

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 2, Issue 5, March 7, 2006

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Living in Luella's House

Discovering History in Our Lakewood Home

By Bob Becker

An older home is filled with stories. I often wonder about the people who lived in our Lakewood house so many years ago. If these walls could talk... They can't, but Luella Platten McNamee can. She's one of the original occupants who moved in when the big oak by our garage was just a twig and the mahogany woodwork inside was fresh and gleaming. I sometimes wish I had a time machine so I could go back and see what our house looked like when it was new and meet the people who lived there. Luella has given us a taste of that. Her memories and stories, and those of her descendants, have made our house feel more special than it already is. More on this special lady just ahead, but first some history.

Beginnings

Our home was built in 1919, as the country was recovering from World War I, getting ready for women's suffrage and the dawn of the jazz age. At that time Lakewood was much like Medina and Avon are now. Farmers were selling off their land to developers to handle the influx of people from crowded Cleveland who longed to head out to the new suburbs.

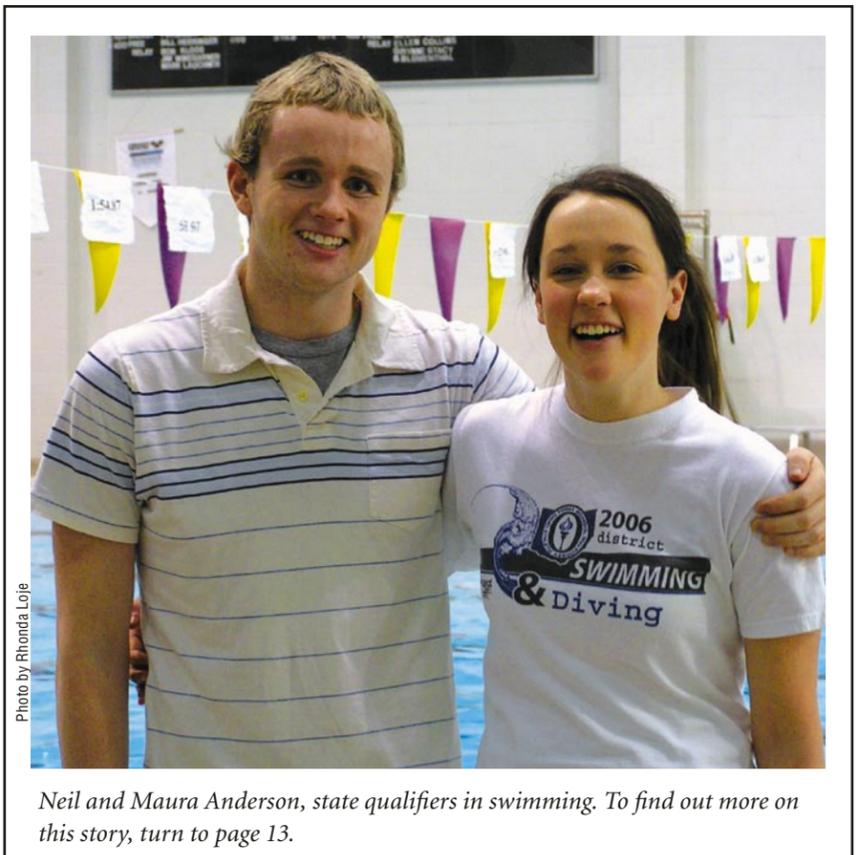
A cement contractor, Matthew M.P. Platten, and his wife, Julia, wanted to move their large family of nine children to Lakewood, where the land

was cheap and the streets were new. If you've walked around Lakewood much, you've probably seen his name. His brass horseshoe with the MP Platten brand on it still exists in a half-dozen or so sidewalks that were poured when Woodrow Wilson was president.

The Plattens decided on the Waterbury development between Detroit and Franklin, which was part of the old Nicholson estate (the original Nicholson house, built in 1835, still stands at Nicholson & Detroit). The site for the home was on an "island" defined by two rare curvy Lakewood streets following the pattern of the old Nicholson creek. In the '20s and '30s the island got the moniker of Pill Hill since a number of doctors had homes there. The Plattens built a wonderful six-bedroom home with a good-sized kitchen, dining room and living room. The house also had first and second floor sun rooms.

The place is solid, with oak floors and thick planking underneath. Since Matthew was a contractor, I'm sure he hired the best carpenters, plumbers, and bricklayers to build his home. We're told that the large fireplace in our living room was designed and built by the same contractor who did the fireplace at the old Elks club on Detroit, now the Winking Lizard. If you're curious about seeing the fireplace, just enter the Winking Lizard and turn left into the dining room. You can't miss it.

See **Luella's House**, page 6



Neil and Maura Anderson, state qualifiers in swimming. To find out more on this story, turn to page 13.

Barbara Ann Ferris to Run for Congress 2006

Staff Reporter

Barbara Ann Ferris announced last week, "I'm honored and humbled to announce that I am the Democratic Candidate for Congress to represent the 10th District. The primary election is Tuesday, May 2, and our goal is to get voters to vote in the primary and win this race!"

The response on the campaign trail has been overwhelmingly positive about our campaign and we believe that the voters are ready for "Experienced Leadership with a Vision for our Future." They are tired of no leadership, the lack of federal dollars coming into our District and an absent representative.

You are invited to come by Campaign Headquarters at 5500 Pearl Road, 440-842-3600 for an Open House on Thursday, March 2 from 4-8 p.m. for pizza and to meet the whole team of great volunteers working together to win this election. Please bring along friends who are interested in helping on the Campaign and for a slice or two of pizza!

As you know, there is lots to do to win an election, so please be sure to take window signs, volunteer to help in the office, sign up for literature drops in your neighborhood which will take

place every week in March and April, Vicki Gibbons is the Administrative Assistant for the Campaign and she will be at the office from 12-8.
www.ferrisforcongress.com

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CORRECTIONS

Our Policy – The Lakewood Observer will print its corrections on the page of the paper in which they occurred.

Corrections from Volume Two, Issue 4, page 1, entitled "City Moves Aggressively on Foreclosed Property"

- **There was absolutely no SWAT team involved.** It was a team composed of members of the police, fire, building and health departments as follows:
 - Sergeant Edward Favre (the affiant on the search warrant.)
 - Fire Marshall Scott Gilman
 - Building Dept. Project Administrator Edward Fitzgerald
 - Building Inspectors Jeff Fillar and Michael McCourt
 - Health Specialist Thomas Barsa

As a matter of course, search warrants are formally addressed to Police Chiefs or department heads, and then actual members of departments. This search warrant, for example, was addressed:

TO: Chief Timothy Malley, Sergeant Edward Favre, and/or any member of the Lakewood Police Department;
Chief Lawrence Mroz, Fire Marshall Scott Gilman, and/or any member of the Lakewood Fire Department;
Project Administrator Edward Fitzgerald and/or any member of the Lakewood Building Department;
Director Dorothy Buckon and/or any member of the Lakewood Division of Health.

Lakewood Events

Bowling for History

By Mazie Adams

The Board of Trustees of the Lakewood Historical Society will be "Bowling for History" at Mahall's Twenty Lanes on March 12 from 2-5 p.m. The trustees were "bowed over" with the success of this event last year and are looking forward to our 5th annual evening of bowling fun and fundraising!

Each board member will gather sponsors to pledge a certain monetary amount per pin. For example, if President Paula Reed's sponsor pledges one penny per pin, and he bowls two games for a total of 212 points, her sponsor would donate \$2.12 to the Historical Society. Of course, sponsors are encouraged to pledge more per pin, especially since our Board members are not professional bowlers! Mahall's has graciously donated the use of their lanes for this event. The Society hopes to "knock down" over \$4000 during this evening of bowling fun!

Mahall's Twenty Lanes at 13200 Madison Avenue is a piece of Lakewood history that has evolved through the years as a favorite neighborhood center for fun, food and fellowship. One of the oldest family-owned businesses in our community, it was founded in 1924 by John K. Mahall, a Slovak by birth.

When the business first opened, its two-story brick building housed six bowling alleys, a poolroom, confectionery store, and barbershop, and dance hall and party center upstairs. In 1929, four more lanes were added. Then, with the end of prohibition in the early 1930s, a bar and restaurant became part of the complex. Bandleader Sammy Kaye of "Swing and Sway" fame played at Mahall's in 1936, and customers paid five cents a dance to enjoy his music. The dance area was converted into 10 more bowling lanes in 1937, and a building next door was bought in 1958 in an expansion move to provide a new wing for more pool tables.

Oldest Stone House Museum Re-Opens

After a winter break, the Oldest Stone House Museum, at 14710 Lake Ave, Lakewood, OH, has re-opened for tours. Owned and operated by the Lakewood Historical Society, the museum is a window into Lakewood's past, accurately interpreting the everyday lives of Lakewood's people from 1838 to 1870.

Tours of the Oldest Stone House Museum are conducted on Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m. Visits by school classes, clubs and other groups can be arranged by calling 216 221-7343.

For more information, contact the Lakewood Historical Society, at 14710 Lake Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107, 216 221-7343.



Now That's Good Spaghetti!

Pictured at Saturday's Annual Spaghetti Dinner is Kiwanian Jim Shaw with his granddaughter Taylor, son Dave Shaw, grandson Todd Shaw, peeking in is granddaughter Mallory, daughter-in-law Tami, and granddaughter and Harding Builder's Club president Courtney Shaw.

Beck Center Children's Choirs

The Beck Center Children's Choirs, from tots to teens, including the Chamber Choir, will perform at St. Peter's Episcopal Church on Sunday, March 26, at 4 p.m.

The program, Showcase of Choirs, will perform a program of favorite tunes for all ages. They will also sing The Tree Song and Go Now in Peace, written specifically for the choirs.

St. Peter's is located at 18001 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood. There is a small parking lot behind the church and plenty of street parking. The church is wheelchair accessible. The program is free and open to the public.

Hot Off The Deck

<http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum>

Join the discussion online – visit the OBSERVATION DECK

Topics	Replies	Author	Views	Last Post
LAKWOOD DISCUSSION				
Moving the Social Security Office and Congressman Kucinich	9	Bill Call	249	Mon Mar 06, 2006 9:20 am
NCBL -full circle	36	Joseph Milan	458	Mon Mar 06, 2006 9:15 am
TRASH ON YOUR LAWN	4	Paul Moos	137	Sun Mar 05, 2006 8:38 pm
Recycling Program Rumored to be Discontinued???????	5	Rhonda loje	156	Sat Mar 04, 2006 10:25 pm
Book Club	54	Erin White	1938	Fri Mar 03, 2006 10:08 pm
Great Wind Farm site - Lots of info	4	Donald Farris	176	Fri Mar 03, 2006 1:39 pm
Consumer Alert	8	Suzanne Metelko	254	Thu Mar 02, 2006 11:09 am
Community Garden	23	Lynn Farris	638	Thu Mar 02, 2006 8:58 am
Historic Lakewood House teardown	24	Dee Rogozinski	1110	Thu Mar 02, 2006 12:56 am
GLOBAL DISCUSSION				
Simple Question for Right, Left	2	Jim O'Bryan	44	Mon Mar 06, 2006 9:30 am
GWB is responsible...	72	Donald Farris	1375	Sun Mar 05, 2006 1:58 pm

Become an Observer!

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!



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

LPD and WEB SWAT on ESPN

Council 02.21.06

By Stan Austin
Lakewood Observer City Council Reporter

Council president Robert Seelie called the February 21, 2006 meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

Council first considered resolutions authored by council member Nickie Antonio (at large). They are resolutions in support of two Ohio House Bills. One affecting Lakewood and Cuyahoga County in particular call for a speed up in the process of foreclosure for certain vacant tax-delinquent properties. The resolutions passed.

Council member Kevin Butler (ward one) then introduced a constituent, Ms. Savannah Farris who presented her plan for the future of Lakewood Park. *Observer* readers will recall this presentation in the January 10, 2006 issue of the paper. Farris' proposal was her senior project at the Cleveland Institute of Art. The proposal calls for the creation of new land, a peninsula off the shore of the park and extensive improvements within the existing Lakewood Park.

Although Farris had public presentations of this proposal, this appearance in front of council can be an additional catalyst for public discussion.

The remaining agenda items were essentially second and third readings of spending authorizations. Quite often after the disposal of routine business the opportunity for a department to proudly announce a special project

is presented. Such was the case this evening. Lakewood Police Captain Sabala described the departments' participation along with the Westshore Enforcement Bureau S.W.A.T. team in the Original SWAT World Challenge.

Leading the Lakewood Police Department in this team is Officer Pat Fiorilli. "This is regarded as the Olympics of SWAT team competition" he said. "There will be 24 teams participating including teams from Dallas, Washington D.C., Taiwan, and the highly regarded GSG-9 SWAT unit from Germany."

The Westshore Enforcement Bureau S.W.A.T. is composed of officers from the police departments of Bay Village, Fairview Park, Lakewood, North Olmsted, Rocky River, and Westlake. This unit was established in the early 1970s to respond to increasingly serious riot and hostage situations. According to the units website www.webswat.org "today's Westshore Enforcement Bureau S.W.A.T. Team is a unit of specially trained, highly motivated police officers capable of responding to any incident where special weapons and tactics are necessary."

WEB S.W.A.T. came to the attention of the organizers of the challenge through their participation in the Law Enforcement Officer Performance

and Reaction Drill which aired on the Outdoor Life Network. An impressive performance resulted in the invitation to participate in the World SWAT Challenge. The competition will take place March 27-30 at Camp Robinson in Little Rock, Arkansas and will eventually be televised by ESPN.

According to Captain Sabala the Westshore team will have 8 members, a coach, and a medic representing all the departments. Lakewood Police will have 3 of the team member slots with 2 alternates. "Everybody in the department is really excited about this event and we are all giving the extra support our team needs for the extra workouts and training." The three LPD members are expected to be Officer Mike Fritsch, Officer Ted Morley and Fiorilli with the alternate slots going to Officer Matt Wintrick and Officer Dave Vet.

Fiorilli describes the contest as eight events conducted over two days. Multiple events will be run simultaneously and teams will be grouped in even numbers and rotate through events each day. Teams will draw the start order for day one and reverse rotate the start order in pairs at each event. Teams will not be allowed on event ranges before competition begins. A familiarization period will be held to allow teams to familiarize

with required event equipment (boat, breaching devices, gas grenades, night vision devices, weapons, etc.).

On Day One the four events are Sniper Surprise, Pistol Shoot Off, Mystery Event 1 and 2. Day Two includes Three-Gun Challenge, Mystery Event 3 and 4 and the Original SWAT Range Run. The mystery events will present the need to improvise and develop tactics on the spot. "Some of these teams are full time SWAT units," Fiorilli said. Our team members all have regular police duties in addition to our SWAT training. So maybe, these unknown events will allow the Westshore team to bring our everyday experience into play."

Lakewood police officer and team alternate member Dave Vet was asked if he thought our Westshore team was at a disadvantage against teams such as the elite German unit. Vett replied with a terse and confident "No."

Fiorilli said that team members along with the rest of the department have built a special shooting range along with targets to help train team members. And, they have built barricades for practice in the SWAT Range Run. "This is an example of how the whole department is participating," said Captain Sabala.

Expenses for the team members are being covered by private donations from the community. Team sponsors can be viewed on the www.webswat.org site.

The meeting ended at 8:45.



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Lakewood Y Building Campaign Continues

By Anne Palomaki

The Lakewood Family YMCA is in the midst of its building campaign for its new facility. The new 50,000 square foot building will contain an aquatics center, an aerobics room, a room for child care, a fitness center, community rooms, and a multipurpose gymnasium.

A campaign for community members to support the funding of the new building is currently underway. Persons may purchase engraved bricks for \$500 or \$1000. The bricks may be paid outright or by a pledge over a period of time. Forms may be picked up at Geiger's, Steve Barry Buick, 1st Federal Savings and Loan of Lakewood, and the Y Branch at 18524 Detroit Avenue. Please call Culleen Carey at 216-263-6854 for additional information.

The Y is undergoing construction at 16915 Detroit Avenue. 8.2 million dollars has already been donated. The remaining balance needed to complete the new Y is 2.2 million dollars. The Y will be used by all members of the Lakewood community. Don't miss the opportunity to donate to this worthy cause.

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Lakewood Public Library

Lakewood to Host Bestselling Author Sue Monk Kidd

By Vincent O'Keefe

Early in her 1996 spiritual memoir *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter*, Sue Monk Kidd declares: "The truth may set you free, but first it will shatter the safe, sweet way you live" (15). Such passion for spiritual honesty is a common theme in her writing, especially in her bestselling novels *The Mermaid Chair* (2005) and *The Secret Life of Bees* (2002). She will discuss these novels at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4 in an event sponsored by the Lakewood Public Library Foundation.

Originally from Sylvester, Georgia, Sue Monk Kidd majored in nursing and graduated in 1970 from Texas Christian University. In her late 20s, she became a freelance writer and eventually the Contributing Editor for *Guideposts Magazine*. In her 30s, she studied Western spirituality, philosophy, psychology and fiction. The writings of Thomas Merton and Carl Jung were especially influential. In the late 1980s, she wrote her first full-length memoirs: *God's Joyful Surprise* (1988) and *When the Heart Waits* (1990).

In our recent interview, Kidd explained that her most recent novel, *The Mermaid Chair*, is the story of one woman's "journey toward self-belonging." Jessie Sullivan, a 42-year-old housewife, is suddenly called back to her childhood home because her estranged mother has mysteriously cut off one of her fingers. Beyond her concern, there is a part of Jessie that looks forward to a temporary escape from the malaise of her 20-year marriage to her husband, Hugh. She has also been lamenting her "empty nest," as her daughter, Dee, just left for college.

Jessie's childhood home is on tiny Egret Island, located off the coast of South Carolina. She left there as soon as she could because her father died in a suspicious boating explosion when she was nine years old. Jessie has always blamed herself for the accident, since news reports alleged that the fire was started by a pipe she had given him for Father's Day. Since the tragedy, her mother has been obsessively religious,



and Jessie suspects that her mother's survivor guilt has finally evolved into dementia.

Returning to such an emotionally loaded environment in a vulnerable condition leads to a variety of intriguing experiences for Jessie. Paramount among these is her attraction to a young monk at the local monastery named Brother Thomas, who eventually becomes her lover after she and Hugh agree to separate. Like Jessie, Brother Thomas is a vulnerable character with a grief-ridden past: his wife and unborn child died in an auto accident several years ago. He has not yet made his final vows and struggles with his decision.

Together, Jessie and Whit (Brother Thomas's real name) explore their true selves and experience many awakenings of body and spirit. Specifically, Jessie rediscovers her passion for life and creativity as she resumes her painting career. As Kidd explains, "Jessie and Whit teach one another to fall in love with life." Jessie expresses falling in love poetically: "There was no assertion of will when it came to falling in love. The heart did what it did. It had its own autonomy, like a country unto itself."

Jessie and Whit's relationship also probes the nature of religion and spirituality, as Whit needs to decipher if the monastery is merely an escape from the trauma of his past. In Kidd's words, "is Whit using the monastery as an asylum from life or falling deeper into life?" Jessie, too, needs to make an honest assessment of what her love affair with Whit means in terms of her selfhood and her marriage. When she contemplates "flawed, married love," she is

"amazed at the choosing one had to do, over and over, a million times daily—choosing love, then choosing it again, how loving and being in love could be so different" (323).

As the novel progresses, many mysteries and secrets from both the present and the past are illuminated. Kidd's passion for the truth is conveyed when Jessie narrates "how dangerous truth could be, all the tiny, shattering seeds it carried" (139). Despite the danger, Jessie later acknowledges how liberating the truth remains: "there's release in knowing the truth no matter how anguishing it is. You come finally to the irreducible thing, and there's nothing left to do but pick it up and hold it. Then, at least, you can enter the severe mercy of acceptance" (304).

The "severe mercy of acceptance" is a phrase that could also apply to Kidd's first novel, *The Secret Life of Bees*. In this tremendously successful debut novel, Kidd presents the story of a 14-year-old white girl named Lily Owens in South Carolina in 1964. Lily's mother was killed when she was just four years old. Lily decides to escape her abusive father by running away with their black servant, Rosaleen. They end up at Black Madonna Honey, an apiary run by three black sisters. In this female sanctuary, Lily finds a world of extraordinary acceptance and love.

Regarding why *The Secret Life of Bees* has been so popular, Kidd has two potential reasons. First is the "readers' fascination with the Black Madonna" in the book. Second is the date of the book's publication in January 2002, not long after the events of September 11, 2001. She explains there seemed to be a "climate of wanting to believe in

the goodness of life, the power of love to transform our lives." She adds that there is "an echo of need about that time." Whatever the reason, millions of copies of the book have been sold, and it will soon be made into a motion picture. Similarly, *The Mermaid Chair* is currently being produced as a television movie for the Lifetime network. Kidd notes a main similarity between the two stories: "Lily seeks belonging to family, while Jessie seeks belonging to herself."

When asked about advice for aspiring writers, Kidd believes "we must have the courage to voice our truth" and "step up to the writing life" by "plumbing our depths" and being honest with ourselves. Also, one should make time for "creative loitering," in which one is "quiet and allows the imagination to browse." Finally, one should "read voraciously, especially fine literature."

Presumably, Kidd is following this advice as she embarks on her next project, a "mother-daughter spiritual travel memoir." It will be co-written by her daughter, Ann Kidd Taylor. The memoir will focus on many aspects of their relationship, but especially on the trips, or "pilgrimages," as she calls them that they have made to places like Greece.

Kidd has written three spiritual memoirs in the past, most notably *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter: A Woman's Journey from Christian Tradition to the Sacred Feminine* (1996). This book details how she was raised in the Southern Baptist Church, but in her 30s realized her dissatisfaction: "I was a contemplative in an evangelical church" (16). So, she migrated to the Episcopal Church and gradually explored other religious cultures and strands within early Christianity that were not as patriarchal as what she experienced daily. Ultimately, the book is about "the quest for the female soul, the missing Feminine Divine, and the wholeness women have lost within patriarchy" (1). At the end of her journey, one of her conclusions is that what is needed is "balance—divine symbols that reflect masculine and feminine and a genuine marriage of the masculine and feminine in each of us" (original emphasis, 189).

Kidd's appearance at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium at Lakewood High School (14100 Franklin Ave.) begins at 7 p.m. on April 4, though books will be on sale starting at 6 p.m. The author will sign books after the discussion. Lakewood resident Marilyn Brundage attended a recent reading by Kidd in Toledo and states: "She was a great speaker. Warm, genuine, with a great sense of humor. I loved her books even more after I heard her talk about them—particularly *The Mermaid Chair*."

Advance tickets are available for \$12 at the Beck Center for the Arts (216-521-2540) and at the Main and Madison branches of the Lakewood Public Library (216-226-8275). Tickets will also be available at the door for \$15.



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Minding the Issues

Health Care and Health Savings Accounts (2)

By Gordon Brumm

The Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) program, in effect since 2004, provides tax deductions to individuals on condition that they spend the tax-free money on health care needs. The Bush administration's rationale is that "market forces" will drive down health-care costs, just as they drive down the costs of other commodities.

In the previous column I argued that this rationale is fallacious, since health care is unlike ordinary commodities: Evaluation of health care needs, ordinarily the function of a doctor, is disconnected from the selection, benefit and payment for health care, usually the functions of the consumer or insurance company.

Despite the emptiness of the abstract appeal, HSAs might have value. To decide what that value might be, we must look at the specifics.

Health Savings Accounts are one part of a two-part scheme.

The other part consists of high-deductible health care policies (also called High Deductible Health Plans, or HDHPs). Taking out such a policy is one of the requirements for establishing a Health Savings Account. The yearly deductible for such a policy, roughly speaking, runs from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for single coverage and from \$2,000 to \$5,000 for a family. Because deductibles are higher than in the usual insurance policy, premiums are lower. Preventive care is included and does not count toward the deductible.

The Health Savings Account itself consists of money contributed by the individual consumer or by his employer (or both), up to a limit that does not exceed the amount of the deductible for the high-deductible policy. These contributions are tax-deductible. (Note the hidden government expense in the form of the tax deductions.)

The funds in an HSA may be spent, tax-free, on a wide range of medical expenses, including, for example, dental and vision services. Any amount not used in one year is rolled over to the next year and accrues interest. The account is portable, i.e., it doesn't vanish if the individual changes employers. Contributions must stop when the individual enrolls in Medicare, but remaining funds can still be used for medical purposes, tax-free. Or they can simply be withdrawn, in which case they are taxed.

A proposed addition, which may or may not go anywhere, is to grant tax credits, totaling \$3,000 a year, for low-income families (those making \$25,000 per year or less) to apply to the high-deductible policies and HSAs.

How valuable are HSAs? This divides into two questions:

1) How well do HSAs reduce health-care costs for the nation as a whole?

2) How well do HSAs serve the individual consumer?

We must be careful to consider HSAs apart from the high-deductible

health-care policies (and from the tax credits, if they ever come into being), for the one can exist without the other. However, since the high-deductible policies are a prerequisite for the HSAs themselves, let's take a look at them.

Employers providing health-care benefits appreciate the high-deductible policies because they take some load off the employers' shoulders (lower premiums) and shift it to the employees (higher deductibles).

And they work well for individual consumers as long as the consumers stay fairly healthy and as long as they can afford whatever premiums they have to pay. But if health-care expenses begin to mount, the consumer will have to pay out of his own pocket until the expenses add up to the deductible amount, which may be several thousands of dollars in a year.

The high-deductible policies do not, in themselves, serve to reduce overall costs; in this respect they are on a par with any other health insurance policy. It might seem that the high deductible would make consumers less likely to seek care for trivial ailments, but by the same token, the high deductible might make consumers less likely to seek care for the initial stages of a serious illness.

Now let's look at HSAs themselves. As mentioned above, their purpose is to use tax deductions as a way of motivating consumers to use their own money for the more ordinary, non-devastating health-care expenditures. This will presumably encourage wise and thrifty behavior on the consumers' part, which in turn will engender competition and lower prices on the part of providers.

The idea of making consumers more thrifty by making them more responsible for their own care is not a new idea; in fact, it has been a commonplace of the insurance industry, signified by the somewhat misleading term "moral hazard." This refers to the fact that when a person is insured and doesn't have to bear the burden of his misfortunes, he may become more lax in protecting himself. For example, a moral hazard in home insurance would be the insured person's failure to protect the home against burglars.

Insurance protects against moral hazard through deductibles and co-pays, especially the latter. These make the insured person pay some—not all—of the cost of a loss or other expense. And that is just what HSAs are meant to do: The consumer pays some of the cost of a health-care incident because the money comes from his own pocket. But he's not paying for all of it; his cost is reduced by the amount of the tax deduction he has received by putting money into his HSA.

Thus an HSA is like a government-provided health insurance policy with an extremely high co-pay. For persons in the 15% income-tax bracket, the

co-pay is 85%. For persons in the 25% bracket, the co-pay is 75%. And so on.

Any way you look at it, the purpose is to encourage thrifty, competition-inducing behavior on the part of consumers.

That is the theory. What is the reality?

In judging the benefit from HSAs, the first thing to consider is that they have virtually nothing to do with the most serious illnesses—chronic conditions, cancers, heart disease, and so on. These eat up the lion's share of health care expenditures (for example, about one-fourth of all Medicare expenditures occur in the final year of patients' lives), and they will quickly gobble up whatever a consumer has been able to set aside in his HSA, leaving the greater amount of those costs for the high-deductible insurance policy.

So the cost-reduction effects of HSAs are minor at best. But within their own limited sphere, how effective might they be—in particular, how effective might they be in comparison with other kinds of programs?

There are several ways in which HSAs might work to produce lower costs:

- Consumers will not make unnecessary (i.e., non-emergency) trips to emergency rooms, where costs are much higher than for ordinary trips to doctors' offices. This would certainly save money. But when people go to emergency rooms for non-emergency reasons, it is usually because they are financially desperate, not because they are unwise or spendthrift. The remedy is to provide them the funds they need, by way of insurance or tax credits, neither of which is part of the HSA program per se.

- Consumers will not seek care for frivolous complaints. This could also result in savings. But when is a complaint frivolous and when not? And who is to decide? Here the disconnect between selection and evaluation comes into play: Only a doctor has the expertise to evaluate a complaint. If a consumer unknowingly judges his symptoms to be frivolous, the result may be a serious illness and serious expenses.

- Customers will take better care of their health. When consumers switch to a more healthful lifestyle, and when they seek more preventive medicine, savings result. Therefore it's a good thing that high-deductible health care policies exempt preventive care from their deductibles. But what do HSAs have to do with prevention? If a person strives to continue in sound health, it is because he wants to live longer and be stronger, not because of the few dollars he might save.

- Consumers will "shop around" for doctors who give the best price, thus bringing about price competition. This is apparently the main thrust of the argument for HSAs.

Can shopping around reduce the

amount of health care provided? Not very much, because the amount of health care is not in their hands. Here the disconnect between evaluation and decision-making comes sharply into play. Doctors, not patients, are qualified to make the crucial decisions as to what care is needed. The medical profession has made efforts to cut down on unnecessary tests and procedures, but these aim at doctors' decisions, not patients'.

Can consumers bring down the price of a given amount of health care? Well, let's ask plumbers and auto mechanics. We pay our own money for their services, but that hasn't served to bring their prices down. Doctors, like these other groups, are few enough in number that even without overt collaboration they can hold the line on prices and tell customers to "take it or leave it." Indeed, doctors are in an even stronger position than plumbers and auto mechanics because the crucial importance of health care leads many consumers to choose on quality (or reputation) rather than price.

In short, the doctors have all the market power; individuals have none. But this very fact points to a better way of keeping prices down—the way Medicare does it, using its greater market power to negotiate with providers, telling them to take it or leave it. (An instance, let us note, wherein government accomplishes what the mythology claims for the free market.)

Also consider this: Those who have HSAs are essentially in the same position as the more than 40 million persons in the U.S. who lack health insurance. In both cases, whatever money they spend on health insurance is their own (excluding expenses paid by the high-deductible insurance). No one, to my knowledge, has claimed that the behaviors of the uninsured bring prices down. And if their behavior hasn't made a dent in costs, why should we expect HSAs to make a dent either?

So overall, considering all the specific pros and cons, I can't see HSAs as having much of an effect on health-care costs. My wild and uneducated guess is that they may knock one or two percent off the national health-care bill, no more.

Then what about the other major question: How much do HSAs benefit the individual? They have some virtues: the wide scope of benefits; portability; the roll-over provision. But their basic fault stems from the same feature that is touted as their strong point, namely that the individual uses his own money.

Here two considerations are in play: risk and responsibility. HSAs are put forth as a way of increasing individual responsibility. But to make the individual responsible means, in the nature of the case, that the individual is subject to risk, including risk he has no control over. Protection against undue risk is the function of insurance plans. Considered

See **Health**, page 15

Lakewood History

Living in Luella's House *continued from page 1*

Jump ahead to the '80s

My wife, Luanne, and I happened upon the Platten house when looking for a larger home in 1983. No kids yet, but we figured they'd come along soon and wanted a house ready for them. When we saw the house for the first time, the real estate person said it was too big for us since we didn't have any kids. We gave the home a cursory look and moved on. We looked at another 50+ houses and kept thinking about this special place. No other house spoke to us like this one. We went back to look at the six-bedroom home again. We really wanted it now. We stretched our finances and moved in February 1984.

Taking a longer view

Sure enough in 1985 we were expecting. The baby was due in July of '86. Becoming a Dad started me thinking more about family and history and about the different families who had lived in this home, especially the Plattens. Were they happy in this house? Was Mr. Platten a nice guy? How did the original kitchen look? Was Mrs. Platten a good cook? Why did the house originally have electricity in all the rooms except for the bathrooms, which had gas jets? Why was the house big, but the closets and bathrooms small? What was the house like with 9 kids running around? How did the feel of the house change as the Platten kids grew into young adults and then left for their own careers and families? Did anyone die in the house? Did anything bad happen in the house?

A link to the past

I looked up Platten in the phone book. About a dozen of them were listed. By luck the first one I called was Bill Platten. Bill is a nephew of the family that lived in this home and told me, "You called the right guy. I'm kinda the family historian." I started peppering him with questions and got some answers. The Plattens were a large Catholic family. Mrs. Platten was a good cook and a nice lady. Most closets and bathrooms were small in those days. People didn't have as many clothes as we do now and why would you want a large bathroom anyway? It didn't make sense in 1919. What did make sense to some in those days was to not have electricity around all that water in the bathroom. Then the big one: Do you have an original photo of the house? "Yeah," said Bill. "It was taken in 1920." I picked it up from him a few days later.

Eureka! That's our house. It looked pretty much the same as it does today except the porch has been enclosed. That was done in 1969 by a previous owner. And there weren't as many trees around. Just like today, builders would clear the land and then plant seedlings on the property after the house was built. Old timers from the neighborhood tell us that twig of a tree pictured next to the porch was a big oak when it went down in the tornado that hit Northeast Ohio on July 4, 1969.

Bill Platten had only whet my appetite. I wanted to know more about the house and the Plattens. He told me he'd pass my request on to Luella Platten McNamee, the youngest daughter in the Platten family.

A few days later a slim, statuesque woman showed up at our door. "Hi, I'm Luella Platten," she told me. "I grew up in this house. Bill Platten told me you wanted to know more about it." This was 1986. Luella was 75 years old, but she carried herself like a much younger woman. She had a comfortable air of confidence about her.



1919 comes alive

First the picture and now a girl who grew into a woman in our house! Luella would have been 10 or 11 years old when they moved into the home. She lived there for 20 years until she was married in 1939. Luella and I walked around the outside. As I mentioned before, the biggest outward change to the structure was that the porch had been closed in and converted to a family room. Luella said her mother loved the porch and spent much of her time sitting out there in spring, summer, and fall, weather permitting. According to Luella, mom would do a lot of kitchen-type work on the porch, like peeling potatoes and cutting up vegetables for that day's evening meal. She no doubt had thousands of conversations on that terrace with friends and neighbors since the house is on a corner lot that sees a lot of pedestrian and car traffic.

Our house shares a five-garage courtyard with our neighbors. Luella looked at this area fondly. She remembered spending a lot of time in this open space playing jacks, kickball, catch, and other games. Other than new doors, our garage isn't much different from what it looked like in 1919. I can better imagine what it looked like because Luella says her dad had a Model T Ford and parked it in the garage. I don't know if those cars had electric starters in 1919 so I try to imagine M.P. Platten coming out to the garage on a cold morning and starting his car with a hand crank.

We headed inside where Luella confirmed that the contractor who built the Plattens stone fireplace also

built the one at the Elk's Club. We talked about the living room and some of its past furnishings and uses. "This is where the couch was," she said. She explained how she and her boyfriend and future husband, Larry, would sit there and talk for hours. "My mom had a rocking chair over here," she told me. "The one phone we had sat on a pedestal right here by the door to the kitchen." On to the kitchen. Where was the stove? The original kitchen had the stove on the other side of the room right next to the chimney so it could be vented to the outside. Did they have

they make that home more special.

Regrets

Back to Luella. We chatted a little more during her 1986 visit. I asked her more questions, but unfortunately did not write anything down. I was younger and felt there was always time to do more research about the house. However, life got in the way. That little baby Chris came along in July of 1986 and the spare time I used to have was gone. Bryan came along in 1991. Both are wonderful blessings! Our time, talents, and treasure were invested in our family. I wouldn't have it any other way.

I would occasionally think of my brief contact with Luella, the classy lady who grew up in our house. I'd think of picking up the phone to ask her how she was doing. Would she like to see her girlhood home again? Or, I'd have another question about our house that I wanted to ask her. But something else would always come up and my questions were put on the back burner.

They remained on hold for almost 20 years as our careers changed, we started a business, and our sons grew from babies to boys to young men, seemingly overnight. What happened to the time? Recently, I would think of Luella and wondered if she had passed on. After all, she was 75 in 1986. Why didn't I ever call her?

A stranger at our door

In November of 2005 my wife and I had both just finished some major projects for our business and our church. As a result our house was a bit in disarray. The normal picking up and putting away hadn't been happening for a couple of months. It was a Sunday afternoon and the doorbell rang. Luanne called to me upstairs, "Bob, there's a man at the door who says his mom grew up in the house."

Our visitor was Dr. Larry McNamee, the son of Luella Platten McNamee and his namesake father, Larry McNamee. He wanted to see the house his mother grew up in. Larry is a handsome man in his early 60s and has a good practice as a radiologist. He remembered our home from when he was a young boy when he would come to the house with his mom and dad to visit with grandma and grandpa Platten. Dr. McNamee said he wanted to reminisce, so we took him through the house. Although it's a good size, his boyhood memories made the house seem much larger. Here was a guy who had a link to our home's past. Maybe he could fill in some gaps.

First things first. "Is your mom still living?" I asked sheepishly. "Yes," said Larry, "but she's very sick." His voice started to tighten. "She's 95 and she'd like to see the house again." As our eyes welled up, Luanne and I responded, "We'd be honored to have her here."

We made plans to host Larry, his wife Sharie, Luella and other Platten

See **Luella**, page 15

Hospital News

Outpatient Cardiac Rehabilitation Exercise Program

By Rita Ryland

On November, 16, 2005, Albert Panza, an 86-year-old Lakewood resident, collapsed in the third floor atrium of Lakewood Hospital. Three times a week for four years he had been attending the cardiac rehabilitation program. That day, he was at the hospital to attend a party. He brought along a box of cookies. He took a piece of cake. He sat down at a table with others. Then he lost consciousness.

Three months later, Monday, Wednesday and Friday at six p.m., Mr. Panza is on a bicycle, his heart rate and rhythm checked by nurses trained in advanced cardiac life support, his tolerance monitored by a master's prepared exercise physiologist, his warm-up and cool-down led by a Wellness Instructor. Along with Mr. Panza's physician, they comprise the cardiac team responsible for monitoring Mr. Panza's heart health.

Albert Panza is enrolled in the Outpatient Cardiac Rehabilitation Exercise program at Lakewood Hospital. Located on the third floor atrium of the hospital, the area is filled with stationary bicycles, air-dyne bicycles, arm ergometers for upper body strength, treadmills, stair-steppers, Nu-Step for people with limited mobility, cardiac monitors and a defibrillator.

Each one hour class has about 40 attendees. The average age is 65. All have some form of heart disease. Specifically, attendees must have had a heart attack, angioplasty, bypass surgery, have angina or coronary artery disease. Referral is made by a physician. Medicare usually covers the first 12 weeks. After that, the cost is \$40 a month.

Three days a week, sometimes more than an hour before class begins, participants begin to gather. Their voices fill the air as they greet each other and check in with staff. Check in includes blood pressure and medication monitoring.

Some attendees go right to work, walking the perimeter of the atrium or working at a machine while chatting with a friend. Some meet in small groups at tables or seating areas off to the side.

On Friday, February 3, the day designated by the American Heart Association as Go Red for Women, most everyone in the rehabilitation program wore red. Rhonda Loje, *Observer* photographer, and I, were greeted warmly as we approached a group of men congregated around a table. They teased us and each other. They told us they had been attending the group "three years," "I'm six years," another said, "seven" someone said. They willingly shared their reason(s) for attending the class. They have had "angioplasty and a stent," "quadruple bypass two years ago."

Mr. Lou Sala and, Ann, his wife of 47 years, attend classes three days a week. Lou usually meets with the guys. On February 3, Ann was chatting with a friend while she worked on the arm ergometer.



Catherine Crain and Faith Howe enjoy a workout on the equipment.



Joanne Arunski (Cardiac Care Coordinator), Lynn Gardner, Jennifer Arnold and Suzy Lamb.

"The program is a blessing. We've all become friends and family," one person said. Socialization is one of the purposes of the program. Many attendees develop friendships and phone each other between sessions. Some go out after the class for a meal or coffee.

But once the class starts, it's all business. Talking stops. The nurses monitor heart rate and rhythm. The exercise physiologist checks on how a specific program for a patient is working. A Wellness Instructor leads the warm-up and cool-down exercises. Everyone is paying attention.

Often, after a traumatic event, patients become depressed. They may be fearful that if they overdo they may have a heart attack. Or they may develop an attitude that no matter what, they won't let it get them down.

They vow to continue on as if nothing has happened. The Cardiac Rehabilitation Exercise Program is designed to assist heart patients in determining when they are ready to resume previous activities, including return to work. "This is a place you can feel comfortable exercising. You can do other things outside because you know your body is going to tolerate it," said Joanne Arunski, R.N., adding, "This program improves your lifestyle."

Mr. Panza agrees. He has resumed his activities of daily living, including driving. Dressed in a brown suit and a white shirt, his brown eyes smiling, he said "I love them all. They did wonders for me."

To find out more about this program, call Lakewood Hospital 216-521-4200 extension 8179.

Note: In addition to Ms. Arunski, the Cardiac Rehabilitation Exercise Program team consists of Registered Nurses, Suzy Lamb, Ann Schmitt and Lynn Gardner; Exercise Physiologist, Jennifer Arnold; Wellness Instructor, Ron Galizio. I thank them for their help with this article and for all they do for the community.

I've heard that you can tell a lot about a person by looking into their eyes. Something about the eyes being the window to the soul. Well, if that's true, I've caught a glimpse of people who feel blessed to be alive, who are grateful to those who help them, and who, despite their own concerns, are generous. Special thanks to the patients in the Cardiac Rehabilitation Exercise Program, especially Mr. Albert Panza.

Chef Geoff

A Little Ribbin' ... Now There's the Rub!

By Jeff Endress

I know it's only March. I know that the warm days of summer are a few snow drifts away and that your Weber kettle is probably abandoned in a corner of the garage, amidst the leaves that you never got around to cleaning up last fall. But, this does not impact the importance of the message I bring. Spring is only a short hop away. March 21 will be here in a matter of days. For me, it is the official start of the barbecue season.

As a tradition in my household, I always barbecue on the first days of spring and fall. It serves as a sort of gastronomic barometer, getting me ready to move from the winter seasonal meals of hearty stews, soups and pasta, to the summer of outside cooking, smoking and grilling. And yes, I do use the grill and smoker all year round, but it is a change in emphasis that takes place as the seasons change.

That first (and last) barbecue can't be just burgers, chops or grilled chicken. No, tradition holds that the seasons mark their change in my kitchen with ribs. Spareribs or baby backs, it makes little difference. On the first day of spring, I'll be smothering a slab of ribs with sauce, and licking my lips in anticipation.

Beyond pizza and chili, there is probably no single preparation that garners more intense devotion to cooking method than barbecued ribs. We see a plethora of rib competitions every year, and it's virtually impossible to visit any decent picnic spot without catching the fragrant smell of ribs basting in sauce. Despite issues of cholesterol, we love ribs. We each know exactly how they should be prepared, and any deviation is simply unacceptable. While on some deep metaphysical level I probably would admit that my way is not the only way, I loathe admitting that. There are just certain truths to barbecue, and I am a firm believer that I am the guardian of those truths. You may disagree, but please do so softly. Egos bruise easily.

Ribs require respect and commitment. Proper preparation can not be done on a whim. The ritual is an enjoyable part of the process, leading to the resulting feast. You must accomplish



two essential tasks in the proper preparation of truly great ribs: tenderize the meat and reduce the fat. I have found that people tend to ignore the first directive, and take hasty measures to achieve the second.

Tenderizing meat can be accomplished in essentially two ways. You can pound and pierce as you would with a cube steak or piece of veal, or you can marinate, as you would with a flank steak or roast. Since the idea of pounding on a slab of ribs is simply unproductive, let's focus on marinating. A marinade has the ability, usually through the introduction of an acidic element, to break down some of the protein in meat and rendering it tenderer. There is also the element of flavoring which can be added. So, in my mind, before you ever light up the grill, some necessary steps have to be taken. I like to rub the meat generously, massaging in a mixture of herbs and spices. While the exact recipe is classified, I typically use a mixture of garlic, basil, salt, cayenne, and paprika. After rubbing the meat thoroughly with the mixture, I marinate the ribs overnight in a mixture of beer with a touch of balsamic vinegar.

We're now ready for step two of the process: reducing the fat. It is at this point that far too many take a poorly thought out short cut. Reasoning that heat will melt away the unwanted fat, they actually boil their ribs. While certainly poaching your pork will melt some of the fat, what does this pre-

cooking do to the taste of the meat? The flavor is released into the water as you create a spare rib soup, and then toss it down the drain. This is not the best way to achieve optimum flavor. A far better option is slow cooking the ribs, allowing the fat to melt away, and basting the ribs as it does. Indirect heat over charcoal works well, as does a rotisserie. But patience is the key. A slow fire will melt the fat leaving the ribs tender and moist. Too much heat and you simply sear the meat and seal in the fat. So, it may take a couple of hours. In the end, it's worth it.

While I certainly have used both

the rotisserie and indirect charcoal methods with a good deal of success, I have incorporated what I think is the best option available. Before my ribs hit the grill for the final saucing, they spend a few relaxing hours in my smoker. The smoker accomplishes two goals. First, because it operates at very low heat, it allows the fat to melt away without rendering the ribs dry and tough. Secondly, it allows the savory smoke to fully permeate the meat, adding that additional element of flavor.

After the meat has been SLOWLY cooked through, it is time to add the sauce. Again, sauce ingredients and recipes are a matter requiring the highest security clearance, but typically, the sauce will be tomato based, with additional molasses or brown sugar, vinegar and spices. Many good commercial sauces are available, from the large producer such as Master Piece to small boutique manufactures. Saucing requires a bit higher heat to allow the sugars to caramelize and coat. But, caution is needed as sugars also tend to burn readily. The finishing touch of sauce application is the quickest. Brush on liberally, flip the meat, and reapply. Cook 5-7 minutes, flip again, reapply, cook another 5-7 minutes and those ribs are ready. The pile of bones on the kitchen counter means that spring is here.

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Lakewood History

Historic Home May Face Wrecking Ball

By Henry Holtkamp

The Matthew C. Hall house, built in the 1860s, is an object of no small attention. The current owner wants to demolish it, along with two other adjacent homes on Edwards Avenue, to get himself out of hot water with Lakewood Court over code violations on his properties.

“...Put Up a Parking Lot”?

Just when you thought Joni Mitchell’s anthem of the ’60s had faded from memory, along comes another johnny-come-lately developer who wants to demolish another century home in Lakewood and, yes—you guessed it—put up a parking lot!

Angelo Coutris, owner of several parcels of property on Detroit Avenue, apparently has not been maintaining them up to city standards. He has a date in Lakewood Municipal Court to answer for these deficiencies. Through the grapevine, we have learned his proposed solution to his problems: Tear down the buildings, one of which is the Matthew C. Hall home, built in the 1860s by the Hall family, among the earliest settlers of Lakewood, then called Rockport.



The Matthew Hall House, so much history.

The History

Joseph and Sarah Hall, two of the earliest Rockport settlers, arrived from Chatteris, England, in 1837. Mind you, this is only 61 years after the Declaration of Independence, and just 34 years

after Ohio became a state. They built a small stone house (about the size of the Oldest Stone House at Lakewood Park), where they lived the rest of their lives, raising seven children, one of whom was Matthew C. Hall.

The third of four sons, Matthew C. Hall, built his first home on land given to him by his parents at what is now 16906 Detroit, just west of Edwards Avenue, the house which Mr. Coutris proposes to destroy. Beneath its timeworn exterior, and with a little imagination, you can still see today the beautiful little cottage that Matthew built. In 1879, he moved his growing family into another new home at 16718 Detroit, where Edwards Park now sits. The cottage at 16906 Detroit was purchased by the Hughes family around 1903, and changed hands again in 1973, bought then by the owner of Hixson’s Flower Barn, Bill Hixson, who invested in substantial restoration for its use as a gift shop. Since then, it has served a number of commercial purposes, yet is in remarkably good shape for a frame house built 140 years ago!

Where Is the Outcry?

Lakewood is blessed with many historic buildings, both residential and commercial. But what many do not remember is that we have lost so many of them already. Those that remain are our shared heritage, they are our roots. These buildings must be preserved, if at all possible. If they can not be preserved, then in a community forum, we ought to have the opportunity to consider whether we are willing to lose these remaining pieces of our past, trading them in for mere 21st century twaddle—like another parking lot, strip mall, or tavern.

A Master Plan

What Lakewood needs is a Master Plan, one that surveys every building over a certain age, say 100 years old or more. Whether home or commercial building, these structures should then be subject to special protections that would be codified in Lakewood’s ordinances.

The Lakewood Historical Society has made a good start. In 1987, the LHS completed a survey of selected residential buildings in Lakewood. As well, the Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board has completed a historic and architectural survey of all buildings in commercial and industrial zoning districts that can be used as a planning tool. Under the masterful direction of Mazie Adams, Executive Director, the LHS may expand upon the 1987 study, doing the same for more homes of similar distinction.

Then, it will up to all our citizens to demand:

... before another one is lost to the wrecking ball, substantial consideration must be given to weighing the loss of our heritage against the convenience of another parking lot.

For examples of remaining historic architecture, visit: <http://www.lkwadpl.org/paths/victorian/onepage.htm>. For further information on Lakewood’s history, visit: <http://www.lakewoodhistory.org>. Please get involved; help save our shared heritage!



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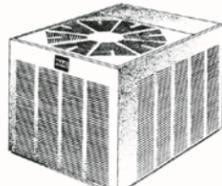
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Lakewood Nature

The Monarch's Last Stand

How Lakewood will become the perfect destination and choice for the monarch butterflies

The not-for-profit project, WorldWise Monarch Nursery Restoration and WorldWise Garden Seeds of Cleveland, began helping Monarch butterflies in 2002 after severe storms moved across central Mexico destroying half of all the monarchs. The WorldWise Monarch Nursery Restoration Project has been providing milkweed seeds to schools, churches, community gardens and concerned gardeners around the country at no cost.

Monarchs returning to the U.S. will need asclepias (milkweed) to lay new eggs on this summer. Unfortunately, a lack of native milkweed has caused stress for the monarch butterflies. Asclepias is a beautiful flowering plant and commonly considered a weed. Often times it gets uprooted or destroyed over time by runaway herbicides. By planting asclepias milkweed, we can make all the difference in the world for these majestic butterflies.

The Silver Sparrow magazine has teamed up with many of Lakewood's small businesses and shops to provide free milkweed seeds in its winter 2006 edition to help provide a healthy and safe butterfly nursery right here in Lakewood! This issue is available free with a purchase at many smaller businesses around Lakewood while supplies last, (see www.SilverSparrow.org for details or call Michael Wise at 216-939-8933). The Silver Sparrow magazine has been published and distributed in Lakewood small businesses since 1988.

To receive your own free milkweed seeds by mail, send a letter requesting them and a #10 SASE with 2 first-class stamps to:

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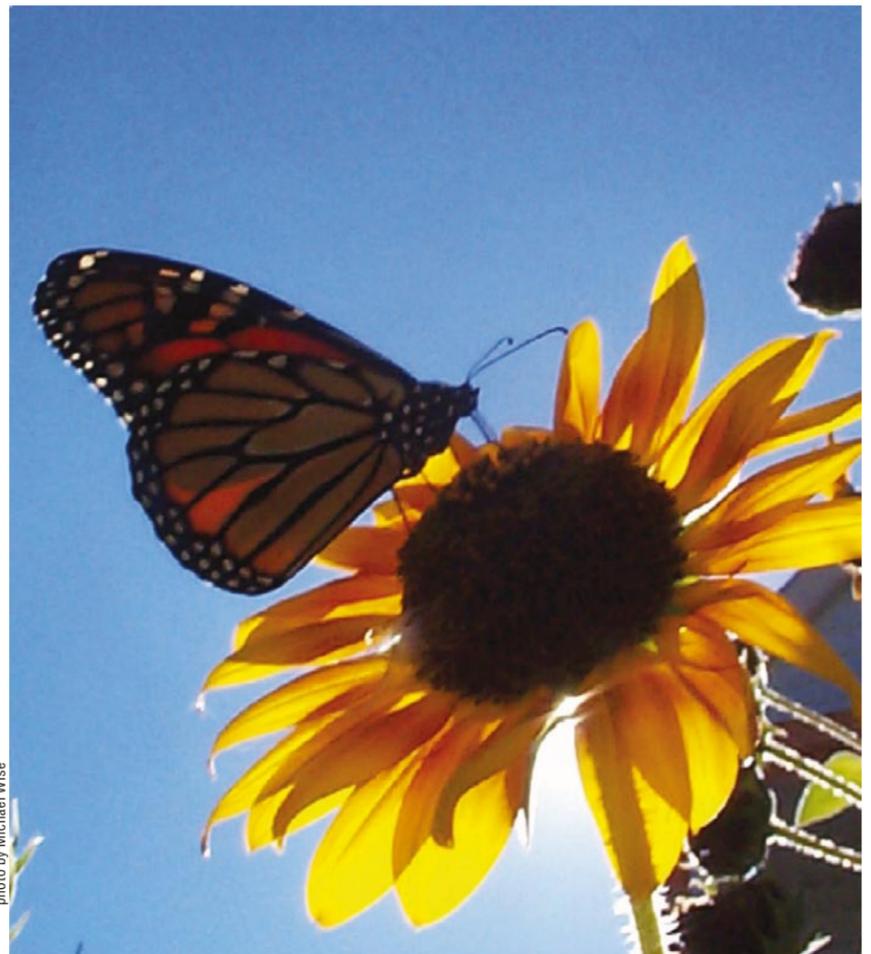


photo by Michael Wise

The WorldWise Monarch Nursery Restoration Project, WorldWise Garden Seeds and *The Silver Sparrow* magazine (for people who choose to care), have teamed up to provide free asclepias (milkweed) flower seeds to help restore the monarch butterflies visiting Lakewood this year. The monarch butterfly is increasingly in danger. When I was a kid in Lakewood there were always monarch butterflies, and plenty of milkweed for them to raise their young. As Lakewood advanced, some of the areas became developed and natural areas of milkweed were replaced. The free magazine and seeds are courtesy of:

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See the latest issue of *The Silver Sparrow* for seeds. *The Silver Sparrow* magazine is available now FREE with minimum purchase at select locations throughout Lakewood and surrounding areas. See www.silversparrow.org



photo by Michael Wise

Lakewood Observer



Lakewood Couple Star in Canadian Comedy

Joseph (standing) and Peggy Gibbons of Lakewood will portray a married couple in the Clague Playhouse production of the Canadian comedy, *Artichoke*, by playwright Joanna M. Glass. The play will open Friday, March 3, for a run of 14 performances through March 25.

For further information or reservations, call the Clague box office Wednesday through Sunday from 1-6 p.m. at 440-331-0403.

Lake Erie League Choral Festival

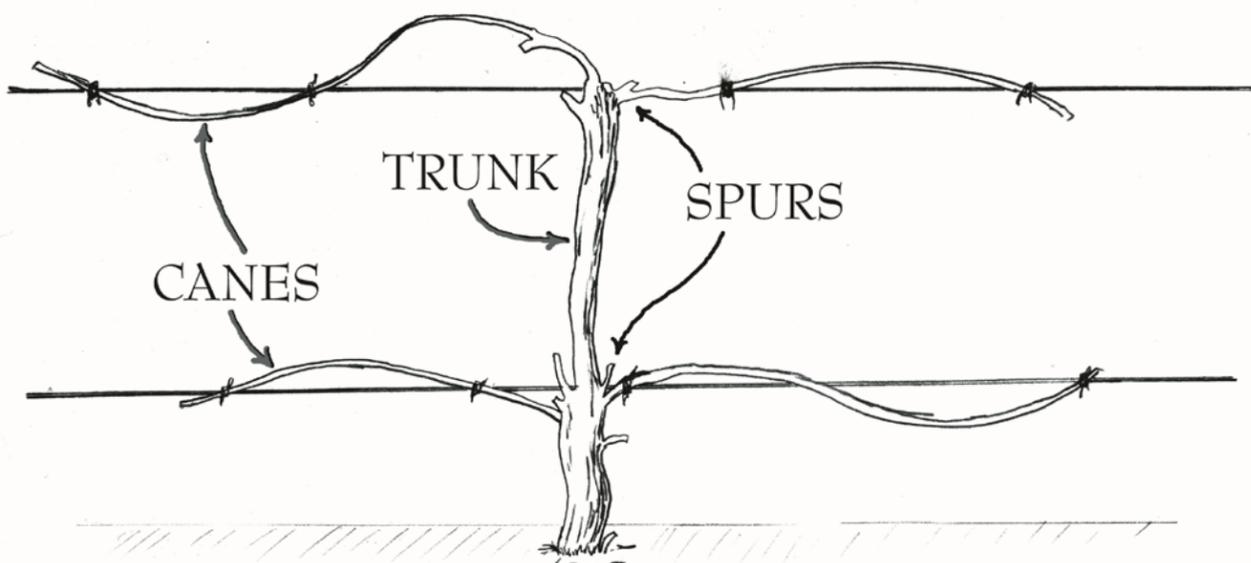
By Christa Blum

“Please come with me to a choral concert at Lakewood High School this Wednesday night,” my husband Bob begged. I was not eager to go, because as a faithful chancel choir member I have my own rehearsal to attend on Wednesdays. But sometimes it is good to hear other choirs perform. Well, I was not disappointed by the Lake Erie League Choral Festival taking place in the Lakewood High School Auditorium on February 22, 2006. Ten local high schools participated in this event. Each choir, starting with Mentor High School, sang two selections. The first one was an anthem sung in Latin, *Laudamus Te, Cantate Domino and Festival Te Deum*. The second piece was a spiritual or popular song. Twice we heard “Deep River” sung by Bedford High School A Cappella Choir and the Maple Heights High School choir. “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” also resounded twice from the stage, first by Cleveland Heights High and later by Shaw High School. Two high schools from Lorain participated with a passionate “Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit” by Southview High and “Hallelujah” sung by Admiral King High. One of the biggest A Cappella Choir (more than 50 members) was the red-robed Shaker Heights choir singing “Rockin’ Jerusalem” under the direction of Dr. Robert Schneider. Euclid High School was the only choir to sing in Spanish “Esto Les Digo”.



As the host school, Lakewood High School Symphonic Mixed Choir was the last to perform. They sang “Sing Joyfully” and “O Magnum Mysterium” under the direction of Dr. Lisa Hanson. Dr. Hanson concluded the Choral Festival by directing the mass choir, all high school choirs, singing “Ave Verum Corpus” and “Dies Irae” from Mozart’s Requiem, accompanied by the Lakewood Chamber Orchestra. It was an awesome experience to hear all these young people sing together so passionately and ending with a prayerfully sung benediction “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”. On this 250th anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart we can rejoice that music and the arts in education are very much alive in our schools, as they continue to “Sing Joyfully”.

Snipping Vine



By Mark Timieski

As the cold hands of winter loose grip to the first days of spring, grape-pruning season begins. During winter, vines that are frozen are too brittle to untangle without damage. In late spring, the delicate buds of new growth are fragile and easily broken, making pruning difficult.

There are two important factors to keep in mind when pruning grapes:

- Grapes will only be produced

from vines (or canes) that sprouted in the previous year.

- Vines that are left to sprawl uncontrolled put most of their energy into maintaining the sprawl and do not have enough energy to produce grapes.

Pruning grapes for maximum fruit production involves removing most of the vine, normally 80 to 90% of the growth. A typical training method involves establishing one strong permanent trunk that is held vertically to a fence or trellis, while four canes that

sprouted during the previous year are selected to bear the fruit in the coming year and are tied horizontally.

The horizontal canes are tied into two rows, a lower and upper, with at least 30 inches of space between the two rows to allow the lower row to catch some sun when the upper row gets leafy. To plan for the future, a few extra “spur canes” (canes cut to a short stub with one or two buds) are required to generate the new growth this year that will produce grapes next year.

Attempting to train neglected or untended vines may seem daunting. Gardeners remind us, however, that grapevines are incredibly vigorous and forgiving; they will grow back from botched pruning attempts. As a final note, although grapes that are trimmed in early spring will often drip (or bleed) from the cut ends, this plant “blood” is mostly water being drawn up through the root system and does not harm the plant. Thus, for grapes, early spring is the optimal time of year to snip vine.

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Lakewood Sports

Boys' Basketball Stung by Bees

By Todd Shapiro

The Lakewood Rangers celebrated Mardi Gras on Fat Tuesday by handing out basketballs like beads. The Rangers committed 21 turnovers, 14 in the first half, to allow third-seeded Brecksville-Broadview Heights Bees to cruise to a 69-41 victory in the opening round of OHSAA sectional basketball tournament.

After falling behind 16-1 with 1:42 remaining in the first period Lakewood used three-point buckets by Travis Wise and Trevor Leisinger to cut the deficit to 16-7 at the end of the first period.

"We didn't execute early in the game. We didn't come out like we were ready to play," said coach Kirk Culler.

The Rangers cut the lead to nine with just under seven minutes remaining in the half but could not any closer.

Senior Chris Zajac scored 15 of his game high 20 points in the first half

for the Bees who took a 31-20 into the locker room at halftime.

Kevin Knab, a 6-5 sophomore forward, tossed in 10 points to lead the Rangers. Knab tied his regular season average of 10.1 points per contest while adding three rebounds to team high total of 128 for the 05-06 season.

Coach Culler was impressed by the guard play of the Bees. "Their guards controlled the game and took care of the basketball." The Bees starting backcourt, Zajac and Senior Bryan Hill, combined for 32 points and 4 assists on the night. The Rangers tandem of Senior Jack Wise and Junior Travis Wise totaled just six points.

Junior forward Andi Sulovari made just his second start of the season for Rangers contributing three points and three rebounds in 10 minutes of action.

The Bees advanced to the sectional finals with a record of 16-5 while the Rangers ended the season 4-17.



Photo by Ivor Karabatkovic

Sophomore Tim Kelly, The Rangerman and senior Matt McNeal get ready to lead Lakewood's "6th man" crowd in making some noise during the girls' basketball game against Solon.

LHS Athletic Boosters: The Team Behind the Teams

By Mike Deneen

Whenever you see the words "booster club" in a sports headline, you can usually expect that it will be a negative story. The booster clubs that usually garner media attention are those that serve big-time college programs. Typical headlines say something like "boosters gave illegal cash and gifts to recruits" or "boosters demand coach's firing after losing season". In the mind of most sports fans, boosters are the wealthy donors that write large checks to university sports programs in exchange for skybox seats at the NCAA tournament or big bowl games. In the world of Lakewood High School athletics, however, the role of the booster is much less glamorous and much more positive. Instead of finding them sitting in a luxury box, you can find them serving hot dogs at the concession stand.

The LHS Athletic Boosters have been serving the school for decades. The group has a current membership of over 400, a majority of which are current athletes' parents. However, there are many LHS alums and community supporters in the organization as well. The group's purpose is to raise money for team sports in the Lakewood Public School District. With an annual budget of over \$60,000, the group provides money for uniforms and equipment for all athletic teams. In addition, they provide banquet nights, parents nights and college scholarships for LHS athletes.

Unlike their big-time college counterparts, the LHS boosters raise funds



Photo by Ivor Karabatkovic

Mary Wallace

by rolling up their sleeves. They operate the concession stands at all Lakewood Stadium events, including both LHS and St. Edward home football games. In addition, they operate concessions at all athletic events held at Lakewood High School. Boosters also volunteer at the new Ranger Shop, which raises funds through the sale of Ranger merchandise. Other thankless volunteer tasks handled by boosters include operation of the parking lot at athletic events, sales of signage at Lakewood Stadium, operation of the 50/50 raffle at football games, and operation of the

"three-point shot" halftime contest at basketball games.

Laurie Field has served as president of the boosters for three years. A member of the group for seven years, she loves the job despite the long hours and hard work involved. "I love Lakewood athletics, I love these kids, and I love my community" says Field, an LHS alum and mother of a freshman basketball and volleyball player.

Many of the boosters have developed friendships with other members. "The volunteers we have are really great" says Field "we do a lot of work,

but we have a lot of fun, too". Since parents naturally want to see their own kids play, they often choose to volunteer at events other than those in which their own kids are participating. This exposure has helped many of them to better appreciate new and different sports. For some members, the booster club is a also way to reconnect with old friends. Field points out that many current Booster members are former classmates that are now parents of her daughter's classmates.

The tremendous contributions of the LHS boosters are deeply appreciated by the Athletic Department. In an era of tight budgets and rising costs, their support is crucial. "We couldn't operate without the boosters' support" says LHS Athletic Director Dan Gerome. Field is planning to remain as president for another year, which will help the transition to a new Athletic Director. She will miss Gerome, who is retiring at the end of the school year. "Dan Gerome has been really great to us" she says.

Field is optimistic about the future of the group. Her goals are to grow the group's membership level and to increase the amount of money raised. She is especially excited about the group's upcoming "Night at the Races" fundraiser, to be held at St. Gregory's Hall on March 25. This is the second year for the event, which she hopes to grow into an annual tradition. For more information on the group, email them at lhsathleticboosters@hotmail.com

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Lakewood Sports

The Truth About Lakewood High School Sports

By Chuck Greanoff

Clichés get a bad rap. Yes, they are tired and trite, but only because they usually contain basic truths. But truth aside, it would be nice—just once—to write a story about high school extra-curricular activities without relying on them. When it comes to high school sports, the standard cliché is that participation builds character, discipline, leadership, commitment, teamwork—blah, blah, blah. So, does this cliché contain a basic truth? Consider the exploits of the Lakewood High School Swimming and Diving teams through the eyes of Coach Bob Sedlak and decide for yourself.

Interviewing him in his poolside office, you get the idea that the guy loves his job, the kids, and the whole process of helping young people reach their potential. He smiles as he discusses how certain sports, such as track and swimming, are ideal for helping students see a connection between hard work and positive results. Question: Is there a more important concept to learn in school? As he discusses his team, one hears stories of hard work, compassion and commitment. Somehow, these words don't sound like clichés when you imagine swimming thousands of yards per week, mostly in anonymity at 6 a.m., being active in other school organizations such as the Choir, H2O, and theatre groups, excelling in the classroom, and, most importantly, being a generous and kindhearted person. That is the collective profile of the LHS swimmers and the reason that Coach Sedlak is positively effusive when he talks about coaching them.

Personal virtues notwithstanding, the Lakewood High Swim team

have some standout athletes, including, for the boys, senior Neil Anderson, the greatest male distance swimmer in Lakewood High School's rich history. He holds the school records in the 200 and 500 yard freestyle, and owns seven Lake Erie League titles. Senior Joe Frankenfield, Lake Erie League (LEL) 100 yard freestyle champion, is among the better swimmers in the district. The girls' standouts include sophomore Maura Anderson, ranked in the top 10 in the district in the 100 meter butterfly. She was second at the LEL meet and an excellent all-around swimmer. Junior Courtney Moran is a LEL 200 yard freestyle champion and also proficient in many events. Her sister, freshman Kelsey Moran, is another fine all-around swimmer who was second in the 100 backstroke at the LEL meet.

Other key contributors for the boys include senior sprinter Jeff Dorazewski who placed 5th at the LEL meet in the 50 freestyle and senior Peter Tabeling, a member of the LEL champion 200 yard freestyle relay team with Anderson, Frankenfield and Dorazewski. Sophomore Casey Meeson has contributed on relays and, especially, in distance events, including a personal best in the 500 at the LEL meet, where he finished sixth. Junior back stroker, Endri Kerci, was a strong contributor until an injury sidelined him for the season. Junior Patrick Beargie has been a versatile and valuable contributor, as has junior Rob Temple, who doubles up as a diver and a sprinter and has helped compensate for the loss of diver Ashraf Assad, who was injured earlier this season.

For the girls, sophomore Emma Paras provides excellent work in distance races (she finished 5th in the 500 at the LEL), junior Barbara Summers



Photo by Rhonda Lofe

Front row left to right: Emma Paras, Hillary Vigh, Courtney Moran, Maura Anderson. Back: Neil Anderson and Joe Frankenfield. This group are district qualifiers.

does well at sprints and the 100 breaststroke, Jamie Meggas doubles up as a diver and a sprinter, and sophomore Hillary Vigh is a versatile swimmer that specializes in the 100 breaststroke.

Also scoring points for the girls at the LEL meet were seniors Desire Hagan, Anna Tabor, Mallory Keller, and Abby Singletary, juniors Jenny Young, Tony Giuliano, and Samantha Levy, as well as sophomore Lauren Smilgelski. For the boys, juniors Linsey Coley and John Gibian and freshman Ritchie Madison scored points in the LEL meet. Other team members include Grace Diffenbacher, Kathryn Jenkins, Michelle Mate, Margaret O'Malley, Hilary Szabo, Marinela Prifti, Ina Prifti, David Bennis, Andriy Myhasiak, Spencer Paul, and Daniel Porter.

Now that we've reviewed their seasons, let's look to the future. None of them will be swimming for a living, but wake up in 10 years, and it's a good bet

that these students will be engineering your car, designing your computer software, directing the school play, repairing your broken leg, and volunteering his/her time and talents in your school or community. Every one of those laps has taken them one step closer to being productive, contributing citizens.

Teaching math at Lakewood High School and coaching a cadre of excellent swimmers and outstanding persons, it's no wonder Coach Sedlak believes that kids get a "bad rap" these days. He sees them having the same desires, virtues and insecurities that have fueled and challenged adolescents for years. Most ultimately meet the challenge—and for some, swimming is the ideal vehicle for building the necessary character traits of commitment, discipline, leadership, and passion. Well, it seems those clichés are unavoidable after all. The truth always is.

Lady Rangers' Season Over



Photo by Ivor Karabakovic

Senior Britney Jurchenko and the rest of the Lakewood Rangers tipped it off one last time against Solon on Wednesday, March 1.

By Todd Shapiro

A season that saw the Lakewood Lady Rangers rise from the cellar of Lake Erie League to a second place finish and a fourth seed in the Brecksville sectional came to an abrupt end Wednesday night as the Rangers fell to Solon 64-39 in a district semifinal at Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School.

"I am so proud of what this team accomplished this season; winning 15 games and becoming the first Lakewood team to be ranked since 1996," said Coach Nicole Anderson.

After taking an early 4-2 lead on a three point field goal by senior Kayleigh Boyle the Rangers went 8:49 without scoring and found themselves trailing 18-4 in the second period. With starters Britney Jurchenko, Chelsay Eskra and Kayla Kovach in early foul trouble Lakewood could not contain the inside presence of Solon forward Erin Wisner.

Wisner scored 15 of her game high 17 point in the first half. She also had a number of offensive rebounds that enabled the Comets to score easy second chance baskets. Coach Anderson

noted, "We really didn't have an answer for Wisner tonight. She really killed us on the boards."

Seniors Jurchenko and Eskra, who each scored 17 in the Rangers 64-25 sectional victory against Normandy on Feb. 25, were held to just one point in the first half. Jurchenko recovered after the intermission to finish the game with 10 points.

Coach Anderson decided to allow her seniors to play through their early foul trouble in an attempt to stem the Comets advantage on the boards. In the first half Solon out rebounded the Ranger 24-15 in the first 16 minutes of action.

The Rangers ended their season with a record of 15-7, while Solon, champions of the Western Reserve Conference, improved their record to 19-3 and earned a trip to the district finals to take on Strongsville.

While the Rangers will have to replace four out of five starters from this year's squad Coach Anderson is upbeat about the future. "We will be young again next year, but the seniors this year laid the foundation for our program for years to come."

Lakewood Theater

Lakewood Is Home to Performance Artists

By Patrice Aylward

Richard Florida's recent book, *The Rise of the Creative Class*, examines creativity and its effect on economic development. In a recent USA Today.com editorial, Florida puts forth the premise that "Indeed, over the next 10 years, jobs in art, music, culture and entertainment will grow twice as many jobs as engineering will."

In Lakewood, many artists are living and working in our midst. We spoke with three of them who are performing in the Cleveland Public Theatre's *The Mad Mask Maker* of Maigh Eo, an original dance play written and directed by Christopher Johnston and choreographed by Sarah Morrison. This world premiere, running from March 2-12, merges modern dance with classical Irish theater, bringing actors and dancers together. Three of the production's members currently call Lakewood "home", more than any other location represented by the cast.

We inquired of these three artists from *The Mad Mask Maker* of Maigh Eo what attracted them to Lakewood; hopefully, so we can recruit more of them!

Heather Baur and Maree ReMalia are dancers with MorrisonDance. Both of these talented young women left northeast Ohio for educational and professional opportunities but when offered the chance, returned, choosing Lakewood as their home base.

Heather Baur has been a resident of Lakewood for 4 1/2 years. She studied as far away as the University of Hawaii and at the University of Urbino in Italy and was performing professionally in New York City. "I was in NYC when 9/11 happened. Everything



Andrew Narten surrounded by, left to right, Heather Baur, Maree ReMalia and Kalinda Stockton.

was in a shambles; it left me broke and I wanted out," Baur says. "I came home and visited a cousin that was living in Lakewood. I liked it very much, particularly the diversity and the mix of urban, city living with true neigh-

borhoods," she continued. Baur had one concern about returning to northeast Ohio. "My boyfriend is from New York City. I really wanted him to like it here. I found that Lakewood had that 'city' feeling like NYC which appealed to him." Challenge solved.

Maree ReMalia moved a lot in her educational and professional career; her training and education took her from the Richmond Ballet to Southern Ballet Theatre to Prescott College in Arizona. From there, she traveled to San Francisco to teach and perform. But she moved back to the area she knows best, northeast Ohio, and began looking for a comfortable location with an easy drive to her job near downtown Cleveland. She first looked at the east side. But dancing with Baur at MorrisonDance, ReMalia heard good things about living in Lakewood and gave it a try about two years ago. "Now," she says, "it would be hard to ever move."

Andrew (Drew) Narten, the newest Lakewood resident of the three, was originally from the east side of northeast Ohio, with roots in Orange Village. But since becoming involved in theater, he has gradually moved further west, first to Ohio City and then to Lakewood, just this year. So far, he loves living here. "Lakewood," he says, "is fun. Simple as that."

These artistic types are clear about why they like living here. ReMalia points out the most obvious but greatest asset, Lake Erie. "I love driving past it morning

and evening." Baur agrees, pointing to lake access as a key factor. Additionally, Baur's big city experience makes her see the value in the strong public transit system in Lakewood and she realizes that the Circulator is a great benefit to residents. ReMalia is a huge fan of the local shops and galleries, particularly Local Girl Gallery and Nature's Bin.

Narten has a more, let's say, masculine appreciation of the city. Lakewood has two important strengths, according to Narten.

"This is a town that's got 24-hour and late-night diners," he says, which are important to Narten as he often eats supper after his performance is over. And he is not hesitant to say that Lakewood is known for its bars and pubs and they are entertaining.

All three have suggestions for Lakewood's future. ReMalia thinks this is a perfect city to host community gardens and believes there should be more of them. Baur is quite aware of tax-base issues, hoping that property taxes will remain moderate so that she can buy a home here someday. Narten is pretty committed to his new community and wants it to remain stable and affordable—concerns shared by many Lakewood residents.

Okay, let's get down to serious business. In a town full of great restaurants and bars, where is their favorite place for eats? All three answer quickly.

Baur says Borderline. ReMalia loves El Tango Taqueria. Narten hesitates for just a second before naming Nikos.

Come see these talented Lakewood residents in the MorrisonDance/Cleveland Public Theatre's production of *The Mad Mask Maker* of Maigh Eo. They're your neighbors!

For tickets to *The Mad Mask Maker* of Maigh Eo, contact:
Cleveland Public Theatre
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Arguments and Issues: a Reasoning Puzzle

Or what you should have learned in school but probably didn't.

Gordon Brumm

In order to think clearly and effectively, you must be clear about the structure of your thought, that is, the claims you are making plus your reasons for the claim, as well as the crucial point(s) of difference between your thinking and that of others in the discussion. Most basically, this means explicitly recognizing the arguments on all sides (an argument consists of a conclusion and the reasons or premises that back it up), as well as identifying the issue or issues (questions that must be answered in order to arrive at a justified conclusion).

In this puzzle, we ask for the argument that is represented in this conversation:

Claire: Of course wearing helmets while motorcycling should be compulsory.

Dale: Why?

Claire: Because it prevents unnecessary harm!

Dale: And what does that have to do with it?

Claire: Well, whatever prevents unnecessary harm should be compulsory!
(Answer below)

.....

Arguments and Issues Answers

Claire gives the following argument:

Whatever prevents unnecessary harm should be compulsory. (premise)

Wearing helmets while motorcycling prevents unnecessary harm. (premise)

Therefore wearing helmets while motorcycling should be compulsory.
(conclusion)

The Buck Stops Here

The Narrative of Streets, Buildings and Places

"The official map of the culture, at any time, would always fail to include vital features."
—Iain Sinclair

Put a map of Lakewood on the wall. Throw a dart at it. Another. A third. Draw the lines between them to form a triangle. Walk from one point of the triangle to another and follow the hypotenuse home. Take a notebook, camera, recorder. Note what you see, hear, touch. Run-down buildings, new construction. Businesses, houses, people. Litter, garbage, graffiti. Advertisements, posters, signs. Coincidences, the accidental, the unusual. Signs. They're all signs. "Walking makes for content," Robert MacFarlane writes. "Footage for footage."

Take an object you know well, say a Wild Child tee shirt or a family heirloom, a house or neighborhood, and examine it as if for the first time, as if you know nothing at all about it. Give it attention beyond attention, as Louis Agassiz instructed his Harvard seniors to do with a frog for a senior comprehensive exam. Tell me about the frog, he asked. They were put out. They knew their biology. They knew a frog when they saw one. Agassiz persisted. Tell me about the frog, he repeated. The next day they told him about the frog. It's a beginning, he said. Tell me more. By the third day, the frog had become

By Robert Buckeye

limp and stank, but the students had got to know the frog better than they thought possible, perhaps even more than they knew themselves.

Throw a dart at a map of Lakewood. Go to the place the dart sticks and stand there for an hour. Do not speak to anyone. Look, listen. Feel the sun warm your face, a breeze cool it. Others may see you as you do not see yourself. They will wonder who you are and why you are there. You have become an unexplained, if not obtrusive, presence in their lives. (For the past four years, I have participated in a silent vigil against the war in Iraq on the town green every Saturday morning. I have seen Main Street in ways I had not before. I see people I have not seen in years. Some of them, I know, see me in a new way.)

Walk. Have no idea where. Just walk. Drift. If what you see is familiar, you have not walked far enough. Walk as if you do not have to be anywhere, have no purpose or destination. Lose yourself in Lakewood as you would lose yourself in a forest. "To lose oneself in a city," Walter Benjamin notes, "calls for a different schooling." It's an education one does not get in schools. (Conversely, chart the itinerary of your days. You will realize that you travel the same paths each day, run the same

errands in the same ways, live daily by habit. You understand less of Lakewood than it understands of you.)

Make your night day. Go up and down the streets of Lakewood from dark until dawn. Stop at any place that is open. Talk to those you meet. The landscape of Lakewood escapes recognition. Deserted streets after dark, as Atget's photographs of Paris at the beginning of the 20th century demonstrate, are surrealist moonscapes, if not sites of crime. Whether you know it or not, you have become one with the night, and darkness becomes less your enemy than it is your friend, as it for the poor and homeless, the illicit, Melville's isolatos. You greet the dawn with a sobriety you had not thought possible.

Cross lines, open doors, enter buildings. Society establishes limits, boundaries, borders, fences which determine where we can be. We know what these are, but may not know why. We may assume a closed border at a border crossing. When is it possible to walk into a neighbor's house without knocking? The answer tells us about neighborhood. In barrios in Puerto Rico, the house is the neighborhood, and no one shuts anyone else out from entering any residence. In the '60s on

the island, the only television in a barrio was in the plaza. Each night, the family watching television is the neighborhood.

"Beneath the paving stones the beach," was a radical slogan to rally workers and students on the streets of Paris in 1968. If the notion of beach was the promise of a life with greater freedom and responsibility, paving stones were a history which extended from the present back into the past.

The house we live in, the place we work has a history. It becomes part of who we are. The back bedroom in my home in Lakewood was used by a friend of our family from Slovakia, who had come to America because his wife left him, then by my older brother, and, once he left home, by me. After I left home, my father slept there. After he died and I was divorced, I would stay there once again when I returned home for the holidays. The history of the room is part of the histories of those who slept there, but it is also, at the same time, distinct from them. If the room is part of our history, we are part of its.

"That which changes our way of seeing the streets," Guy Debord writes, "is more important than what changes our ways of seeing painting." I take it *The Lakewood Observer* and those who want to see a better Lakewood agree.

Spilled Ink

Luella

continued from page 6

relatives for dinner. I can't say how excited I was about that—I love our house and my family and I wanted to share it with other people who also see this house as a home.

Film!

As Larry was leaving we stood and chatted some more on the front stoop. Almost as an afterthought he said, "You know, we've got a black & white 16mm film with my mom and dad walking down these steps on their wedding day." What? A film of our house from 1939? And it shows Luella and her husband and other people from the wedding party? "Larry, I must have a copy of that," I said. Dr. McNamee assured me it was no problem and we made plans.

That visit has yet to occur because Luella has not been well enough to see her girlhood home again. So we did the next best thing. I videotaped the house, working over the whole exterior and every room of the house. Our backup plan was to visit Luella and extended Platten and McNamee family members at her home in Rocky River.

Just like family

It was a great couple of hours. Luanne and I got to meet Larry's gracious wife Sharie and half a dozen

members of the extended family. They're all very down-to-earth and comfortable to be with, just like the house where their ancestors lived. I got to see Luella again. This was special for both Luanne and me. Being with Luella and her descendants felt just like one of our own family gatherings. I think it's because we've lived in the same special place. Our family of me, Luanne, Chris and Bryan are rooted in this home that we've lived together in for 22 years. Only the Plattens and a couple other families who've lived in this house for any appreciable time would understand this particular sense of place.

At 95, Luella is frail, but still pretty. She was very appreciative seeing the video of the house where she grew up. I also received a wonderful 3-minute film of Luella and her wedding party in front of our house on her wedding day in 1939. It's priceless family and house history.

We now know a lot more about our home's history. Those shadows from the past have more substance. They were just like us. In our house they loved, argued, laughed and cried. They welcomed new members into this life, and grieved when others have passed on to their next home.

A house, a home

I called this article Living in Luella's House. It is her house, but it's also

mine and Luanne's. And it's also our two sons' house, because they grew up here, just like Luella did. It was a special place for her as it is for us. Luella's House is our home.

Bob Becker and his wife Luanne run their own Lakewood-based video production company. Bob is also a talk show host at WTAM radio. You can contact him at highlandview@sbcglobal.net

Health

continued from page 5

as an insurance plan, HSAs offer feeble protection (remember the extremely high co-pays), so under an HSA regime the individual will simply have to hope he's lucky. Those unlucky enough to be hit hard by illness will still suffer, and those unlucky enough to be poor may not be able to afford HSAs, much less the high-deductible insurance.

In short, HSAs favor the healthy and the wealthy³the healthy because they get the tax break for whatever they put into their HSAs without having to spend much of that tax-deferred money for health care (in effect, they get an additional IRA); the wealthy not only because they can more readily afford an HSA but also because they are in the higher income-tax brackets and therefore enjoy larger tax deductions.

(Incidentally, the attractiveness of HSAs for the healthy leads to concern about a sort of reverse cherry-picking³that healthy consumers will flock to HSAs, leaving the existing conventional insur-

ance plans holding the bag with all high-risk, high-cost customers in it.)

Of course, the proposed tax credits would help those at the lowest end of the scale, with incomes under \$25,000, yet that proposal does nothing for families with incomes above \$25,000 but still hard-pressed by health care expenses. Furthermore, the tax credits would be separate from the HSAs themselves, and if the government is going to spend \$3,000 per family, why not simply buy them a health insurance policy?

So from the individual's viewpoint, HSAs are better than nothing, but that's all I can say for them.

All in all, some features of the HSA program are commendable, for example, the wide range of covered expenses, and portability as well. Extensive co-pays in cases where the consumer really has a choice, e.g., where he can choose generic medications, is also a worthwhile idea. But from any point of view the program as a whole is clearly not the answer to the problems of health care, and it is no substitute for a comprehensive program of health insurance.

Rocking Lakewood

An Interview with Craig Bell of Mirrors and Rocket From the Tombs

By Bob Ignizio

In the early '70s, before terms like "punk rock" and "alternative" were even used, Cleveland was home to a small but influential scene of groundbreaking rock bands. Craig Bell was an important part of two of these bands: Mirrors and Rocket From the Tombs. Born in Almira, New York, on February 22, 1952, Bell moved to Lakewood in 1961. And it was as a kid in Lakewood that Craig first realized he wanted to be a rock & roll musician. "I went to see *Ferry Cross the Mersey* over at the Beachcliff Theater with my friend Dave Davis," Bell says. "I think we sat through it like five times. That to me was when I said to myself I'd really like to be in a rock n roll band."

Eventually Bell hooked up with Jim Crook (keyboards, guitar), and fellow Lakewood High School alumni Michael Weldon (drums) and Jamie Klimek (guitar, vocals) in 1971 to form Mirrors. The band needed a bass player and, despite not knowing how to play, Bell accepted the job. "Jamie told me, 'here's the E string, the A string, the D and the G. You figure out the rest for yourself,'" Bell says.

Heavily influenced by underground bands like New York's Velvet Underground, Mirrors was an anomaly in the Cleveland music scene. Bell says, "To my knowledge, I can't think of any other band in the Cleveland area that was doing that kind of stuff at the time we started doing it." The band played a couple of gigs before Bell joined the army, in 1972. Paul Marotta briefly filled in on bass before switching to keyboards, and Jim Jones (future guitarist for Pere Ubu) became the next bass player.

In 1974 Bell finished his time with the army and rejoined Mirrors. Bell, Weldon, and Klimek were now living together in a house near W. 65th and Lorain, and the band began playing out more often. "We had almost a residency at The Clockwork Orange for a couple of months," Bell says. "We did every Tuesday night or something. We were pretty much ignored by people until we started playing at the Clockwork Orange. When we played there we actually started getting people to come see us."

One of the people who saw Mirrors was Rocket From the Tombs guitarist Peter Laughner, who would eventually ask Bell to join his band. "This was towards the end of my time in Mirrors. At that time Mirrors wasn't really doing anything. We weren't even practicing. When Peter asked me about working with him in Rocket From the Tombs I had a discussion with Jamie to just say, 'Look, I'm in Mirrors. This is the band I want to be in. But if we're not going to do anything, I'm going to do something with these guys for a while.' And so I was basically fired. Jamie sent me a letter and told me my services were no longer needed in Mirrors, which was a shame, but that's what happened. I

never really knew exactly what the deal was from his perspective; I just know I wasn't in the band anymore."

In addition to Bell and Laughner, Rocket From the Tombs also included vocalist/founding member David Thomas (aka Crocus Behemoth), guitarist Gene O'Connor (aka Cheetah Chrome) and drummer John Madansky (aka Johnny Blitz), who was later replaced by Wayne Strick. Of his time playing with Rocket From the Tombs, Bell says, "That band probably lasted, what, 16 or 18 months? It was great when we were doing it, and when we were focused on getting together the demo tape that got played on the radio or getting ready to play the show at The Agora that got played on the radio. That's all we did. That stuff became the basis for the whole legacy of Rocket From the Tombs."

Bell did more for the Rocket From the Tombs legacy than play bass and add the occasional vocal, though. He also contributed several songs, including "Muckraker" and "Frustration", which were Bell compositions for Mirrors, and "Read 'Em and Weep", written for Rocket From the Tombs. Bell also co-wrote one of Rocket's best known songs, "Final Solution", with David Thomas. "I wrote a bunch of things, those are just the ones that got used," he says.

While Rocket From the Tombs is today regarded as a highly influential and important band in the history of punk rock and alternative music, they never achieved much critical or commercial success. Bell says, "I don't think we ever saw ourselves becoming popular. We wanted to make music and play wherever we could. I remember the tape we made we had given to the producer for Blue Oyster Cult. Nothing ever came of that, obviously, but we were striving to be more successful than we were. You can always look back and see what went wrong where, but at the time I just don't think anyone was really looking at the big picture. I know I wasn't. I can't really speak for anyone else."

In August of 1975, Rocket From the Tombs split into two bands. David Thomas and Peter Laughner formed Pere Ubu, while Gene O'Connor and original Rockets drummer John Madansky started a band called Frankenstein, which eventually became The Dead Boys. Bell was asked to join both bands, but said no. He explains, "At the time I wanted to do my own thing. I didn't know what that own thing was, but I just had to move on and try something else."

In 1976, Bell left Northeast Ohio for Connecticut. He says, "I got a job with Amtrak out on the east coast, so I moved to New Haven and lived out there until 1989." But Bell still had the music bug, and soon was playing in a new band, The Saucers. The Saucers put out singles in 1979 and 1980, did some recording, and mutated into The Bell System. Bell continued playing gigs



C.W. Bell's band Saucer playing at Max's Kansas City in 1979. Pictured left to right are Craig Bell and Seth Tiven.

all up and down the east coast until 1988. "I got to the point where I'd had enough," says Craig. "At that time my wife Claudia and I decided to move out here to Indiana. She was also playing with me in some of those later bands. For a number of years I didn't play any music, but eventually we just started playing around for fun. Now we're on the verge of starting to play out again with the band we have here. It's like in *The Godfather*, you can never really leave the family."

Further proving that you can't leave the family, in 1996 the seeds for a Rocket From the Tombs reunion were planted. Bell says, "I was approached by Jimmy Zero of the Dead Boys. He was getting together this presentation to put on at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame about the history of Cleveland music. The Rock Hall approached Jimmy to talk about the punk era or whatever you want to call it, and he asked me if I wanted to be involved in that." Bell agreed, and the performance was actually the first time a full electric band ever played on stage at the Rock-N-Roll Hall of Fame.

After the performance, Bell says he and former Rocket/Pere Ubu vocalist David Thomas got together. "David played this tape for me of our last show at The Piccadilly. I didn't know this tape had existed up to this point. He asked me, 'What's this song here that you're singing?' I listened to it, and it was "Read it and Weep", but I hadn't played it or even thought about it in so long that I couldn't remember the title. It was a couple days later that I sent him an email to tell him the right title."

Bell continues, "The upshot of that is it led to a CD coming out. We had been bootlegged forever; our stuff had been on the radio, cassette tapes had gone around the world. Someone even put out an album in the mid '80s of that stuff, but all that had nothing to do with us." Compiling and cleaning up some previous material, "The Day the Earth Met the Rocket From

the Tombs", was released in 2002 by Smogveil Records.

Then, in February of 2003, most of the band got back together to play live at a music and arts festival Thomas was putting on at UCLA called Disastodrome. Bell, Thomas, and Cheetah Chrome were joined by guitarist Richard Lloyd (of New York proto-punks Television) and drummer Steve Mehlman, who was playing with Thomas in Pere Ubu at the time. Original drummer John Madansky sat the event out, and sadly original Rocket guitarist Peter Laughner had passed away in 1977. Bell says, "We thought it was going to be a one-off thing. Richard Lloyd and Cheetah had been friends for many years, and he was a perfect fit. So we did that show and thought that would be it, even though we really enjoyed doing it."

Buoyed by the success of that one-off gig, the band embarked on a six-city tour in June of 2003. Next they went into Richard Lloyd's studio in New York to record their live set. The result was the "Rocket Redux" CD released in 2004, again on Smogveil Records. Almost 30 years after breaking up, Rocket From the Tombs finally released their debut studio album. And there is talk of a follow-up of new material. Bell says, "It's a possibility. Some ideas have been passed around."

Whatever happens, Bell has few regrets about his music career. Mirrors and Rocket From the Tombs may never have sold millions of albums, but the music of both bands has had a profound impact on the punk and alternative rock scenes. Not just in Cleveland, but around the world. Rocket From the Tombs songs like "Sonic Reducer" and "Final Solution" have been covered countless times, and the group's reunion tour exposed them to a whole new generation of music fans. Says Bell, "I remember thinking to myself when we were playing somewhere and there was this sea of young faces, 'where were your parents when we needed them?'"

Lakewood Gallery Watch

Gallery Watch

By Ruth A. Koenigsmark and Christine A. Kazimer

Art is not the application of a canon of beauty but what the instinct and the brain can conceive beyond any canon. When we love a woman we don't start measuring her limbs. —Pablo Picasso

bela dubby

bela dubby will be showing the work of two painters in March. The first artist being presented is Jon Hammer from New York City. Jon's show is entitled, "Dark Little Oil Paintings by Jon Hammer." The second artist is Cleveland painter Paul Sydorenko and his show is named, "My Roots are Deep". Paul's chosen medium is new acrylics. Opening reception is Saturday, March 4, 6 pm-midnight.

Hours: Tues-Thurs, 10am-10pm, Fri-Sat, 10am-12pm.
13221 Madison Avenue 216.221.4479

Wobblefoot Gallery and Frame Studio

Come in and view works by award winning featured wildlife artist, Chris Gregg. Chris is an oil painter and master wood carver. Mention seeing this posting in the *Observer* and receive a 10% discount on Wobblefoot books and watches. To obtain more information on this artist, contact Wobblefoot Gallery or visit their website at www.wobblefoot.com.

Hours: Tues-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-4pm.
1662 Mars Avenue 216.226.2971

Local Girl Gallery

Call to Artists!! Local Girl Gallery is hosting a fundraiser, "Hats Off To The Women In Your Life!" to benefit the Women's Community Foundation on Saturday, May 6, 6-10 p.m. The Foundation funds programs to optimize the potential of women and girls in the Greater Cleveland community. Local Girl is looking for artists who wish to participate by donating their artistic talents in creating a one of a kind "Hat" to be auctioned off the night of the event. Local Girl Gallery will provide a head form for you to build your hat on for a \$5.00 refundable deposit. Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place based on voting by viewer's choice.

Hours: Tues-Thurs 12-5pm, Fri-Sat, 12-6pm.
16106 Detroit Avenue 216.228.1802

Gallery Events for March 7 through March 20

Pop Shop Gallery and Studio

The All Inclusive Show: Featuring new works by Hewn, Revise CMW, Joey Potts, and Scar 1.0. Each of the four artists offers a unique styling of how contemporary art is presented. With influences stemming from graphic design, graffiti, gothic art, and character art, each artist will be displaying drastically different meanings of what "contemporary" art is. Show will run through April 8. Opening reception is Saturday, March 4, 6-9pm.

Hours: Mon-Tues, 9:30-11pm, Thurs 4pm-11pm, every other Saturday and Sunday 1-6pm. The gallery is open other days depending on artists' schedules or by appointment.

17020 Madison Avenue 216.227.8440

Art gallery news and event information should be forwarded to gallerywatchgals@yahoo.com. Every effort will be made to include it in our next column.

Dusenbury Fine Arts Series Continues at Church of the Ascension

By Anne Palomaki

On Sunday, January 29, a workshop was held at the Church of the Ascension in Lakewood featuring Dr. Horace Clarence Boyer. The subject of the program was the history of Gospel Music. Dr. Boyer received his Ph.D. from the Eastman School of Music and recently retired from teaching music theory and African American music at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

The Boyer workshop was the third in the Dusenbury Fine Arts Series presented at the Church of the Ascension to honor Calvin Dusenbury, a lifelong resident of Lakewood who passed away in 2003. He had sung in the church choir, the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus under Robert Shaw and was a charter member of the West Shore Chorale.

On April 2, the Dusenbury Series continues with the Jewish Community Center Drama Club performing "The Diary of Anne Frank" at 7:00 p.m. The final event in the Series will be the Westlake Jazz Band presenting a spring fling for listening and dancing. This Fine Arts Series is directed by Margie Dusenbury Hildebrandt who teaches music at McKinley Elementary School.

Secret Shopper

Granger City Antiques
17923 Detroit Avenue
216-521-1617



By Justine Cooper

I have always found the best shopping experiences to be the little independently owned boutiques full of unique treasures. We are fortunate that Lakewood is full of them!

One such shop, Granger City Antiques, owned by Phyllis Basen at 17923 Detroit, has been here for 25 years! Phyllis sells an eclectic mix of vintage items and a nice variety of beads. Since beading is the number one hobby for women in America, this is the ideal spot for an assortment of beads. She carries everything



from sterling to bone to glass beads. She only sells them individually, not by the strand. She began carrying beads 15 years ago, long before the trend hit. The mix of vintage items will catch your interest too, from jewelry to an authentic Happy Days Board Game.

The hours of the shop are short: Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 12:30-4:30 and Sunday by chance, but worth the visit.

Granger City Antiques is a fun shop with a warm welcome.



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Lakewood Pets

Volunteers Needed to Help Lakewood's Homeless Pets

By Catherine Butler

One stroll through Lakewood is enough to confirm that this city's residents love their pets. From one end of the city to the next, one can see owners out walking their dogs while cats scurry across yards or watch over the street's activities from a window sill. Our love of four-legged creatures and the desire to help those that are homeless or abandoned prompted the Citizens Committee for a Lakewood Animal Shelter (CCLAS) to work with the city to open up the Lakewood Animal Shelter back in 1985.

Since then, the group has been providing many volunteer and financial resources to the city-run shelter. Annually, nearly 200 to 300 dogs and cats are adopted from the shelter, and CCLAS is proud to help not only keep the shelter a clean and safe environment for those housed inside, but also to fund programs that make it more than just a shelter.

As a small 501(c)3 non-profit organization, CCLAS relies on a dedicated volunteer staff to help things run smoothly. If you love animals, volunteering for CCLAS is a wonderful way to be involved in your own community. Currently, CCLAS is in need of foster volunteers, an additional foster care coordinator, a secretary, shelter volun-

teers, people to help with fundraising events and anyone with backgrounds in development or marketing.

Each spring and summer, kitten litters arrive at the shelter that are either orphaned or found with their mothers. They need a loving home environment for the formative stage of their lives (the total commitment is about 6 to 8 weeks). CCLAS arranges foster care for these litters and reimburses for food and supplies. At this time, CCLAS is looking to increase its list of available foster volunteers and for an additional person to help coordinate the foster program. Serving as a foster volunteer is a great opportunity for children and parents to work together and for those individuals who love animals but cannot commit to a permanent pet.

The secretary of CCLAS is a board position requiring attendance at bi-monthly meetings, communication with the entire board (primarily via e-mail) to discuss ideas and issues affecting the shelter, and correspondence with donors, members and the community as necessary.

Shelter volunteers help with cleaning cages, walking dogs and socializing cats. These volunteers are needed on Saturdays.

CCLAS relies solely on donations, membership dues and fundraising for its income. Accordingly, through-

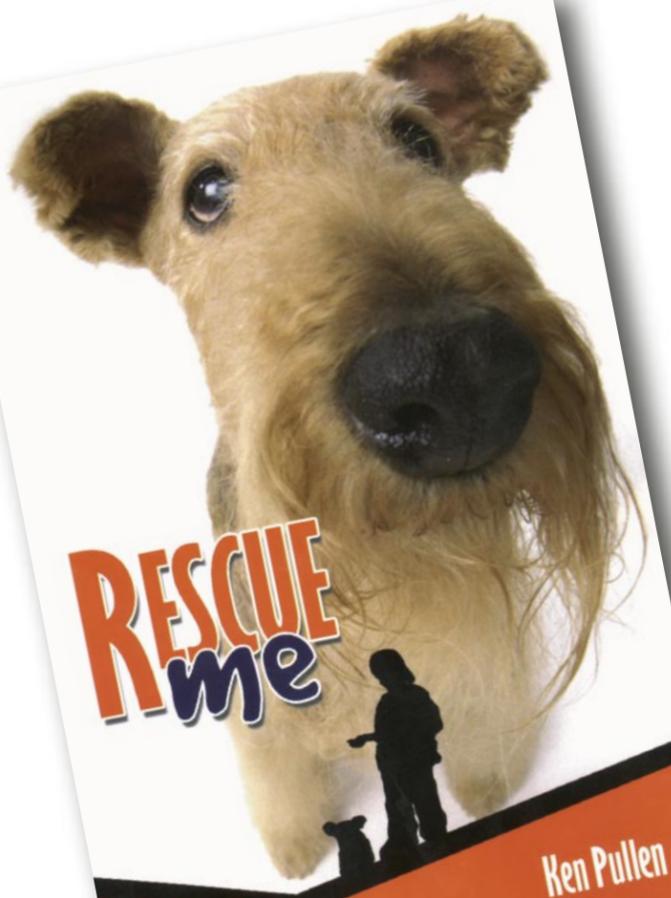
out most of the year, CCLAS is busy planning for different fundraisers. Volunteers are needed to help with various aspects of fundraising from calling other volunteers, baking, distributing flyers or helping to coordinate an event. Some of CCLAS's annual fundraisers include a spring happy hour and auction event, bake sales and a dog wash.

There are many ways to be involved

with CCLAS and the Lakewood Animal Shelter that range in talent and time commitment. No matter how you are able to volunteer, all of these opportunities make a difference in the lives of Lakewood's homeless pets. If you can spare even a little bit of your time to help out, please call me at (216) 221-7953 or Donna Blakesmith at (216) 521-6710.



Oscar is a male shepherd/boxer mix, approximately 3 months old. He will most likely grow to be a large dog, 50 pounds or more. He is playful and loves toys. He likes other dogs, and even though he is a playful puppy, he settles down nicely and likes to be loved. You may not be nominated for an academy award but you can still have your own "Oscar".



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Unlike area vein clinics that offer a technician's advice, our new center ensures you receive a consultation from a fully accredited doctor on your first visit – backed by the resources and reputation of Lakewood Hospital.

What's more, whether our laser treatment or micro-incision outpatient surgery is best for you, most major health insurance plans cover the procedure!

To learn more or to make an appointment, call 440-250-5760.

Learn the latest treatments for spider and varicose veins, and other cosmetic procedures at:

James R. Bekeny Physician's Health Talk

Tuesday, March 28th, 7:00 p.m.

Call 1-877-234-FITT (3488) for details.

Your Life Is Our Life's Work.

Located just north of the I-90 Columbia Road exit, in Westlake.

www.lakewoodhospital.org