton (left) talks to local artist Virginia Sonntag about her drawings and paintings at Wobblefoot Gallery's cat-themed exhibit on Nov. 11.

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\$225,000**

4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, high ceilings, finished attic with full bath, newer kitchen, family room, roof, water tank, hardwood floors, fireplace, all appliances, 2-Car Garage.
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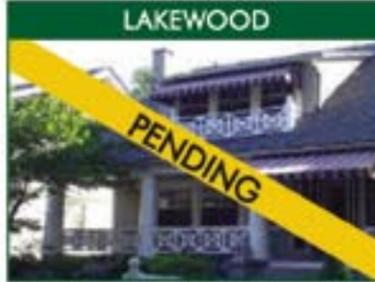
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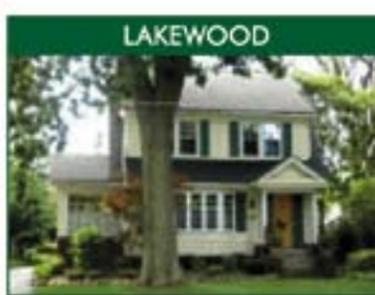
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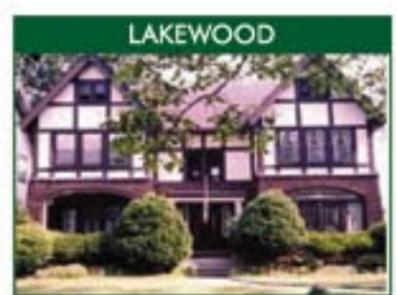
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