

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER



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Volume 2, Issue 14, July 11, 2006

City Looks Into...

AT&T Says We Are Not Cable Television

With the third reading of the Project Lightspeed contract coming up fast, Lakewood City Council has much to consider.

The Council continues to listen to representatives from AT&T Corp., Cox Communications and Adelphia regarding AT&T's proposed Project Lightspeed. Through the new plan, AT&T would provide IP-based video, voice and high-speed Internet through fiber optic cables and copper telephone wires.

The contract for City Council to decide on is under dispute for differences in contracts. As cable companies, Cox Communications and Adelphia are required to have a franchise agreement with Lakewood. Because AT&T is a utility company and Project Lightspeed would deliver its services through fiber optic cables and copper telephone wires, AT&T is not seeking a franchise agreement.

Christy Frederick, Cox Communications director of public relations and governmental affairs, said the entrance of AT&T as a competitor to its cable services enacts the "level playing field" provision of its franchise agreement with the city, which means Cox would have to provide no more and no less than any other cable competitors.

"If you look at the contracts

Bryan Wroten
Staff Writer

side-by-side, you would see material differences," she said.

Cox came up with a list of 31 points of differences between Cox's franchise agreement and the proposed AT&T contract. Frederick focused on a few main points, namely the \$75,000 application/renewal fee Cox pays and its I-NET, a dark fiber system that runs

to city buildings, Lakewood Public Library and the public school district.

While the AT&T contract has similar provisions on some points and has met the "level playing field" provision in some areas, such as the 5 percent franchise fee, she said, it did not include an application/renewal fee or mention of I-NET.

The issues brought up by Cox are no longer issues, said Denis Dunn, AT&T director of external affairs. He said AT&T and the city law department worked them out during the negotiations.

"The issues that they raise – old news," he said. "All questions have been asked and answered. We've been able to come to terms with the city. We have a very good working relationship."

Police Get To Bottom Of Missing Booster Funds

Jim O'Bryan

It became obvious to Mary Bond that all things were not right with the Lakewood Music Boosters when she took over this year as president of one of Lakewood's best known school support groups. A quick look at the books just did not add up.

Mary Bond and Lauren Mueller, Lakewood Music Booster past president, met with Lakewood City Schools Treasurer Rick Berdine and the Lakewood Police, and an investigation was immediately initiated. It became apparent to all that Kenneth Gilbert, the immediate past treasurer could not adequately explain the numbers. Last week Mr. Gilbert, longtime Lakewood resident

and business owner was charged with theft of between \$5,000 and \$100,000. His preliminary hearing is set for July 26th at 9:30AM.

Much credit for cracking this case goes to Lakewood Police, who are still determining how much money was stolen. Chief Timothy J. Malley states, "This is an ongoing investigation so I cannot give you a final number. The number used in the original report was \$41,000 but I expect the final amount to be larger."

Speaking with Superintendent Dr. David Estrop and Rick Berdine, both wanted to make clear the students will not suffer. Lakewood City Schools assured the boosters they would con-

tinue to support all current programs provided to all music students. The Lakewood Music Boosters as an entity are completely outside the Lakewood City Schools. Both of them also noted how smart the Lakewood Music Boosters were to be bonded.

In a phone conversation on Tuesday, Mary Bond said, "The single biggest lesson to take from this is make sure your 501(c)3 or fundraising group is bonded." She gives full credit for this foresight to those that came before her at the music boosters.

She went on to say "What an eventful start of my term! Because of the bonding, the schools, police and good citizens and former members of Lakewood Music Boosters this one ends just like that song, *one bad apple will not spoil the whole bunch.*"

Office Will Remain In Lakewood

Intervention By George & Kucinich Saves SS Office

Jim O'Bryan

When the Lakewood Observer first sat down to talk with Congressman Dennis Kucinich with Tom Powell-Bullock it was to lay the groundwork for future articles about Lakewood's Congressman. Kucinich turned the entire conversation to how important it was for Lakewood to retain the Social Security Office.

After nearly a year-long effort by Congressman Kucinich And Mayor Thomas J. George Social Security has announced it will not move the Lakewood Social Security office.

In a letter received last week, Social Security Administrator Jo Anne Barnhart informed Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich (D-OH) that the Social Security Administration will not move forward with the planned relocation of the Social Security office. Last week's letter from Barnhart followed a meeting in May at Kucinich's Washington office in which Kucinich

laid out his strong objections to relocating the office out of Lakewood.

"This is a big victory for seniors in Lakewood, and for the entire community," stated Kucinich. "The Social Security office in Lakewood is centrally located and provides a vital service to the community. Because of our efforts, tens of thousands of seniors in Lakewood, and the surrounding communities, will continue to have access to this centrally located service center."

In September 2005, the General Services Administration (GSA) informed the City of Lakewood that it was going to move the Social Security office out of Lakewood. Immediately, Kucinich joined with Mayor George to protect the Lakewood facility.

Lakewood is a centrally located community with good public transportation, a large population of seniors and others with disabilities who easily access the Lakewood Social Security office.

Prior to the May 3rd meeting

with Administrator Barnhart, in January, Kucinich met with the Regional Administrator and Regional Commissioner to oppose the move.

"I would like to thank Administrator Barnhart for correctly reversing the relocation order, and Mayor George for his tireless efforts on behalf of the people of Lakewood," continued Kucinich. "I look forward to working with the Social Security Administration to ensure that they keep a strong presence in Lakewood for years to come."

Mayor George remarked "While the media has given credit to many involved officials, it took the hard work of many more people including the mayors of Bay Village and Rocky River, County Commissioners and many others working together to help those in charge realize that Lakewood is still one of the most convenient places in the region to travel to. That makes it a natural choice for Social Security and most other businesses."

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Lakewood Events

Starry Night

A Night For Lakewood To Shine

By Rita Ryland

"Lakewood Hospital is a cherished institution. This is a great idea. Hopefully, this is the first of many annual Starry Nights." Mayor Tom George

On Friday evening August 4, as the sun begins its descent over Lake Erie, Lakewood Hospital and the Lakewood Arts Festival will host Starry Night — a patron benefit event that will kick off the widely acclaimed Lakewood Arts Festival, now in its 29th year.

This year, under the leadership of Lakewood Hospital Chief Administrative Officer Jack Gustin, the hospital is partnering with the Lakewood Arts Festival and adding the Friday evening event to begin the weekend festivities and raise funds for two worthwhile causes — the Lakewood Arts Festival Scholarship Fund and expansion of diabetes services at Lakewood Hospital.

Uncontrolled diabetes can cause heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, blindness and leg amputations. "One out of every 16 people in Greater Cleveland has diabetes and the numbers are on the rise," says Gustin. "Part of our mission is to provide health care

that meets the needs of the people we serve. With the prevalence of this chronic disease in our communities, we feel a duty to further develop and expand our diabetes services to provide state-of-the-art diabetes care and also increase our community wellness and education programs."

"This is a great opportunity to support community health," said Dotty Buckon, Director of the Department of Human Services.

It's also a wonderful opportunity to build community. Kathy Berkshire, President and CEO of the Lakewood

Chamber of Commerce, participated on the planning committee for Starry Night. "It will be great to bring people downtown. We can turn this into a weekend event," said Ms. Berkshire. She also pointed out that with Jack Gustin and Fred DeGrandis at the helm "this event will grow."

On Friday evening, August 4th, come listen to a jazz band from Lakewood High School, talk to many of the artists who will be displaying their work over the weekend, buy a handful of raffle tickets, feast on gourmet food such as grilled lamb chops

or ancho chili rubbed salmon with chipotle tomato relish. And don't forget, while having fun, you are raising money for diabetes education and arts scholarships.

This year's scholarship recipient is John Sweeney, a 2006 graduate of St. Edward High School. John will attend the Cleveland Art Institute. A sample of John's ceramics will be on display in the window of Landfall Travel on Detroit and Warren.

Tickets for Starry Night range from \$100.00 (\$50 tax deductible) to \$150.00 (\$70 tax deductible), which includes a VIP artists reception.

To reserve your tickets, contact the Lakewood Hospital Foundation at 216.529.7009 or email Foundation@lkwh.org

July 17 - July 21, 2006

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

Most children do not have lead poisoning. However, those that do may not exhibit any symptoms. Blood testing provides early detection. In 2004, 4% of children tested in Lakewood had elevated blood lead levels.

Lead poisoning is a very preventable condition. The City of Lakewood/Department of Human Services/Health has a program to educate families on making the child's home become lead safe.

The chief cause of lead poisoning

is dust from lead paint. Lead paint has been off the market since 1978. The majority of Lakewood housing was built before 1978 and contains some lead paint. Lakewood Gets the Lead Out program offers an educational home visit with free lead screenings for children. Free lead screening will be offered during the week at various locations in the city. The test involves hand washing and a finger prick for a blood sample. The blood analysis is done by Lakewood Hospital.

Lead screening sites open to the public will be:

Division of Health - 12805 Detroit Ave
Tuesday July 18th 2-4pm

Foster Pool - Lakewood Park
Wednesday July 19th 1:30-3:00pm

Madison Pool - Madison Park
Wednesday July 19th 5:30-7 pm

For further information or to schedule a home visit, call Sue Becker RN at the Lakewood Department of Human Services/Health 529-7690.

H2O Sumer Service - My Town My Turn

School may be out, but volunteering is in... for at least 186 middle school students registered to attend H2O Summer Service Camp. These enthusiastic 11-14 yr. olds are demonstrating how H2O "Help to Others" got its name.

Since H2O Summer Service Camp began thirteen years ago, Lakewood youth have donated almost 40,000 hours of service to Lakewood and Greater Cleveland.

This year's theme, "Lakewood... My Town, My Turn" includes opportunities to serve at The Cleveland Foodbank, Ronald McDonald House, area nursing homes, Lakewood preschool centers, The Barton Center and provide assistance to senior citizens through Lakewood Division of Aging.

You can help support the young people in H2O Summer Service Camp in the following ways: donate clothing to "Clothes 4 Kids", bring young children to H2O's ShareFest Carnival, or make a donation to H2O's Camp Spon-

sorship Campaign. Details on each of these items are listed below:

H2O's most ambitious service project is an annual clothing drive called "Clothes 4 Kids". Residents are asked to drop off clean, gently worn clothing - infant through adult sizes - at any Lakewood Fire Station from June 12th through July 23rd. Donations can be 7 days/week. H2O members will sort, size and price all the donated items for a back-to-school Super Sale on Saturday, July 29th, 9am - 3pm in the East Cafeteria at Lakewood High School.

ShareFest is H2O's "backyard carnival" for families with young children. Held in conjunction with a free ice cream social hosted by The Family Room/Lakewood Division of Early Childhood Services, and just prior to a Friday Night Flick, ShareFest is a genuine crowd pleaser. H2O campers will operate more than twenty game booths and craft activities at 25¢ per ticket. All proceeds from this event

will benefit Lakewood Christian Service Center. ShareFest is scheduled for Friday, July 21st 5-8pm near the bandshell in Lakewood Park. Cross your fingers it doesn't rain, no rain date is scheduled.

Camp sponsors are needed and appreciated. H2O Camp meets a tremendous need for our city's young adolescent population by providing positive summer programming. Each year H2O Camp relies on contributions from the community to operate. Anyone interested in joining H2O's list of sponsors can request a camp sponsorship campaign packet by calling 529-6045, or visiting H2O's website at www.ci.lakewood.oh.us/human_youth_main.html

H2O Campers and counselors will have lots to report on their volunteer adventures this summer. The next byline about helping others will be from them, whew!

TOWN HALL MEETING! FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE

Nationwide over 45 million Americans live without health insurance. In Ohio alone, over one million Ohioans have no health insurance. In our community, tens of thousands are living with incomplete or inadequate health care. Today, we face a health care crisis in America.

To address this growing crisis, Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich (D-OH) will host a town hall meeting

Sunday, July 23rd - 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Lakewood Civic Auditorium • 14100 Franklin Blvd., Lakewood

If you have questions or need assistance or directions please call (216) 228-



Your Independent Source for
Lakewood News & Opinion

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

216.228.7223

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The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the publisher and staff.



The power of competition.
Back where it belongs.

Lakewood cable TV subscribers are ready for a choice.

We're ready to deliver it.

At AT&T Labs, we invented fiber optic technology. Now we're ready to install a fiber optic network in Lakewood — to deliver a new alternative to traditional cable television.

With new home entertainment options and more control over their TV, everyone will get the benefit of companies competing for their business.

Lakewood city leaders are considering a measure that will bring real competition to cable TV.

When the Lakewood City Council acts, we're ready to deliver.



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Lakewood City Council

City Council 07.03.06

Stan Austin
City Council Reporter

A mid-course correction by council and the administration will maintain the aggressive pace of infrastructure construction.

Over the past two years Mayor Thomas George and the Lakewood City Council have accelerated the pace of infrastructure repairs. Council has been an active participant through council member (at large) Michael Dever's Citizen Infrastructure Oversight Committee. City Engineer Dennis Albrecht came on board and outlined an objective, engineering based schedule of street, water, and sewer reconstruction. Former Finance Director, Vic Nogalo, and now acting director Jennifer Pae developed the financing package. Lakewood voters updated the charter to allow greater flexibility in meeting challenges. That flexibility meant that council could raise water and sewer rates to replenish a depleted replacement fund.

All of these elements finally came together during the budget hearings in the early winter. The hearings were vigorous and sometimes contentious but a budget and financing package were passed in March. The accelerated rate of construction activities can be seen on bar graphs prepared by the Engineering Department on the City's website (<http://www.ci.lakewood.oh.us/pdf/2006CapitalProjectsGraph.pdf>).

Observer readers will recall the article outlining different methods of financing. The finance department along with bond counsel crafts a package of notes and bonds using the best

information at hand. Unfortunately, circumstances can change quickly. First, the desire to sell general obligation bonds because of low interest rates and ease of putting together an offering ran into a roadblock. The Cuyahoga County Auditor informed Lakewood that it would exceed the allowed limit with the amount of bonds to be issued. Second, the City of Cleveland decided to raise water rates in April. Council had raised water and sewer rates in January based on Cleveland's expected rates at that time. The need to put out bids for current construction was pressing. Coordination of sewer and water main replacement on Detroit Avenue and Clifton Boulevard with the state and county was imperative.

A new financing package had to be put together; otherwise, the schedule of rebuilding on streets such as Arthur Avenue and Roycroft as well as the Clifton water main would halt.

The finance department along with bond counsel put together a new plan that combined general obligation bonds with revenue bonds. Revenue bonds are paid from an enterprise fund such as the water or sewer funds. As such, it closely resembles a business and it also apportions the cost of the service more directly on the user than a general obligation bond would. In addition, revenue bonds are more favorably viewed by the investment community, thereby making their interest rates lower.

Water rate increases were anticipated and are scheduled to take effect

in 2007. An increase in the homestead exemption along with an application process to lower sewer rates during the summer months was also included. According to Pae, "This financing is actually better than the package we had a few months ago."

Council voted 5 to 2 in favor of the new financing. Voting against it were council members Ryan Demro (ward 2) and Edward Fitzgerald (at large).

Mayor Thomas George submitted a resolution in support of the Partnership of Working Toward Inclusive Communities. This was a welcoming gesture on the part of Lakewood to the National League of Cities First Tier Suburbs Council, which was visiting Cleveland these last few days. George is on the steering committee of the National League of Cities.

A group comprised of elected officials from around the country went on Lolly the Trolley tours and came through Lakewood. Planning Director Thomas Jordan and George hosted their visit to Lakewood.

The Lakewood Observer found that visitors were highly impressed by Lakewood. Each person noted unique aspects of the city, but top on their list was the new promenade at Lakewood Park. Tom Miller, mayor of Franklin Tennessee, noticed all the doubles. His city is expanding rapidly and in order to conserve land use he has latched onto our 80-year experience with this efficient housing style.

Carol Beckler, council member of Denver suburb Thornton, Colorado,

was impressed by the history represented in the Western Reserve.

The Honorable William Hudnut, former mayor of Indianapolis and President of the League of Cities joined the group. He is the nation's foremost authority of first tier suburbs and his book "Half Way to Everywhere" is authoritative on the subject.

George explained that our new private development is replacing old buildings and it is being done without eminent domain. Hudnut expressed surprise that Lakewood's market conditions were so favorable to this private investment.

George said that events like this and his participation at the national level help him gather new ideas and learn from the experience of others.

Seelie adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

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The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce

Announces 2006 Business Person of the Year & Outstanding New Member

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce their 2006 Business Person of the Year and Outstanding New Member.

This year's Business Person of the Year is Curtis M. Brosky, Managing Director of the Westerly Apartments and Barton Center. Mr. Brosky is a committed member of the Lakewood business community and has served on numerous boards and committees in the community. His involvement with various organizations is as follows: Lakewood Hospital: Board Member, Cleveland Clinic Western Region: Board Member, Cleveland Clinic: Board Member, AOPHA: Board Member, Greater Cleveland Senior Housing Council: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Lakewood Chamber of Commerce: Past President, Lakewood Community Progress Inc.: Committee Member, Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation: Past President, Lakewood Jaycees: Past President, Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary: Member,

Mr. Brosky's contributions in time, talent and effort are unmatched, and he continues to work with other leaders in our city to make Lakewood a better place

to live and do business.

The Lakewood Chamber's 2006 Outstanding New Member is Mr. Terry W. Vincent, an attorney with the firm of Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLP. Mr. Vincent joined the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce in 2003 and became a member of the Legislative Task Force in 2004. In, 2005 he became Chairman of the Legislative Task force committee and was elected to the Chamber's Board of Directors. He was recently elected to the Executive Board as Vice Chairman of Legislative & Government Affairs.

In his short tenure as a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Vincent has helped strengthen the advocacy position of the chamber. He attends City Council meetings and makes quarterly presentations to council on behalf of the chamber.

Vacation Bible School Free of Charge to All Children

News Release

Lakewood Baptist Church invites all children pre-school to Grade 4 to become Treasure Seekers at their Vacation Bible School, ADVENTURE OF THE TREASURE SEEKERS: EXPLORING GOD'S PROMISES. The action begins on July 17 and ends on July 21, from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm each evening.

This archaeology-themed VBS program will transform its young participants into Junior Archaeologists as they explore Scripture and discover treasures in the Bible. Exciting daily "Discovery Digs" and compelling Bible stories, along with engaging, creative, and fun hands-on activities, music, crafts, and even local mission projects will help children understand and remember God's promises.

The "treasure seeking" will begin at Lakewood Baptist Church, 14321 Detroit Road, Lakewood, OH, on July 17 at 6:30 pm. For more information, please call 216-221-4005 or email the Vacation Bible School team at LBC.VBS2006@yahoo.com.

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Lakewood Public Library

Mural Brightens Lakewood Public Library's Renovation

By Maureen MacGregor

As part of Lakewood Public Library's renovation and expansion project, the entire Children's and Youth Services Annex was demolished, and a temporary wall was built. The temporary wall located on the east end of the Main Library's first floor consisted of dull, boring sheets of drywall. To make this wall more aesthetically pleasing, the Children's and Youth Services staff took advantage of a need to decorate for their Summer Reading Club with the jungle theme, "Wild About Books."

What once was a wall of uninteresting, uncovered gray drywall is now a large, eye-catching mural, full of smiling savannah animals. The mural measures approximately eight feet tall by forty feet wide. It took five gallons of paint in various colors to complete the project. Paint and other materials, including brushes and drop cloths, were donated by The Home Depot and Sherwin-Williams.

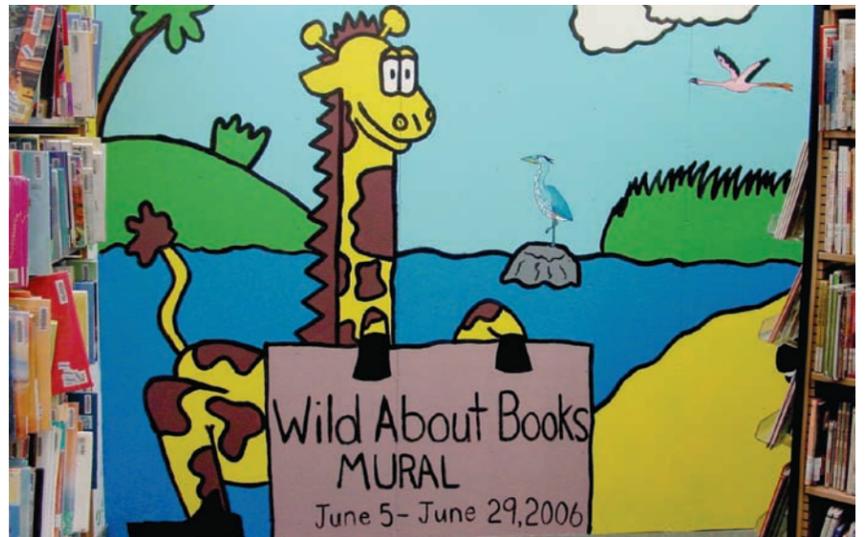
To paint a mural this big, you need a lot of man power, or in this case, kid power. The C&YS staff offered children a chance to be part of the painting

crew. In just a few hours per day over four days, 30 children painted a large part of the mural, including background scenery, an elephant, a giraffe, a lion, a zebra and a baobab tree. Children that painted left their marks on the project literally by adding handprints to the wall.

After the children finished the bottom of the mural, the C&YS staff went to work on the sky. In fact, the upper portion of the mural was finished in two days with the help of 13-year-old volunteer Maureen MacGregor.

At the request of Library Director Kenneth Warren, Deputy Director Kim Senft-Paras and Library Trustees Jeff Endress and Paul Dimmick, MacGregor added a flamingo, a great blue heron and a red-tailed hawk to the previously empty sky.

Already the mural has brought smiles to the faces of children and adults. One child cuddled up in front of the lion to read a book while his brother played on the children's computers. To see the mural in its entirety, visit the Main Library of Lakewood Public Library, and take a look at a book while you're here.



Portion of the "Wild About Books" mural in Children's and Youth Services at Lakewood Public Library. Children and library staff teamed up to paint African animals at a watering hole on the library's temporary construction wall.

Lakewood Library Events Calendar

Thursday, July 13

MAKING MUSIC ON THE PC

Become your own record producer. We provide free audio software. You provide the inspiration. For more information, please visit our Computer Instruction Page at www.lkwdpl.org/classes/music/. Reservations for computer instruction classes begin the first of each month. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Technology Center

Saturday, July 15

INTERNET BASICS

Get familiar with online basics and find out what the Internet is all about. For more information, please visit our Computer Instruction Page at www.lkwdpl.org/classes/interbas.htm. Reservations for computer instruction classes begin the first of each month. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127. 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Technology Center

WRITER'S WORKSHOP

Renew your creative energy and get feedback from fellow writers. Whether you're a seasoned pro or just have a hankering to write, everyone is welcome to join this workshop. 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, July 16

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS

Master pianist, Jay Krasnow, performs rare pieces by Liszt and his Hungarian contemporaries. 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, July 18

INTRO TO LINUX

Learn all about the free open source operating system. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Wednesday, July 19

EVERY CHILD READY TO READ @ YOUR LIBRARY

This series of workshops discusses the importance of developing the early literacy skills children need to become successful readers and steps you can take to help them along. Tonight's program is for parents and caregivers of children ages 2 to 3. 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, July 22

WEB SEARCHING BASICS

Find what you're looking for on the Internet with strategies for speed and precision. For more information, please visit our Computer Instruction Page at www.lkwdpl.org/classes/search.htm. Reservations for computer instruction classes begin the first of each month. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127.

3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Technology Center

Sunday, July 23

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS

Will Cheshier: Jazz, Pop, Funk and more collide in this riveting acoustic performance by Will Cheshier. 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

ANIME CLUB

We're back for a new season of Anime theatre and fun with classic and new-release Japanese animation like *Irresponsible Captain Tylor*, *Black Heaven*, *El-Hazard*, *Magic Users Club*, *Bubblegum Crisis*, *Generator Gawl* and more. We'll have trivia and music competitions, too!

6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, July 25

JOB HUNTING ON THE INTERNET

This hands-on tour of career-related sites will show you how to find a job using the Internet. For more information, please visit our Computer Instruction Page at www.lkwdpl.org/classes/jobhunt.htm. Reservations for computer instruction classes begin the first of each month. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Technology Center

Jay Krasnow Performs Rare Works

Rare solo piano works by Liszt and some of his Hungarian contemporaries will be performed at 2 pm this Sunday, July 16, at the Lakewood Public Library as part of its 'Sunday with the Friends' series.

Pianist Jay Krasnow has obtained the scores to some of these works from as far as the National Szechenyi Library in Budapest, Hungary. Such works by such lesser-known composers as Mosonyi, Abranyi, and Remenyi may never have even been recorded much less performed in the states. Some of the other Liszt works on the program saw publication as recently as earlier this year.

2006 is a special year for Hungarian culture in general (of which Liszt is arguably its foremost musical exponent), as Liszt was born 195 years ago in 1811 and passed away 120 years ago in 1886; separately, a 50th anniversary of the Hungarian revolution will also be celebrated locally later in the year.



Jay Krasnow

Mr Krasnow, a native of Saint Paul, Minnesota, has been a Cleveland resident since late 2004.

The concert is free and open to the public; audience members are also welcome and encouraged (although not required) to attend wearing 19th-century clothing. A reception also follows the performance.

More information is available at <http://www.lkwdpl.org> and <http://www.jaykrasnow.com>.

Lakewood Hospital
a Cleveland Clinic hospital



Lakewood Hospital congratulates

Curt Brosky

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce 2006 Business Person of the Year

We are honored to have Curt serve on the Lakewood Hospital and Cleveland Clinic - Western Region Boards of Trustees and are proud of his dedication to our hospital and the City of Lakewood.

Lakewood Talent

Max Mueller, Lakewood's "Ludwig"

By Sandy Millman

While we all had different ways of celebrating last Spring's holidays, 17 year old Max Mueller and his family had something extra to celebrate. Max, who will be a senior at LHS in the Fall, has been a musician for most of his young life, and is now an "award-winning" composer. Max has achieved the extraordinary honor of receiving not one, but two National Awards last April.

The first award was from the National PTA Reflections Committee for Outstanding Interpretation in Music. This has earned Max an all-expense paid trip to Phoenix, AZ to attend an honorary luncheon, as well as receive a cash award. Max competed at several levels before reaching the ultimate "Everest-like" National Award level, beating out many other talented participants from all over the country.

Max also earned the additional honor of attending the National Association for Music Education Conference. Max's work "Ghost," the same piece which won the Reflections competition, was judged by distinguished Music Educators throughout the country and was awarded one of the best works from six divisions of the U.S.

"Ghost," named for the celestial and ethereal mood it conjures, is 3



Max at home with his music.

minutes and 47 seconds long and is a string quartet consisting of 2 violins, 1 viola and a cello. The performers playing the piece before hundreds of Music Educators in the auditorium in Salt Lake City were LHS's Music Director Beth Hankins, Max's Aunt Beth Welty, LHS student music teacher Trista Emmons and Assistant Music Director Patty Percec.

When Max is not playing on his Yamaha keyboard at home, he enjoys "hangin' out" with his friends. He plans to play piano for "Seussical The Musical" at the Cassidy Theatre during the summer months as well as attend The Young Composer's Camp at the Cleveland Institute of Music which is where he wrote the winning piece last year. He already has an idea for his next

composition, a trio which he thinks may include a piano, clarinet and violin.

Max especially enjoys listening to classical music as well as some film music. He hopes doing so will inspire him to achieve his long-term goal of becoming a successful film composer.

Max's favorite musical artist is the French composer Claude Debussy who lived during the late 19th/early 20th century and might be best known for the rhapsodic Clair de lune. His favorite composer today would be David Newman, a film composer known for creating the music for the movie *Matilda* and nominated for an Academy Award for the animated film "Anastasia".

Among the many mentors in his life, Max is especially grateful to his grandmother, Natalie Welty (Mrs. Welty has long been active in Lakewood's music and theatre community, along with her husband Bob). Also, Max's Aunt, Beth Welty who has been a tremendous influence over the years. Beth plays the violin professionally in the Boston area. They, along with Max's other family members and friends, are extremely proud and hope to some day ride his coattails to the Academy Awards. Congratulations and best of luck to you, Max Mueller.

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Chef Geoff

Cheeseburger In Paradise:

The Search For The Perfect Lunch-time Burger In The 'Wood

By Jeff Endress

The endeavor started out innocently enough. A couple of friends, the need to meet to discuss some pressing issues, and a lack of free time. The first question that arose seemed simple enough: "So, where do you want to eat?" But the apparent answer, "Let's just grab a burger" created a plethora of issues. Pretty much any lunch joint serves a burger and there was little agreement on where to eat ours. And so was born the need to search out the most satisfying burger in the 'Wood.

The three of us had little idea, initially, of the historical implications of the endeavor. The hamburger, although readily available, is anything but "common." No, the hamburger has a long and storied history, going back centuries. It is generally accepted that the hamburger descended from the German city by the same name, which may be an accurate assumption, given the unique round shaped Rundstuck warm, circular sandwiches popular there, and the development of using ground meat scraps in a Brotchen sandwich. But, as early as the Mongol conquest of Russia in 1209, the horde was eating tenderized meat, "ground," as it were, by carrying it in the saddle as the horses galloped over the steppes. This became known as steak tartar, and later, hamburger steak.

The "modern" hamburger is thought to have evolved when, in 1885, Charlie Nagreen found that his fried meatballs were not selling well at a Wisconsin fair. To make them easier to eat while walking, he flattened them, and he placed the squashed meatball between two slices of bread. The all important bun is thought to be the brain child of Walter Anderson, whose invention went on to fuel the formation of White Castle in 1921. During WWI, with rising anti-German sentiment, the hamburger was rechristened "Salisbury steak," a dish that took its own course of culinary evolution. But, the burger never really looked back, and by the late forties, with the founding of McDonald's, its place in our national culinary lexicon was assured. And so, with a deep appreciation of the its celebrated past, we undertook our quest. The first order of business was to set our guidelines: What is it that makes a good (or, be still my carnivorous heart), a GREAT burger?

Of course, a primary concern is the meat. A good burger simply must have a juicy meat patty, preferably hand formed, so as not to be too tightly packed. The bun too, is important, and freshness plays a large part. Extra points must be given for a burger that is nestled in a home-made bun. No burger is complete without condiments, and their availability and quality impacts the entire burger experience. Lastly, but of no small importance, are the accompaniments which find their way to the

plate. Is the tomato fresh, onion plentiful, fries crispy and pickle crunchy? And, of course, is the preparation as requested, with an attentive server. All must combine in order to reach burger nirvana.

We chose the restaurants in a fairly random method (which may require that we revisit the quest in the future). Clearly the restaurant needed to be open for lunch. And given the sheer numbers available, we determined to spread out the search geographically and refrain from the standard franchises. In the end, we found ourselves enjoying lunch at Around the Corner, the West End Tavern and Rush Inn in western Lakewood, the Place to Be in central Lakewood, and the Lakewood Tavern and Coffee Pot in eastern Lakewood. There are certainly others, but for this initial inquiry, here are our findings, in no particular order.

Around the Corner, 18616 Detroit, is a popular gathering place, although during our lunch visit, the usual nighttime crowd was absent. ATC has a large and devoted following for what many feel are the best Buffalo wings on the west side of Cleveland. It also boasts a wonderful outdoor patio that belies the fact that you're enjoying a cold beer near the Rocky River, and not Hilton Head. ATC features a large, halfpound "black angus" burger, char-broiled, served on a toasted Orlando Kaiser roll. We found that the meat patty was not hand formed, a bit dry, and tightly packed. It was cooked to order, and served with lettuce and a minimal amount of red onion shavings. Good quality fries brought the cost of the lunch to \$6.95, with standard Heinz ketchup and French's mustard at the table. The bleu cheese addition was excellent. Service during our lunch was inexplicably slow, given the small number of customers. But, over all, ATC produces a credible bar burger, if not one which is particularly memorable.

One of our triumvirate is a fan of the Place to Be, in the center of downtown Lakewood at 1391 Warren Road. The Place to Be attracts a large downtown clientele both for breakfast and lunch. The friendly servers know many of the customers by name, and even though not a "diner" in the true sense of the word, it has that type of feel. The Place to Be fries their commercially made patties, to a uniform well-done and serves them up on what is a Millbrook-esque bun. Condiments, while not present on the table, were graciously offered by the attentive server. While the lettuce, tomato and pickle accompaniments were not notable, the deluxe burger at \$4.49 comes with fries and coleslaw. The fries were excellent, and the coleslaw very good, and for the price, the Place to Be represents a good luncheon loca-

tion.

Traveling to the east side of the city, we continued our quest at the Lakewood Village Tavern, 13437 Madison. The "Village" is what you would expect from the friendly neighborhood bar, complete with the requisite arcade bowling machine. It is inviting in a "Cheers" kind of way, with an attentive, friendly barmaid doing double duty as a waitress. Our large, 1/2 pound burger was a bit overcooked and came on an oversized toasted sesame seed bun. The bun wasn't as fresh as we would have liked, and the steak fries were a bit dry. There is A-1, malt vinegar, Worcester, in addition to the standard ketchup and mustard at the table, and the server will happily see that additions such as onion, lettuce and tomato are available. At \$ 4.75, we felt that the "Village" offered a great value. As an aside, we also ended up at the "Village" in the evening and found that the \$6.95 strip steak might be an even better choice for overall value.

The West End Tavern, 18514 Detroit, has always been a favorite of mine, particularly for the excellent clam chowder served on Fridays. Many Lakewoodites swear by the Sunday brunch, with a "make your own" Bloody Mary bar. West End serves a hand formed 1/2 pound "black angus" burger, char grilled to order (\$6.95). A smaller burger, the wimpy, is also available. We could have done without the kitchen's addition of salt and pepper to the ground meat, preferring to add our own to taste. A large, chewy, toasted, bun appeared the closest to home made, and the menu gives credit to Cleveland's Mazzone's bakery. Standard mustard and ketchup were at the table, but the lettuce accompaniment was sparse, the tomato added only color, and the pickle was disappointingly commercial. The West End serves fries which are coated, and even so were largely tasteless. Service was attentive and friendly and all in all, while the burger is not spectacular, it is good, and the West End is a popular lunch spot where many of Lakewood's movers and shakers can be found at lunch.

Just across from the Beck Center, and an appealing spot prior to attending one of the performances there, is the Rush Inn, 17800 Detroit. Even though there was a large crowd present on our visit to this popular spot, the service was prompt and friendly. The large burger was very fresh and we all felt that the meat used was of excellent quality, quite flavorful and juicy. It was unfortunate that the quality of the meat in our burgers suffered from being somewhat overcooked. While I am a fan of an onion hamburger roll, one of our group was not, and found himself removing the offending veggie from the Orlando bakery product.

The \$6.95 burger was accompanied by acceptable fries, but necessary condiments were absent from the table, and a special request was made for standard mustard and ketchup, as well as napkins.

If you didn't know that the Coffee Pot restaurant was in the little store front at 12415 Madison Ave. there would be nothing to give away the secret. This small lunch counter/dining room only seats 20 or so people, but those seats are mostly filled with long time regulars who are on a first name basis with the friendly staff. The limited menu is supplemented by some daily specials, reminiscent, of the old "blue plate specials" one used to find at every similar lunch counter. The fresh but commercially made hamburger patty was fried well-done, and served on a standard hamburger bun. Nothing special there, but, to our surprise, not only were we offered a choice of toasted or non-toasted bun, but were also offered the option of grilled or raw onions as well as mayo, the standard lettuce, tomato and dill pickle (slices). The standard condiments were present at the table, and the fries a bit overcooked, but very plentiful. For under \$4.00, this little hole in the wall probably represents the biggest bang for your Lakewood Lunchtime burger dollar.

Our search for that special burger, the one that you would go out of your way for, has been illusive. We've found that from the spots we've visited, that there's some decent "bar" burgers to be had in the 'Wood and some really good values. Call me a romantic, but I'm certain that we will still discover the burger that transcends merely good, or a good value, but will rise to the level of burger greatness. There are a good many other lunch burgers to sample, and so this is a work in progress, which will hopefully be supplemented when we once again have a taste for a grilled patty of hand formed, coarsely ground fresh beef, cooked to order on a fresh roll. But, for right now, the three of us are on salads for awhile.

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The Fourth Of July Para

To view more pictures from this year's Fourth
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photo by Rhonda Loje

Mayor George with his wife Jane.



photo by Rhonda Loje

Parade announcers: Councilwoman Peggy Cleary from Fairview Park, Lakewood City Council President Robert Seelie, Casey Coleman and his wife Mary Ross-Coleman.

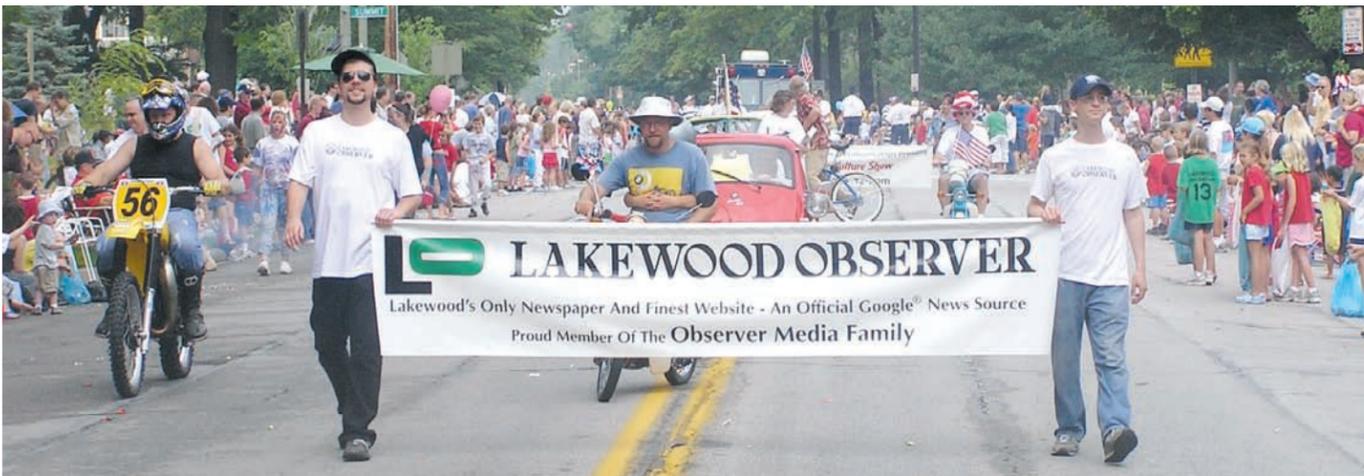


photo by Rhonda Loje

The Lakewood Observer Group



photo by Rhonda Loje

A sneak preview for the upcoming 4th Annual



photo by Rhonda Loje

The kids of the Help To Others program.



photo by Ivor Karabatkovic

The Lakewood Project Rocks Out!



photo by Rhonda Loje

Lakewood Kiwanis Club booth: Keith & Terri Ludwig, H.B. "Matt" Mathiott, Don Strater



photo by Ivor Karabatkovic

Belle Avenue during the fireworks.

Parade In Lakewood 2006

For more information on July festivities, visit our photo galleries at www.lakewoodobserver.com



Superintendent Dr. David Estrop and President of the school board Betsy Shaughnessy.



Lakewood veterans join the parade.



Kar Kulture Show, August 26th, 2006 on Madison Avenue.



photo by Rhonda Loje

Senator George Voinovich.



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Congressman Dennis Kucinich and his wife Elizabeth.



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The Councilman Dever and Fitzgerald Families.



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Lakewood Sports & Leisure

"Bike Lakewood" Group Plans To Get The City Rolling

By Mike Deneen

A new citizens' group was launched in June with the first meeting of Bike Lakewood at bela dubby in Lakewood. The group is intended to increase awareness and participation in biking throughout the city of Lakewood. In an environment of rising gas prices and decreasing physical fitness, bicycling offers a potential solution to two significant problems.

Bike Lakewood's mission is to encourage increased bicycle usage among all age and experience levels. The group's goals are to increase the number of bike racks and bike lanes in the city. In addition, the group aims to improve bike safety through education of both bike riders and car drivers. The group also believes that increased bike use can provide an economic boost for many city businesses, since increased bike traffic means less demand for those already-rare parking spaces.

PROPOSED NEW BIKE PATH

The group would like to see the creation of a cross-town bike path. The path could be made from existing city streets by simply re-striping existing roads. The proposed path runs on Franklin Avenue from W.117th to Warren Road, then on Hilliard to Madison Avenue, then from



Madison to the Riverside. The west end of the route provides easy access to the Metroparks for bikers. To see photos of the proposed route, visit www.bikelakewood.org.

This route was chosen for many reasons. It is wide enough for marked lanes for most of its length. It passes by three schools including the high school. It is situated in the middle of Lakewood, so most Lakewood residents are within three blocks of the proposed path. Best of all, no street reconstruction is needed. And since there is no on-street parking for most of the length, no homeowners and motorists will be inconvenienced.

FITNESS MOTIVATES GROUP'S FOUNDER

Tim Liston, a Lakewood resident of over 20 years, conceived the organization and serves as chairman. Liston battled obesity for many years, until deciding in 2003 that he wanted to get into shape. He began running and exercising, and within 10 months lost

65 pounds. In 2004, a hip injury prevented him from running, so he took up cycling. The biking has helped him keep the weight off, and he has spread the love of biking to his two children. Liston, who is president of a computer software company, rides his bike ten miles to work each day. Although Liston is an avid biker, the group is designed for people of all experience levels. In fact, it is hoping to reach many folks that haven't ridden since their childhood.

BIKING CAN BENEFIT LAKEWOOD BUSINESSES

Liston, who holds an MBA from the prestigious Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University,

also believes that biking can boost the city's economy. Many communities, including the inner-ring suburbs, are trying to attract the so-called creative class and the money such people earn and spend. "There is a disproportionately large number of cyclists in this demographic" says Liston, "It would serve Lakewood well to do what it can to make itself friendlier to cyclists. Cyclists spend money too. Bicycle friendly means customer friendly."

In addition to the bike path, increasing the number of bike racks is another goal. There is currently not a single bike rack visible along the entire length of Madison and Detroit Avenues. Even public buildings like City Hall and Winterhurst lack racks. The group has begun working with the City, local businesses and developers to situate more racks throughout Lakewood. To learn more about Bike Lakewood and to keep updated on its progress, visit www.bikelakewood.org

We're Going to the Ballgame!

By Patty Ryan

Friday, August 11th, is Lakewood Community Day at the Lake County Captains' game and the entire city of Lakewood is invited. The Lake County Captains are a Class A Affiliate of the Cleveland Indians located in Eastlake, Ohio.

The Captains love it when the city of Lakewood comes to watch them play. We do a better job filling that stadium than an other city in Northeast Ohio... and we have FUN!

We start with a pre-game parade by all the kids participating in the Lakewood Recreation summer programs. Mayor Tom George throws out the first pitch (and he has a very

respectable arm). Lakewood resident Susan Wagner will sing the National Anthem and the Color Guard is local Boy Scout Troop 115.

It's FIREWORKS NIGHT! After the game, sit back and watch a free fireworks display.

So come out to the ballgame with us and celebrate your hometown. Game time is at 7:05 pm and tickets cost \$8.00 - that's \$1 off general admission at the gate. With every ticket purchased you will receive a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate to the team gift shop.

Tickets are available at the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce. For more information call 216-226-2900.

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Day	Time	Age Group
Monday	2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	All Ages
Tuesday	2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	All Ages
	7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.	All Ages
Wednesday	2:00 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.	Adults Only
	4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.	All Ages/Skills
Thursday	2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	All Ages
	8:30 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.	Adults Only (Live Organ Music)
Friday	2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	All Ages
	8:30 P.M. - 10:20 P.M.	All Ages
Saturday	10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.	All Ages
	2:00 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.	All Ages
Sunday	2:00 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.	All Ages
	7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.	All Ages

Special Skating Sessions

"Stick & Puck" Sessions This session is designed for the youth hockey player to sharpen his/her skills and maybe even play a little pick-up and have fun doing it.

The youth Stick & Puck session is for those 5-15 years of age and will be supervised!

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Public Sessions only: Wednesdays 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Saturdays 10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.

Sundays 2:00 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.

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Minding The Issues

The Essence of Bushism

By Gordon Brumm

The Bush administration is unique within recent history. Its antagonism toward liberalism has been evident almost from the very beginning, and now conservatives have begun to distance themselves from it also, for various reasons such as fiscal irresponsibility.

Nevertheless, Bush has twice gained the presidency, so Bushism has – or at least had – an undoubted appeal. The appeal is of course lessening as Bush's chickens come home to roost, and Bush himself will leave office in 2008. But Bushism is more than a single individual; it is a way of looking at the world, and it might still come back to plague us again. (As the Vietnam War has come back in the form of the Iraq War.) So we will do well to obtain a clear picture of the pathology that is Bushism in order to overcome its appeal and excise it more completely and cleanly.

It is my hope that with Bushism out of the picture, liberals and conservatives of good will and sound judgment can regain some degree of rapport, based on recognition of what they can agree on (which is, I suspect, greater than the rhetoric of recent times would lead us to believe), and on respectful compromise over what they cannot agree on.

Bushism appears in three areas: foreign policy, social issues, and economic issues. Concerning the first two, Bush's signature characteristic is arrogance.

With regard to foreign policy, arrogance is of course displayed primarily in the Iraq War, an aggressive war that flouted international norms and mocked the United Nations. Other examples include refusal to cooperate on global environmental issues (e.g. Kyoto), resistance to the International Criminal Court, and a contemptuous attitude toward the United Nations itself.

In the area of social policy arrogance expresses itself in the moral/religious dogmatism – the attempt to impose one moral-religious view on all citizens – found in Bush's policy toward stem cell research, in his support for anti-gay-marriage measures, and in his opposition to abortion rights implicit in his Supreme Court and other judicial appointments.

(In the area of economic policy, Bushism appears as deference to the wealthy and glorification of the free market. I will have a few words on that at the end.)

So all in all, the chief hallmark of Bushism is arrogance, and if we are to understand Bushism, a close look at the nature of arrogance is the best jump-off point.

The interesting thing about arrogance is the question whether it is a moral fault (having the wrong aims or attitudes) or an intellectual fault (failure to think adequately). This parallels the constant question about Bush: Is he a fool or is he a villain?

Consider arrogance from this point of view: What is its opposite? From one point of view, the opposite of arrogance is humility – the humble person downgrades himself and claims less than his fair share; the arrogant person exalts himself and claims more than his fair share. So arrogance is a moral fault.

From another point of view, the opposite of arrogance is reflectiveness and healthy skepticism – the arrogant person fails to restrain his actions by looking carefully at the facts and the moral principles he claims to follow. So arrogance is also an intellectual fault.

Arrogance can be both an intellectual and a moral fault because there is a two-way, hand-in-hand relationship between thought and choice – thought affects the way we choose, but conversely our choices determine what we think about.

The arrogant person, then, is one whose choices are so impulsive and self-righteous that he chooses not to reflect on the principles he follows and therefore fails to be self-critical or considerate of others' views. Conversely, since the arrogant person fails to reflect on his principles, his choices will tend to be impulsive and self-righteous.

Arrogance is a certain way in which the mind is ordered (or disordered, if you wish): Decisions are made on the basis of impulsive desire, and thinking serves merely to implement policies already decided on. The arrogant president exercises power blindly and as his impulses dictate, based on a superficial reading of the facts and without any significant reflection on the results of his actions or the morality of his choices, not to mention the views of others. He deals in absolutes and displays black-and-white thinking. He appeals to the overpowering fears and resentments of the time. This is the essence of Bushism.

Arrogance is not necessarily immoral, in the usual sense of immorality as a conscious and deliberate choice to follow immoral principles. Arrogance runs deeper; arrogance undercuts morality. The arrogant person assumes that whatever he does is right and proper, thereby bypassing moral choice, in particular moral choice based on reflection.

Keep in mind, however, that actions arising out of arrogance often result in outcomes that are worse – more disastrous and more evil – than those resulting from deliberately evil choices (the Iraq War being a prime example).

(In his assumption of innocence, Bush's arrogance is abetted by American exceptionalism – the assumption that the U.S. is different from other countries, particularly European countries, in that it is morally pure and disinterested.)

So far I have been ignoring Bush's strong points. But no matter – his supposed virtues don't refute my picture of

Bush's character but rather confirm it. His oft-touted strong points – “moral clarity,” decisiveness, steadfastness, solidity of purpose, and perseverance – connote a straight-ahead push toward a self-evident goal, with no intellectual barriers tolerated and with mental blinders that elbow aside reflection and doubt. Recognition of complexity is excluded in favor of simplistic black-and-white thinking, and there is no room for consideration of others' points of view. Bush's virtues give him the strength of his stupidity.

Under Bushism, therefore, the role of ideas is different from their usual role. Under Bushism, ideas – “democracy,” or “freedom,” or “evil,” to give major examples – are not to be examined, nor are they tools to be used in examining our conclusions and assumptions. (It never occurred to Bush, for example, that there might be various forms of “democracy” with widely variant attitudes toward individual freedoms, or that different groups might have different attitudes toward democracy, or that the response toward democracy might be tainted if democracy is introduced by a conquering foreign army. Likewise with the notion of “evil” – it never occurred to him that different groups, both allies and enemies, might have different conceptions of evil.)

Rather, ideas under Bushism serve as beacons, as pure white guiding lights which Bushites charge toward, thus becoming the advance guard of a herd of lemmings.

Clearly, Bushism is most conducive to life in the jungle as opposed to a civilized community, and most beneficial to the wealthy and powerful. This holds true especially of Bush's policies in the economic sphere, which is the least distinctive area of the Bushite viewpoint (after all, we've seen many administrations that catered to the wealthy), but still important. Bush's preferred version of freedom is best expressed in the old saying that both rich and poor are free to sleep under the bridge at night. It is a freedom that allows the wealthy to prosper, unconstrained by principles of justice and equity. It is indeed the freedom of the jungle.

Educational footnote: By all appearances, a critical segment of the American public accepted Bushism because they were unable to detect the emptiness and illogic of Bush's message. This is a failure of the educational system. We need to graduate citizens who are better critical thinkers – individuals who can make proper distinctions, examine assumptions, recognize the premises and conclusions of an argument, and make all the other moves necessary to organize and test one's thinking.

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The Pulse Of The City

Cliffs of Freedom: the Last Stop

By Gary Rice

Silently, the quaintly dressed man emerged from behind the huckleberries, at the edge of the vast ravine, by the light of the full moon. "It is well," he whispered to the forlorn group behind him, "Thee can emerge from the tunnel now. Come follow me, but do so step by step, and carefully. One little slip and thee will take us all off this cliff."

From the crawl-tunnel behind him came a tired group of six fugitive slaves dressed in a mixture of dirty calico, gingham, and tattered flannel, each holding onto part of a long thick rope for safety. Only two of the group had anything that might remotely pass for shoes. Slowly, ever so slowly, they began the descent down the side of the ravine and into the Rocky River valley.

At the edge of the river, running shallow in the still, humid silence of a warm August evening, the group waited patiently on the smooth river stones.

Suddenly, and quite faintly, a lantern's light revealed itself on the opposite bank. Twice, then once. "Yes," whispered the quaintly dressed man, "That is indeed the signal for thee to cross, but do so quickly, but quietly now. Noise travels a great distance over water!"

A young ebony-skinned boy of fourteen bit into his lip, as he entered the river. Deep lacerations on the soles of his feet stung greatly in the flowing, cool waters. On his back were many older lacerations; whippings from his earlier escape attempts. On his soul were even greater lacerations that could not be seen.

One by one, each crossed the river to the spot where the lantern had last been seen. As the last arrived on dry ground, the lantern, being only a few feet from the party, opened again, barely an inch.

By the lantern light, the outline of a lady in Quaker bonnet, and gray dress, could be discerned.

"Go now to yonder Indian rock," she motioned. "Thee will find food comfort, and blankets there. Thee will rest and have meeting together, for a short while. Then, thee must climb up this side of the rocks. In a short while, thee will come to other cliffs. These will be the cliffs of freedom, for they stand on the great Lake Erie."

"We cannot go up this valley to Lake Erie tonight, for the slave catchers are encamped there. Tomorrow night, the boat will come to take thee to Canada. Thee will soon be free!"

The following evening, a small boat arrived at an even smaller inlet near today's Lakewood Park, and six grateful former slaves left the United States.

The Quaker couple on the bank then returned to their carriage and opened the wire-caged lantern wide. With a "Go now, Friend Horsey", they started off on the long return to Oberlin, with their midnight-black Arabian mare leading the way.

Although the story above may be fictional in its particulars, in general terms, the facts of what happened right here in the Lakewood/Rocky River area speak for themselves- but only if you look closely. Internet and library searches do not have a great deal of information concerning the Underground Railroad in this area. Only stories, shadows, rumors and occasional facts emerge for the potential researcher of this sad, yet glorious chapter of Lakewood's history.

The mouth of Rocky River was one of many places where the former slaves were taken to wait for the boats. Quite often, unfortunately, they were

betrayed at the last minute, into the arms of the slave catchers. Sometimes, they made their way to the cliffs and inlets along the coastline, to wait.

The Quakers, by the way, were a group of self-described "peculiar people," who took Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" quite literally. They also held fast to the inspiring words found at the front of the Gospel of John: "the true Light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world" (KJV) meant that the light of God was in everyone, and therefore everyone-whether man, women, child, black, white, or whoever-were all equal before God and were therefore brothers and sisters in the "Light."

During Oliver Cromwell's time in England, the use of the personal "thee" in speech, was banned for the more impersonal, formerly plural "you." Quakers refused to abandon the word "thee," because to do so would abandon individuals to treating people as groups, instead of God-filled Children of the Light. Even today, many Quakers continue to use this "plain speech".

Quakers refused to fight in wars, swear oaths, or remove their hats in the presence of "superiors." They wore simple clothing and wanted only to bear witness to what they felt was God's work on earth. Hundreds of them died or were imprisoned for their witness.

Naturally, many, though not all Quakers, opposed slavery. Oberlin was a center of activity for the Underground Railroad, and a home for many Quakers.

The Underground Railroad was the name given to the means by which fugitive slaves were brought up out of the South and transported to Canada. Though usually neither underground, nor a railroad, hundreds of people, called Abolitionists, helped these former slaves on their way to freedom.

Others besides Quakers were involved as well. Places like the Pomeroy House in Strongsville and the Hubbard Home in Ashtabula (called "Mother Hubbard's Cupboard") were also sta-

tions on this secret pathway to Canada.

Slavery had never been permitted in Ohio, or for that matter, in any of the Northwest Territories. For years, if fugitive slaves made it into Ohio in the 1840's, they were free.

In 1857 however, former slave Dred Scott had returned from his free home in Indiana to a slave state and had been again made a slave. He petitioned the Supreme Court for his freedom. The Supreme Court, under Chief Justice Roger Taney, shook the entire country by stating that Scott could not ever be considered a citizen since he was ultimately the property of his owner. All states had to recognize

slaves as property and enforce their return to their masters, in a reinforcement of the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law.

Having never allowed slavery, many Northerners were furious, and disregarded the ruling of the Federal Court. The Underground Railroad then kicked into high gear, as it became clear that Canada was the only option to true freedom for the slaves. Border cities like Detroit were too densely populated to permit many secret slave crossings. That left the crossing of Lake Erie, and brought the area that we know today as Lakewood, into a central role in the Underground Railroad.

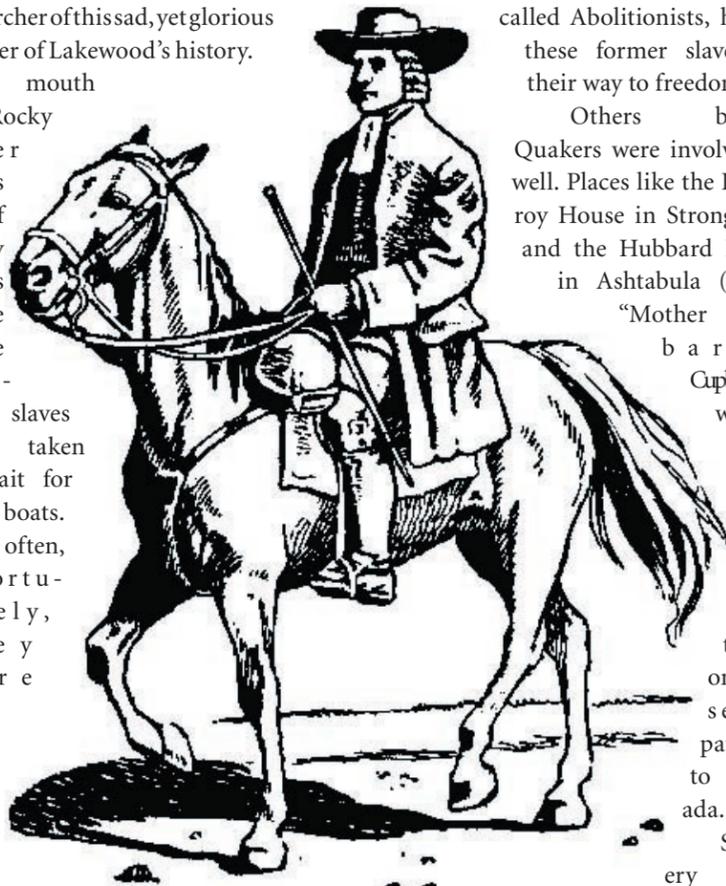
As we now have a brand new walkway down to the water's edge at Lakewood Park, perhaps it would be well to reflect back to that fictional August night, and perhaps to a great many other such nights on the cliffs around Lakewood, and in the Rocky River lagoon.

As you, er, THEE, walk down this beautiful new walkway, think about these rocks as being the last stepping stones to freedom for people torn from their homes in the heart of Africa, brought to this land in chains, and having to leave it, in order to achieve the freedom that so many other Americans take for granted. A great many died as well, perhaps on these very rocks around the walkway. Perhaps we might erect a bronze marker, calling it "Freedom's Last Stop," or something like that.

In the past, this chapter of American History has often been covered up and hidden from view as an embarrassing affront to our country's image as a beacon of freedom for all.

But in Lakewood, the North Star, that beacon of hope at the end of the Big Dipper Drinking Gourd in the sky, the star that guided those escaped slaves to a new life of freedom, it never shone brighter than here in this place.

A special thanks to Vic Silverman, my Lakewood High School Social Studies teacher, for taking us to the Pomeroy House so many years ago, and for igniting within us the spirit of remembrance.



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Lakewood Pets

Tips To Avoid Losing Your Pet

By Mike Deneen

As we all know, Lakewood is a city full of pets, and many residents consider their dog or cat to be part of the family. This is why it can be very traumatic for a family when a pet is missing. The ordeal can place tremendous strain not only on the lost animal, but also on the family that is looking for it. Summertime is an especially risky time for pets, since so much outdoor activity stirs their curiosity. By following a few simple bits of advice, you can reduce the chances that you will ever face the ordeal of a lost pet.

*As always, start with some common sense. Don't allow your animals to roam freely in an unfenced area. If you have a fenced yard, make sure that your fencing is solid, and be sure to keep your gate closed. Check regularly to make sure there are no spaces small enough for the dog to squeeze through. Be careful...many dogs can slip through small spaces. Also, check occasionally to make sure that the dog is not digging a hole under the fence. If you don't have a fenced yard, invisible fencing may be an option for you.

*Never take your dog for a walk without its leash. No matter how well trained you think your dog is, there are always temptations that could cause it to run. If you are looking for a safe, fenced area to go offleash, try the Lakewood Dog Park.

*Make sure that your pet is properly collared and tagged. This goes for both cats and dogs. It is best to have an ID tag with the pet's name and your



current phone number. Dogs should also wear their dog license and rabies tags.

*Talk to your veterinarian about having a locator chip implanted in your pet. These chips use GPS technology to track your pet's movements. Most animal shelters, including the Lakewood Animal Shelter, scan incoming animals to determine if they have an ID chip.

*Make sure your pet is spayed or neutered. Animals are much less tempted to wander away if they are fixed.

Despite your best efforts, there may come a day when your pet is missing. If this occurs, here are some tips:

*Check every nook and cranny to make sure that the animal is not stuck somewhere on your property. Many "lost" pets are actually trapped

somewhere in their own home, such as closets, washers or dryers, or under furniture. Cats are especially capable of becoming stuck in the most interesting places. Lakewood homes offer numerous other potential hiding places due to their age and design. These include attic crawl spaces, laundry chutes and areas under the porch.

* Call the Lakewood Animal Shelter at 216-529-5020 to report your pet missing. Let the Animal Control Officers know when and where your pet was last seen, and have a thorough description. Also, you may want to

call local veterinarians to see if your pet has been injured and taken in for treatment.

*Notify all of your neighbors in the immediate area as soon as possible. Talk to as many of them as you can, give them a description and make sure they have your phone number. Neighborhood kids are also a wonderful resource. Let them know your pet is missing and they will likely want to help. Also notify neighborhood regulars such as your mail carrier and school crossing guards.

*Post fliers around the area where the pet was lost. Make sure the flier has the date and place where the pet was lost, as well as the pet's name and description. Always have a clear, recent photo of your pet. Be sure to put your phone number on the flier.

*When someone responds to your flier, please exercise caution. If someone claims to have found your pet, it is suggested that you arrange to meet them in a public place. Also, it is not recommended to go alone to the meeting.

*Beware of scams. Sometimes con-artists will claim to be traveling salesman or truckers, and offer to ship your pet home if you send them money first. Frightened pet owners can make easy marks for predators, so use common sense.



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Lakewood Music

Powerfully Weird: An Interview with Colorforms

By Bob Ignizio

How do you describe how a band like Colorforms sounds? I wasn't quite sure when I reviewed their self-titled CD for this publication a few months ago, and I'm still not sure. This is a band that mixes elements of rock and electronic music and doesn't have a drummer (or any kind of beats for the most part), and most of what they do is improvised. You could call it ambient, except that where most ambient music is a sort of sonic wallpaper, Colorforms music demands closer attention. So it kind of makes me feel better knowing the band isn't sure how to describe themselves, either.

Band member Jack Smiley says, "We've really struggled to come up with some sort of description. So drone based minimal psychedelia is usually about what I boil it down to. And you're already throwing people off with that. The more words you use, the more pretentious it sounds." Thankfully, Jack and his bandmates Everyman and J. Kyle Moyer were anything but pretentious when I sat down with them at their practice space in Lakewood to discuss the unique musical collaboration that is Colorforms.

Lakewood Observer: So when and how did Colorforms come together?

Kyle: The band started in late 2003, and it was just kind of getting together and making things happen while spaced out or far out. The sound kind of naturally evolved from there. Then Jack came and found us in May of 2004, and that was when things gelled in a different kind of way. We sort of evolved into a band that took itself seriously rather than just kind of a group jam.

LO: So did you take your name from the toy Colorforms?

Kyle: It's a coincidence that the name is the same as the toy. I came up with the name "Form Without Borders," and to me that sounded great at the time. But I said that to Everyman, and he mentioned that he liked the idea of "Form," but not the "Without Borders" part since it was too wordy.

Jack: It sounded like "Doctors Without Borders."

Kyle: So we decided Colorforms would be a pretty good name and it stuck.

LO: I know improvisation is an important part of what you do. What percentage of a Colorforms show is improvised?

Everyman: We practice a lot of recurring themes when we meet every week. It's really not much different playing a show than when we practice. About 60 to 70 percent of what we do in practice is trying to introduce new material, but it's built off this 30 to 40 percent which is old material getting reused and recycled. I'll usually start off with a theme we all recognize, and then Jack and Kyle come in over top. One of them may take a completely new direction we've never gone, and boom, that's the beginning of a new song right there. Something beautiful happens.

LO: What kind of gigs do you play? Does your kind of music work with a typical "rock club" crowd?

Everyman: The typical bar crowd wants beats. And the hardest part is trying to find enough people interested in hearing something other than that. A lot of people go to bars to get away from their problems. They just want something to lighten up their day and make them happy. And we're giving them this meditative, contemplative sound, and whatever problems they were having 24 hours before then just come right to the front of their mind.

Kyle: This isn't the kind of show where people will be driving home singing one of our tunes. They're thinking, "What the hell did I just experience? That was some weird stuff." Weird, but in a powerful way. We're trying to transcend your typical "in-crowd" kind of music format and get into something deeper where we're actually communicating telepathically. As cheesy as that sounds, I think that's happening a lot. So we kind of lose ourselves in the music and the ego dissolves. It's beautiful, and that's why I keep doing it.

LO: Has the internet helped you reach an audience?

Jack: Myspace, as goofy as it is on a personal level, is a tremendously powerful and easy marketing tool for a band. Someone on the other side of the

globe can literally download our stuff right now.

Everyman: We seem to be getting more attention in the European countries than we are in our own country. And it seems like the further away they are, the more criticism they'll offer you. Whether it's good or bad criticism, it's something we haven't had before: people actually writing comments about our music. Your close friends aren't going to say you suck or you played a bad show.

LO: What are your thoughts on Lakewood?

Everyman: I used to live in Euclid, and found that I was spending a lot of money on gas driving to Lakewood and buying things, because the record stores here have stuff no other record stores have. There are a lot of cool shops here, and I found a lot of cool people who lived here. I eventually just moved because I got sick of driving here. And through moving here, that's how I met the guys in the band.

Jack: My one criticism of

Lakewood is that it's lacking that kind of "outsider" music outlet that you do find in other areas like Tremont. We've done shows at the Winchester, and he's been very kind to us, but that's really not suited for us because it's too big.

Kyle: There aren't any in-between spots. There's no place that's a middle ground between something big like The Hi Fi, and a really small space like The Phoenix, where there's an accepting and intellectual crowd happening.

Everyman: The only time I feel like leaving Lakewood is when I'm going to a cool bar or a cool art gallery to see a band in Tremont. I'm thinking why do I have to do this? In this great city with all these artists, why are they playing in Tremont? Why isn't there a space here to perform?

The Colorforms will be bringing their brand of indescribable music to Pat's in the Flats in Tremont on Wednesday, July 19th when they share the bill with Los Angeles, CA's Imogene.

Lakewood Music Events Calendar

Featured Event:

Sunday, July 23rd it's The Third Annual Punk Rock Flea Market at Trinity Lutheran Church (16400 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood). This is the third year the Punk Rock Flea Market has taken place at Lakewood's Trinity Lutheran Church. A \$5 donation gets music fans of all ages in for a full day of music and shopping starting at 12 p.m. and running until 10 p.m. All door proceeds benefit The West Haven Youth Center, a local teen runaway shelter.

The idea for the first flea market came from Joe Spagnolo, guitarist for the band HFC!. When he was living in Boston there was a similar event, and when he moved to Lakewood he suggested the idea to some friends in the local music scene. Saint Helena vocalist Dave Mooney does much of the organizing now, with help from Joe, HFC! vocalist Rye Kennedy and others in the local music community.

Headlining the event are a couple of touring acts from Boston, Lock and Key and Witches with D---s. Rounding out the bill is an excellent assortment of local bands representing a broad range of punk and indie rock styles: Saint Helena, HFC!, Plasma For Guns, Horror of 59, Insurrect, Harlem Airshaft, Nereus & the Black Chairs, Run Riot, and Teenage Grenade.

The flea market features a diverse range of items for sale, too. Everything from the expected records and T-shirts to handmade clocks, skateboards, arts and crafts items, and even baked goods. If you want to sell your wares at the Flea Market, just e-mail Dave at dmooney.cleveland@gmail.com or talk to him when you arrive. A table costs just \$10, with no additional charge to enjoy the music.

The Hi Fi Concert Club

Saturday, July 15th it's Abdullah (voted "Best metal band in Cleveland" at this year's Free Times Awards) along with Mach II (featuring ex-members of Boulder) and Rred Death (Cleveland/Canton hardcore).

Tuesday, July 25th it's an evening of eighties glam metal with Faster Pussycat, Bang Tango, and Adler's Appetite (featuring ex-Guns N Roses drummer Steven Adler and Enuff Z'Nuff bassist Chip Z'Nuff). Advance tickets are on sale at the club. Call the Hi Fi at (216) 521-8878 for more info.

The Phantasy

Friday, July 28th it's an evening of electronic music with touring acts Null Device, Dyksik, and Liquefaction. Cleveland's Bitterstate will open the show. Admission is \$10 for 21 and over, and \$13 for ages 16-20. The show starts at 8:30 p.m.

The Winchester

Thursday, July 20th it's Jas. (aka Jimbo and James) Mathus. Jas. was a founding member of neo-swing band Squirrel Nut Zippers and has done time as a sideman for Buddy Guy. Since 1997, however, he's been exploring various styles of blues and roots music. He's currently touring for his fourth solo album, 'Old School Hot Wings' (sic). Opening the show is Dead Guy Blues. Admission is \$10. The show starts at 8:30 p.m.

To get your event listed, contact Bob at bobignizio@sbcglobal.net.

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Gallery Watch

By Ruth A. Koenigsmark and Christine A. Kazimer

Gallery Events for July 11th through July 25th:

Beck Center For The Arts
17801 Detroit Avenue

"Bold Intentions" 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.

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13221 Madison Avenue

Opening July 15, Noon-Midnight, entitled "No Surf in Cleveland" A Visual history of skateboarding in Northeast Ohio. . .Subculture on Display. . .Celebrating 35+ years of skateboarding subculture in Northeast Ohio. 1968-1996
Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10 am - 10 pm, Friday and Saturday 10am-midnight.

Local Girl Gallery
16106 Detroit Avenue

Saturday July 15th 7-9pm is the opening reception of Akron artist Samara Peddle. Her show is titled "STRIPPED SIMPLE". Samara's works are based on the nude female figure, using the basic mediums of oils, printmaking, watercolors, charcoal drawings, photography and collage. It will be featured throughout July.
Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 12-5pm, Friday and Saturday, 12-6pm.

Pop Shop Gallery and Studio
17020 Madison Avenue

Pop-O-Matic show to run through July 15th. Please note new gallery hours. Next Opening is the Superfly Show on Saturday. July 22nd starting at 6pm and wraps at 9pm. From there, the Super-fly guests roll over to the rock'n after party at Mullen's (21 and over only please for after party, located next to the gallery) from 9pm-2am. Hours: Monday-Friday 4pm-8pm, Saturday 2pm-6pm.

Wobblefoot Gallery and Frame Studio
1662 Mars Avenue

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 & event info should be forwarded to gallerywatchgals@yahoo.com. All effort will be made to include it in our next column.



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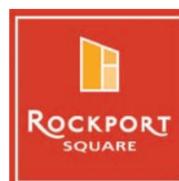
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For more information or to reserve your tickets, please contact the Lakewood Hospital Foundation at **216.529.7009** or email Foundation@lkwh.org

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