

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 2, Issue 12, June 13, 2006

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Clifton Blvd. Project Draws Rave Reviews



Artist rendering of what Clifton Blvd. might look like in the near future.

By D.L. Meckes

The cities of Lakewood and Cleveland are working together in planning improvements for Clifton Boulevard between the Shoreway and West Clifton Boulevard bringing benefits to both cities.

Major design changes that will beautify, brighten, and increase safety along Clifton Boulevard were discussed in a series of public meetings. Renderings summarizing aspects of the plans have been created by the Urban Design Center of Northeast Ohio.

Before the enhancement project begins, the City of Lakewood will replace aging sewer and water lines and add fire hydrants along the north side of Clifton, west of Cove, greatly improving safety and sanitation.

The project will utilize available Federal funding and the Ohio Department of Transportation will repave

the boulevard. Construction regarding paving, medians, and sidewalks is expected to start in 2008. The number of enhancements will be determined by the amount of grant funding that the cities will be able to attain. All grant requests will be handled by the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency.

In public meetings, plans began to take shape for possible improvements which include a landscaped median along the length of Clifton, improved sidewalks, aprons and tree lawns and improvements to the retail zone around 117th street.

Additional and wider crosswalks will be added in the retail districts to “calm” traffic and make walking in the area safer for pedestrians. Under present conditions, traffic entering Clifton Blvd. from the Shoreway may reach speeds in excess of 45 - 50 miles per hour.

Pedestrian-scale decorative lighting in high-use zones with colorful banners



will create pools of light, improve safety, and make the streets brighter.

Improved signage, the addition of “street” trees with grates, sidewalk planters, public art sites, way-finding kiosks, pedestrian and curb ramps have all been considered in the plan.

Bus waiting areas could be improved, adding seating, better shelters, and new locations to improve local public transportation. In addition, the

Regional Transit Authority is working with Lakewood and Cleveland to construct new bus shelters that will coincide with the Clifton Blvd. project.

Continuous medians may be considered across some intersections in Lakewood, but nothing along these lines has been finalized.

Additional public hearings will be held with the City of Lakewood and City of Cleveland Planning Commissions.



Residents were invited to Lakewood Park to check out the trucks from all of the various city units. Police, fire, construction, snow removal and even little cushionmen were on display for residents to check out and for kids to climb on. Good job city, it was a blast.

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Lakewood Calendar

June 13, 2006

Tai Chi: History And Health - 7:00 PM

15425 Detroit Avenue MAIN Library Auditorium

Carl Dechiara from the Immortal Palm Internal Martial Arts Association will guide you through the history of Tai Chi, discuss the health benefits and teach you basic moves that anyone can learn.

Lakewood Youth Master Plan Community Meeting - 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Lakewood High School East Cafeteria

Lakewood was one of six communities across the country chosen to receive technical assistance from the National League of Cities to develop a youth master plan. The plan will provide a road map to guide the future of programs and services for youth ages 0 to 20 years of age and their families.

June 14, 2006

YMCA Adult Basketball League Signup

18524 Detroit Avenue across from Harry Buffalo

Lakewood YMCA Adult Basketball League has extended signups for the Summer Session until June 14. Registration forms and payment due at time of signup. Games will be played at Lakewood High School. Hurry in to secure your spot!

<http://www.clevelandymca.org>

June 15, 2006

Tired Of Taxus? - 7:00 PM

15425 Detroit Avenue MAIN library auditorium

Sean and Marty McGuan of Anchor Landscaping will discuss common problem areas and overgrone foundation shrubbery. They will also present options for enhancements including ponds, patios and more.

Digital Cameras And Graphics - 7:00 PM

15425 Detroit Avenue MAIN Library Tech center

“Digital Cameras and Graphics” is a free program at Lakewood Public Library. Learn about features and options you should be aware of when buying digital cameras, and things you can do with your pictures after you’ve taken them!

June 16, 2006

Family Fun Fair “Clownin’ Around! Celebrating Children and Community” 06:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Lakewood United Methodist Church

15700 Detroit Ave. Downstairs in Daniels Hall

Sponsored by United Methodist Women of Lakewood United Methodist Church, this event will be an opportunity for families to have fun together AND learn about health, safety and fun activities available in Lakewood.

June 17, 2006

Personal Development & Transformative Learning In The Library - 3:00 PM

15425 Detroit Avenue MAIN Library Auditorium

Personal Development & Transformative Learning in the Library is a seven-session series at Lakewood Public Library. This week is “Hunting and Gathering.” This free program requires no registration.

Web Searching Basics - 3:00 PM

15425 Detroit Avenue MAIN Library Tech center

“Web Searching Basics” is a free program at Lakewood Public Library. Discover how to use Internet search engines and topic-specific Web sites to find information

June 19, 2006

Planning Ahead -7:00 PM

15425 Detroit Avenue MAIN Library Auditorium

“Loving without a License: Estate Planning for Committed, Unmarried Partners” is today’s topic. Candace M. Pollock of Hahn & Pollock, LLC will provide an overview of the legal and financial issues involve din six topics of interest to all Lakewoodites.

June 20, 2006

Intro To Open Source - 7:00 PM

15425 Detroit Avenue MAIN Library Tech center

Welcome to the open source software revolution!

June 22, 2006

Lakewood Realtors Seminar - 8:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Sweetwater Landing, 1500 Scenic Drive in the Metroparks.

6 hours of Continuing Education Credit. Cost: \$65.00 Call Barb Kelly at (216) 529-6632 or visit www.ci.lakewood.oh.us for a registration form.

June 23, 2006

Observer Anniversary

The Lakewood Observer Newspaper Celebrates its first anniversary!

June 24, 2006

Craft A Patriotic Star Pin - 4:00 PM

15425 Detroit Avenue MAIN Library Auditorium

Annabelle Keller will teach you how to marbleize polymer clay to create a red, white and blue star pin. Bake your pin at home to wear on the Fourth of July! Space is limited. Please call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127 to register.

See more events at <http://www.lakewoodobserver.com>

Observer’s Observation Deck

<http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum>

Where Lakewoodites Go To Hang Out And Talk

Topic	Replies	Author	Views	Date
Announcement: July 4th Parade		Jim O’Bryan	48	Mon Jun 12, 2006 5:43 am
Lakewood playgrounds	8	Janet Popielski	203	Mon Jun 12, 2006 6:08 pm
Sex Offenders[Goto page: 1, 2, 3]	44	Ryan Salo	1184	Mon Jun 12, 2006 2:14 pm
Great Observer Meeting	5	dl meckes	169	Mon Jun 12, 2006 12:41 pm
A Fire in Lakewood Last Night	5	Scott MacGregor	145	Sun Jun 11, 2006 3:57 pm
New Lakewood Park paths t	18	stephen davis	620	Sun Jun 11, 2006 11:43 am
Bicycle Advocacy	3	Tim Liston	130	Sun Jun 11, 2006 11:30 am
“wind turbine” at the science center	0	DougHuntingdon	50	Sat Jun 10, 2006 3:46 pm
Casinos	14	Charyn Varkonyi	213	Fri Jun 09, 2006 8:50 am
DO NOT SIGN	15	Jim O’Bryan	417	Thu Jun 08, 2006 8:27 am

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!



THE
**LAKWOOD
OBSERVER**

Your Independent Source for
Lakewood News & Opinion

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Lakewood City Hall

New Streets, Wet Streets

New Streets, Wet Streets

The June 5, 2006 Council Meeting was called to order at 7:49 by president Robert Seelie.

Quite a few rows of seats were occupied by friends and coworkers of Eugenia Gorski to recognize her retirement. Council passed a resolution introduced by Mayor Thomas George praising Gorski's long and valued service in the city's health department. George said, "she has always been a special person to us at city hall. She has always been ahead of the curve and taken the initiative."

In response, Gorski said "I choose to live in the community that I love, Lakewood."

In a verbal report from the public works committee council member Ryan Demro (ward two) complimented the administration on the sidewalk repair program. "The administration has a good plan that the residents understand and we are pleased with it," said Demro.

Council member Kevin Butler (ward one) then read a letter requesting cooperation to save the Hall House. Saving this historic home is still part of the planning for a parking lot at Detroit and Edwards. Butler hopes that between the city, the owner of the private lots, and the Lakewood Historical Society that a plot can be found to place this structure. Neighbor Michael Gill said "These historic homes are an asset and I hope that you will do what you can to save the Hall House."

Last Wednesday, June 7, 2006, shortly after 1:00 PM the emergency warning siren sounded. It was a prelude to three inches of rain in under an hour. Heard on the police scanner was a patrolman describing a man-hole cover on Clifton being blown four feet into the air. Another officer on the Warren Road I 90 overpass asked if Lakewood could shut down the Interstate due to the sudden flooding. When the rain finally stopped it took until 5:00 for the traffic and the water to drain out of Lakewood.

Left in the aftermath were flooded basements. Public Works Director Tony Beno said that a

By Stan Austin
City Council Reporter

comprehensive report was being compiled to add to the data base necessary to upgrade the sewers. Human Services Director Dottie Buckon said that the city's Health Department had basement clean up advice on the city website. Mayor George said that the long range sewer improvements mandated by the federal EPA would

go a long way to solving basement flooding.

Business then switched from wet streets to new streets. Beno wanted council to drop Robinwood Avenue from this year's street repair program and add Roycroft Avenue. The future plans for Lakewood High School which borders Robinwood indi-

cates that postponement of repairs is advisable. It will be recalled that in January City Engineer Dennis Albrecht presented a comprehensive street rebuilding plan based on objective engineering criteria. Council member Michael Dever (at large) asked Beno if Roycroft was the next street on the long term plan. Beno replied that it was and that the plan which council and the administration had worked together to achieve was being maintained.

Residents might have observed a flame and smoke belching paving machine on several Lakewood streets. This behemoth is resurfacing five streets this year and is using a process and machine that was invented here in Cleveland.

It's called hot in place asphalt recycling and is done by the Benedetti Paving Company from Bedford. Al Benedetti, son of founder and inventor Angelo Benedetti described the process to the Lakewood Observer.

The front of the machine is a heater fueled by propane. The heat and flames make the old surface soft. This old pavement is then ground up with a circular auger gear and brought up into a rejuvenating tank. In this tank the old blacktop is combined with new polymers and other additives to bring it back to a new condition. It's then laid down from the back of the machine to be rolled out as a new coat of asphalt.

"My Dad invented this process out of necessity in 1969," said Benedetti. He had to finish a job at the beginning of winter and ran out of new asphalt. So, he heated up the old, ground it up, and relayed it. The customer was satisfied and we went on to fabricate this specialty machine which we manufacture here in Bedford. We sell them all over the world."

Besides the benefits of recycling and minimum disruption to residents there is a cost saving. According to Beno, the city is saving about \$700,000 this year by using this method as compared to the deep grind and overlay method.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51.



A special resolution being presented to Jean Gorski, retiring after 27 years as the Assistant Director in the Division of Aging. Left to Right: Council Person Mary Louise Madigan, Health and Human Service Director Dottie Buckon, Jean Gorski, Council Person Nicki Antonio, and Mayor Thomas George.



National Merit society Winners 2006 From Left To Right: Charlie Bulger, Sam Bocchicchio, Marc Carnovale, Council Person Nicki Antonio, Colleen Murrett, Adrienne Strong, Brynn Gorbach-Foster, Audrey Newbacher, Councilman Ryan Patrick Demro, Brett Cushing and Mayor Thomas George.



The Buck Stops Here

Do We Walk The Line?

The tee-shirt I bought at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame reads, “if it’s too loud, you’re too old.” Rock is, by definition, loud, even if it is a whisper. It is a shout of fire in a theater, the laugh in the back of the room, the voice inside us that does not shut up. It speaks in the language of the street, not that of the courtroom, classroom or home, in the only way it can.

Anyone can take it anywhere, and, because of that, it is often seen to be threatening. “A voice can go somewhere uninvited,” Samantha Mathis tells Christian Slater in the movie *Pump Up the Volume*. “Find your voice and use it.” That is why we cannot get enough of it. Anything is possible it tells us.

“Under the Paving Stones the Beach” was the slogan students adopted as their own during their rebellion in the streets of Paris in 1968 to characterize their need to find a way to live that was free, fulfilling, just. Or nothing is. “Everybody knows the dice are loaded,” Leonard Cohen sings. But even the nothing it tells is something. They can’t take that away.

The democracy of the song – its freedom – puts democracy on the witness stand. During the first Gulf War, the BBC banned fifty songs, including Joan Baez’s “The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down,” Bob Marley’s “Buffalo Soldier,” Eric Clapton’s “I Shot the

By Robert Buckeye



Sheriff,” and Bruce Springsteen’s “I’m on Fire.”

Since “Shock and Awe” began, Springsteen, Eminem, Pearl Jam, Pink and Neil Young have written songs in opposition to the Iraq war or George Bush. In the cases of Springsteen, Eminem and Pearl Jam, the songs rocketed to the tops of the charts. Only The Dixie Chicks have suffered from their opposition to Bush, and not for a song, but for a comment they made at a concert. “Not Ready to Make Nice,” a song on their new album, is their answer to the critics. Songs are the only answer rock can make.

If rock music always contests its time, its democracy precludes politics even though its songs may be political. We find what we want. The National Review lists the top 50 conservative rock songs in its last issue, including The Who’s “Won’t Get Fooled Again,” The Stones’s “Sympathy for the Devil,” The Clash’s “Rock the Casbah,” and the Pretenders’s anthem for Cleveland, “My City was Gone,” songs that radicals would also include on their list. Rush Limbaugh uses the bass line from the Chrissie Hynde song as his theme song. (Rumor has it that George Bush likes the music of The Dixie Chicks,

and that he, too, is not ready to make nice.)

“What form do you suppose a life would take,” Walter Benjamin writes, “that was determined at a decisive moment precisely by the street song on everyone’s lips?” In fact, we know that our lives are altered by street songs, that they imprint themselves on our lives – how she looked at me the last time we saw one another, a song in the background, or that moment captured later by a song. We know that song helps us understand the present or past, even if it would be foolish for us to say so.

Victor Jara, the singer of the people in Chile, was imprisoned with thousands of other Chileans in a soccer stadium in Santiago by the Pinochet regime, which had overthrown the democratically-elected government of Salvador Allende. Soldiers cut off his hands, gave him his guitar, said, now play something, and laughed. He cradled his guitar with his stumps and sang power down. The president of Chile today was also imprisoned in that stadium with Jara.

“I Walk the Line,” Johnny Cash sings, and if his song tells us we can too or that there are those like Cash who do walk the line, who tell us it can be done. Cash’s song also asks a question we must answer. Do we walk the line?

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Lakewood Fiction & Fun

Hex in the City:

Turning Lakewood into Hatchetnap

By Kenneth Warren

Michael A. Miller is a visionary pulp fictioneer, a free spirit refugee from the publishing industry landed in Lakewood, one of the more appealing and affordable environments in the Greater Cleveland area where he felt he could cultivate and refine his writing into marketable fiction.

“There are areas of Greater Cleveland that are as livable as Lakewood but not as conducive to the creative process,” says Miller. Having pitched tent in a low rent Lakewood apartment, Miller is now asking big questions about life in the city: “Who populates the parts of Lakewood we can’t see with the naked eye? If you moved into the negative space of your own world what would life be like? I am using the framework of the geography of Lakewood and filling it in with my dark and shadowy vision. I am replacing beautiful buildings with my cemetery markers. I am turning the architectural style of Lakewood inside out and bringing dark qualities to the surface.”

Lakewood’s buildings, grains and textures are all grist for Miller’s noir psycho-drama, *Atrocity Parade*. As Miller describes it, “*Atrocity Parade*, a graphic novel trapped in the body of a magazine, amplifies the sadistic trivia of day-to-day existence. It’s the hymnal and prayer book of society’s heretics.”

There is little doubt Miller is poised to score the baroque melo-

drama inscribed in his population cohort of thirty-something isolatoes living on Lakewood’s postindustrial edge, sans cash, sans relationship. With an impressive sheaf of notes, sketches and thumbnails, Miller conveys the high hope his multi-storied psyche is fully equipped, finely attuned, and stuffed to the gills with characters needed to inhabit the hardcopy anti-Mayberry version of Lakewood after dark now destined to spill in serial iteration from his inky pen.

Gripping Miller’s imagination are two particular characters: Spackle Nanrella DeTwyler who “meandered through post-highschool life, slamming into mental telephone poles and flushing herself into the open manholes that pitted her intellect,” and Bismark Arundel Baxter who “bastes his brooding with the fidgets & squirms of someone who has gained unwelcome insight.” Miller aims through these over-the-top baroque characters to re-ignite the pulp market for serialized fiction in these thoroughly post-literate times.

According to Miller’s plan, anti-heroic narrator Baine Leopold will lead *Atrocity Parade*’s sensational amplification of Lakewood and its misfits. “I don’t know that Baine Leopold is or ever will be a fully-developed, well-rounded 3-dimensional character – otherwise known as a fictional character that could function in any setting, other than that which he was created in,” Miller confesses. “I think

I just wanted a pseudonym to override my own CharlieBrownish Christian-given-birth-name, to contain the attitude and the voice necessary to make *Atrocity Parade* a success.”

Joking with an affection sprung from a deep realization his own life is intimately connected to the Yin cityscape at bottom *Atrocity Parade*, Miller is inclined to admit “Lakewood seems to me to be a whack-job magnet.” Indeed, Lakewood’s “whack-job magnet” penetrates the raw forms imagined for *Atrocity Parade*. “It’s the Petri dish and the playground, the journey and the dead end, the alpha and the omega for manchildren, skags, fatgirls, wisenheimers and other untold miscreants. It’s the ark that holds the mysteries but tells the secrets of desperate characters with dangerous ideas,” writes Miller.

As a powerful impresario for Lakewood’s DIY creative underclass imagi, Miller invites us to offer up a dollop of angst and to join the “smoldering loner” who is now turning the most densely populated city between New York and Chicago into Hatchetnap, Ohio.

“Hatchetnap, Ohio is a dusky grotto that’s been gouged from the disappointment & misery of the human condition,” Miller writes. “If Earth were yanked out of its socket like an overturned rock, Hatchetnap would be found festering in the pit...Every microsecond spent in Hatchetnap feels like life’s worst moment happening in the middle of a sideshow.”

Miller’s formula for the creation of Hatchetnap relies heavily upon his contemplation of Lakewood’s local color acting upon their darkest desires with deferred consequences.

“The national pastime in Hatchetnap is looking over your shoulder,” says Miller, presenting a slightly paranoid capture of Lakewood’s Gen X population churn. In the process, he advances a possible explanation for all the Doc Martens boots on the ground, marching to batty wing beats of the city’s fly-by alternative culture cultures.

“Nobody makes Hatchetnap a life destination. A person is either born there, or just wakes up there as a result of enigmatically unorthodox choices...Hatchetnap is a harsh ‘n’ unsympathetic landscape pocked with random delinquents presiding over mobs of phreaks.”

Looking around Lakewood, the would-be reader discovers sufficient evidence Miller’s freaky audience is already on parade down the Detroit Avenue ley line. The magnetic underside of these chthonic lives appears ready to be folded into pages of *Atrocity Parade*, the city magazine Miller imagines capturing the underground comic book pulse of Hatchetnap’s denizens. “In its angst-riddled pages,” promises Miller, “post-goths, thrashing bohos, crumbly artqueens, liberal-arts grad students, and all other phyla of overly-ripe, choleric day-job hostages will find asylum.”

Family Fun for the Summer!

By Indira DeJarnette

Are you still wondering what to do with your vacation time? If you live in or near Lakewood -- you’re in luck! Yes, Lakewood’s new YMCA is under construction, but don’t forget there are programs still going on. For more information, go to: www.clevelandymca.org. Also, there’s still time to order your Brick Paver until June 15th; call (216) 263-6854.

The Lakewood Public Library has something for everyone’s taste, from babies to seniors. Don’t forget the “Wild About Books” summer reading club, movies, crafts, performances, camps and classes. See: www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.org.

For middleschoolers and teens, check out www.PlayhouseSquare.com/arts-education for exciting musical theatre, extrem-ish and hip hop camps. For hip hop lovers, check out Progressive Arts Alliance at www.PAAlive.org. Santina Protospapa is the director of this program. He has worked in conjunction with the Contemporary Youth Orchestra, the Playhouse Square, as well as several schools, and also has a

variety of programs. One program teaches students film, editing and interviewing skills. Students are matched with seniors to do this wonderful project!

Ohio State Parks Department of Natural Resources has programs from the Cleveland Lakefront, including Edgewater to the Headland Beach state parks; see www.ClevelandLakeFront.Org

If you’re a music, dance or theatre fan, Playhouse Square, The Cleveland Playhouse, The Music School Settlement, Dance Africa Dance, The Beck Center, Baldwin Wallace College, The Cleveland Public Theatre and the Near West Theatre (www.Nearwesttheatre.org) all have programs to offer.

For jazz students and vocalists, (if space is still available), check out the Roberto Ocasio 2006 Latin Jazz Music camp at Lake Erie College: www.latinjazzproject.com. Many camps have May/June deadlines, so call as soon as possible! Some may offer financial assistance or scholarships if you qualify.

Then don’t forget board games, reading a new book, or just walking. While you’re at it, make sure

to stay hydrated! Drink water 1-2 hours before going out in hot temperatures and continue to hydrate with water or electrolytes. Sodas can dehydrate the body and may not mix well in the heat.

Or for fun, try a smoothie! Put 1 cup of rice milk, soy, organic milk, 100% juice or water in a blender and add a handful of frozen fruit (3/4 cup), banana or blueberries and 1tbsp. of Agave (sweetner - found

in healthfood stores or Tops food store). Blend. Or, you can try pouring your favorite smoothie, juice or tea into an ice tray; stick in popsicle sticks; then freeze. Try making tea overnite using mint tea bags for a cool, refreshing feeling. Take your time and remember to eat light and healthy. Look for your local farmers who are always ready to help you enjoy the summer!

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Lakewood Observer

Residents To Get Briefing on Lakewood Main Street Improvements At June 28 Forum by LakewoodAlive

By Tom Powell-Bullock

Lakewood residents are getting the chance to learn about improvements planned for the downtown Detroit Avenue commercial corridor, thanks to a forum series jointly sponsored by LakewoodAlive and Lakewood Community Progress Inc. (LCPI). Titled, “A 2020 Vision for Our Main Street,” the two-part series describes the Lakewood Main Street program and presents a multi-year vision for streetscape improvements, upgraded business practices, and more downtown events.

The forum series began in May and continues at an upcoming Wednesday, June 28 presentation, scheduled for 7 p.m. (location to be announced). The June 28 forum is free and open to the public, and audience members will hear from and pose questions to David Shaw, President of LCPI; Mikelann Rensel, LCPI Vice President; and Jennifer Hooper, Executive Director of Main Street Lakewood.

Main Street is a national program led by the National Trust for Historic Preservation which assists communities with economic development and preservation in their traditional downtown commercial districts. It has been implemented in 1,800 cities nationwide.

Lakewood was accepted into the Main Street program in 2005 and designated Detroit Avenue between Arthur and Bunts Avenues as its official Main Street area, where efforts to revitalize Lakewood commerce will focus.

May Forum Provides Advice from Main Street Successes In Other Communities

On May 10, dozens of Lakewood residents gathered in Lakewood Hospital’s Wasmer Auditorium to learn the Main Street program’s history and its successes in other communities which could provide guidelines for Lakewood.

LCPI Board Members were well-represented in the audience, and Lakewood City Council Members Nickie Antonio, Mary Louise Madigan, and Ryan Demro attended the forum.

LakewoodAlive Vice President Jay Foran welcomed the crowd. “Welcome to my birthplace, [Lakewood Hospital],” Foran quipped. “We’re anxious to share with you a ‘20/20 Vision for Our Main Street.” Foran said the speakers would address the audience about example programs that could serve as a template for Lakewood’s own downtown revitalization program.

LakewoodAlive President Mary Anne Crampton introduced the two guest speakers: Joyce Barrett, program director for Heritage Ohio, a historic preservation organization which supports 32 Main Street programs across Ohio; and Sandra Hull, executive director of Main Street Wooster, an organization similar to LCPI spearheading a downtown commerce revitalization in Wooster, Ohio.

The speakers stressed that Main Street efforts win participation not through charity, but through helping the bottom line of downtown businesses.

“As a manager, I never ask anybody to redo their building as a gift to downtown Wooster,” said Hull, but rather as a way to increase their return on what that building is worth in the context of downtown commerce.

Hull said a key facilitating role for the Main Street manager is to approach business owners who need to expand but are too busy to make plans and help match them with new buildings, finances, and other necessities.

Barrett stressed that Main Street programs do not provide quick fixes but rather incremental steps towards a planned goal, achievable over the long term. She said success hinges on community-wide participation and volunteer effort.

Hull agreed that long-term planning is key. “You know who those people are who can vision twenty years out. Those are the people you ask for help,” she said.

Barrett made an analogy between a Main Street program and a shopping mall: both need marketing, promotions, maintenance, and cleaning. Since the Main Street program cannot hire staff, Barrett pointed to other communities that coordinated volunteer teams to perform these functions.

Barrett identified consistent streetscape and storefront design as a major concern--maintaining quality,

architectural continuity, and rehabilitating historic buildings to their original quality. She singled out Crocker Park. “What are they mimicking? They’re mimicking what you have [in Lakewood’s downtown],” she said.

Barrett advised that a key mistake for Lakewood to avoid is lacking a work program and a consistent plan. She discouraged “scattershot changes as ideas occur.”

Hull noted that another mistake is overly-high expectations. “Don’t tackle the big projects too early,” Hull warned. “The communities are counting on so much for the [Main Street] program to accomplish” but she cautioned against burning out the manager and board.

On the other hand, Hull said to win support from the community, a Main Street program needs to show some immediate, tangible change so people driving through the downtown notice the difference and start asking questions.

LCPI Board President David Shaw said immediate changes initiated by Lakewood’s Main Street program include an April volunteer clean up of the downtown business district plus a City-secured grant to analyze downtown traffic flow.

To establish credibility, Hull warned, the board and the manager must deliver on commitments. “If you say you’re going

to do something in six months, you better deliver to the community,” she said.

Hull stressed the need for diverse participation, not just of downtown organizations, but community-wide. Volunteer recruitment is key, and Wooster sponsors a kids day in order to increase participation by young residents. Barrett emphasized that strong private sector participation is critical.

Hull said another key function of successful Main Street programs is tracking business and downtown statistics for regular reports, so needs can be assessed and progress can be measured. She said such statistical tracking showed that Wooster’s Main Street program reduced vacancy to 5 percent, reinvested \$82 million into the downtown, and rehabilitated many buildings over 19 years.

Hull says one Main Street goal is to increase downtown traffic so that festival visitors come to the downtown area more than once per year. Wooster runs 15 promotions each year and has hired a promotions coordinator to run those events.

Hull also said communicating the message to the community through websites, newsletters, and newspaper reporting are essential.

Councilwoman Antonio asked a question about the balance between the joint plan versus private owners’ own business plans. “How does one coordinate a good process but also deal with the realities of life?” she asked.

Barrett responded that it takes time to establish relationships and educate the business owners about what services are provided through the downtown program. Hull added that building partnerships is essential for success, especially with city hall and local banks.


Councilman Demro pointed out that Lakewood has two main streets and asked, “What do you do with the other commercial corridor while you are investing in the primary corridor?” Hull answered that investing in one will help the other.

LakewoodAlive is a nonpartisan citizens’ group which promotes economic development and quality-of-life improvements in Lakewood. LCPI facilitates quality planning, economic development, rehabilitation, and restoration of downtown Lakewood through public and private partnerships.

The LakewoodAlive and LCPI forums are sponsored by Prudential/Lucien Realty and Lakewood Hospital.

Attend Free June 28 Forum to Learn About Lakewood’s Main Street Program
Join fellow Lakewood residents on Wednesday, June 28 at 7 p.m. (location TBA) to learn about Lakewood’s Main Street program at a free forum sponsored by LakewoodAlive and LCPI. Speakers include:

David Shaw, President of LCPI;
Mikelann Rensel,
LCPI Vice President; and
Jennifer Hooper,
Executive Director of Main Street Lakewood.



2006 Spring Forum Series

A 2020 Vision for Our Main Street
Main Street in Lakewood
Wednesday, June 28th 7:00pm

Wasmer Auditorium - Lakewood Hospital
Use Belle Avenue Entrance

with generous support by:
Lakewood Hospital
Prudential-Lucien Real Estate

www.lakewoodalive.com

LakewoodAlive Event

WHAT:
LakewoodAlive and Lakewood Community Progress Inc. (LCPI) present a Spring Speaker Series, “A 2020 Vision for Our Main Street.” The series is designed to educate and inform residents about the importance of the Main Street program, its success in other communities and how it will benefit the city of Lakewood. The series is sponsored by Prudential/Lucien Realty and Lakewood Hospital.

The second and final event is “Main Street Lakewood.” This session will focus on the long-term vision for implementing the Main Street program in Lakewood and include time for the community to ask questions and offer suggestions.

WHEN:
Wednesday, June 28 at 7:00 pm. The event is free and open to the public.

WHERE:
The Wasmer Auditorium at Lakewood Hospital. Parking is free in the hospital parking garage.

SPEAKERS:
David Shaw, president of LCPI; Mikelann Rensel, vice president of LCPI; and Jennifer Hooper, executive director, Main Street Lakewood.

BACKGROUND:
Main Street, a national program led by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, provides an economic development and preservation program that assists communities to reenergize their traditional commercial districts. It has been implemented in more than 1,800 cities across the country. The city of Lakewood was accepted into the Main Street revitalization program in 2005 and designated Detroit Avenue between Arthur Avenue and Bunts Avenue as the official Main Street area.

Lakewood Schools

Lakewood High School Scholarship Recipients

The Lakewood Public Schools’ Alumni Foundation was able to award more than \$37,000 in scholarships to 43 Lakewood High Students. These scholarships have been set up by the following persons and Lakewood High classes, or in memory of persons who were faculty members or family members in the school system. The awarded students were outstanding in academics, athletic endeavors, extra-curricular activities, or community volunteer projects.

Alan & Carol Oatey Scholarship
Meredith Miller

Anthony J. DiBiasio, Jr. Scholarship
Colleen Brieck
Amanda Maugans

Carl E. & Margaret F. Dryer Scholarship
Elizabeth Bittel
Brynn Gorbach-Foster
Jennifer Jarema
Shannon Lee
Sarah Malanowski
Christopher Palton
Kyle Richards

Charley Geiger Volunteerism Scholarship
Tiffani Rzemisiewski
Class of 1941 Scholarship
Neil Anderson
David Rich

Class of 1944 Scholarship
Christina Matzen
Colleen Murrett
Kaitlin Walsh

Class of 1947 Scholarship
Amber Morris

Class of 1954 Scholarship
Christina Madison

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Scholarship
Desiree Hagan
Derek Maxfield
Megan Neumann

Lakewood Public Schools Alumni Foundation Trustee Scholarship
Andrew Luehring
Rachel Wilhelm

Evelyn Sabol Arts Scholarship
Audrey Neubacher

Nancy Furst Figgie Scholarship
Chelsea Dixon

Class of 1955 Scholarship
Kyle Loudin

Class of 1958 Scholarship
Kayla Mravec

Class of 1960 Scholarship
Kelly Richardson

Class of 1972 Scholarship
Emily Tingler

Class of June 1946 Scholarship
Seth Taha
Ted Cunningham Memorial Scholarship
Ketrin Lengu
Nicole Rambo

George P. Read Music Scholarship
Mitchell Iacullo
Lucia Stavros

Harry E. Figgie, Jr. Scholarship
Joseph Frankenfield

Ryan J. Meinke Memorial Music Scholarship
Josh Laux

Herman & Katie Kleinmeyer Scholarship
Domenick Cristino
Alyssa Endress
Peter Tabeling

Jack Neal Baseball Award
Richard Hiles

Neal Family Swimming Award
Jeff Dorazewski

Norm & Ruth Cherington Brown Scholarship & Kyle P. Wolf Scholar Athlete Award
Sara Zolinski

Ryan J. Meinke Memorial Volunteerism Scholarship
Jessica Eaton
Caitlin Keelor



Left to Right 1st row Meredith Miller, Desiree Hagan, Kaitlin Walsh, Christina Madison. 2nd row Mitchell Iacullo, Neil Anderson, Joseph Frankenfield, Christopher Palton, Andrew Luehring



Left to Right - 1st row Sara Zolinski, Nicole Rambo, Audrey Neubacher, Brynn Foster, Colleen Brieck. 2nd row Coleen Murrett, Domenick Cristino, Peter Tabeling, Emily Tingler, Jessica Eaton

Lakewood Students Give--and Gain--in the H2O (Help to Others) Program

By Indira DeJarnette

You might think that only well-to-do individuals and families volunteer, donate, and share their talents with others. What some may not realize is that many students--and adults, who are in great need themselves--are often the first in line to

help others. H2O (Help to Others) is a program which is part of the Department of Health & Human Services and is located in Lakewood High School, H2O is run by Celia Dorche & Mrs. Steele. Students may spend their entire summer serving the community or work throughout the school

year--after school and on weekends. This program has helped bring many students out of their shells, move into leadership roles in the community, prepare for college and future responsibilities and develop a clear understanding of the importance of giving back.

H2O projects have included packing food at the Cleveland Food Bank, clothing drives and sales before school, fundraising for charitable causes, the Teddy Bear project, placing flags on veterans’ graves for Memorial Day and preparing breakfast for seniors at the Barton Center. Another valuable project was the Big Brother-Big Sister program at Emerson Middle School. In this program, junior and senior counselors mentor those younger than themselves, creating a huge impact in the lives of both the mentored child as well as the mentor. This is a wonderful program, with leaders and students who really love helping and want to serve. Students in this program have a hard time leaving when it’s time.

H2O recently had their end-of-the-year awards ceremony, which included a large number of high school seniors who are moving on to college. Some students were new to the H2O program; others have served as long as 6 years. Volunteer hours went as high as 400 hours for

some individuals. Several students were unaware that their selflessness would lead to college scholarships in volunteerism . Many awards were given and students who achieved 20 volunteer hours or more received special white global H2O shirts. One of those students was Courtney Marie Woods, a freshman who spent many evenings at Rainbow Babies & Children cooking with friends and working on other special projects. Courtney plans on becoming a nurse.

On June 16th & 17th, H2O volunteers, along with families and friends, will prepare to raise money for the American Cancer Society (Relay for Life). Over the course of this past school year, H2O raised \$5,971 for charity. If you have children who are in middle school or high school, I would encourage you to have them look into the H2O program. (They can call Celia Dorsch at (216) 529-6870.) Many students have discovered that their volunteer work with H2O has given them a special sense of pride, an opportunity to develop leadership abilities in a safe social setting and a strong support group as they learn to influence the real world in a positive way. Many organizations have thanked H2O and its youth for the difference they have made.



It's never to late! Girls Varsity Rugby team returned late from Portland for graduation, after placing 5th in the country, with their third straight state championship. Hannah Sima served as designated Validictorian, along with co-captains Erin Norton and Danielle Rusnak, and Anna Kray, Molly McFee, Charlotte VanDuzee, Ivona Velovich.

Lakewood Observer

Detroit Avenue Church Starting Work On A \$3 Million Building Project

By Will Limkemann

On June 11, Lakewood Presbyterian Church broke ground for a three million dollar building renovation. The project will include replacing a fifteen thousand square foot education and office complex with a new building and renovating much of the remaining building. The new structure, to be named the L. Wilson Kilgore Education Center, in honor of a former minister,

will include offices, class rooms, conference areas, a “gathering area,” and meeting rooms.

In December, 2003 the church began a process of evaluating the usage of its building, current and future needs, and the condition of the facilities. The resulting requirements were presented to Cleveland architect David Krebs, principal of AODK, Inc., who developed a concept and worked with contractors

to estimate costs. This was followed by a building campaign begun in May, 2005 during the kick-off of the church’s centennial celebration. At the end of 2005, having raised the needed funding, the church retained David Krebs to do the design work, and subsequently entered into a contract with the Simmons Brothers Corporation, of Medina, to do the demolition, construction, and renovation. The project is expected to be finished by the fall of 2007.

Church officials selected AODK after being impressed by renovations and church designs done by AODK. The design created by AODK beautifully blends a contemporary building into the older structure. Selection of Simmons Brothers was based in part on the projects they had completed with designs by AODK, and the working relationships between the two firms.

One of the key issues addressed in the new building is accessibility. A centrally located elevator will make all levels of the building accessible, and new restrooms will be ADA accessible. A shower will be available to overnight guests hosted by the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Other significant features will include a driveway connecting the front and back parking lots, a reconfigured attractive entry into the sanctuary, a convenient and well-appointed crib room, and a spacious central gathering area.

Lakewood Presbyterian Church,

located at Detroit and Marlowe, is a traditional church with an active congregation, a strong purpose of mission, an outstanding music program with opportunities for young children through adults, meaningful Christian educational opportunities for all ages, and a visionary and dynamic minister. It has a growing congregation that now includes about 450 members. The generous congregation supports many global, national, and local missions, and supports and provides a home for boy and cub scouts, a nursery school, and support groups.

According to the minister, Reverend James Butler, “The new building, and space renovation in the existing structure, will help the congregation to realize our stated goals of a place conducive to worship, Christian education and spiritual nurturing, fellowship in a warm and welcoming atmosphere, outreach and Christian service, and stewardship of our resources.”

The first part of the building was begun in 1906. This was followed by the current sanctuary, constructed in 1920, which underwent a major renovation in 1963, and a minor renovation in 1997. The education wing, which is to be demolished, was built in 1950. Church officials believe that the changes to the building will not only increase the regional draw of the church, but will enhance its role in community outreach.



From left: Raymond L. Turk, President of Community Challenge’s Board of Trustees; Fred M. DeGrandis, CEO of Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran Hospitals; and Julie M. Johnson, Executive Director of Community Challenge.



Community Service Award recipients include, front row, from left: Chief Gregory Jackson, recently retired chief of the Bay Village Fire Department; Theodore J. Castele, M.D. F.A.C.R.; Bay Village Mayor Deborah Sutherland; and Judge Raymond Pianka of the Cleveland Municipal Housing Court. Back row, William J. Reidy, who serves on several Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran hospital boards; Charles Garven, M.D., Pat Conway, co-owner of Great Lakes Brewery; Fred DeGrandis, CEO and president of Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran hospitals; and W. Charles Geiger, III, president of Geiger’s Clothing and Sports. Missing from photo: Dan Conway, co-owner of Great Lakes Brewery.



Lakewood Hospital
a Cleveland Clinic hospital



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Medical Director, Behavioral Health for the Elderly

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Lakewood Observer

Brits Eyeball Cleveland's Livability

Locals Acclaim Lakewood's Amenities

By Kenneth Warren

Lakewood's media personalities are celebrating the pleasures and local treasures that underscore Cleveland's #1 ranking by The Economist magazine as the most livable city in the United States.

The Economist Intelligence Unit, the proclaimed “world leader in global business intelligence,” has released a new survey priced at \$200, ranking conditions in 127 cities around the world. Cleveland and Pittsburgh are jointly ranked as the best scoring cities for livability in the United States.

According to the EIU, living conditions in cities around the world were assessed for 40 individual indicators grouped into 5 categories: stability; healthcare; culture and environment; education; and infrastructure. The survey gives a rating of 0%-100% and judges a city with a lower score to be the more attractive destination. A rating of 20% is where problems begin to mount. Any rating over 50% places severe restrictions on lifestyle. The best places combine widespread availability of goods and services, recreational opportunities, low personal risk and



Lakewood, the “Best Suburb” as rated by three media sources, nestled in “The Most Liveable Region In America” picked by a London based group. Can it get any better?

effective communication and transport infrastructure.

Corporate consultants and relocation firms pay EIU to obtain access to the detailed survey in order to support business analysis, compensation and negotiation deci-

sions among executives. Although the Lakewood Observer did not obtain paid access to the detailed survey, EIU promotional materials, designed to spin through the media and drive pay-to-view database traffic, provide a general sense of the qualities and trends that support Cleveland's top ranking as the most livable city in the United States.

First, there are advantages in an age of globalism and terrorism to choosing an affordable location with amenities and infrastructure at the periphery rather than at the center of globalist money grinding. Thus Cleveland and Pittsburgh surface in eyes of British corporate intelligence as the most attractive destinations in the United States, sharing 26th place in the global ranking, which scores Vancouver at the very top.

"In the current global political climate, it is no surprise that the most desirable destinations are those with a lower perceived threat of terrorism," says Jon Copestake, editor for the Economist's Intelligence Unit.

Cleveland is crowing over the top spot, but Pittsburgh is second guessing the good news, according to Cool Cleveland publisher Thomas Mulready, who is struck by the different responses in each city to ranking as the most livable in the United States.

“Surprisingly, Pittsburgh, who tied for top honors, apparently doesn’t feel they deserve to be champions and are questioning the professional survey’s methodology. We’re too busy pointing out more awesome things going on this week in Cleveland,” writes Mulready in *Cool Cleveland*.

Mulready sees “a town that is

culturally on fire.”

The case for Lakewood's place as the best suburb of the most livable city in the United States is now firmly supported by ratings produced in 2005 for both *Free Times* and *Scene*.

Not satisfied with the square, suburban bias that typically drives the Cleveland Magazine matrix to rank elite destinations at the top of the heap, Free Times went against the grain, tapped expert opinion, and looked deeply into the urban core and inner ring for quality of life factors that defy class and racial stratification.

“For too long realtors, bankers and — as the population shifts shows us — home buyers have defined “good” neighborhoods as those that exist because lots of people have removed themselves from the challenges inherent in population density and diversity,” writes Michael Gill, an Associate Editor for Free Times, who lives in Lakewood.

Gill notes “the old realtor’s adage — location, location, location — actually means something. You want a location that is convenient to work, shopping centers, parks and culture. You want a location that is distinctive, a place with a sense of identity. Perhaps without realizing it, you want the qualities that drew people together into cities in the first place.”

In Free Times “the competition for the best community in Cuyahoga County included six of Cleveland’s 35 neighborhoods in the pool: Detroit-Shoreway, Ohio City, Tremont, Glenville, Slavic Village, North Collinwood. Whenever possible, we used studies and opinions from experts in a variety of fields.”

Scoring was based on: 1) return on investment for real estate; 2) public transit and walkability; 3) schools; 4) density; 5) diversity; 6) architecture; 7) nightlife; 8) cultural amenities.

When all the points were tallied Lakewood scored at the top with 37.

Likewise, Lakewood won the 2005 Scene Readers Poll for “Best Suburb.”

Scene editor Peter Kotz, another Lakewood resident, assembled a great selection of “earthly delights” for the Best of Cleveland issue, published on September 28. Scene’s Best of Cleveland identified twenty winners located in Lakewood.

The astounding number of Lakewood champions spans from Best Rock Laboratory – The Lakewood Project to Best Civic-Minded Art Gallery – Local Girl Gallery, from Best Place to Buy Vinyl – My Mind’s Eye to Best Wine Store – Rozi’s Wine & Liquor House.

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- **LAKEWOOD:** \$79,900 1 BR 1 BA condo w/panoramic view, eatin kit, cer. Flr, rooftop deck.
- **LAKEWOOD:** \$114,900 3 BR 1 BA Col w/wide lot, tool shed. Lots of wdwk, huge closet in MBR.
- **LAKEWOOD:** \$69,500 2 BR 1 BA Condo w/Pergo flrs, stainless steel appl's. Marble entry & kit.
- **LAKEWOOD:** \$129,900 4 BR 1 BA well-maint'd Col w/many updates. Backyard patio.
- **LAKEWOOD:** \$119,900 Large Double near highways schools & dwntwn. Family owned and occupied. Needs a little TLC, great potential for owner or investor.

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**20th
ANNIVERSARY**

Advanced Energy Technology (11709 Madison)

AET plans to renovate portions of its current location and purchase new machinery and equipment to compete more strongly in the fuel cell and the electronic thermal management markets.

Total Investment \$11 million

Angelo’s Pizza (13713 Madison)

Angelo’s Pizza purchased a vacant building and renovated it for a stylish pizza parlor.

Total Investment: \$500,000

BP (14718 Madison)

BP spent approximately \$250,000 to modernize its pumps located on the northeast corner of Madison Avenue and Warren Road.

Total Investment: \$250,000



Brennan’s Florist (13396 Madison)

The owner of this long-term Lakewood business purchased and redeveloped a former convenient food store to an upscale floral shop.

Total Investment: \$300,000

The Cliffs (Western portion of Sloane Avenue)

The Cliffs is the first new waterfront development in over 40 years in Lakewood. The local development team of The Foran Group LLC, and M. Montlack Development, plan to construct a 46-unit multi-level luxury condominium and boat marina development on a unique 1.6 acre site at the former site of the Krumreig Marina.

Total Investment: \$19 million

First Federal of Lakewood (14806 Detroit)

First Federal of Lakewood completely rehabilitated the interior and exterior of its corporate offices.

Total Investment: \$3 Million

Geppetto’s (17103 Detroit)

This restaurant recently renovated and expanded its building for more seating.

Total Investment: \$225,000



Hinkley Lighting (12750 Berea)

The company completed the construction of a new 50,000 SF Distribution Facility while also renovating its offices.

Total Investment: \$2.75 million

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan (Lakewood Center North)

Through an approximately 16,000 sf expansion, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan doubled its space in the Lakewood Center North Building and intends to add 65 new employees.

Total Investment: \$326,000

Lakewood City Schools

Lakewood residents recently passed the necessary tax increase expenditure to begin the process to rebuild the Lakewood City School District’s physical facilities starting with the construction of two grade schools and two middle schools.

Total Investment: \$56 million

They Like Us, They Really Like Us

Lakewood Enjoys \$200 M

Update Provided By Dryden
And The City Planning

Lakewood Park

Improvements included a handicap-accessible ramp, with stone walls and brick pavers, which extends from the top of the bluff to the lower Lakefront Promenade. The project also improved the Lakefront Promenade as a gorgeous brick walkway where visitors can enjoy a lovely view of the lake as well as a wonderful skyline of downtown Cleveland. The ramp and walkway are part of the larger Lakewood Park Lakefront Development Project, which includes the multi-purpose trail that opened in November of 2005. Future construction phases of the Lakefront Development will include access to a natural beachfront just west of the existing park

Total Investment: \$2,000,000

Lakewood Hospital Expansion and Renovation

Over the last few years, Lakewood Hospital has spent nearly \$8.5 million to expand its emergency department while renovating its ambulatory surgery occupational health areas, garage and lobby areas.

Total Investment: \$8.7 million

Lakewood Public Library (15425 Detroit Avenue)

Lakewood residents passed the necessary tax increase for the complete renovation and expansion of Lakewood Public Library’s main branch. Lakewood’s Public Library System was recently rated Hennen’s American Public Libraries Report as the top library system in the Country.

Total Investment: \$12 million

Martindale Electric (1365 Hird Avenue)

It purchased the assets of the Smith Group, Incorporated for a product line that should grow its revenue by over 10%. To prepare for the new equipment, the company also renovated the interior and exterior of its building.

Total Investment: \$400,000

Maxxum Outlets, Inc. (15422 Detroit)

Maxxum Outlets, Incorporated purchased and historically renovated the Christian Science Church.

Total Investment: 1,665,000

Nature’s Bin (18120 Sloan Avenue)

This non-profit corporation provides vocational education to people with disabilities at a natural foods market that it owns. Due to increased demands for its product and a need to train more individuals, Nature’s Bin is expanding its current facility by 1800 square feet.

Total Investment: \$450,000

New York Life (Lakewood Center North)

The company recently expanded in the Lakewood Center North Building to add approximately 26,000 additional square feet. This new square footage is needed to house an additional 100 employees the company plans to add at the site.

Total Investment: \$913,000

Niko’s (15625 Detroit)

The owner of this establishment renovated a formally vacant storefront into a fine Greek cuisine restaurant.

Total Investment \$600,000

North Coast Health (16100 Detroit)

Purchased outdated doctor’s office and completely renovated the interior and exterior of the structure.

Total Investment: \$300,000

X Optimal Health Chiropractic Clinic (11860 Clifton Boulevard)

Optimal Health Chiropractic Clinic purchased the former Yorktown Motel property that for many years tarnished the City’s eastern gateway. The company completed a comprehensive rehabilitation of the building that will result in a completely renovated non-intensive medical office complex. It also spent \$100,000 on renovating the offices on the second floor.

Total Project Costs: \$1.6 million

Pier W (12700 Lake Avenue)

Longstanding high-end restaurant completely renovated its interior.

Total Investment: \$1.6 million

Richard Hilliard House (15555 Hilliard)

The Richard Hilliard House completely renovated its parking garage.

Total Investment \$1,000,000

Million In Development

ck Bennett, Tom Jordan,
ning Department

Regency Construction (Lakewood Center North)

Regency Construction recently renovated its offices to expand its business in Lakewood Center North Building by adding a little of 2700 square feet.
Total Investment: \$258,500



Rockport

Under the auspices of Rockport Square LLC, Rysar Properties on the former Kopeke and Fairchild Auto Dealership sites proposed to construct a Mixed-Use Residential and Commercial project creating 124 New For-Sale Units (57 Attached Town Homes and 67 Live-Work Units) and approximately 18,800 square feet of retail space in the ground floor in the three live-work buildings.
Total Investment: \$40 million

Rosewood Place (15725 Detroit Avenue)

This new development will involve the construction of eleven town homes and approximately 6000 square feet of new real space on a former car lot.
Total Investment: \$3.0 million



SBC (14223 Detroit)

SBC expended nearly \$350,000 to remodel several floors of its building located at 14223 Detroit.
Total Investment: \$350,000

Sherwin Williams (14711 Madison)

The Sherwin Williams Corporation will invest approximately \$900,000 to construct a new free standing store on the southeast corner of Warren and Madison.
Total Investment: \$900,000

St. Edward’s High School (13500 Detroit Avenue)

The high school recently renovated each room adding the Kahl Center for student learning, redeveloped and expanded its gymnasium, and outdoor athletic facilities while acquiring an additional property for a new parking lot.
Total Investment: \$5 million



Sullivan’s Irish Pub (13368 Madison)

Renovation of a underutilized building and storefront for an upscale restaurant and added a parking lot.
Total Investment \$750,000

Sweet Designs (16100 Detroit Avenue)

A complete exterior renovation and interior renovation of the building located at 16100 Detroit Avenue.
Total Investment: \$50,000

Thinsolutions

Thinsolutions is an information technology company that has significant experience in the areas of IT outsourcing and as a managed services provider. The company purchased and renovate 1387 Riverside Drive.
Total Investment: \$400,000



Vedda Printing (1200 Berea Road)

Phil Vedda & Sons Printing Company, a long standing, family owned business in Lakewood, chose vacant lot to construct a 16,000 square foot new facility and prepare a portion of the remaining site to support a modest future expansion.
Total Investment: \$1.7 million.

Virginia Marti College (11726-28 Detroit Avenue and 1385-87 Hird Ave.)

This private school recently completed an expansion project that included the expansion of its classroom and office space, resulting in the preservation of a former Theater building.
Total Project Costs: \$1.75 Million



Westerly (14306 Detroit)

The Westerly renovated several apartment to modernize them for senior living.
Total Investment \$200,000

YMCA (16915 Detroit)

The YMCA is constructing a brand new community center costing over \$9.5 million.
Total Investment: \$9.5 million

Zaremba (Lakewood Center North)

Company upgraded their office space through renovation and the purchase of new furniture and other equipment to modernize its appearance.
Total Investment: \$160,000

Renovation Of The W. 117th Street Rta Transit Station:

RTA plans to completely renovate the West 117th Transit Station making it more efficient convenient and attractive.
Total Investment: \$5 million

Lakewood Observer



As the sun sets on the western rim of the Emerald Canyon, Lakewoodites sit back and enjoy, because tomorrow brings another great day to the city.

Lakewood: It’s All Good!

Casey Ryan

Lakewoodites have always known Lakewood is a great place to live and grow. The tightness of the community, the good neighbors, the proximity of shops and services, the excellent schools and city services, the cultural diversity – all these factors and more come together to forge one of the best places you could choose to live your life.

You knew this, of course. Now, there is more confirmation.

Recent studies by several publica-

tions illustrate that yes, Lakewood is truly a good place to raise your family, buy (or rent) a home, meet new people, seek recreational and cultural activities, shop, or go to church. It is also a good place to bar-hop, skateboard, find alternative music, see the sunset, play or watch sports, buy cheap beer or expensive wine, and enjoy any number of other amenities.

To all these things, let me add this: Lake Erie. Billions of gallons of fresh water. You think oil is a hot button? Try living without easy access to fresh water.

Mary Nietupski moved here from Erie, Pennsylvania 17 years ago. Her employer put her up in a hotel for the first two months, while she looked for a place to live and commuted back to Erie on weekends. As a single mother with three school age daughters, her criteria were necessarily strict.

“The reason I moved here was really for the schools,” Nietupski said. “I wanted my kids be able to walk to school, and to be able to walk to the corner store or the park. And I didn’t want to worry about

their safety when they did. Plus, I was working downtown, so I needed easy access for that. Lakewood was really everything I wanted; it just felt like ‘home.’”

When your snooty, outer-ring suburb friends ask why you would want to live in Lakewood, you can recite a litany of reasons.

The next time you are out shoveling six inches of snow off your driveway and your neighbor is grumbling about moving to Florida, show him this story and ask, “What, and leave all this behind?!”



Lakewood YMCA moving along at a record pace.

Lakewood YMCA Update

By Joe Grimberg

The new Lakewood YMCA is up and soon to be running. The infrastructure is in place for the first major municipal development since the Beck Center. With Panzica Construction on the case, the Lakewood Y is fast on the move to becoming a Lakewood stronghold and community mainstay for over the next half-century.

With the smell of wet concrete and sawdust in the air, the groundwork is set for the aquatics center, aerobic center, fitness center, multipurpose gymnasium, babysitting room, and community conference rooms. Slowly but surely, the Y is taking shape. Beginning as merely an idea over ten years ago, the dream of a state-of-the-art educational, communal exercise and rehabilitation facility is becoming a reality. The building is also making room for the “green” features soon to make their impact on the building. Designed by Doty and Miller Architects, the new Lakewood Y will employ a unique five-layer façade masonry and environmentally sustainable features to minimize energy loss and excessive waste.

Also in place is the Lakewood Hospital satellite office inside the Y. Through Lakewood Hospital’s partnership with the community and the YMCA, it will have use of the



gym, therapy pool and fitness center for patient rehabilitation efforts. Also through the partnership, the Hospital will be able to provide educational wellness programs, public health screenings and other community outreach programs.

In keeping with the YMCA’s love for and solidarity with the community of Lakewood, the cornerstone from the former Lakewood Y was ceremonially and symbolically carried over and used as the cornerstone for the future Y. Presently, the capital campaign for the new Lakewood Family YMCA is at 8.2 million dollars of the 9.5 million necessary for completion. Spirit memberships—memberships offered for a reduced fee—are presently available to the community until July 1st. Engraved bricks are also available at various amounts.

Service Is Our Mission

By Ryan Demro

There are three themes that pervade Kiwanis Clubs across America: service, leadership, and fellowship. Over the past few weeks, the Rockport Kiwanis Club has focused on service. Two recent events are worth noting for those interested in what it means to be a Kiwanian in Lakewood. First, in preparation for the Memorial Day services at Lakewood Park Cemetery, the Rockport Kiwanis Club worked with other community organizations to honor veterans by placing flags on their graves. In an ongoing effort to raise funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Rockport Kiwanians held a fundraiser in conjunction with our local IHOP. This past weekend, the group was able to raise \$300 towards its goal. If you would like to find out more about the Rockport Kiwanis Club, join us on stage at the Winking Lizard any Wednesday night at 6:00pm.

Chef Goeff

Summertime Memories

By Jeff Endress

As I remember, that Saturday dawned hot and sultry. But, as a nine year old, the July heat of summer wasn't the burden that those muggy days would become for air conditioned dependant adults. So what if it was like a blast furnace outside, I'd been looking forward to this day for months.


In preparation for the parade that would wind down Lake Road, the night before had been spent carefully weaving red, white and blue crepe paper through the spokes of my freshly washed Schwinn American bike. And while I looked forward to the parade, it was only the precursor of the main event that came later in the day, and I think what I really anticipated was the END of the parade so that the Fourth of July celebration could begin in earnest.

There were two elements that coalesced to make the day the biggest day of summer on the importance calendar. The first was that long brown rectangular box that would mysteriously appear towards the end of June. In some cloak and dagger fashion, my father would procure the illicit contraband from a friend who knew a friend who had a cousin in Kentucky where you could buy fireworks. The box was always brought in secretly, but my brother and I knew the hiding place, and starting shortly after Memorial Day, we'd do a daily check to see if the package had "arrived". We knew that after the parade, that box would be brought down into the kitchen, and the firecrackers inside would be doled out like Halloween candy, while the more spectacular rockets, roman candles and aerial bombs would be reserved for nightfall. The afternoon would be spent in the throes of explosive joy, while I raced around the yard, planting explosive charges in the rose garden, and blowing on the cork punk to assure a quick light of the fuse. A goodly number of plastic soldiers and badly assembled models would face destruction, as we kept a careful look-out making sure that the police hadn't been alerted to our endeavors. And as the last firecracker shredded itself on the back lawn, I knew it was time for

Strawberry Ice Cream

- 2 cups Heavy Cream
- 2/3 cup Half and Half
- 3/4 cup Sugar
- 1/4 tsp. almond extract (optional...but a great addition)
- 1 pint fresh strawberries (preferably still warm from the garden)
- 1/3 cup Sugar

Rinse and hull the berries, slice and mix with 1/3 cup of sugar. Using a hand held potato masher, mash the berries into a coarse pulp. Mix 3/4 cup of sugar into the half and half and heavy cream, whisking until the sugar is completely dissolved. Stir in the berry mash and combine completely. Pre-chill the mixture 2 hours in the refrigerator, then freeze according to the instructions of your freezer.



culinary preparations to begin.

It is a marvelous bit of serendipity that the garden yields strawberries just in time for July Fourth. The strawberry is a unique fruit, as it bears it seeds on the outside, rather than on the inside. Strawberries were already being eaten by Native Americans when the Pilgrims arrived, and it is thought that their mixing the berry pulp with oatmeal and baking bread was the forbearer of our own strawberry shortcake. The bright red color and heart shape of the strawberry made it the symbol of Venus, goddess of love. And as the world's number one producers of strawberries, it is clear that we love them a LOT. But I digress. While that tasty berry's history may be of some interest, what drew my attention as a nine year old is the magic that would occur with a bit of kitchen alchemy. Some sugar, gobs of heavy cream, some muscle power in conjunction with ice and rock salt, and in short order I would be licking fresh strawberry ice cream off the dasher of the old White Mountain ice cream freezer.

The process of making ice cream is simplicity itself, which is perhaps the source of the fascination I had with the process. Strawberries, fresh from the garden were first hulled, and then mashed. A mixture of sugar and cream is blended until the sugar dissolves and then the mashed strawberries are


added. No cooking, just a little measuring and mixing. The ice cream base is added to the freezer container, into which is placed a paddle like device (dasher) that scrapes the sides as the mechanism is cranked and the freezer container rotates. The freezer container is placed into the refrigerator bucket, which is packed with layers of ice and rock salt. Somehow, magically, this causes the temperature to drop significantly below freezing.

With everything in place, the cranking begins. The container turns in the freezer bucket, as the dasher scrapes the freezing mixture from the inside of the freezer container. In the process, air is slowly folded into the freezing mixture, giving the ice cream its creamy, fluffy texture. On a hot July afternoon, turning that crank could work up quite a sweat. But in the end, there was a huge payoff. Cold and creamy, sweet and fruity, homemade ice cream. No preservatives or carabea-

num. No red dye No. 2. Just our garden fresh strawberries. The soft mixture would be packed in a gallon Tupperware, and left to rest in the deep freeze where the ice cream would harden, ready to be scooped out after a feast of burgers, dogs, baked beans, potato salad and brownies.




As the sky grew dark, my father would begin lighting the fuses on the "big stuff". While I would have loved to assist as a pyrotechnical engineer, such dangerous activities were reserved for the adults. So, resigned to the spectator gallery, amid the oohs and ahhs for various fountains and roman candles, I couldn't be happier as I sat with my huge bowl of that wonderful cold creamy mixture, with a noticeable stiffness in my shoulder.

Even now, a number of years later, I still enjoy both making and eating homemade ice cream. The old White Mountain freezer has long since been retired, consigned to a house sale. The technological marvel of the Il Gelato machine, with its self contained freezer and powerful electric motor, has eliminated the cranking (and sore shoulder), but nevertheless, licking the dasher will still bring back that flood of memories. And in the process, I find that no matter how much things have changed, they are nevertheless the same. There's still the parade, although the Schwinn American has gone the way of the White Mountain freezer. There's still the burgers, dogs, baked beans and brownies. My fascination for the pyrotechnics has never diminished (especially since now I can shoot off the "Big Stuff"). And, of course, there's still that fresh ice cream; just sugar, fresh berries, heavy cream, some kitchen alchemy and a life time of memories.




PET'S GENERAL STORE

16821 MADISON AVE. (216)226-0886
(One Block East Of Mckinley, Next To Convenient Store)



MON - FRI 11-8 • SAT 10-6 • Closed Sundays





Nature's Bin

Natural & Organic Fresh Foods Market
18120 Sloane Avenue Lakewood, Ohio 216-521-4600

Organic & Conventional Produce	Garden Center	<h3>\$1.00 off</h3> <p>Any Purchase Of \$10.00 or more with this ad</p> <p><small>Excludes alcohol. Valid Only with ad. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 07/31/06</small></p>
Full Service Deli	Organic Soil	
Bakery	Annuals	
Vitamins	Vegetables	
Supplements	Herbs	
	Hanging Baskets	

Store Hours : Mon-Fri 9 am to 8 pm
Sat 9 am to 7 pm
Sun 9 am to 6 pm
Closed Memorial Day

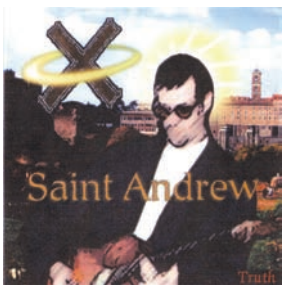
www.cornucopia-inc.org

Lakewood Music

Lakewood CD Reviews

By Bob Ignizio

Saint Andrew – ‘Truth’ (self released)



Saint Andrew is Andy Charles, a one-time punk rocker turned bluesman. There’s all kind of potential for that to come off badly, but instead Saint Andrew delivers some truly heartfelt and raw originals plus a Bob Dylan cover, “You Ain’t Goin Nowhere.” The only term that could possibly describe the production on here is “lo-fi.” This is just one man with a voice, a guitar, a harmonica, and the occasional bit of foot operated percussion recorded at home on a cassette recorder. But that kind of works in favor of the material, putting the focus squarely on the songs and the emotions they convey. In a world overpopulated by “blues rock” bands doing bad Stevie Ray Vaughn impressions, it’s nice to hear something like this for a change that really goes back to the roots of the genre while at the same time sounding fresh and contemporary. I could not find any website or contact information for this guy, so you’ll just have to catch him at a show if you want to buy this disc. He’s worth tracking down, though.

Uncle Scratch’s Gospel Revival – ‘North of Hell’ (Rock N Roll Purgatory)



Brother Ed and Brother Ant are back to save some more souls on their long awaited second album, ‘North of Hell’. As on their debut disc the sound is pretty lo-fi, but the guitars sound thicker and the drums hit with more force. The guys even spring for some actual “production value” in the form of guest musicians playing piano and harmonica on a few tracks. A lot of these songs have been in the band’s live set for some time now, and they’ve clearly been honed to perfection in these studio versions. Favorites here are “Johnny, Jesus and Me,” “Gates of Hell,” “Devil’s Chrysler” and “I Can’t Bang You on a Sunday.” To be fair, a couple numbers sounded less than divinely inspired to my ears, notably “Angel Above, Devil Below” and “Run Devil, Run.” But while there’s no doubt that the best way to experience Uncle Scratch is live, ‘North of Hell’ makes a fine substitute for when you can’t make it to a gig.

Lakewood Music Events Calendar

The Winchester

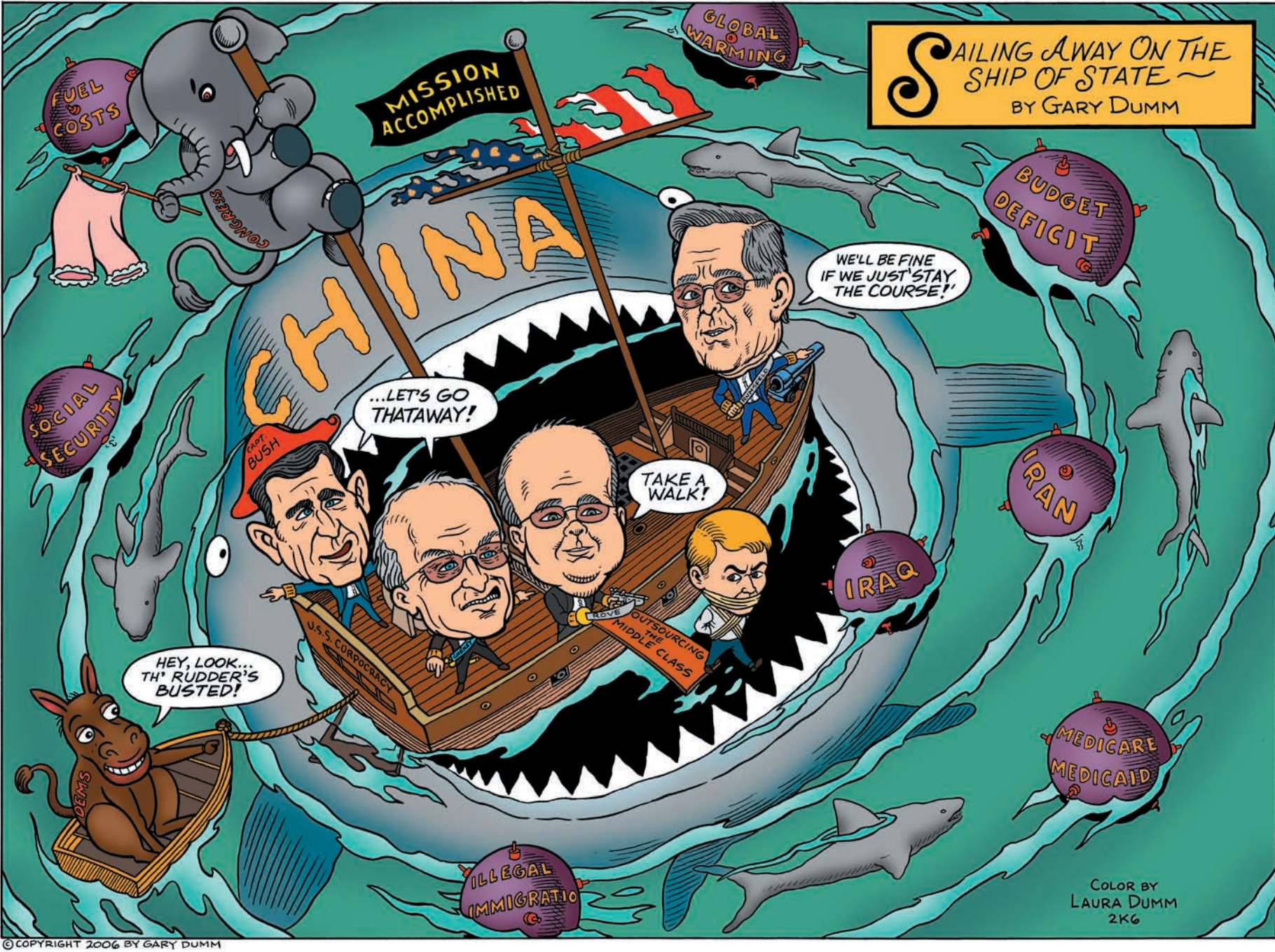
Thursday, June 15th it’s Nils Lofgren. Nils Lofgren is perhaps best know for replacing guitarist “Little Steven” Van Zant in Bruce Springsteen’s E. Street Band. He’s also worked with Neil Young, Rod Stewart and Stephen Stills. But when he isn’t playing with rock superstars, Lofgren is busy making solo albums. His first self titled album was released in 1975, and his 17th, ‘Sacred Weapon,’ just came out this year.

Saturday, June 17th it’s Candy Kane & White Trash Girl Blues. In the eighties, Candy Kane was a stripper, model, and X-rated actress. But since 1994, she’s been releasing albums of raw and raunchy blues peppered with a good sense of humor. But make no mistake, Kane is no novelty act. Not only does she have a great voice, she writes most of her own material. Kane is touring in support of her seventh album, 2005’s ‘White Trash Girl’.

Friday, June 23rd it’s Fairport Convention. These British folk rockers have been around since 1967, and have a good 30+ albums to their credit. Like so many British bands of that era, the group has had line-up changes almost from the beginning, but founding guitarist/vocalist Simon Nicol is still around. He’ll be joined by violinist Ric Sanders and vocalist/fiddler/mandolinist/bouzouki player Chris Leslie for this show, which will be all acoustic. (Bass player Dave Pegg and drummer Gerry Conway are still in the band, but they’re sitting this tour out).

The Phantasy Niteclub

Friday, June 16th it’s Burning Sage with more TBA. Burning Sage is a Cleveland based all female rock band. According to their bio, “They blend classic rock influences with modern flair and innovative arrangements.” The band released their debut CD ‘Purification’ on Firebrand Records in 2003, and in addition to headlining club shows, they’ve opened for everyone from hard rocking guitarist Michael Schenker to world music artist Janah.



Minding the Issues

Let's Get Government Out of Religion

By Gordon Brumm

When is a tempest-in-a-teapot not a tempest-in-a-teapot? When it reflects deeper issues. That is why I hope you will bear with me as I recount my enforced displacement on Election Day, last May 2nd.

It began with a phone call asking me to solicit signatures on Election Day in support of the drive to raise the minimum wage. Sure, I was all in favor of that, but May 2nd was in the middle of an extremely busy period. In the end, I agreed that spending two hours would not be too onerous, and I committed to soliciting for signatures at Grant School between 5:00 and 7:00.

For those not familiar with Grant School, here is a rough layout: The school lies between Elmwood and Victoria Aves. The main entryway is a driveway off Elmwood. At the end of the driveway the main entrance to the school lies on one side (to the south), and the school parking lot lies on the other side.

Election rules specify that no campaigning or soliciting is to be carried on within 100 feet of the entrance to the polling place. The requisite distance is customarily marked by an American flag – thus the rule “no campaigning inside the flags.”

When I got to Grant School, I saw a flag on the sidewalk beside the driveway, and it seemed to be about 100 feet from the entrance, so I stood just outside that flag. This position was a little awkward – most people who parked in the lot passed some distance away as they entered the school – but I was able to approach enough of the voters to make my efforts worthwhile.

At 6:00, however, a lady wearing one or two official badges came out of the school and told me I was standing too close. She told me that I would have to stand by the entrance to the driveway, on Elmwood Ave., where another flag was placed. I looked at the other flag, and I could see that the distance between it and the entrance to the school was much more than 100 feet. I pointed that out to the lady with the badges, but my protest had no effect; she insisted that the flag at Elmwood Ave. was at the 100-foot mark, and that is where I would have to stand. Absurd as her edict was, I figured that she had the police on her side, so I moved to Elmwood Ave. My new position was much less advantageous than the old one, since I couldn't approach any of the drivers as they got out of their cars. In the hour before 6:00, I collected 21 signatures; in the hour after 6:00 I collected nine. But quite apart from my diminished effectiveness, I was boiling.

When I had finished, I paced off the distance between the flag at Elmwood and the entrance to the school. This was a crude way of measuring, so I did it three times. The shortest measurement of the three came in at 255 feet. I also measured the distance

between the nearer flag, where I had been standing originally, and the school entrance. This distance was 78 feet. (However, the voting took place in the school gym, which was at least 25 feet inside the school entrance, so if you add that in, the nearer flag was at least 100 feet from the voting.)

Now my question: Why was I so angry, distressed, and irritated over being told to stand at the Elmwood Ave. flag? After all, whether I got nine or 21 signatures that second hour made very little difference, and I wasn't all that enthusiastic about being there in the first place. So what was it that made me – and I believe would have made you as well – so incensed?

The answer, in brief, is that the commandment from the lady with the badges diminished me as a human being. Let me explain:

“On a more substantive plane, the Religious Right would have us defy science – an organized system of perception and reason – by accepting Creationism.”

What I am – and what you are – is a conscious being. The most basic function of a conscious being is to perceive reality and to act on that perception in accordance with our powers of reasoning.

My clear – and correct – perception was that the Elmwood entrance was much more than 100 feet from the entrance to the polling place. The lady with the badges denied my perception, my view of reality, and made me act in contradiction to it.

On other occasions a claim at odds with my perception would not arouse anger. For example, if the Village Idiot said that Detroit Avenue is 1,000 feet wide, I would merely respond with an amused smile and pass on. The difference between the Village Idiot and the lady with the badges is that she had the power of government on her side. It was as if she was saying, “Black is white, and you better believe it, and if you don't believe it, we will make you act as if you do.”

This kind of attitude and policy is a hallmark of totalitarian regimes, most notably of the Soviet Union, where the commissars propounded their Marxist (or pseudo-Marxist) class analysis and theory of history and made all the citizens abide by their pronouncements, no matter how absurd these were in the light of the citizens' perceptions and reasoned judgment. The difference between the commissars and the Village Idiot is that the commissars enforced their ideology through the

power of government.

This provoked not only anger but also contempt and a mindless, spiritless obedience, as evidenced by a Soviet-era joke: “We pretend to work, and they pretend to pay us.”

Are there such commissars, or would-be commissars, in the U.S.? I'm not thinking of the lady with the official badges. Her little absurdity had limited effect, and in all probability can be corrected.

But the commissars of the Religious Right are a different story. Their pronouncements run broader and deeper and have a more lasting impact.

Like the Soviet commissars, the Religious Right aim to impose their own version of reality on the public. Obvious examples are the attempts to enforce school prayer and the insertion of “under God” in the Pledge of

Allegiance. By such manipulation of public ceremonies, they imply – and hope to make us accept – that a full-fledged citizen must accept Christian dogma, regardless of his or her perception and reasoned judgments.

(Of course, adults don't need to recite “under God” – I always find something else to do with my mouth when that phrase comes by – and they are free to feel amusement or contempt toward school prayer. But with children it is different. For them, peer pressure and the power of adult models are real and powerful. They are being conditioned to accept Christian dogma no matter what their human perception and reason tell them. This not only diminishes the individual but also diminishes religion by making it a matter of habitual recitation.)

On a more substantive plane, the Religious Right would have us defy science – an organized system of perception and reason – by accepting Creationism.

They would prohibit all abortions, on the grounds that abortion is murder, though the reasoned belief of most citizens is that abortion is not murder. (After all, if abortion is murder, why not bring murder indictments against the women who receive abortions? Why not prosecute those who throw laboratory embryos down the drain?) Again, the Religious Right are trying to impose their own version of reality on the public in disregard of the public's perception and reasoned judgment.

And now, as they target not only

abortion but contraception (especially in the form of the morning-after pill), it is becoming clear that their real rationale for prohibiting abortion is not that abortion is murder, but rather that it violates Natural Law, which prescribes that the only legitimate purpose of sex is procreation. The Natural Law Theory is clearly religious dogma, a metaphysical view that the Christian commissars would impose on us despite our perceptions and reasoned beliefs.

It is as if they are saying, “Black is white, and you'd better believe it, and we're doing our utmost to insure that you have to act as if you believe it.” The difference between the Village Idiot and the Religious Right is that the latter are attempting to, and in some cases have succeeded in, enforcing their dogma through the power of government.

The same holds true of the campaign against gay marriage.

Controversies about marriage, for me and many others, recall the line from Shakespeare's sonnet: “Let me not to the marriage of true minds admit impediment.” What is marriage – a good marriage, a real marriage – but the joining of true minds?

Consider this in the light of two questions arising from the gay-marriage controversy: Why would opponents of gay marriage want to deny gays their equal rights? And why is the distinction between marriage and civil union of any significance to either side?

The answer in both cases comes down to this: The bigots opposing gay marriage believe that gays are incapable of the loyalty and sentiments that produce the “true minds” necessary to marriage. This is clearly false – another attempt by the Christian commissars to impose their own view of reality, their own theology, metaphysics, and psychology, on the rest of us. (And the claim that gay marriage is a threat to the institution of marriage – as opposed to poverty, for example – is too absurd to warrant discussion.)

I am not speaking merely for those – a minority in some cases, a majority in others – who disagree with the Religious Right's dogma. I speak for everyone. For the attempt to impose dogma strikes at everyone's human being by denying the option of perceiving and of acting on our perceptions in a reasoned way – just as in the case of the lady with the badges, just as in the case of the Soviet commissars. That is the profound truth in the aphorism that “no man is an island” – an insult to the humanity of any one person is, of necessity, an insult to the humanity of all.

In short, I am suggesting that the Christian Right is comparable to Soviet authoritarianism. Both try to impose a view of reality based on their own ideology. Think about it.

Lakewood Observer

Lakewood Beck Center Summer Session Begins

By Ann Palomaki

The summer session is beginning this week at Beck Center with exciting classes in dance, visual arts, theater, creative arts therapy and music. Along with weekly individual classes in the arts, intensive camps will take place in dance, theater arts, music, and visual arts. An outreach program is available for groups to experience the arts at Beck or at their own site.

In an interview with Lynda Sackett, director of the dance program at Beck, she described all the programs they have offered over the years since she began there (then Lakewood Little Theatre) in 1964. Since she founded the dance program in 1976, it has expanded to fifty dance classes each week during the school year. A Dance Workshop Company provides performance opportunities for students who are accepted by audition. These students must study at least four classes per week, attend two rehearsals per week, and attend an additional class at no charge. Many of these students continue their study of dance on the college level or at professional dance schools. The Beck Dance Workshop is available to perform in the community for non-profit organizations for a small fee.

While many students are in classes five or six days a week, the school has opportunities for non-dancers as well. GYROKINESIS, Pilates, Yoga, Movement Awareness, and Body Beautiful are courses attended by adults of all ages (including many senior citizens). These



classes stress the fundamentals of good posture, efficiency of movement, prevention of injury and osteoporosis.

The class offerings also include Hip Hop, Modern Jazz, Modern Dance, Swing, Ballroom, Preballet, Preschool Dance, Ballet, Tap, and Pointe. A Contemporary Ballet Camp with David Shimotakahara will take place July 17 - 22. This camp is designed for the seri-

ous dancer or dance teacher who wishes to expand technique, repertoire, and ensemble skills. A Junior Dance Camp conducted by Melanie Szucs will be offered July 10 - 14. Students will enhance their dance techniques and learn to understand the integration of all of the arts involved in dance performance.

Lynda Sackett has always stressed how important the arts are in one's

life. Her two sons followed her advice: one son lives in Los Angeles, California and is a documentarian for television and DVDs; the other is a professional graphic artist in Pembroke Pines, Florida. She has influenced the artistic life of thousands of students at Beck Center since she started teaching dance with the Lakewood Little Theatre School for Children in 1964.

Goddess Blessed - Lakewood's One-Stop Metaphysical Shop Moves Two Storefronts Kathy Takes Her Healing Ways West For More Space

By Joe Grimberg

Longtime Lakewood resident and entrepreneur Kathy Curran has just moved her business two storefronts West to the corner of Carabel and Madison. Goddess Blessed, Lakewood's metaphysical bookstore and center for holistic healing, has recently relocated into a new facility to better accommodate the growing population of Lakewood's residents interested in trans-spiritual teachings and methodologies. Based on ancient, traditional beliefs while incorporating new concepts at the forefront



Kathy welcomes all in.

of spiritual thinking, Goddess Blessed wishes to educate, inform, entertain and heal with workshops, concerts, educational programs, herbal remedies and readings.

When asked what kept Kathy in Lakewood after the move, she responded positively. "I wanted my store in the city where I live," stated Curran. Graduate of Lakewood High School and Lakewood School of Practical Nursing. Curran worked for Lakewood Hospital as a nurse before going back to school to become a physician's assistant.

With a diversity of programs offered including educational and entertainment workshops on topics such as herbology, music, meditation, mythology and nutrition, Curran plans to take advantage of her new, larger workspace to better serve her community.

According to Kathy, Goddess Blessed's new face will exist in a greater, more effective capacity as a holistic, metaphysical playground. "I just love Lakewood's diversity," remarked Curran. We are sure the love is returned.

Goddess Blessed
15729 Madison Ave.
Tuesday - Saturday 11am - 7 pm



Goddess Blessed draws a good crowd from all over the region.

Lakewood Lore

Pulse Of The City:

Davinci Connections In Lakewood?

By Gary Rice

One of the more interesting, and historically significant, events of world history would probably be the betrayal of the Knights Templar by powerful forces in the Middle Ages. In the past month, with the opening of the DaVinci Code movie, interest in the Templars has soared to heights previously unknown in a number of centuries. Even here in Lakewood, you might be surprised to learn that we have several connections to these mysterious medieval people.

But first, a bit of history. The facts, at least as far as can be ascertained, are these:

In the 1100's, Hugues de Payens formed a small group of knights, ostensibly to protect pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land. The Knights Templar, as they were known, turned into an immense and powerful group. They answered only to the Pope. In battle, they were fearless and gallant. Though each knight was personally impoverished, the Order as a whole had acquired fabulous wealth and influence.

It was, however, off the field of battle that the Templars found their undoing. Although Christians were forbidden to lend money at interest, the Templars did so quite freely, simply calling the "lending process" by another name. They also, frankly, had the ability to influence kings. The Magna Carta (perhaps the first document limiting the power of kings) supposedly came about partly through Templar influence. Frankly, the Templars probably did get too arrogant at times. They probably made more than a few enemies.

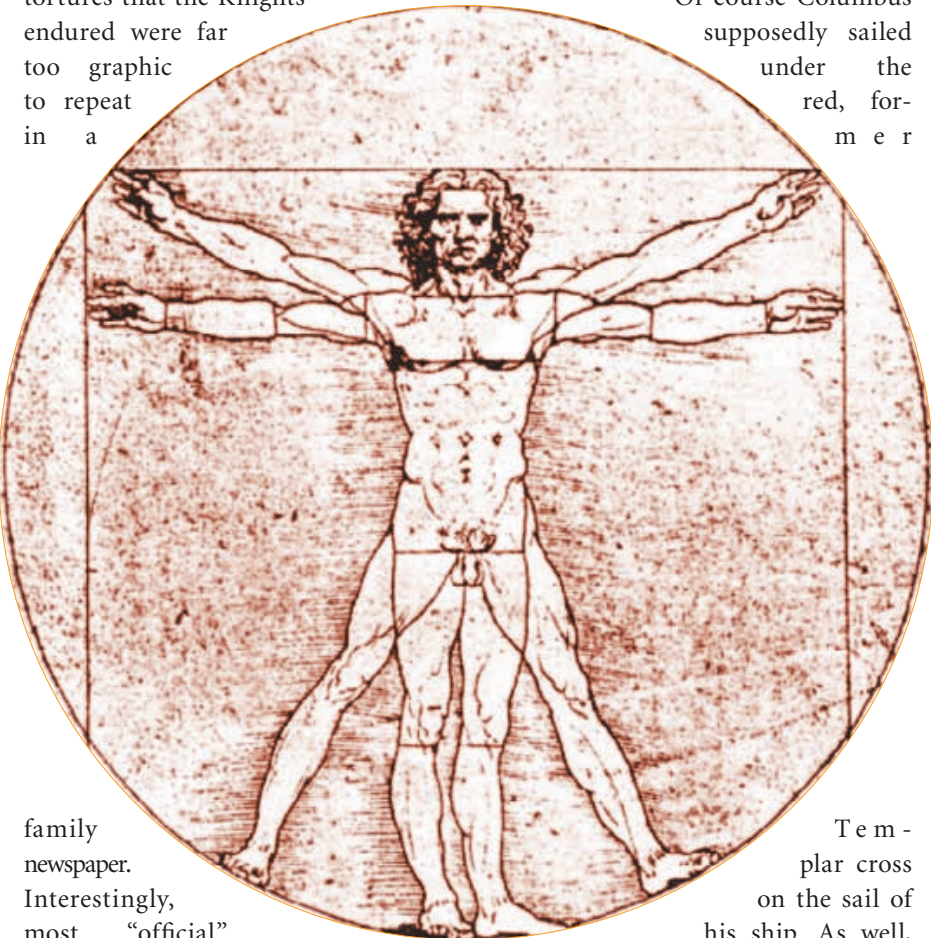
The French King, Phillip the Fair, owed them money as well. He also needed to consolidate the power of France. When Pope Boniface VIII mandated that clergy be excused from taxation, Phillip mounted increasing pressure on the Pope, ultimately resulting, it is widely believed, in the Pope's death.

Phillip then engineered the election of a French Pope, Clement V, and had the Papacy moved to France. This eventually created great turmoil within the Catholic Church, but it also set the stage for the demise of the Templars.

On Friday, April 13, 1307 (now you know where unlucky Friday the 13th came from!), on royal orders, Templars all over France were arrested, cast into dungeons, and immediately tortured. Within hours of the arrests, confessions began to flow like water. Templars were accused of blasphemy and sodomy, as well as worshipping a head called "Baphomet," among other charges. It is generally agreed these days that these charges were in fact false, and the torture-influenced confessions worthless.

To his credit, Pope Clement V did not immediately accept what the French king did. Supposedly, he was outraged that a king would usurp the power of the Catholic Church by arresting the Church's own soldier monks, without apparent prior permission or notification.

As the confessions poured in, however, the Pope was persuaded to let the arrests and questioning continue. The tortures that the Knights endured were far too graphic to repeat in a



family newspaper. Interestingly, most "official" tortures back then did not allow blood to be spilled. Instead, imaginative alternatives were developed to circumvent this restriction. These, too, we'll not go into here.

The Templar Grand Master, Jacques DeMolay, was arrested with many others on the first day. He is also supposed to have confessed, but there are groups that allege that he never confessed to anything.

After seven years in prison, DeMolay was made to mount a platform in Paris to publicly confess the Templar crimes. Instead, he and a fellow knight protested the innocence of the Order. They were quite slowly roasted at the stake over charcoal fires that evening for their "crime" of supposedly being "relapsed heretics."

DeMolay is alleged to have asked from the stake that both Clement V and Phillip the Fair join him before God within a year to be judged at the throne of Heaven. Both Phillip and Clement did, in fact, die under strange conditions within the year.

Apparently, the Catholic Church simply decided to dissolve the Order, bypassing any proclamations of the collective guilt or innocence of the Templars.

The history of the Templars after that day, March 18th, 1314, is unknown. Their vast treasure was never found. Their fleet was never

found. Some groups of knights simply changed their names; as in Portugal, where former Templars became "Knights of Christ." In Germany, "Teutonic Knights" appeared under a black rather than a red cross. (Some felt that this change may have been made to secretly honor the tragic end of DeMolay.) In Scotland, some Templars allegedly joined Robert the Bruce in his fight against the English.

Of course Columbus supposedly sailed under the red, former

Templar cross on the sail of his ship. As well, the Germans adopted the black Templar cross for their aircraft markings in the first World War (not to be confused with the swastika, used in the Second World War). The eight points of the Templar cross, by the way, alluded to the eight beatitudes of Jesus offered in the "Sermon on the Mount." There is speculation that Templar secrets may be in Rosslyn Castle in Scotland, and even in some spots in America, carried there by Templar vessels following the Viking routes.

It seems apparent that many of the Templars banded together in secret for their very survival. A number of writers feel that Templars formed the basis for some of the Masonic Orders. Some of the Templars' spiritual descendants may indeed have been involved with the rise of Protestantism, as well as with the French and American Revolutions. This was due

to the fact that some of the original surviving Templars (and no doubt, their descendants) had difficulties with absolute rulers in both Church and State situations.

Now, let's fast forward to the Lakewood connections.

Did you know, for example, that in 1917, Lakewood's only automobile factory began producing the Templar "Superfine" Car? Although the Templar Car lasted only until 1924, the better part of their former factory still stands over there on Lakewood's southeast side. It is not known whether the company's founders were members of the Lakewood Knights Templar or not, although the corporate name and logo clearly reflected Knights Templar influence.

What? Are Templars still around? In Lakewood?

Yes, Holy Grail Commandery of Knights Templar meets regularly at Lakewood Masonic Temple. A part of the York Rite body of Freemasonry, the Knights are a fraternal Order of Christian Knighthood. Modern-day Templars even have a charitable eye foundation, and they have sponsored trips for clergy to the Holy Land. Masonic Templars generally do not directly trace a link to the original Order, although it seems highly possible that some connection may at one time have existed.

A youth organization, Lakewood DeMolay, also continues to meet at the same location. This group is dedicated to the memory of Jacques DeMolay, and to helping young people become better citizens. As a matter of fact, I belong to the Knights, as does my father, as did my grandfather in Pennsylvania. I also have belonged to Lakewood DeMolay since the '60s.

As for finding deep dark secrets of the ages in these organizations? I think the other Knights, past and present, would probably join me in a salute to everyone who values a reverent and humble, spiritually inspired service to others in a world so in need of healing. And that, I suppose, you could call a secret. Yes, perhaps THE secret, that we all need to know and share.

As for that Mary Magdalene question? Look at it this way: We know that she decided to change her life for the better, and that she loved and served her Lord. That's all anyone can ever do.

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Lakewood Gallery Watch

Gallery Watch

By Ruth A. Koenigsmark and Christine A. Kazimer

On Saturday, June 3rd, The Pop Shop Gallery and Studio celebrated its first year anniversary with a show entitled, “Pop-O-Matic”. This celebration show housed many artists that participated in the opening back in May of 2005, along with artists who have since joined the gallery. Artists included Jeff Hulligan, Julie Krofcheck, Anthony Washington, Inky Lorain, Meredith Hahn, Jeremy Mann, Rob Jones, Rich Bogart, Kim Cheon, Arabella Proffer-Vendetta, Adam Braun along with works by owner, Rich Cihlar. All the artists are local with the exception of Anthony Washington who hails from Mississippi.

The art represented in the show was contemporary in style, surreal in content, edgy and thought-provoking. Some pieces teetered on the dark side psychologically and remained in our minds long after we left the show. The attendees numbered somewhere between 100 and 150 (we lost count after a while) and were a mix of hip, young college-aged art patrons, teenagers, young couples with children and older art aficionados. The gallery was packed when we entered at around 7:30pm, people had even spilled out onto the sidewalk, and everyone seemed to be captivated by the seductive and absorbing style of art displayed.

We took a few minutes to talk with Rich, the owner, about his gallery and the Lakewood art scene. Surprisingly, he found that the Lakewood art scene was bigger than he original thought, commenting further, “It’s no NYC, but it’s there. It just needs a good kick in the butt, and that’s why I’m here.” He refers to his gallery as, “Cleveland’s most ultra-violet,” and has certainly carved his own niche in Lakewood’s art scene by providing unique art that you won’t find in most of the galleries in this area. Happy Anniversary, Pop Shop, and may your second year in business surpass your first!

“Have no fear of perfection, you’ll never reach it.”
– Salvador Dali

Gallery Events for June 13th through June 26th:

Beck Center For The Arts

17801 Detroit Avenue
216.521.2540

“Bold Intentions” is an exhibit by local Cleveland Photographer Greg Terepka from June 21 - July 23. Bold Intentions displays an intimate viewpoint of ten relatively common flowers to highlight their intense depth of color, fine texture and remarkable lines from an uncommon perspective.

bela dubby

13221 Madison Avenue
216.221.4479

Bi-Annual Group Show will run through June.
Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10 am – 10 pm, Friday and Saturday 10am-midnight.

Local Girl Gallery

16106 Detroit Avenue
216.228.1802

Make your Dad... and don’t forget about Grandpa... a hand made Father’s Day Tie! Call Linda for details.
Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 12-5pm, Friday and Saturday 12-6pm.

Pop Shop Gallery and Studio

17020 Madison Avenue
216.227.8440

Pop-O-Matic show is to run through July 15th. Please note new gallery hours.
Hours: Monday-Friday 4pm-8pm, Saturday 2pm-6pm.

Wobblefoot Gallery and Frame Studio

1662 Mars Avenue
216.226.2971

Showcasing the master watercolorist and book illustrator, Tim O’Connor. He has worked for Walt Disney, Walter Lantz, and Dr. Suess, illustrated for the Moody Bible Institute and many others worldwide.
Hours: Tuesday – Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-4pm.

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.



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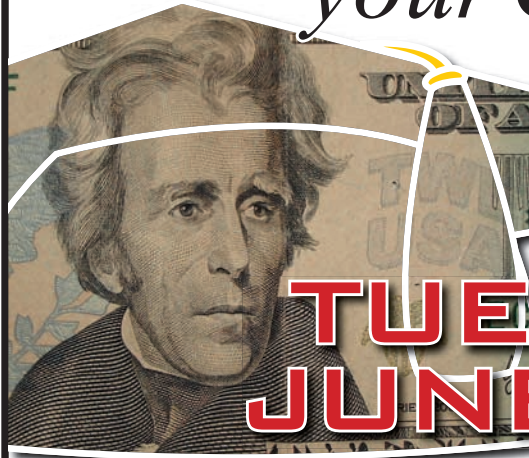
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For more information or to reserve your tickets, please contact the Lakewood Hospital Foundation at **216.529.7009** or email Foundation@lkwh.org

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