

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source For Local News And Opinion – An Official Google News Source

Volume 3, Issue 18, September 5, 2007

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LO's Virtual Debate 2007 - Everybody's In

by Kenneth Warren

Last week the Lakewood Observer received confirmation from all mayoral candidates that they will be participating in our new debate format and engagement process - LO's Virtual Debate 2007.

Background

A word of background on the motivation for the LO's Virtual Debate 2007 is in order. The Advisory Board of the Lakewood Observer was inclined initially to stay out of the political debate, reporting rather than constructing special events. We promised to cover the League of Woman Voters debate. However, with all the community debate about the value of and need for debates, we began to wonder if something else might help residents and voters to decide who was best to lead this city for the next four years. As various groups advanced ideas for debates, the LO Advisory Board felt that with the cooperation of candidates and participation of citizens the LO project's social network and publication tools could produce more substantive decision-making content for voters. As the campaign season unfolded, it became increasingly clear that Lakewood's only newspaper must step up large and press for innovation. A team was put together consisting of Ken Warren, Dan Slife and Jeff Endress to examine how the LO could contribute more definitively to the electoral process.

Because face to face debates were not a consideration for the LO, ideas and innovations for generating content, dialog, interaction and process were developed. The idea of a virtual debate soon emerged, along with the follow-up of job-interview and a moderated discussion. The content generated from these events would be covered online, in print and on TV, giving residents the best possible look into the substance of each candidate and their platform. Some people have already remarked that the LO's innovations are a most ingenious way to handle "hiring a mayor."

Format, Issues and Questions

Format for the virtual debate follows a simple timeline stretched over a few weeks. Part one is the online conversation, which began last week, when each candidate was asked to choose three issues. Tom George stated: a. safety; b. development/infrastructure and; c. housing. Ed Fitzgerald stated: 1. Crime: Trends and Strategies; 2. Housing: everything from high-end condos to Section 8; 3. City finances:

taxes, fiscal policies, and economic growth. Ryan Demro, posted by way of campaign manager Suzanne Metelko because he was in a classroom teaching without computer access these issues: Safety, Infrastructure, Sustainability.

These issues have been turned over to Lakewood journalists and media celebrities:

Michael Gill (Senior Editor, The Free Times), Thomas Mulready (Cool Cleveland), and Pete Kotz (Senior Editor of The Scene), who will formulate questions to be posed to all three candidates.

Answers, On-Line Debate and Printed Summary Statements

Over a span of 99 hours candidates will post answers and proceed to debate with each other on-line. During this 99 hour span of time candidates may consult with aids, obtain data, clarify ambiguity, elaborate on answers and debate substance, strategies and solutions.

Answers by candidates will be posted in the LO's Virtual Debate 2007 section in the Mayoral Center moderated by Jeff Endress. In a special "Resident

Comments" section individuals can join in, raise questions and express opinions. Mayoral candidates are free to engage or ignore these individual postings.

In addition the process on the Virtual Debate will provide candidates with the opportunity to craft from answers and the interactive engagement a summary statement of less than 1,000 words for publication in the print edition of the Lakewood Observer. Online answers can run longer, of course, but only the first 1,000 words from each candidate will be printed in the paper.

All posted content is accessible to citizens for computer viewing without any sign-in requirements.

Job Interview

The next element in the LO candidate engagement process will be a televised job interview. Each candidate will sit down with Lakewood Observer founding member Kenneth Warren, director of Lakewood Public Library, for a job interview, which will be recorded, televised and podcast. These interviews will run a minimum of 30 minutes and not longer than 90 minutes. Joe Buchta, who now heads

up Lakewood Observer TV on COX Channel 45, is the producer.

Roundtable

After another rest of 99 hours, we will bring all three candidates together for a roundtable discussion much like "Meet The Press." In serious but relaxed surroundings, the moderator Kenneth Warren will talk with all candidates about their vision for Lakewood - where the city is currently and where the city might be headed under their administration.

We trust this set of opportunities will provide all the substance a voter needs to make a solid and informed decision about the candidates.

Timeline

- September 6:** Questions asked
- September 9:** Answers in writing, posted and locked in for discussion.
- September 12:** TV interviews, released on COX Cable LO TV.
- September 15:** Roundtable
- ELECTION:**
- October 2:** Non-partisan Primary Election
- November 6:** Election Day

Ward 3 Candidate Diane Helbig Puts "Community Cohesiveness" Into Practice

by Kenneth Warren

"I'm in the middle of what's going on in this town," declares Diane Helbig, the Richland Avenue citizen who with Susan Kelley co-founded the Ward 3 Neighborhood Watch program in order to stem the tide of nuisance and quality of life offenses afflicting too many of Lakewood households.

Helbig is, among other things, a graduate of Michigan State University, a certified professional coach, a wife and a mother of two school age children. After arriving to the Cleveland area as a result of her position as Director of Operations for a Michigan-based firm, Helbig would drive with her husband through Lakewood and say, "This is where I want to live and raise my kids."

Lakewood's architecture and design for easy living evoked in Helbig the rich memory of the classic American town. As a young girl, the Columbus native would often travel with her parents through Carey, Ohio. "I always said to my mother, "when I grow up, I want to live in Carey, Ohio," Helbig recalls. "But Lakewood is much more than a classic American town," says Helbig. She cites the culture, the

diversity, the walkability, and the Lake that make Lakewood so distinctive. "It was the best," pronounces Helbig with a note of loss. Clearly she is concerned and prepared to do something about the neighborhood nuisances now tainting her enjoyment of Lakewood's classic American character.

Because Helbig believes in Lakewood, classic American towns, the Law of Attraction, human intelligence networks and leading by example, she has been working hard to extend to neighbors the team-building lessons and action strategies she mastered in a successful career with manufacturing and service companies.

"Richland is a great community street. It's a model," says Helbig.

With sixty households on Richland Avenue alone signed up for Block Watch, Helbig's leadership, charisma, and skill-sets are clearly inspiring others to problem-solving action over quality of life offenses and children's safety. After attending Public Safety Committee meetings, moreover, Helbig felt compelled to serve her ward and city in a representative capacity.

"I made the decision to run for Council in Ward 3 because I believe I owe it to my children to try to make a difference in their community. And,

not only my children. All of the children in Lakewood," explains Helbig. "They deserve to feel safe and secure, and the parents deserve the peace of mind that goes along with that."

Helbig's campaign is resonating

continued on page 4...

In This Issue

- News & Events 2**
- Lakewood City News 4-6**
- Lakewood Library 7-8**
- Events Around Town 9-10**
- Lakewood Sports 11-12**
- Chef Goeff 13**
- Lakewood Perspective 14**
- Pulse Of The City 15**
- Lakewood Safety 16-17**
- Lakewood Politics 18-19**
- The Buck Stops Here 20**
- Lakewood Real Estate ... 21-22**
- Classifieds 23**

Events & Notices

The Lakewood Observer is pleased to publish Notices on a first-come first-serve basis. Please be patient with us as we have a limited amount of free space available for these items. All notices must be submitted through the Member Center at www.lakewoodobserver.com

Seventh Annual Northeast Ohio Buddy Walk:

Celebrate The Abilities And Accomplishments Of People With Down Syndrome

by Laurel Keller

August 24, 2007 Cleveland, Ohio – Individuals with Down syndrome, their friends, family and many other supporters will participate in the area's largest event to celebrate the abilities and accomplishments of people with Down syndrome at the Seventh Annual

Northeast Ohio Buddy Walk. The walk will be held at 10:00am on Saturday, September 8, 2007 at Jacobs Field in downtown Cleveland. Registration opens at 9:00 a.m. and there will be an after-walk party with music, refreshments, games and activities. Proceeds from the walk help to fund local pro-

grams, services and grants offered by The Up Side of Downs of Greater Cleveland, as well as the national education, research and advocacy initiatives of the National Down Syndrome Society.

Lou Maglio of Fox 8 News is serving as the Honorary Chair. Presenting sponsors are Wal-Mart and University

Hospitals, Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital.

The Buddy Walk was developed in 1995 to promote awareness and inclusion of people with Down syndrome, and to raise money for research and education programs. It has expanded from 17 walks the first year to more than 250 in 2005. Last year, Buddy Walks across the nation raised more than \$5.5 million for the Down syndrome community.

The Up Side of Downs of Greater Cleveland is a local non-profit, volunteer, parent advocacy group for persons with Down syndrome and their families. Our membership of more than 800 families and professionals is committed to building a community where people with Down syndrome are independent and have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. For more information or to register for the Buddy Walk, call 440-478-8708 or go to www.neobuddywalk.com. We are no longer accepting registrations online but you can register the day of the walk.

Community Supports Favorite Waitress

by Linda Hayes

When I was carrying my third child more than 22 years ago, I met Sarah Lemmer. You can usually find Sarah working hard as a waitress at The Place to Be. Everyone knows Sarah. Chances are she knows your name and everyone else in the restaurant. Sarah has been serving good, hot food seven days a week to make ends meet. That was, up until about six weeks ago.

Unfortunately, Sarah was diagnosed with lymphoma. Presently she is not working and is receiving chemotherapy. The owners of The Place

to Be, Maria and Chris, put a donation box out to help Sarah with her mounting bills. Within the first two weeks they collected more than \$1,000. With Sarah's permission they released her address. She was overwhelmed with cards, flowers, gift certificates, etc. I don't think Sarah ever realized how much she was appreciated and loved by all, until now.

Recently, Sarah stopped in The Place to Be to say hello to her friends and co-workers whom she misses so much. She looks a little different. Maybe it's the wig. Maybe it's because she has had time to rest. But I can assure you it's the

same old Sarah because the first words out of her mouth were, "I am going to ask the doctor next week when I can go back to work." You just can't keep a good woman down.

She misses everyone and is very grateful for the support. In the meantime, donations are still pouring in. Sarah periodically sends an updated letter to the restaurant, which is displayed for her friends to see. I continue to be amazed and proud of this community's generous giving and with the outpouring of thoughts and prayers. We anxiously await her return to work and good health.

Lakewood Family YMCA Grants Financial Assistance To All For Membership And Programming

by Carrie Weiland

(August 22, 2007) - The Lakewood YMCA Scholarship Fund has awarded membership dollars totaling \$30,000 since January 2007. The Y is community-based and believes that it's programs and services should be available to everyone. That is why we offer our financial scholarship program.

MEMBERSHIP – The Scholarship Program monies are distributed on a sliding fee scale that is designed to provide services for any family, adult or senior who desires to participate and understands the benefits of the YMCA, regardless of their ability to pay the prescribed fee. Those not able to pay the full fee may be awarded Scholarship based on their demonstrated ability to pay and the YMCA's ability to fund the subsidy.

Membership allows people the ability to grow through a healthy spirit, mind and body.

PROGRAMMING – The YMCA is helping record breaking numbers of children to participate in safe, enriching afterschool programs. Studies show that between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. each day youth are at greater risk of involvement

in crime, drug abuse, and other destructive behaviors. High-quality programs keep children safe and help to produce life-changing, lasting benefits, including healthier lifestyles, improved social skills and enhanced academic performance.

If you have questions, please contact Carrie Weiland at cweiland@clevelandymca.org or 216-521-8400.

Letter To The Editor:

The Pasta Fiesta 2007

Even though the weather is still pretty warm a feeling of autumn is in the air.

I know that because on Sept. 20th, the Lakewood Division of Aging will present their annual "PastaFiesta" at Lakewood Park Women's Pavilion.

It is sponsored by the Lakewood

Foundation and The Lakewood Commission on Aging.

The "PastaFiesta" is the one big fundraiser for our Seniors & is a great event for them. I've written in the past about my administration for our Division of Aging – it's the best in the country.

And since this is their big day, I urge our readers to join Lakewood Seniors at their PastaFiesta. You'll have fun, I promise. The food is great, the atmosphere is festive, and you'll be supporting our seniors.

Take time to talk with them while you're there and let them pass on to you their great wisdom. Call 216.521.1515 for more information.

Gerry Nelson

(See page 13 for more details)



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PUBLISHER
Jim O'Bryan

EDITORS IN CHIEF
Heidi Hilty & Dan Slife

ADVERTISING
216.228.7223

ADVISORY BOARD CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Kenneth Warren
Steve Davis
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Val Mechenbier

PHOTOGRAPHY

Ivor Karabatkovic
David Lay
Rhonda Loje
Robert Rice

Dave Popek
Gary Rice
Patty Ryan
Todd Shapiro
Stephanie Sheldon
Mary Ellen Stasek

PRODUCTION

Brian Simko
Kenneth Warren
Carrie Weiland

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

AROUND THE CORNER

33rd ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Thurs., SEPT., 13th

The Tradition Carries On With Food & Beer Specials, and a Commemorative T-Shirt!

Golf Outing

Sept. 15th, 2007

Proceeds going to Coach Jerry Gruss Scholarship Foundation
For more details, go to www.atccafe.com

Breakfast Sat. 11:00-2:30	Brunch Sun. 9:30-2:00	Mondays 2 for 1 Burgers! Buy one - Get one Free
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We're Opening New Doors for People with Diabetes.

Lakewood Hospital Diabetes Center



Endocrinologists

Educators

Dietitians

One Central Location

Your Life is Our Life's Work.

 **Lakewood Hospital**
a Cleveland Clinic hospital



With the opening of the new Lakewood Hospital Diabetes Center, all you have to do is walk through one door to receive individualized treatment from a leading team of specialists. Our full-time endocrinologists, educators, and dietitians work closely together with you and your primary care physician to make the best possible decisions for your health, and to help you in the day-to-day management of your diabetes. Lakewood Hospital is the only hospital on the West Side to offer diabetes care this complete.

To make an appointment with one of our endocrinologists, or for diabetes education, please call 216.529.5300.

lakewoodhospital.org/diabetes

Lakewood Public Library Events Calendar

Friends Of Lakewood
Public Library Book Sale
Saturday, September 22, 2007 form 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Omni
Building 13000 Athens Avenue

Homework Er: For Students In Kinder Garten Through 8th Grade
Tuesday, September 4, 2007 – Thursday, May 22, 2008

Need a little extra help with your homework or just want a cool place to work?
We transform part of the library into the Homework ER with helpers and a cart full
of resources. Homework ER will be closed for school holidays and vacations. No
need to register. Monday-Thursday, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Madison Branch

Four O'clock Club: For Students In Kindergarten Through 8th Grade
Tuesday, September 4, 2007 – Friday, May 23, 2008
Join the Club! Come for a different activity each weekday.
No need to register.

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY
Monday	4:00 p.m.	Make-It-Take-It (craft day)
Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Marvelous Mysteries (surprise day)
Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Twist, Shout, Act It Out (movement, music and drama
Thursday	4:00 p.m.	Games Galore (game to play or make)
Friday	4:00 p.m.	Make-It-Take-It (craft day)

At the Madison Branch

Reading Rumble 2007: A Book Discussion Program For Students
In Fifth Through Eighth Grade

Enter the ultimate book-based team competition. Competitors will use prob-
lem –solving skills, teamwork and the knowledge of what they have read to complete
a variety of challenges. Which team will rise to the top? To register, please stop in
the library or call 216.226.7428.

Thursday, September 20 Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins
Revenge of the Witch by Joseph Delaney
Thursday, October 4 Joey Pigza Swallowed a Key by Jack Gantos
The Princess Diaries by Meg Cabot
Thursday, October 18

Sammy Keyes and the Skeleton Man by Wendelin Van Draanen
The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin
Thursday, November, 1
Uncle John's Did You Know--? Bathroom Reader for Kids Only!
Thursday, November 15 Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis
The Watson's Go to Birmingham-1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis
Thursday, November 29 Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz
Airborne by Kenneth Oppel
Thursday, December 6 Summary of the eleven books
7:45 p.m.-8:45 p.m. at the Madison Branch

Can Ya Tell Stories?: For Students Fifth Through Eighth Grade

Do you like to tell stories? Ever wanted to read to children? Interested in pre-
sented a story time to toddlers and preschoolers? If you answered "yes" to any of
these questions, please sign up for this series of five one-hour, interactive work-
shops, then present a special story time to the Lakewood Early Childhood PTA.
All participants who complete the program will receive a certificate and other
rewards. To register, please stop in the library or call 216.228.7428. Tuesdays, Octo-
ber 2-October 30, 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Madison Branch. Special Story Time
Presentation on Tuesday, November 13, 7:00 p.m. at the Madison Branch

FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS

Make the library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring
stories, activities, music and crafts for children. Our staff will provide materials
and ideas for families wishing to continue reading and storytelling at home. The
programs are free and there is no need to register in advance. Choose the day and
time most convenient for you.

Upcoming Themes:

September 7, 8, 9 Squeaky Clean

September 14, 15, 16 Panda-monium

Day Time

Friday 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 2:00 p.m.

In the Madison Branch auditorium

PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS

The following programs have been cancelled because repairs are being
made in the library's auditorium:

September 6 Lakewood's Early Auto Industry

September 8 The Searchers (Lakewood Public Cinema)

September 9 Bouzoukia (Sunday with the Friends)

September 16 The Sixties (Sunday with the Friends)

September 20 Tim Zaun Business Book Club

We apologize for the inconvenience. If you have questions,
please call the library @ 216.226.8275

Re-elect Mayor Thomas J. George

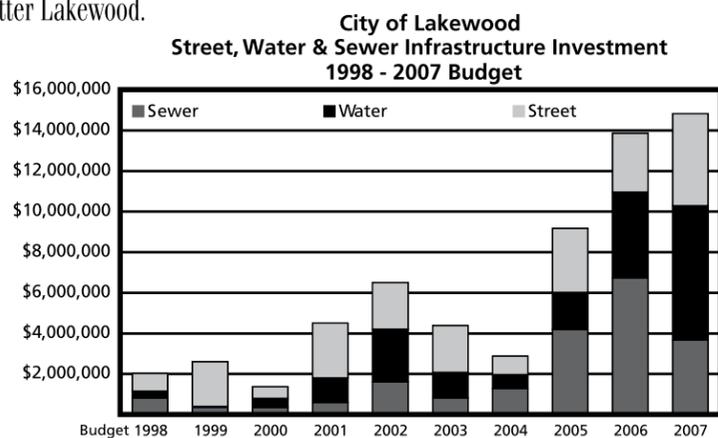
www.thomasjgeorge.com

When I became mayor of Lakewood, I committed myself to getting results
for the people of Lakewood. Campaign talk is easy... results are what matters.
Nowhere do results matter more than in the critical area of city infrastructure.

Many Lakewood streets have water and sewer lines over 100 years old,
which poses challenges to our city budget. Streets and sewers had slid into
disrepair. I focused on improving our city infrastructure in a fair and
responsible manner.

Major street repair has been done throughout the entire city, including
significant projects on Detroit Avenue, Franklin Avenue, Sloane Avenue and
Warren Road. We have repaired and replaced water mains and sewers which,
while not as visible as streets, are critical to the health of our city.

Results matter. Together, on **October 2**, we can continue building a
better Lakewood.



Lakewood Public Library Employment Opportunities

CLEANING/JANITORIAL

Lakewood Public Library is seeking an energetic, organized individual to per-
form maintenance routines including dusting; floor care (vacuuming, buffing);
collecting litter/trash; cleaning restrooms; shoveling snow; basic electrical and
plumbing. Must be able to lift 75 lbs. Valid Ohio driver's license required. Day,
evening and weekend work. 40 hours per week. Salary is \$9.50 per hour. Interested
and qualified applicants may call Kim Paras at (216) 226-8275 extension 102 to
arrange for an application. Lakewood Public Library is an EEOE.

LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Lakewood Public Library is seeking a courteous, energetic, organized and
tech savvy individual committed to the delivery of innovative and traditional
public library services to adults, youth and children. Bachelor's degree required.
Knowledge of the Dewey Decimal system a plus. Salary rate is \$11.50 per hour.
Approximately 80 hours per month. Day, evening and weekend work. Interested
and qualified applicants may call Kim Paras at (216) 226-8275 extension 102 to
arrange for an application. Lakewood Public Library is an EEOE.

LIBRARY CLERK

Lakewood Public Library has an opening for a Part-Time Clerk in the Cust-
omer Services Department. This organized, tech savvy and courteous individual
will provide customer service to library patrons and handle library materials. The
applicant will demonstrate ability to read; to work with the public; to alphabet-
ize and to understand library classification system, organization and methods.
Schedule includes nights and weekend hours. Approximately 80 hours per month.
Salary rate is \$9.50 per hour. Interested and qualified applicants may call Kim
Paras at (216) 226-8275 extension 102 to arrange for an application. Lakewood
Public Library is an EEOE.

Lakewood Public Library

Fun-tastic Fall Story Times At Lakewood Public Library

by Stephanie Sheldon

The days are getting shorter, the air is getting crisper, and the fresh smell of pencils and paper waft through the air as schools open their doors for another year teaching young minds. It is also the time when the library kicks off its fall story time season. Cuddle up with your little ones and listen to stories, share songs and visit with friends.

Story times provide the perfect opportunity to introduce children to the joy of books, instill a love of reading, and foster language development and socialization skills as they interact with others their own age. The National Children's Literacy Website states that, "Children who learn to love books will be children who grow up to be good readers. The very best time for children to learn to love books is while they are young. You can help them by making story times a regular part of their day and by encouraging them in their early attempts to speak, read and write.... Children who look at books and hear stories read aloud learn that words and ideas can be written down and that marks on paper have meaning." In a sense, the story times at the library are you child's first venture into a Language Arts class—in a Pre-Literacy School!

Lakewood Public Library will offer five different kinds of story time this fall. Due to the construction at the Main Library, all story times will take place at the Madison Branch. The story times being offered include:

Just Baby 'N Me: For you and your 9 – 24 month old baby. Enjoy books, songs and fingerplays while networking with other parents.

Toddler Treats: For you and your child age 2 – 3 ½. Treat your toddler to a story time. Enjoy stories, songs and movements together for 30 fun-filled minutes.

Storylore: An independent group

experience for preschoolers age 3 ½ and up. Groups of preschoolers follow the storyteller to a land of stories, songs and movements for 30 fun-filled minutes.

Shake, Rattle and Roll: For you and your child age 2-6. Tune in to the magic of music. Enjoy stories that leap off the page with song, dance and rhythm instruments. For added fun, each child will be given a special "shaker."

Pajama Party: For the whole family. Wear your pj's and bring your favorite stuffed animal and blankie. Special "night lights" will add to an

evening of stories and songs.

The fall story time season begins Monday, September 17th and runs for eight weeks through Thursday, November 8th. Themes for the fall include: D is for Dinosaur, It's Fall, A Walk in the Woods, At the Firehouse, In Motion/It's Bedtime, Not So Scary Stories, Way Out West, and Color and Shapes. Details for each of these themes may be found on the library website, www.lkwdpl.org. Registration is required for all story time programs. For more information or to reserve your child's spot, call the Madison Branch at (216)

228-7428.

In addition to the eight-week summer story time season, the Madison Branch offers the Family Weekend Wonders drop-in story times with a craft every weekend of the year. No registration is required. They are held each Friday at 10:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; each Saturday at 10:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.; and each Sunday at 2 p.m. This fall, children can hear tales of pandas and bugs, horses and sharing, mice and Max (and Ruby!) during Weekend Wonders. Bring the family for some story time fun!

Lakewood Public Library Color Palette

by Mary Ellen Stasek

The public's response to the interior color scheme at the new Lakewood Public Library building has been extremely positive. Many visitors have expressed fascination with the vibrant palette that begins right inside the doors.

The form of the new library follows a Classical syntax. The design is informed by tested principles that evoke learning, culture, democracy and respect. The new building stands simple, strong and stately, full of historical reference and civic grandeur.

But Lakewood's gem has more facets. Color and light add a vitality that suits our contemporary taste. Natural light, and there is plenty of it, is welcoming and supportive, undemanding and enjoyable. The paint color palette is spirited; some colors are unquestionably bold. In all, more than 20 colors are used.

An interesting note is that the Library's interior designers drew inspiration from the exterior of Thorvaldsens Museum in Copenhagen. This Neoclassical construction was built in the mid-19th Century from designs by architect Michael Gottlieb Binde-



The Thorvaldsens Museum in Copenhagen, Denmark

bøll. Bindebøll was enthused with the ancient world's architectural forms and was particularly captivated by discoveries of traces of bright colors that were used to decorate classical buildings. Even though classical ruins appeared plain and monochromatic, in their day they generally had been adorned with sculptures and decorated with paint. Bindebøll applied color to all the exterior faces of his building.

Colors used by the ancients to embellish their sacred and civic monuments were carefully chosen and had

extended meaning. Here, in Lakewood's iteration, one can take color and light a step beyond decoration and style and regard them as agents for the library's vision. This is space in which to be inspired and energized. To embrace our history and value our traditions, but move beyond the pedagogy of our past. To discover our potential and illuminate colorful possibilities.

For those curious about the precise colors in the Library's palette, the color scheme specifications are online at

<http://lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/about/newbuilding/paint.htm>

Check Out After-School Programming at the Library

Attention students: when the school bell rings on Tuesday, September 4th head straight to the library for the start of after-school programming. Whether you need help with your homework or want to create a cool craft, the library is the place to be. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade can participate in Homework ER and Four O' Clock Club at the Madison Branch of the Lakewood Public Library.

Students who attend Homework ER can utilize the educational resources and supplies provided and receive help with their homework from a friendly and knowledgeable librarian. Teachers and parents agree that students who participate in homework centers have more complete homework and improved reading skills. Research also shows that homework centers increase self esteem, create a bond

between students and adult homework staff, introduce students to a new network of friends and most importantly, offer a safe place for students to do their school work. Students may visit Homework ER at the Madison Branch of the Lakewood Public Library Monday through Thursday from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Four O' Clock Club is another great way for students to spend a weekday afternoon. Children can participate in a variety of activities that could include creating a sun visor, learning the Mexican Hat Dance or playing "Collapse the Castle." No matter what the child's interests, Four O' Clock Club is sure to please with craft, game, movement and mystery days. So bring a friend or two and visit the Madison Branch for these exciting after-school programs. Please call the Madison Branch at (216) 228-7428 for more information.

Open Office

by Dave Popeck

For a few years Lakewood Public Library has offered Open Office on patron computer desktops as an alternative to Microsoft Office. Open Office <<http://www.openoffice.org>> is a software suite that provides programs for creation of documents, spreadsheets, databases and presentations. Try it out and learn to utilize the helpful features that you have been missing if you use Microsoft Office. One example is the built-in PDF creator. Converting your document or spreadsheet into a PDF is a single click away. No need to purchase expensive software to perform that task. Don't worry about what operating system is on your computer (Windows, Macintosh or Linux) at home or work because Open Office is cross-platform and, best of all, it is free!

I can hear the nay-sayers now: "What if I have Microsoft Office files?"

The latest version of Open Office is compatible with most versions of Microsoft Office, so don't worry about opening documents. You even have the option to save your Open Office documents in Microsoft Office format. But why do that? If someone asks you why you use Open Office, tell them that why would one pay for expensive software when you can get a quality option for free?

Now one can forget about choosing where to install (at home or work, or onto your laptop or home computers) because license worries are a thing of the past. Families will love Open Office since both parents and kids can have a full-featured office suite at home for no cost! Don't pirate software because of its expense. The makers of Open Office encourage folks to make copies for friends and co-workers. Just one caveat: don't charge for the program because Open Office is free and open source.

Lakewood City News

Mayoral Candidate Ryan Demro Hosts Town Hall Meetings

Greetings,

As we enter September, the campaign to bring real leadership back to the people of Lakewood is in full-swing. Yard signs are going up, I'm knocking on countless doors every day, and spreading my message to more and more people. There is still much work to be done, and I need your help to do it.

Read the rest of the newsletter to find out how you can help bring representation back to the people of Lakewood!

Sincerely,
Ryan Demro

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

In an effort to reach out to voters in a traditional way, I am announcing a series of town hall meetings designed to inform voters about my candidacy.

The forums will consist of a six-minute introduction by the candidate, followed by fifty minutes of direct questioning by the audience and a closing statement. I will remain at the location for an additional hour to answer questions one on one for residents who are interested.

Monday, Sep. 10, 2007 Harding Middle School 16601 Madison Ave. 7:00-9:00pm
Tuesday, Sep. 18, 2007 Lakewood United Methodist 15700 Detroit Ave. 7:00-9:00pm

Tuesday, Sep. 25, 2007

Lakewood City Hall
12650 Detroit Ave.
7:00-9:00pm

Thursday, Sep. 27,

2007 Lakewood Public Library
Madison Branch
13300 Madison Ave.

7:00-9:00pm

I would like my supporters to attend as many of these forums as possible.

YARD SIGNS

My thanks go out to all of you who have requested signs by phone, email, and in person. They will soon be placed in yards across Lakewood. If you haven't already requested a sign, please do so as the supply is limited.

E-MAIL GLITCH

My apologies to those of you who have been emailing me over the past couple of months and did not receive a reply. Some emails were going to an area of our online campaign that I was unaware of. Nonetheless, I have read all of the emails that were trapped there and have tried to respond to all of them.

LAST DITCH PITCH

Please consider attending our last fundraiser of the campaign:

1500 Scenic Park Drive,
Lakewood

Thursday, September 13, 2007

VIP Reception 5:00- 5:30pm, \$50 suggested contribution

General Reception 5:30-7:30pm,
\$25 per person

So how do I get a ticket? Go online to www.ryandemro.com and click the contribute button to make a donation with your credit or debit card. You can also send a check to our campaign treasurer.

ENDORSEMENTS

The only endorsements that matter to us in this race are those from people who actually live their lives in Lakewood and can vote here. Check out our new endorsements page. If you would like to record a video spot or add your name to a growing list, please respond to this email. If you want your name added to the list, please specify as to how it should be printed.

Demro Links Website Biography
Platform The Demro

Record Volunteer Contribute

email: ryan@ryandemro.com

web: <http://www.ryandemro.com>

Ward 2 Neighborhood Safety Forum

Hear Tom Bullock's plan to stop crime at Lakewood's borders and make our streets safe, friendly, and clean by:

- **Strengthening Lakewood's Police:** Get our police more tools so they can meet growing safety challenges.
- **Organizing problem-solving workshops for neighborhoods:** learn how to start Good Neighbor Networks and how to deal with noise, trash, and absentee landlords.

WHEN: Wed., Sept. 5, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

WHERE: Lakewood Masonic Temple, 15300 Detroit Ave.

WHO: All Lakewood residents are welcome

RSVP: (216) 337-1318 or Tom@TomBullockforLakewood.com

HOSTED BY: Tom Bullock for Lakewood

Sept 5: Ward 2 Neighborhood Safety Forum



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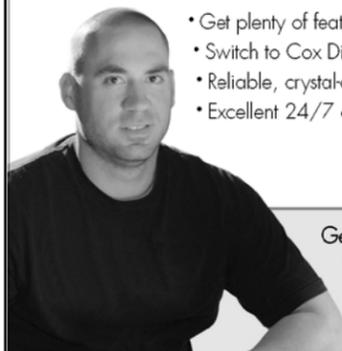
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—Travis 'Pronk' Hafner



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Ward 3 Candidate Diane Helbig continued from page 1...

with people inside and outside Ward 3. Rachael Ribar, who lives in Ward 2, is working on Helbig's campaign. She believes from Helbig's efforts at Roosevelt School and neighborhood safety networks that her election to City Council is good for the city. "I've lived here my whole life. It was safe. Now my kids are not allowed to do today what I could do. We're taking back Lakewood. We want the community feeling."

"I'm not a politician, obviously. I'm not going to tell you what you want to hear to get elected," says Helbig.

Not surprisingly, Helbig is drawing people to her campaign from both Democratic and Republican parties.

"She's a true independent," says Kelley who has tried unsuccessfully to convince Helbig to join the Democratic Party.

"She's not an indecisive independent," Helbig's husband Frank elaborates with the pride of a man who knows he is married to a woman with a capacity to analyze and execute.

"I think she brings more to the table than she realizes," says John Kamkutis, a Marlowe Avenue resident with two daughters attending Roosevelt School.

Having read Malcolm Gladwell's *The Tipping Point*, which posits a theory of viral marketing and idea contagion in social life, Helbig understands that change in the everyday life of a community may be imagined as an epidemic. As Gladwell writes, "Ideas and products and messages and behaviors spread just like viruses do."

Helbig knows from reading and dwelling with others that *The Tipping Point* can supply a valuable analogical perspective on the disorder playing out in neighborhood spaces before her very eyes. She realizes from practical experience that anti-social behavior is contagious and that neighborhood disorder needs to be nipped in the bud. She trusts from coaching that community effort and engagement in

problem-solving can produce the social solution of good order rather than neighborhood disorder.

"The reason I am a coach rather than a consultant is that I believe the client has to be completely involved in the solution," explains Helbig.

"There are people running in this city that are status quo. If that is what you want, then you should vote for them. I'm a person of action," says Helbig.

At the top of Helbig's campaign she has put "community cohesiveness," which might sound vague at first to someone unfamiliar with her considerable power to ground ideas into the organized action of groups.

"Community cohesiveness," Helbig notes, "is essential to solving the security and housing standards issues. All of us—city government, city employees, businesses, schools, and citizens—need to work together to rekindle the spirit of Lakewood. It is up to each of us to play a role. From Neighborhood Block Watches to communication between government departments, it can take very little effort to make big changes."

Helbig believes in managing, motivating and organizing the municipal workforce for coordinated actions that will bring added value to the city's total basket of services and quality of life. For example, back-yard trash pick-up, the top shelf municipal service that can make every man in Lakewood feel like a King, is one small detail in Helbig's vision of community cohesiveness. As a proponent of the back-yard trash pick-up, Helbig believes these municipal workers must serve as "eyes and ears" in a larger quality of life service action strategy. Seeking the value-added quality of cohesiveness, she cautions against an easy and ineffective solution such as the privatization of trash collection. "You don't solve your problems by giving them away," says Helbig.

Lakewood City News

Re-Elect Mayor Thomas J. George:

Building A Better Lakewood . . . And Moving Our Community Forward!

by Denis Dunn

Thomas J. George has earned another term as Lakewood Mayor. During a time when Lakewood needs innovation, reform, and a mayor committed to the eventual renewal of our community, Tom George is the best choice. This conclusion is not mine alone.

To date, 30 independent organizations or officials have offered an endorsement for Mayor. This process usually involves a review of the candidates, scrutiny of their records as public officials, and evaluation of their potential for leading our community forward.

Mayor George is batting .1000—an impressive 30 for 30, having garnered every possible endorsement. This achievement should not be underestimated. It is a testament to his capacity to collaborate with community and regional stakeholders who have strong, vested interests in the well-being and future of our community.

Mayor George's campaign slogan, "Building a Better Lakewood," accurately reflects the millions of dollars of capital invested in our community over the last four years for residential and economic development, and the revitalization of important civic institutions. But "Building a Better Lakewood" is not limited to bricks and mortar. It also represents Mayor George's ongoing commitment to build confidence in the future of our community.

Mayor George's ability to constructively partner and innovate with others has contributed to the following accomplishments:

Created the *Grow Lakewood Committee*—a cross-section of community leaders charged with developing a strategic plan to advance a governing agenda for our community. Saved the Beck Center. Implemented CitiStat—a nationally acclaimed, innovative data-driven management program that enhances accountability, and the reliable and efficient deliver of city services. Earned a designation for Birdtown in the National Register of Historic Places and created Lakewood's first Arts District. George also successfully implemented the Main Street

Program. Advanced economic development and community investment by working with developers, the Lakewood YMCA, and officials from Lakewood Public Schools and the Lakewood Public Library. Saved the Social Security offices in Lakewood. Successfully negotiated contracts with public employee unions without acrimony or threat of work stoppage. Constructed the Lakewood Skateboard Park. Initiated the award winning Youth Master Plan and received national recognition from the National League of Cities for Lakewood H2O program. Formed

the *Green Lakewood Committee* to advance energy conservation and sustainability. This builds on Lakewood being the first municipality in Ohio to enact a comprehensive Green Building policy. Helped Lakewood become awarded as a top recycling community by Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District. Created the *Structural Imbalance Task Force* to ensure fiscal discipline and prioritized the allocation of tax dollars. He also formed the *Lakewood Housing Advisory Panel* to devise strategies to promote and maintain value in our residential housing stock.

Defended the Lakewood Dog Park.

Mayor George's ability to work with others and form alliances has strengthened many of his initiatives and, as a consequence, strengthened our community. By forming governing partnerships, Mayor George not only relies on the power of his ideas, but also takes into account the validity of other viewpoints—successfully building political power to advance our community.

Let's keep Building a Better Lakewood—together. Vote to re-elect Mayor Thomas J. George.

Lakewood Walks!

by Mary Anne Crampton

Call it fate - a Manor Park resident with "step" in her name won the grand prize basket at the Lakewood Walks Main Street event on August 22. Catherine Step was convinced by her neighbor to participate in the event as part of their weekly trek to the Farmer's Market. With kids in tow, they did the two-mile walk.

"The best part was seeing so many people I know walking on Detroit," Catherine remarked when she walked to the Main Street office to pick up her prize. The basket had over \$220 worth of gift certificates and prizes, including giant glass mugs from The Winking Lizard, a vase from Déjà Vu, a book from Library Friends, and gift cards from Geiger's, Quiznos, Blue Onion, Drug Mart, Souper Market, Lion & Blue, Phoenix Coffee, Crazy Rita's, and Pacers. Kari Zimmerman, a Woodward Avenue resident, won a Key Bank duffel bag and a Huntington Bank t-shirt.

Downtown merchants, who saw as many as 160 walkers come through their doors that day, were delighted with the experience. "This is the kind of exposure that can really benefit our downtown businesses. We look forward to participating in future walks," said Chas Geiger, of Geiger's Clothing and Sports.

Lakewood Hospital partnered with Main Street Lakewood on this event to encourage its employees to



Division of Aging volunteers help walkers.

make walking part of their daily routine. Hospital balloons, a tent, table, and flyers put the finishing touches on an event coordinated with the help of Susan Grimberg, David Pauer, and Amy Jamieson-Petonic. Because of its success, this event will be presented as a "best practice" to other Cleveland Clinic hospitals to promote employee active living and community support.

Another partner in the event was the Division of Aging, which scheduled 8 volunteers to work under the tent in front of the Lakewood Professional Building. Ron Balach, Margie Adam,

Thelma Marieni, Leslie Spellacy, Patrick Spellacy, Ruth Svoboda, Amanda LaQuatra, and Sue Becker helped to pass out bottles of water donated by Giant Eagle and goodie bags, which included donated gifts such as the latest issue of the Observer and a healthy 100-calorie snack from the hospital. These volunteers were the heroes on this sweltering day.

In total, 160 participants walked 278 miles last Wednesday - a true community event that demonstrated our city's walkability. This is one event definitely worth repeating. Stay tuned!



Lakewood Kiwanis

CLAM BAKE

Sunday, September 30th, 2006, 4-6 PM
Lakewood Park Women's Pavilion

Dinner Includes: Clams, Oven Roasted Chicken, Corn On The Cob, Cole Slaw, Desert & Beverage.
Free Hot Dogs For Kids.

DONATION - \$20.00 Benefits Lakewood Community

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:
Any Lakewood Kiwanis Member



Historic Birdtown Reunion

Come to the 20th Annual LAKEWOOD COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 8th, 2007
Madison Park ~ 13029 Madison Avenue
11:00 am to 5:00 pm
[rain date ~ September 15]

Lakewood's own Birdtown was most recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As part of the celebration, there will be a special tent set up at the Lakewood Community Festival where current and former Birdtown residents can reminisce and others can learn about why Birdtown is so special. Please join us as we celebrate Birdtown being listed on the National Register of Historic Places!

FREE ADMISSION

Anyone interested in reserving a booth can call (216)529-6650.

sponsored by the
Lakewood Community Festival, Inc.
& the City Of Lakewood
*all events subject to change



Lakewood City News

Why I Am Running For the Lakewood School Board

by Matthew Markling

I am running for the Lakewood School Board because my wife, Kathleen, and I believe that I can offer a fresh perspective. I have experience as a community leader, university professor and school attorney. I also have a strong commitment to assuring a future of excellent education for all of Lakewood's children, even those not yet in school, including my sons, Declan and Nevan.

My family calls Lakewood home because it is a community with a sense of "we" versus "me." We are a community that:

- Values diversity and intellectual growth.
- Walks and talks with friends and neighbors.
- Values safe and clean streets. Fosters civic pride and leadership.
- My family also calls the Lakewood City Schools home because the school community shares that same sense of "we" and further, we are a school community that expects:
 - **Academic excellence.**
 - **School safety.**
 - **Leadership.**

It is upon these shared values that I base my platform of academic excellence, school safety, and leadership.



The Markling Family

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Our children's academic progress is directly related to their eventual economic and social success. Our mission is to lay the foundation for happy, engaged, productive citizens through academic excellence.

School leaders are sometimes tempted to make excuses for why their schools fail to meet one or more of the state accountability standards. These excuses can become self-fulfilling prophecies and serve no good purpose.

Admittedly, there are factors beyond the control of school districts

that can make it difficult to meet all state standards. However, these factors should not deter us from doing everything possible to meet the standards. They simply mean that the Lakewood City Schools has to continuously evaluate our practices and make changes whenever indicated.

As a school board member, I will expect academic excellence throughout the Lakewood City Schools and work to ensure that appropriate resources are provided to our educational professionals to ensure that success.

While state accountability standards are important, we should not judge our performance exclusively by any one set of tests. To do so would obscure the broader educational mission that is over a 100-year tradition in Lakewood, including serving the wide range of needs of all students; emphasizing development of the whole person, including social and emotional aspects; emphasizing the importance of good citizenship.

As a school board member, I will work toward highlighting the academic excellence currently taking place in the Lakewood City Schools by recognizing both students and parents for their academic accomplishments on classroom, building, and district-wide levels.

SCHOOL SAFETY

As an active leader in both the High School and Middle School Student Conduct and School Climate Commit-

tees I have worked toward ensuring that our students learn responsibility for civility and student safety.

As a school board member, I will work to ensure that all school safety recommendations of both committees continue to be implemented fully including, but not limited to, Total Enforcement of the Student Code of Conduct (discipline and dress code) and Increase Student Opportunities for Extra-Curricular Activities.

LEADERSHIP

Theodore Roosevelt said: "The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men [and women] to do what [s]he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it." I believe that the most important responsibility of a school board is to employ a superintendent and treasurer and to hold them responsible for managing the schools in accordance with the school board's policies.

As a school board member, I will not manage the day-to-day operations of the Lakewood City Schools; however, I will insist that the system is properly managed.

Lakewood City Schools has a rich history of civic participation that can never be taken for granted. As a school board member, I will help build public support and understanding of public education, and lead the public in demanding quality education.

The success of the schools facilities improvement plan, thus far, is the result of community engagement. I want to be sure all Lakewood citizens feel they are informed about and have the chance to be involved in issues facing the schools.

My campaign committee, spearheaded by Teresa Coyne Andreani, Chuck Greanoff, Paula Reed, and Rick Wair, has put together www.markling-forlakewood.com in an effort to share with you a summary of my personal background and platform.

Please contact us with any questions, comments or concerns you may have regarding my campaign for School Board. We hope you will Vote Markling for School Board on November 6, 2007!

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Lakewood Medical Associates, Beachcliff

Lakewood Hospital Professional Building
14601 Detroit Avenue, Suite 260, Lakewood.

Drs. Brill and Fisher will be moving to Beachcliff Market Square, 19300 Detroit Road, Rocky River in November.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call **440.356.3640**.



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PastaFiesta

Thursday

September 20, 2007

At The Women's Pavilion in Lakewood Park.

Proceeds will contribute greatly to numerous programs offered to the Lakewood Community. Call (216)521-1515 or email Ruth Koeningsmark at PastaFiesta06@yahoo.com

Events Around Town

Shields And Friends Gather For Fundraiser

When Dan Shields was deciding where to host a fundraiser for his 2007 Ward 2 Council race, he knew just the place - Bar2 - the newest Ward 2 dining establishment. "I want to promote business development in my ward, so it was a natural place to be. They are doing a fabulous job there, the food is great, and the atmosphere is exciting.

It was a good decision. About 90 people joined Dan to see old friends and make new ones.

Shields was joined by a host of family and friends, including local Democratic leaders: State Representative, Michael J. Skindell, Council President Robert M. Seelie, Councilwoman-at-large Nickie J. Antonio, and Ward 4 Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan. He was also joined by several of his siblings (he's one of nine children of William and Florence Shields), including his brother Matt, a Lakewood teacher who is Dan's campaign treasurer.

"Dan and I have discussed many issues involving the schools including discipline and safety," said Matt. "I think he'll be a great resource for us on council."

Shields began his talk by honoring fellow Lakewood Democratic Club members and longtime Lakewood residents, Gerry Nelson, Jerry Morse, and Jack Simon. He noted their years of service to the community and the Club. "These are our precious seniors, who have worked hard for us. Now I will work hard for them" Shields said, "by protecting senior services and making sure they have resources they need."

Shields lives on Westwood Ave. with his wife Kathy and four daughters. He is excited about the possibilities for development throughout the ward. "There are a number of construction projects happening in the city, and I want to continue to promote development in Ward 2."

In addition to senior services and economic development, Shields said he would also focus on parks.



(top left to right) Councilwoman-at-Large Nickie J. Antonio, Ward 2 Council Candidate Dan Shields, Ward 4 Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan and State Representative Michael J. Skindell. Seated is Council President Mike Seelie.

"Lakewood is a great place to live", he said again and again, "and I want to see that our children and families

continue to have open space for play and recreation."

Shields noted that he is the only

homeowner with longtime involvement in the Lakewood community in the Ward 2 race. "We need a neighbor, not a newcomer", he said to enthusiastic applause.

He was a coach and served on the board of Trustees for the Lakewood Soccer Association; he is on the Board of Trustees at the Lakewood United Methodist Church, he has served on the Board of Trustees with the Ohio Canal Corridor (working to bring the Erie Canal's towpath Trail to Northeast Ohio); and is a longtime parent volunteer in the schools.

Shields is an attorney with 20 years' experience, and was on the 2005 Charter Review Commission. "These tools will help me to begin to make a positive difference immediately on council" he concluded.

Lakewood's City Council Primary is Tuesday, October 2nd.

Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce Hosts 51st Annual New Teacher Luncheon

by Patty Ryan

Education is very important in our community and it is a long standing tradition that local businesses invite all new teachers and administrators in Lakewood to a banquet in their honor. This year the the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce invited 35 new public and parochial teachers to the 51st Annual New Teacher Luncheon,

The luncheon was held at one of the beautiful new school buildings, Hayes Elementary, on Friday, August 24th and was catered by Italian Creations. Each teacher received a complimentary meal, a tote bag full of school supplies and other goodies, and a door prize; all donated by local businesses.

"The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce provides such a wonderful luncheon to welcome our new teachers," said Dr Deb Cahoon, Director of Human Resources with the Lakewood



Over 140 people attended the 51st Annual New Teacher Luncheon

City Schools. "Our teachers were overwhelmed by the support and generosity offered by the Lakewood business community."

The New Teacher Luncheon is always one of the more popular events

the chamber hosts each year. It is a great opportunity for local business people to meet the new teachers, offer their support and words of encouragement, and thank them for the service they provide to our community.

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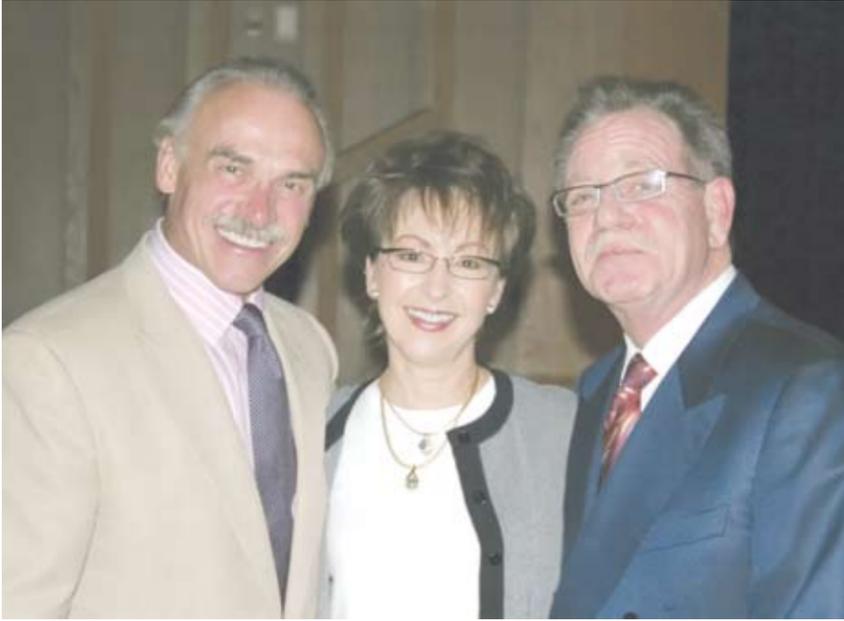
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Events Around Town

Super Bowl Legend Visits Lakewood



Rocky Bleier, Sandy Donnelly and Dan Donnelly pose for a photo. Dan and Rocky have been friends for over 35 years.

by Mike Deneen

As Browns fans know, Super Bowl rings are a rare commodity. On August 16, Lakewood High School hosted a special guest speaker who owns four such rings. Former Pittsburgh Steeler running back Rocky Bleier spoke to a large crowd of Lakewood and St. Edward high school athletes, coaches, parents and guests at Lakewood Civic Auditorium. Bleier, who has worked as a motivational speaker since his retire-

ment from football in 1980, brought an entertaining message of hope. He spoke for over an hour and fielded questions for 40 minutes. The event was presented by the Dan and Sandy Donnelly Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships annually to Lakewood students.

Rocky Bleier is best known as the blocking back for Franco Harris on four Super Bowl championship teams during the 1970s. However, his football career began in Appleton, Wisconsin,

where he was a star on the local high school team. Despite his small size (only 5 feet 9 inches) he earned a football scholarship to Notre Dame. In 1968 he was drafted in the 16th round by the lowly Pittsburgh Steelers, a team that had not won a playoff game in many decades.

He was drafted into the US Army to fight in Vietnam. There he was seriously wounded, and spent nine months in the hospital. His doctors said his football career was over. However, a series of events kept him on the path back to the NFL. During his recuperation, he met a triple amputee that lost both legs and an arm in battle. The amputee would regularly visit his fellow wounded soldiers, checking on their condition and helping keep their spirits up. Also during this time Bleier received a postcard from Steelers owner Art Rooney, who told him that the team needed him back.

Bleier explained to the audience that these positive gestures – modest as they might have been – had a major impact on his life. “My life was built on hope,” he told the audience, “with

hope comes faith and with faith comes belief.” He encouraged those in attendance to positively impact other people in their lives, whether it be family, co-workers, neighbors or classmates. Bleier believes that today’s athletes are not different from earlier decades. “Kids want to have hope created, they want to have discipline,” says Bleier.

Bleier returned to the NFL, mostly playing special teams and sitting on the bench for many years. However, he eventually earned a starting job with the Steelers, and played a key role in their four championships. He caught a touchdown pass in Super Bowl XIII, which was the highlight of his career. His years with the Steelers taught him the importance of teamwork. He told the audience that teamwork is not just for sports. A team is any group of people that come together for a common goal -- this can mean a family, a civic group or a business.

To learn more about the Dan and Sandy Scholarship Fund, visit their website www.donnellyscholarship.com

To learn more about Rocky Bleier, visit www.rockybleier.com

Marching Band Festival And Homecoming Updates

by Mike Deneen

Marching Band Festival September 15th

It's time for the 21st annual Lakewood High School Marching Band Invitational Festival. This year it will be held on Saturday, September 15th beginning with a parade to the stadium at 7 pm. Each band will be introduced via a pass and review in front of the track and press box. Field Shows of each individual band will begin at 7:30 pm. This year, bands from Brooklyn, Fairview, Streetsboro, Maple Hts., Parma, St. Ignatius, Hudson, Brecksville-Broadview Hts., and our own Lakewood High School Ranger Marching Band will perform. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for senior

citizens, \$2 for students, and free for pre school children. Should there be significant rain then the festival will be held in the Civic Auditorium.

Alumni Band Members Needed For Homecoming!

The LHS Alumni Marching Band will be performing at the Homecoming Game on Friday September 21st, when LHS battles Garfield Hts. varsity football. Calling out to all former LHS Ranger Marching Band members to come back and play and march. They can call in their intent to participate to Brian Maskow at the LHS Band Office 216-227-5980. We need their name, instrument, year of graduation or they can call Sean DeRenzo at 216-570-3019. This years featured song is “In the Stone”.

WARNING! To Seniors and Retirees How to Save Your Nest Egg!



If you have Savings, Social Security, or a Home...
You need to attend this informational workshop.

Call and reserve your space today!

Retirement specialist William M. Faber will run the workshop. Mr. Faber is a well-known financial educator in Cleveland. He is a specialist in advising retirees who want to protect their assets and make sure that their money lasts.

**Thursday, September 20, 2007
10:30 a.m.**

LAKEWOOD SENIOR HEALTH CAMPUS
1381 Bunts Road, Lakewood, OH
(Entrance across from the new Giant Eagle store)
Join us for Lunch!

Free 1 Hour Workshop Reveals Financial Secrets You Must Know!
Well kept secrets that most attorneys, CPA's and brokers don't know
that will protect you from losing 40 years of hard work and savings.

TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY WITH A COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH
CALL TAMMY SIBERT AT 216-226-4010.

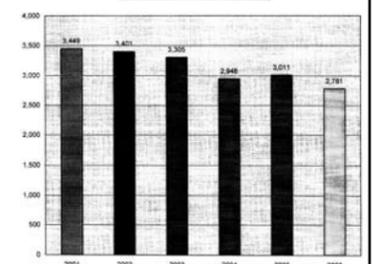


In the last edition of the newspaper, Mayor Tom George published a graph reflecting huge revenue increases coming into the Building Department during his administration as a result of new construction.

Mr. George's graph is misleading and so is the Mr. George's campaign.

This graph reflects the reality of economic development in Lakewood. The number of building permits pulled have actually decreased from previous years. There isn't more building going on in Lakewood, the projects are simply bigger and they are publicly funded.

SIX-YEAR REPORT
TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED
2001 - 2006



Lakewood doesn't need four more years of leadership that takes credit for other people's work. Neither the Mayor nor City Council should claim the library, schools, or YMCA projects as successes driven primarily by city hall.

These projects were driven by the community and that is the reality of it.

DEMRO
for MAYOR

Real Vision • Real Leadership • Real Results

Paid for by Citizens for Demro, Paul Wasserbauer, Treasurer, 1240 Granger Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107

Lakewood Sports

Angel In The Outfield:

Beloved LHS Baseball Coach Jerry Gruss Dies Of Cancer

by Mike Deneen



photo by Ivor Karabakovic

Lakewood High School suffered a tremendous loss on August 23 with the passing of Jerry Gruss. Gruss, who has

served as head varsity baseball coach since 2000, has been at the school since 1985. Gruss, who passed at the age of 60, finished his career with a 180-108 record and a .625 winning percentage. In addition to his baseball and teaching duties, he served as an assistant football coach. Before coming to Lakewood High, he had worked at Cleveland Central Catholic and St. Edward High School.

Despite his onfield success, Gruss' impact stretches far beyond sports. He served as a mentor and father figure to hundreds of students over the years. In fact, some of his former students are now faculty at Lakewood High. His wake was held at Miscencik Funeral Home in Lakewood, and hundreds of these former students and coworkers attended.

"I'm going to miss Jerry a lot," says Bruce Giberson, an assistant football and baseball coach at LHS. Gruss had been suffering with cancer in recent weeks, but kept his spirits high. He even attended the football team's photo session just a few days before his death. "We were hoping for a miracle," Giberson says.

"He's had a big impact," says Ranger varsity football coach Jim Slagle. Slagle mentioned that Gruss has served as a father figure for many players over the years. Gruss always made time to reach out to players, and treated them as more than just ballplayers. In fact, many described Gruss' baseball team as a "family."

In addition to hundreds of ath-

letes and students, Gruss leaves behind a loving family -- his wife, Michelle, and five children; Rob, Erin, Coletta, Kelly and Emily. Michelle has been very active in LHS athletics for many years.

Gruss' death occurred on the eve of LHS' football season opener. New public-address announcer Mike Calahan notified the crowd of Gruss' death, and there was a moment of silence before the game. Flags were hung at half-staff. The Rangers won the game 37-8, and the game ball was presented to Michelle Gruss. In a fitting bit of irony, the star of the game was Robert Trivett, who was a leading player on Gruss' baseball team last spring.

Rangers Rout Braves In Home Opener

by Todd Shapiro

With new turf on the field, a new conference affiliation, and heightened expectations for the 2007 season, the Lakewood Rangers took the field August 24 for their home opener against the Berea Braves. Game-time temperatures approached 90 degrees, but Head Coach Jim Slagle said the Rangers were prepared for the heat. "We practice every day from 3-9 pm in the hottest heat of the day. So we knew our kids would be prepared."

The Rangers controlled the game from the opening kickoff, with tailback Robert Trivett scoring three touchdowns, bringing Lakewood to a 37-8 non-league victory. Trivett scored both of the Rangers' first-half touchdowns on runs of 2 and 5 yards and impressed the fans at Lakewood Stadium with his ability to break tackles and fight for extra yardage. He finished the game with 186 yards on 19 carries and added a 52-yard kickoff return after Berea cut the Rangers' lead to 16-8 early in the third quarter.

Lakewood played nearly mistake-free football, committing just two penalties and playing a turnover free game. "The first game is always tough for penalties, and I was pleased how well our players kept their composure all night," Slagle said. However, the same could not be said for the Braves. Berea committed six penalties, including back-to-back unsportsmanlike conduct fouls that allowed the Rangers to set up their first score of the second half, and had three turnovers. The Rangers' new offense appeared to be running on all cylinders as the Rangers

amassed 296 yards of total offense and moved the chains for 21 first downs.

While many high schools use variations of the spread offense with multiple receivers and numerous men in motion, Lakewood offense has a "Back to the Future" feel to it. "If you're a fan of college football and you remember the 1971 Nebraska Cornhuskers with Johnny Rodgers, that's the offense we are running," Slagle said. "We use a four back offense; a halfback, a fullback, a tailback, and a quarterback." Although the Rangers' offense brings back images of 8-track tapes, shag carpet, and daytime World Series games, they occasionally throw the football too - junior quarterback Dan Shannon connected with fullback Mike Harrington on a 5-yard touchdown pass on a fourth-and-four play to extend the Lakewood lead to 30-8. Shannon finished the night 4-of-6 passing for 62 yards.

On defense, the Rangers held Berea to just 71 yards and 3 first downs in the first half. However, the Braves engineered two long time-consuming drives in the third quarter. The first drive ended in a 51-yard Josh Reynolds touchdown run. Reynolds added a 2-point conversion to account for all of the Berea scoring. Berea's second drive of the third quarter ended after 16 plays and nearly eight minutes, when Reynolds fumbled at the Rangers' 8-yard line. After another Reynolds fumble, Harrington, a senior, found the end zone for a second time on a 5-yard touchdown dash to close out the Rangers' scoring.

One of the most exciting moments of the night came just before half-

time when kicker Ardjan Bako came on the field for his first career field goal attempt. Bako, who missed a PAT earlier in the game, connected on a 43-yard field goal into the swirling wind at the north end of Lakewood Stadium to put the Rangers up 16-0 at the half. Not only was the field goal attempt the first of his career, according to Slagle, Bako, who is also a starter on the Rangers soccer team, had never kicked

a football before August 2 of this year. "In the past we have used many soccer players as kickers," Slagle said, "and [Bako] came to us and said he wanted to kick." Whether Bako can become the next Garo Yepremian remains to be seen, but if the Rangers' "Back to the Future" offense continues its impressive early season ways, every Friday night will be "That 70's Show" on the corner of Madison and Bunts

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Lakewood Sports & Fitness

Ranger Volleyball:

New Coach, Fresh Faces, Same Goals

by Todd Shapiro

If the Lakewood Rangers volleyball team is looking for a theme song for the 2007 season, the old Peter Allen tune "Everything Old Is New Again" might be fitting. With a new coach who is a former Lakewood coach, a new rival

the Rangers met in the past two District semifinals, and just two returning starters from the '06 season, it will be a season of familiar faces in new places.

New Head Coach Dale Brogan, who was Lakewood's head coach from 1994-2002, returns to guide the Rangers as they compete in the Valley

Division of the Northern Ohio Conference. The Valley Division features three teams who advanced to Division 1 regionals in 2006: Elyria, Stow-Monroe Falls, and Solon, as well as former Pioneer conference foes Strongsville and North Royalton.

Senior tri-captain Chelsea Mason

thinks the Rangers are ready for the challenge of the NEO. "I really think we can compete. We will have to play well every match and rise up to the level of our competition," said Mason. An outside hitter, Mason is one of the returning starters from last year's team. The only other returning starter, junior Nicole Niemi, has impressed her new coach in preseason practices. "She has a great work ethic and her positive attitude rubs off on her teammates," Brogan said. Brogan calls the setter position "the heart of the team," and that role will be shouldered by tri-captain Meredith Ross. Ross knows her role is crucial to her team's success. "I have to play with consistency and make plays," the 5-foot-7 senior said. "I know my outside hitters will make the plays so I have to get them the ball."

Lakewood opens up its season with a pair of home matches against former Lake Erie Leagues opponents Shaker Heights and Garfield Heights. The Rangers first NEO match will take place Thursday, Sept. 6th when the Solon Comets travel to Lakewood. The Rangers travel to Strongsville seeking to avenge last fall's district semifinal loss on September 20. The Mustangs will make the return trip to Lakewood for the final match of the regular season on Thursday, October 11. The formation of the NEO has been eagerly anticipated by Brogan. "We should have moved out of the LEL 10 years ago. It needed to be done."

Defensive specialist Michelle Friedman, also a tri-captain, said the time the team spent working together this summer at the Kent State University team camp will help the group gel during the season. "We got to know the game better and we got to know each other better," she said. Despite missing most of the 2006 season with a broken ankle, senior middle hitter Lauren Jasica remains one of the most popular players on the team. Jasica believes the combination of a new coach and a more competitive schedule could play big dividends come tournament time. "It's a big difference with coach Brogan, practice is a lot of fun." Jasica added, "We know we need to play better this season and stay focused in every match."

One of the surprises of the season could be sophomore defensive specialist-setter Sarah Speice. Brogan said her hard work and her ability to read the ball should earn her significant playing time. Speice will back up Ross at the setter position. Although Brogan says players have become faster, bigger and quicker since he took over the Lakewood volleyball program in 1994, one thing remains the same - "you still have to keep ownership of the ball to win." The Rangers are hoping that a season that begins with new faces and new places will not end with the "same old song" come October.

JWCL Fun Run:

Good For Charities, Families And Health

by Liz Guscott

The Junior Women's Club of Lakewood (JWCL) is hosting its third annual "Great Pumpkin Fun Run & 5k Race" to raise money for four Lakewood charities: Lakewood Christian Service Center, Matthew's Lending Library, Project Help to Others (H2O) and the North Coast Health Ministries. Each of these great non-profits is located in Lakewood and primarily benefits needy Lakewood residents. The event will take place at Lakewood Park on Saturday, October 27 and includes a one-mile "Fun Run" around the park in addition to a 5k race for serious runners and walkers. JWCL is offering discounts for families and cross-country teams. The goals are to attract

as many people as possible from all age groups, to provide family entertainment, and to raise as much money as possible for the aforementioned charities.

Not only does the "Great Pumpkin Fun Run and 5k Race" contribute to worthy causes, but JWCL is giving runners and walkers alike a chance to lower blood pressure, strengthen the heart, reduce body fat and lower stress. What's more, participants can do all this while in costume! JWCL will award prizes to the best costumes for both children and adults. Who knew exercise could be such fun! Of course, the fastest runners in their age categories will also receive prizes.

JWCL promises a great time for all. Karen McHugh, JWCL President,

encourages all ages to participate, saying that, "with the 'Fun Run', JWCL is combining civic philanthropy with family-oriented healthy fun for all age groups." Participants are encouraged to register early by mail to receive a t-shirt, of which there are limited quantities. Those interested can visit www.hermescleveland.com or call 216-623-9933.

Junior Women's Club of Lakewood is a philanthropic organization that sponsors annual fundraisers with proceeds benefiting Lakewood organizations and the JWCL Scholarship Program. In 1962, a group of young women interested in serving their community and stimulating their minds while enjoying a program geared toward fun and friendships formed the Club.

Open House For Sacred Arts Healing Center September 7th, 8th And 9th

Join Owners Katie Augustine and Roger Sams along with Sacred Arts Healing Center instructors, Kim Miller Rev. Mary Anne Burrows, Shirley A. Nelson, Hank Roth, Baba Jubal, Gregg Langjahr and Melissa Warren for this special event!

The Sacred Arts Healing Center is open to new and current students, and for anyone wanting to experience the benefits of meditation, yoga, dance, discussion and movement. These three days will include a variety of FREE sample classes and free consultations to help you find the right class or session. Grab your wellness buddies, and don't miss this event!

Schedule of Events:

Friday, September 7

7:30 p.m. -- Trance Dance
(Transformational Movement)
w/Roger Sams

Saturday, September 8

10:30 a.m. -- NIA-Organic Movement with Kim Miller
1:00 p.m. -- Forgiveness as a Means of Freedom
w/Rev. Mary Anne Burrows
2:30 p.m. -- Soul Circle
w/Shirley A. Nelson --
Finding Ways to Engage the Divine, Ten Sacred Ways to Relieve the Mind

4:00 p.m. -- Tools of Self Management w/Hank Roth
7:30 p.m. -- Drum Circle
w/Baba Jubal

Sunday, September 9

11:00 a.m. -- Dance Church
w/Roger Sams
1:00 p.m. -- Meet and Greet
w/Refreshments
Note Special Sessions:
Personal Massage
w/Gregg Langjahr
Licensed Athletic Trainer on Friday and Saturday Evening
Mini Muscle Balance
w/Melissa Warren

Creative Kinesiologist on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon. Call ahead to schedule these sessions.

Sacred Arts Healing Center is an eclectic studio offering a wide variety of levels and styles of healing yoga and dance for everyone from complete beginners to extremely advanced practitioners. Classes are designed to empower you on your spiritual path and cover a range of topics. The teaching method allows the student to integrate mind, body, spirit, and emotion simultaneously.

Sacred Arts Studio is located at 13351 Madison Avenue in Lakewood. Call 216.410.3006 for information or visit their website at www.Sacredartshealingcenter.com

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Chef Geoff

Critter Crashes Corn Crop

Jeff Endress

While I will leave for a future issue the economic analysis of my vegetable garden, suffice it to say that I am currently up to my elbows in Roma tomatoes and the freezer is filling with containers of tomato puree. The tomatoes, indeed, have been incredibly productive, but as I planned out the garden, it wasn't really the tomatoes that I was seeking. In planning the plot and loading up on "butter and salt" sweet corn, I was looking forward to an endless supply of freshly plucked corn to be plunged moments later into boiling water and drizzled with melted sweet butter, then served up with tomatoes sliced with basil and mozzarella and drenched in balsamic. Little did I anticipate that others shared my thoughts.

As I watched the ears develop during July, I gauged the timetable when I would first be able to harvest that corn, and my mouth watered in anticipation of the sweet, fresh kernels popping into my mouth. One ear in particular, on the third row towards the end, became my barometer. In leaving my office on a Thursday evening, I realized that the following Friday night would be the first taste of the sweet corn that I had long anticipated. But, as so often occurs, when we are at the height of our revels and the anticipation is palatable, disaster struck.

Nature can be a cruel, cruel arbiter and in my mind, cruelest among

nature's denizens and agents is a particular female squirrel whose name is Devastation. As I walked up the sandstone path to my office's back door on that Friday morning, the barometer ear of corn was no longer in place. Oh yes, I found it, as it lay under the tree nicely stripped of what would have been absolutely delicious, fresh off the cob corn. At first, given the fact that the stalk had been neatly chewed off six inches from ground level, I felt that perhaps one of the beavers from Canada had somehow followed me home. It was later that same fateful day, as I surveyed the damage, that I noticed that not only were there remnants of a corn stalk high in the tree, but also the aforementioned squirrel enjoying yet another ear of my corn.

Mind you, this is not just any rodent - this cheeky, bushy-tailed varmint is truly devil spawn. As she sat on the branch, a mere five feet from my face, she scolded me for interfering with her picnic. I attempted to reason with her. I explained that she was welcome to whatever zucchini she desired, that there were more than enough tomatoes, and that she could help herself. I even offered up the jalapeños and Italian cherry peppers, but my offerings to this demon beast were of no avail. Even as I rushed to pick the not

yet fully-matured ears so that I could salvage some of my buttery dreams, the pile of devastation mounted under that tree. She was far better at gauging when ears were ripe for picking than I, and the cobs from those ears mounted steadily. My maple tree was now decorated with hanging stalks and silk from discarded corn husks. My once proud field of corn was decimated, as stalk after stalk came under her cruel sharp teeth. Her appetite for my much anticipated delicacy was insatiable.

Even the small, underdeveloped ears, which were more suitable for pickling and serving with cocktails, fell prey to her ravenous appetite. My field of corn, which I had originally estimated would yield perhaps as much as fifteen dozen ears, resulted a harvest of only a few handfuls.

Even as the consternation over my corn crop continued, I realized that for the first time the grape vines that I had planted at my home were displaying huge clusters of grapes, which I anticipated would be ripening into clusters of green and red. While minding the grill, I would occasionally snatch a grape just to check for sugar content and I realized that I would soon be harvesting my first home-grown, fresh, sweet grapes.

It was with no little amount of anticipation that I gathered my kitchen shears and a large basket in which to hold my harvest, then proceeded out to the back yard that Saturday morning. As the screen door slammed behind me, a rather large flock of birds took wing from the arbor, the apparent ring-leader an incredibly saucy cardinal who refused to budge. Perhaps he was weighed down by the consumption of pound after pound of fresh, ripe green grapes.

While we like to consider our homes as a refuge, our castles, and shelter against the outside world, even here the forces of nature had played a cruel trick upon me. That cardinal and his friends had neatly stripped away what I had counted as over three dozen clusters of grapes, leaving only as unwanted the small, undeveloped, and sour remnants of the vine. This was the thanks that I received for the countless trips during blizzards, through snow drifts and freezing rain to keep my outdoor sanctuary full during the winter months. I returned to the house crestfallen.

As if all this were not enough, that squirrel still mocks me. Only now, after devastating the corn, she turns her attention to the tomatoes...and accompanying her is a cardinal.

Join Us At This Year's PastaFeista!

by Ruth A. Koenigsmark

The Lakewood Foundation and the Lakewood Commission on Aging are inviting the Lakewood community to a pasta dinner on Thursday, September 20TH, The PASTAFIESTA, in it's 11th year, will raise funds that will contribute greatly to the numerous programs offered to Lakewood Seniors and their families. Last year's event raised \$6,000!

The dinner menu includes delicious pasta and meatballs prepared by Italian Creations, a garden salad, rolls and

butter, a beverage and dessert. Enjoy a wonderful evening on the lake at the Woman's Pavilion in Lakewood Park complete with strolling musician, Billy

Kaye for a touch of the Old World. Door prizes will be awarded, including the grand prize of a basket filled with \$150.00 worth of ingredients for a romantic, Italian dinner to remember!

Seatings begin at 4:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 7:00p.m. Tickets are available at Senior Center West, 16024 Madison Avenue or call 521-1515 for more information.

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Lakewood Perspective

Private Thoughts On Public Television

Bret Callentine

I'll admit it; I spend entirely too much time watching television. But in my defense, the virtual explosion of both technology and selection has created a source of entertainment that is simply unmatched in today's world. I'm hooked. Cable TV is my personal drug of choice. The first sign that I might have a problem came with the realization that one of my favorite shows is little more than a stationary camera broadcasting Hi-Def bliss from some isolated corner of the world. The show Sunrise Earth can easily be considered as the flag-bearer of a cable system that I think can honestly deliver something for everyone at any given time.

But last night, as I found myself bouncing back and forth between Mythbusters on the Discovery Channel and motorcycle racing on the Speed

network, I asked myself, "whatever happened to PBS?" Now that my local cable "pusher" has me hooked on the package with hundreds of channels, I can watch just about anything I imagine. But as I put the remote through it's usual surfing duties, I don't recall stopping on a Public Broadcasting Station recently.

When I was growing up, PBS represented 25 percent of the entire viewing selection along with the only other options; ABC, NBC, and CBS (if you used the extra coat hanger on the aerial). While it might not have offered the most popular shows, often times it was the sole-remaining option, such as when the networks all carried the news. Other times PBS seemed like the outsider, the lone-dissenting voice that chose to inform rather than entertain. I have to admit, while I still made time for my favorite network shows, as I grew older, more and more I found myself

seeking out the programs offered by PBS. I became a big fan of television that educated -- such as This Old House and Nova. It seems that, without even noticing, the seeds that had been planted with Sesame Street had grown into a full-fledged, honest interest in learning.

Upon signing into legislation the Public Broadcasting act of 1967, President Lyndon Johnson made the following remarks: "Our nation wants more than just material wealth; our nation wants more than a 'chicken in every pot.' We in America have an appetite for excellence too. While we work every day to produce new goods and to create new wealth, we want most of all to enrich man's spirit."

When the government established the funding for Public Broadcasting, it did so because it realized the need to provide some vegetables to our meat-and-potatoes TV dinner. But that was

then and this is now. 'Then' was a flash-frozen brick of tin foil, with the only choice between the Salisbury steak of Happy Days and the fried chicken of Mary Tyler Moore. Now we're living in a veritable all-you-can-eat buffet where even the green beans are crisp, fresh, in HD and apparently in high demand.

The point is this; I'm not sure when it happened, and quite frankly, I'm not even sure how. But I think the goals behind public broadcasting have been not only met but well-integrated into the viewing structure. And further, I question why; when so many "for profit" stations seem to be able to successfully make money with such programming while we as the taxpaying public need to continue to pay even a small portion of the bills. Can you honestly say that a show such as How It's Made is less informative because the ads are in the middle instead of at the end?

According to their own website, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting will receive a federal appropriation totaling 400 million for the 2007 fiscal year. Surprisingly, this only represents a small portion of their overall budget, with as much as another 650 million coming from various private individual and corporate donations. Which begs the question; isn't there other more pressing matters that the people of the United States could do with a billion dollars a year?

Every year, non-profit organizations fight tooth and nail to somehow scrounge both public and private dollars to maintain their individual services. Far be it from me to suggest how you distribute your generosity, but at the very least, I believe it's time to look into where your money gets the best bang for the buck.

With a multitude of other provider options for educational programming, I don't believe that in the absence of PBS, popular shows like Sesame Street or This Old House would fail to find multiple funding suitors. In fact, it's not hard to imagine that for some shows, a rather lucrative bidding war could ensue. The only real casualty would be having the shows remain commercial free. However, given the increasing number of promotional, scheduling and sponsorship announcements, the actual differences between public and private television are quickly becoming negligible.

Further, if there is a continued fear that corporate and profit-driven television won't continue to deliver programming that fits the initial rationale for PBS, why can't the situation be corrected with legislation instead of the money pit of yet another federally-funded program? The solution sounds simple enough to me; add a few educational shows or lose your FCC license.

I realize that this line of thinking might lead to the loss of jobs at the non-profit stations. However, as President Johnson pointed out, the nature of the American spirit is in the continued drive for excellence, not the superfluous continuation of idealistic tradition, no matter what the level of nostalgia.

Arts & Entertainment Watch

by Ruth A. Koenigsmark



A Sunflower that would be striking in any garden

Why not take some basic household items or even plumbing supplies and turn them into one-of-a-kind, beautiful garden art?

Anthony Bocchicchio did!

Local Girl Gallery hosted another packed house on Saturday, August 25th, where master artist, and Owner of AB Plumbing in Birdtown, Anthony Bocchicchio showed off his metal-crafting skills. Large Sunflowers, a praying mantis, a garden table and chairs were just a few of the pieces Anthony proudly dis-

played at his opening. All made from spare plumbing supplies, Bocchicchio has transformed the mundane into works of art.

Anthony's sculptures are not quiet; each piece is alive with animation, whether serious or playful --each has it's own unique character. These are pieces individually constructed with a hands-on method that produces a one-of-a-kind design for each sculpture and emphasizes the inherent colors and textures of the metals along with added additional color makes the pieces alive!

The Artist was joined by his son, Sam, who played a guitar he had designed and fabricated with a little help from Dad.

Some of Anthony's pieces are on sale at Local Girl. If you have interest in commissioning a piece of work, you can contact Anthony through Linda at Local Girl.

Upcoming Events:

-- Call for Artists—for the MAMA LIA Artwalk on Friday, October 7, 2007—put on by the MAMA (Madison Avenue Merchants Association) in

cooperation with the newly formed Lakewood Is Art group. Interested Artists should contact rkoenigsmark@yahoo.com ASAP...as slots are filling up quickly.

bela dubby 13221 Madison Avenue 216.221.4479, Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10 am – 10 pm, Friday and Saturday 10am-midnight.

Cleveland Artist's Foundation 17801 Detroit Avenue—inside the Beck Center 216-227-9484 September 7 - November 24, 2007

Cleveland Goes Modern Local Girl Gallery, 16106 Detroit Avenue 216.228.1802 Hours: Saturday, September 15th. 6:00-8:00 pm

Meet the Author" series with, Deadly Crossings A mystery by Lakewood resident, Gemma Bloom! "When a woman flees to an island to escape her past and reclaim her life, she encounters love and murder in this thrilling mystery." Gemma will be reading from and signing her new book, copies will be available, so treat yourself to a great thriller and welcome in Autumn! Complimentary appetizers and beverages

—Save the Date, Sunday, September 16th to take a pic w/ your pooch--\$25 sitting fee w/8x10 photo—by photographer extraordinaire—Frank Miller, III.

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 12pm-5pm and Friday-Saturday 12pm-6pm

Pop Shop Gallery and Studio, 17020 Madison Avenue 216.227.8440 Hours: Monday-Friday 4pm-8pm, Saturday 2pm-6pm.

Hi-Fi Club 11729 Detroit Avenue 216.521.8878 EVERY Wednesday Heavy Metal Karaoke Hosted by Billy Morris from Warrant—this is just too fun to pass up—!

Wobblefoot Gallery and Frame Studio 1662 Mars Avenue 216.226.2971, Hours: Tuesday – Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-4pm. Gallery, dance and Music 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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Pulse Of The City

The LHS Alumni Band: A Lakewood High Tradition!

Gary Rice

One of the best memories I have of my 1960's Lakewood High School experience is that of participating in the drumline for the Lakewood High School Ranger Marching Band. Lakewood Schools have an excellent tradition of inculcating outstanding musical talent, and that was nowhere more evident than in that drumline.

We used to have Friday night "drumline dinners" where we would meet at one of our homes and then go out on the street and practice our cadences. A cadence is a particular drum beat, and we were always trying to find better and better ones. Some of these involved twirling our sticks above our heads or even bouncing them on the ground. In other parts of town, other sections of the band got together for "sectionals" so that when we all came together, a powerful sound coalesced into synergistic beauty.

Back in those days, the style of drumming we used was called "rudimentary drumming." This was a highly developed skill based on learning rhythmic figures like ra-ta-ma-cues and paradiddles. We spent hours building callouses on our hands from those sticks and rubber practice pads, so we would be able to play together with clockwork precision.

When I joined the band, the bass drum position was open. At that time, there was only one bass drummer, so I thought if I played it, it would be easier for the parents to pick me out of the crowd! The type of drum that I play is called the Scotch Bass Drum. This drum is no longer used in the LHS marching band due to new drumming styles. This instrument is quite a bit smaller in width than the multiple bass drums of today. Currently, drumming is conducted "Drum Corps" style, where melodic tom-toms and bass drums are the order of the day. In my day, the bass drum's only melody was BOOM!

And BOOM, I did. Friends as far away as Rocky River Drive told us that on football nights, the one thing they could hear across Lakewood was my BOOMING bass drum. On the field, one visual advantage to the narrow Scotch Bass Drum was that I could spin those twirling flashy aluminum drum sticks right over the top of the drum!

A number of years ago in a drum shop, I was lucky enough to run across an old discarded and traded-in Scotch Bass Drum, similar to my long-gone original. The replacement is made of stainless steel, so it REALLY booms! I immediately painted it purple and gold, and off I went to join the LHS Alumni Band!

On September 21, 2007, at the LHS Homecoming night, the Lakewood High School Ranger Alumni Band will once again join present-day band members on the field at halftime of the football game. A rehearsal for the Alumni band is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

in the LHS choir room on Tuesday, September 18, 2007.

The band was formed 21 years ago in 1986 and has been conducted by present and former LHS band directors over the years. Originally the group got together every 5 years, but now tries to re-assemble every year. In addition to its appearances at various football games, the group has also participated in a number of special events and parades.

Former LHS musicians are encouraged to contact Alumni Band member Sean DeRenzo at 216-570-3019, or Lakewood band director Brian Maskow's band office at 216-227-5980, for more information and to register for the event this year. Band T-shirts will be available for \$15 and the music will be supplied. Most musicians will need to provide their own instruments, however



photo by Robert Rice

The LHS Alumni Band (gold-tone shirts) joins with the Ranger Marching Band in 2005-

a limited number of drums and Sousaphones should be available for use.

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Local Artist, Len Peralta, Shines

by Arlie Matera



Vincent van Zombie

Every young artist shares a common dream: to make their living doing what they do best. But that dream can be elusive, even for the supremely talented. Many artists give up in frustration, before they ever see a financial reward for their work. Others, like local artist, Len Peralta, are proof that hard work and perseverance often pay off when you least expect it.

If you're a Lakewoodite, chances are you've seen Peralta's drawings without realizing it. He's a former employee of Marc's, where he helped create their signature artwork and signage. He's also the artist who brings us the "Deweys," the cartoon family of the Lakewood Public Library (look for them on the cover of the fall library mailer). His most recent project, Monster by Mail, has launched him well beyond the borders of our city, however.

"I feel lucky," Peralta says. "I've stumbled onto something that's turned out to be really popular."

Monster by Mail had its first stirrings in early spring when his wife found out she was pregnant. "This will be our sixth child," Peralta says. "I couldn't stop thinking about how I was going to pay for the baby's health insurance."

All that thinking led to the idea of a fundraiser, and Monster by Mail was born. Peralta set up a website explaining the concept: send \$20.00 and a good monster name, and he'd send you an original four by six piece of art and a video of your monster's creation.

Peralta sold 150 monsters the first week, and put a "sold out" sign on the site so he couldn't sell more than he could create. When the site was back up, he changed the theme to fictional monster movie names. He sold out again. Next came cryptozoology (Bigfoot, Cyclops, etc.) followed by Summer of the Undead. Each time Peralta sold out, he came back with a new variation on the theme.

"At first I felt like the site was controlling me," he says. "I was working from 8 am to 2 am everyday. Now I've gained some control, and I'm proud of what I'm doing."

Peralta has a lot to be proud of. There's the work itself, of course (one of his favorites is "Vincent Van Zombie," which he liked so well he almost offered to buy it back from the customer). There are the special orders

that keep coming in from all over the world—Japan, Canada, the UK. One of his monsters ended up in the collection of a Pixar artist; another is going to the Museum of Modern Art.

Peralta is creating original art that's affordable, and forging alliances with other young artists along the way. For example, he actively seeks unsigned musicians for the videos that accompany each of his monsters.

But perhaps he is proudest of the positive impact his art is having on his family. "My drawing table is in the main family room," he says. "My kids come by and watch over my shoulder. I love that. My dad was a doctor, and I never got to see what he did."

When asked about his plans for the future—more kids? more monsters?—Peralta just laughs and says, "We'll see what happens." If his recent success is any indication, a growing number of fans will be watching to see what happens too.

Keep up with Peralta's latest at www.monsterbymail.com and on his weekly podcast: <http://jawboneradio.blogspot.com>

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Lakewood Safety

Hoops Vs. Safety:

The Culture Of Recreation In Lakewood

by Nadhal Eadeh

The summer of 2007 will be remembered as a quiet one on Lakewood's hoop front. Between city government and the Board of Education there is only one outdoor basketball court throughout the city. The shoot-down the hoops strategy to bring order to the courts was due, in part, to neighborhood complaints and nuisance violations. A common complaint issuing forth from the chorus of engaged voices is the lack of security at the hoop sites. Coming from the mouths of bureaucrats and citizens alike, these complaints have, in effect, castrated the courts and rendered recreational assets unproductive of competitive play. For the time being, Lakewood youngsters interested in basketball are forced to seek other extracurricular activities.

While some parents have complained about the lack of basketball courts in Lakewood, the Board of Education is reported to be tailoring a program for local hoopers set to roll out this fall. According to a recent Sun Post article, Board of Education President Linda Beebe states "the idea would be for a school at one end of town to be open a couple of nights and on the other end of town for a couple of nights." With this development expected from the schools, city



government has decided to uphold the decision to remove the courts from Lakewood and Madison parks.

Citizens in Lakewood and across the region are expressing discomfort with anti-social and criminal behavior erupting from outdoor basketball courts.

What does this really mean to Lakewood? Is Lakewood not safe anymore? Mayor George seems confident in the current strategy of installing video surveillance cameras at city parks. In response to the hoops crisis, Mayor George argued, "The police came to me

and recommended elimination of the few basketball hoops we have at Madison Park." He adds, "Although nothing serious, there had been outbreaks of fighting and numerous curfew violations. The thought was to take action before someone was harmed. Knowing that there are other basketball options within the city (YMCA, indoor at the schools, etc.) made the decision easier."

As Lakewood enters an era when safety concerns often race across the stressed minds of citizens, city leaders have determined the safest measure available to combat profane language, litter, vandalism, drug dealing and a number of associated anti-social behaviors not constituting criminality is, quite simply, to take down the hoops.

Students don't often register the deeper context of citizen concern over safety and social order in their thinking about recreation and out-of-bounds behavior. Former basketball player and

2005 LHS graduate Zach Larney, for example, thinks the whole idea of taking down the hoops is absurd. Larney states "This is ridiculous, how can you not have an outdoor basketball court in a city of 50,000 plus. It makes you wonder why kids do the things they do."

Mike Harrington, a senior football player at LHS argues, "I think it's sad. What do they expect us to do after school? Not every one can afford the YMCA. You wonder why kids in this city are getting in trouble. We need to give kids more constructive things to do with their time."

Indeed, kids, especially male adolescents, need constructive outlets for the expansive and sometimes aggressive energies that are part in parcel of human development during puberty and young adulthood.

Some parents are furious with the approach city government has taken. Stephanie Toole, an energetic mother of seven states, "My two oldest boys drive to Cleveland Heights, North Olmsted, and Westlake, to name just a few cities for courts to play on with all of their other Lakewood friends." Stephanie's kids are 06' and 07' graduates of LHS who have "spent many hours at the courts at Harding. What a shame they won't be replacing those courts. They were filled morning till night with kids of all ages."

In fact, the old basketball "cages" at Harding provided many strategic advantages to those interested in monitoring for safety and the enforcement of community norms on and around Lakewood's outdoor basketball courts. What better way to monitor basketball players than to consolidate their

continued on next page...

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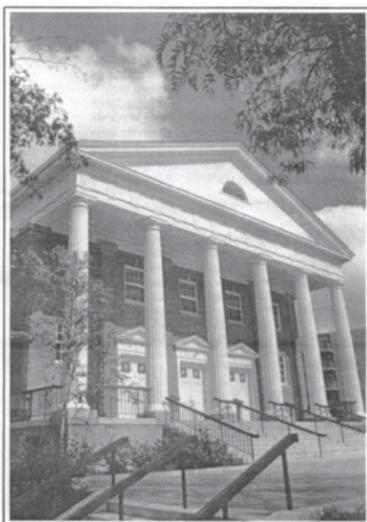
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Lakewood Safety

Hoops Vs. Safety continued from previous page...

activities within a caged complex of courts on a main street, in clear view of law enforcement and the community at large. By missing this opportunity to centralize basketball playing in one outdoor area, the Board of Education will be forced to execute more costly, though arguably safer means of monitoring such activities at indoor facilities.

Dr. Ernest Dezolt, an authority on Juvenile Delinquency and an associate professor of sociology at John Carroll University thinks the city should take a long-term approach to craft a sound solution. As Dezolt sees it, "If you want short term results, you take down the hoops. This will give you a short term gain. However, for this to work you must beef up security in other places and create more viable solutions for the displaced kids. On the flip side, the literature and research suggests that more supervised sports will lead to a longer, more successful impact because you are engaging kids in more constructive activities that will foster positive growth in a teenagers development."

In addition, Dezolt thinks there must be a cultural and social balance to find a more equitable solution for the lack of hoops. "Nothing is static, nothing will stay the same," Dezolt argues. "If nothing else is done, it will be the wrong answer. There has to be a follow up or the short term decision will turn bad."

Dezolt thinks the best way to accomplishing this would be to get citizens to "buy in" the Lakewood brand of safe, clean and affordable neighborhoods. Dezolt states, "Studies show that investing in the community through education, police and civic engagement is a more positive way for Lakewood to live up to its brand."

Mayoral candidate and Ward II Councilman Ryan Demro thinks taking down the hoops is a telling sign about the state of the city's safety. Demro states, "First of all taking down the hoops is a poor excuse for a crime policy. If you expect to have courts that are safe and playable, we need to have a police presence in the parks." Additionally, Councilmen Demro articulates, "We are not thinking clearly about recreation and crime and were looking

for quick political solutions in order to pacify people who are really interested in long term planning and recreation."

Another Mayoral candidate echoes the concerns of Councilmen Demro. Ed Fitzgerald, an at-large Councilman pledges, "As Mayor, I intend to increase safety personnel across the city, particularly in our parks. The fact that some of our parks have become havens for criminal activity is not acceptable. Removing recreational equipment from parks is a sign that we are losing control of the situation. I understand it as a short term measure, but it is not a solution to juvenile crime or misbehavior in our parks."

Coincidentally, Tom Bullock,

Advancing positive changes and good recreational order for youth in the Lakewood landscape will require new approaches and commitments.

Candidate for the Ward 2 council seat and Ryan Demro are demanding a similar gold standard when it comes to recreation in the 'Wood. According to Bullock, Toole's comments have been a hot button issue during front porch conversations as Bullock canvases Ward 2. "No hoops or no supervision is a false choice. Let's have basketball with proper supervision so kids have a safe place to blow off steam in an appropriate way," says Bullock. While the Board of Education has already adopted an indoor-only basketball policy for school grounds that will start this fall, Bullock said city-run parks should find a way to make outdoor basketball work without safety problems, noise, or rude behavior. "This is not an impossible problem to fix," said Bullock. "We can find a way to make it work."

The lack of hoops is for some a telling sign about the state of the city's well-being and ability to integrate adolescent behavior, energy and play into a quality neighborhood lifestyle. If local residents near the parks and schools complain about the lack of safety, vulgarity and nuisances near their homes, inquiring citizens would like to know if other strategies were considered to address this issue. Was the need for more cops or city workers in the parks or on the streets to patrol these areas considered? When, if ever, will basketball options be made available during

the summer months in Lakewood, whether indoor or outdoor?

Harding's outdoor Hoops, the former "Mecca" of outdoor basketball in the 'Wood will not return following the completion of the new Harding building. Unfortunately, in the short term, this is a stop-gap solution. As a result, the new generation of Lakewood youth will be bottled up in their homes, cut off from opportunity to play sports, and abandoned to self-directed programming with a barrage of corporate media. They will move through adolescence disconnected from the experience of hot summer days on the asphalt, breathing fresh air and burning off aggressive, youthful energy. In

Lakewood, words of the late sociologist C. Wright Mills express a fundamental social fact: "We are now at the ending of an epoch, and we have got to work out our own answers."

In Cleveland, and the surrounding first tier suburbs, basketball hoops have been taken down in response to similar perceived threats to neighborhood safety and civil community norms. National Public Radio recently aired a program entitled Barring Basketball in the Burbs. During the program, Daniel S. Pocek, the Mayor of Bedford Heights, argued "It's about a lack of values. The fact is that we believe in middle class values in our town and that goes across African American and Caucasian lines. It is this culture of disrespect. If you just talk to these people, it seems as if they don't respect you or respect each other."

Pocek states further that many of the behavioral problems associated with basketball and the culture of disrespect come from underlying socio-economic problems. "Lets face it," says Pocek, "What the bottom underlying problem is, is the breakdown of the nuclear American family. Most of the problems occur from one-parent families. The parents are stressed out trying to raise their family, trying to earn a living, trying to buy a house, and they expect more out of the schools."

Susan Russo, a resident near the deceased Roosevelt courts, called the

police "more times in the last year than in the 22 years I have lived here." Her concerns resonated with Pocek's culture of disrespect. Russo affirmed "A rather large group of kids would congregate. 50 or so, many of which the neighbors did not recognize as being from our neighborhood." Russo described an unbearable living situation of destruction to the property and excessive noise, long after 10:00 p.m. on any given night.

In America, and especially in Cleveland, the increase in poverty has created the societal constraints on local school districts wherein educators must play multiple roles. In these times, teachers are expected to play educator, psychologist, sociologist and parent. Moreover, at the same time that Cleveland becomes increasingly gentrified in the Tremont and Ohio City neighborhoods as well as in downtown areas, well paying jobs are being replaced with a patchwork of low paying, unstable service sector jobs. As the deprived groups sometimes prone to anti-social behavior continue to be driven out of developing neighborhoods only to create new pockets of chaos in suburban neighborhoods, how will Lakewood respond? As the Lakewood Police force becomes increasingly stressed by a growing caseload of socio-economic and psychiatric dysfunction, what is leadership's response?

Advancing positive changes and good recreational order for youth in the Lakewood landscape will require new approaches and commitments. In Lakewood, where city government seems stuck in the civil service jobs-for-life order of complacency and stagnation, the process of transformation is likely to be a long one. Clearly, we need a more sophisticated way to promote a New Lakewood Century, one that integrates the need for constructive recreational outlets for the energies of our youth, while simultaneously protecting the public good, safe neighborhoods and civil community norms. Lakewood needs to listen carefully to the candidates. Our community must engage our youth pro-actively and firmly in order to protect itself. Otherwise we risk drifting in a city on the cusp of capitulation to the anti-social disorder that breeds a criminal class crisis.

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Lakewood Politics

Lakewood: A Typology Of Political Culture

by Kenneth Warren

The ethnic, moral and religious tradition in which a person is brought up is one key to making sense of Lakewood's political culture. Daniel Elazar, Director of the Center for the Study of Federalism at Temple University and Professor of Political Science at Temple and at Bar Ilan University in Israel, has developed a theory of foundational cultures that can provide Lakewood Observers with keen insights concerning both the city's orientation toward government, past, present and future, as well as the big picture challenges of living intelligently and respectfully with one another in a diverse 21st century urban community.

There are three distinct political cultures present in the United States: 1) the Moralistic Political Culture; 2) the Individualist Political Culture; 3) and the Traditionalist Political Culture, described by Elazar in "American Federalism: A View from the States." These long-standing foundational cultures have informed policy-making and personal living ever since the nation was founded, and continue to do so in Lakewood today.

Elazar proposes a typology of political cultures based on western migratory patterns moving across the continent of America. In Elazar's typology, attitudes, beliefs, feelings and actions that orient people toward government are described as Moralistic, Individualist, and Traditionalist.

Although Elazar's method is sometimes criticized for assigning political culture to regions, based on his own evaluation of the state's political culture rather than empirical research, his labels provide a descriptive means to categorize and discern the roots of Lakewood's values. It is by way of Elazar's types, then, that Lakewood Observers can recognize the cultural impact of religious formations, regional mentalities and migratory patterns on the city's evolution.

In the global sense, Elazar's three categories reflect elements from European socio-political divisions over agriculture and industry that have long

been the concern of social theorists. Informing the dynamics of Elazar's typology are such divisions as Northern Europe vs. Southern Europe, individualist vs. collectivist, Protestant vs. Catholic and egalitarian vs. hierarchical.

In the local sense, Elazar's types contain the capacity to morph creatively into unique Lakewood variations, depending on the degree, quality and purpose of contact between persons coming from different cultural foundations. Consequently one cultural type may change in a creative way, generating greater intelligence and variety for the community.

In the creative sense, moreover, living in community presents a unique personal opportunity for each Lakewood Observer to become fully conscious of their heritage and values, while actively inquiring about how foundational cultures might inform new norms that will support the good life of individuals in the city. The more Lakewood Observers inquire into the sources and stories of persons living in the city, the greater will be the levels of knowledge and respect attained for those living in the community.

That said, detailed descriptions of Elazar's three types and a few observations about how these foundational cultures might be read into Lakewood's culture and politics follow below.

The Moralistic Type

The Moralistic type originates in the Puritan settlements of New England. The Moralistic type intends to "establish the best possible earthly version of the holy commonwealth," says Elazar.

The Moralistic orientation continued as Puritan descendants spread a vision of commonwealth typically associated with New England across upstate New York and the northern borders of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

The Moralistic evaluates government by commitment to public good and concern for public welfare. In fact the public library, rooted in New England political culture, emerges from a recognition that in order for the individual to succeed the commonwealth must increase in store.

Lakewood's commitment to expansion for the public library and public schools are two recent examples of communal commitments in the tradition of New England Moralistic culture.

Like the Puritans, the Moralistic possesses a will to communal power, whether governmental or non-governmental.

The Moralistic promotes positive change. Idealistically driven, the Moralistic promotes every citizen's participation in the political process to a degree that surpasses the two other types. Generally speaking, the Moralistic supports greater government intervention politically, economically, and socially.

For the Moralistic, service to the community is the purpose for living.

The Moralistic squarely places moral obligations upon public officials. Consequently, the Moralistic expects that individual loyalties and political friendships will be sacrificed in the service of a higher community purpose.

In Lakewood the shift to non-partisan elections might be traced to the Moralistic preference that grounds politics in policy beliefs.

Issues hold an important place in the Moralistic style of politics. As might be expected, issues such as regionalism, social justice and sustainability can gather political force in the Moralistic.

The Moralistic is more drawn to amateur participation in politics than other political culture types. Town meetings are important to the Moralistic.

The highest percentage of women serving in the state legislature is found in Moralistic political culture.

The Moralistic supports civil rights and rights for women. In short, the Moralistic may often be considered "a liberal."

From the women's movement to animal activism, there is a continuum of Moralistic rights issues shaping the contemporary policy debate.

According to Terry Nichols Clark, Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago, "Moralists live near more amenities of all sorts." These include

both natural and constructed amenities. From brew pubs to juice bars, from museums to research libraries, these constructed amenities are found in greater supply in places where Moralists live.

However, the Moralistic type favors "more environmentally sensitive consumption, even boycotting cars, TV, and paper towels, backing green groups and parties," says Clark.

Upper New England, the Upper Middle West and portions of the west are the primary locations for the Moralistic culture type. Minneapolis and Seattle are important cities from which issues important to the Moralistic culture type are disseminated.

Moralistic political culture informs the values that combine consumer and natural amenities, cosmopolitanism, risk-taking and tolerance, values found in such cities as Austin, Boulder, Burlington and Portland.

Today, the Presbyterian and Congregationalist Churches that nurtured Lakewood's Moralists may not possess the political clout of the old days. However, the issues that inspire Moralists can be observed in 21st century city politics. From ecology to frugality, from regionalism to smoke-free environments, Moralists are evident as agents in Lakewood's political culture.

The Individualist Type

The Individualist type originates in England, Germany, France, Belgium, and Ireland and settles in the Middle-Atlantic states. The dominant religions include Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, and Lutheran. As these groups moved westward into New York and Pennsylvania, the lower Midwest, Missouri and the western states, they brought along the belief that government's role should be sharply limited.

Differing from the Moralistic, the Individualist advances private concerns and works to limit community involvement in politics. The Individualist is highly skeptical about government. The Individualist wants, therefore, to limit community and government intervention into private activities. For the Individualist government should be largely restricted to

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Lakewood Politics

those areas wherein private initiative is encouraged.

The Individualist is oriented toward winning. Taking a practical approach to government, the Individualist is not directly concerned with questions about the good society but rather with personal achievement.

In Individualist political culture the market is emphasized. The government's role is limited; it exists primarily to keep the market functioning properly. Hence democracy is a marketplace in the Individualist political culture. Under this cultural formation the politician relies on public demand and follows strict utilitarian protocols. Community activity is limited; individual initiative is encouraged. This creates a marketplace wherein private enterprise tends to eclipse the public good.

Believing government is instituted primarily for utilitarian reasons, the Individualist looks to the market and personal solutions to political issues. Therefore the Individualist type assumes that the politician will be compelled to make a deal with interest groups.

The Individualist type believes that material incentives motivate politicians to run for office in order to advance themselves professionally. Political competition tends to be partisan and oriented toward gaining office rather than dealing with issues.

In Individualist political culture the politician attempts to regulate the distribution of favors in order to control government. Through politics, moreover, the politician seeks to better himself socially, economically, and politically. In this case, as Elazar argues, politics is centered on individual initiative and control rather than the public good.

As individual ambition and reward conflict with the broader public good, there is tension between the Individualist and the Moralistic.

Contemporary Lakewood remains a robust site for observing conflicting and complementary engagements between Individualist and Moralistic political cultures. In recent years, Lakewood's bar scene and the politics of smoking provided opportunity for discerning the differences between Individualist and Moralistic political cultures and how such differences are negotiated.

There is something to be said about Lakewood's Catholic community in relation to Individualist political culture. Viewed sociologically, Catholic formation in confession, parish and parochial school instills a particular respect for personal authority, which can be aligned with Elazar's Individualist political culture. Likewise, the Individualist political culture informs the Catholic localism of the parish community. Individualist political culture certainly informs discussion about values in Lakewood. However, the westward migration of Lakewood's Catholic population to Westlake and Avon Lake suggests that the power of Individualist political culture may be diffusing. While this westward migra-

tion has had an impact on parish parochial schools, Lakewood's Catholic community has demonstrated creativity and commitment to a new educational model. With citizens leading the way, the Lakewood Catholic Academy and the Padre Pio Academy mark a new chapter in Catholic education in Lakewood. There has emerged from Lakewood Catholics without a local parish school an interesting and functional overlay of Individualist political culture upon Moralistic political culture.

Beyond Lakewood's Catholic community there are tensions over foundational cultures in diverse venues. New immigrant groups may prove more likely to uphold values aligned with Individualist political culture than with Moralistic political culture.

Lakewood is negotiating these differences over norms and values in the electronic spaces for civic discourse as well as in political arenas such as City Hall and the Board of Education.

The Traditionalist Type

The Traditionalist type is a product of the American South. The Baptist faith is largely foundational for the Traditionalist. Social and family ties drive Traditionalist political culture wherein hierarchical society is the order of things. Under this arrangement, families run the government and others have little to say about it. The traditionalistic political culture is an elitist construct, with an established hierarchy at the top. There is little movement up or down.

The Traditionalist prefers hierarchical control and established elite power-holders. The Traditionalist views government as a means of maintaining the status quo. On these terms, government is accepted as an actor, playing a positive role in the community.

The Traditionalist politician serves a role that is conservative and custodial. The Traditionalist politician is not especially compelled toward innovation. Limited government is viewed as best because constriction is required to meet the needs of those in power.

The South is the regional focus for this type of culture.

The Traditionalist is ambivalent about the value of the market and the commonwealth. According to the Traditionalist, government's purpose is to maintain the existing social and economic hierarchy.

Traditionalist politicians come from society's elite, often pressured by their family's social status to run for political office.

In Traditionalist political culture ordinary citizens are not expected to vote, let alone run for office. According to Elazar, fewer people participate in politics in traditionalistic southern states and government's role is limited to maintaining the existing social order.

The lowest percentage of women serving in the state legislature is found in the traditionalistic states.

In "Culture of Honor: The Psychol-

ogy of Violence in the South," Richard E. Nisbett and Dov Cohen raise four issues important to Traditionalistic societies: culture, honor, psychology and violence. According to Nisbett and Cohen, homicidal violence in the South stems from personal offenses whether from insults to women or family disputes. Their research suggests that the Traditionalist type responds more aggressively to personal insult than either the Moralistic type or the Individualist type. Interestingly enough, they find that a culture of honor, with similar aggressive responses to provocation, informs the psychology of both white southerners and inner-city African Americans.

As Lakewood becomes a more diverse city, the migration of inner-city African-Americans calls the community to engage sensitively in new civic alignments, educational programs, neighborhood outreach efforts and preventive policing strategies. Such strategies will improve understanding and community relations. Knowing the ethnographical and historical roots of the Traditionalist type and the culture of honor will mitigate conditions of provocation that can spur violence.

Indeed a program like Lakewood Cares, which aligns the Lakewood City Schools, City of Lakewood, Lakewood Municipal Court, Lakewood Public Library, Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, Lakewood Hospital, Lakewood Christian Service Center and other organizations so that big-picture needs such as food, medical attention, or counseling may be satisfied, can set the stage for partnerships designed to improve academic performance, student conduct and school culture. Such community partnerships based on education and learning will have an impact on the whole community.

In examining models of consumption on the basis of Elazar's foundational cultures, Clark observes that conspicuous consumption is rooted in the Traditionalist context. He suggests that an extension of traditionalism is evident in marketing style of the Dallas retailer Neiman Marcus. "Material display here becomes aesthetic ritual," says Clark.

However, conspicuous consumption generates reactions, particularly among African-Americans, bearing adaptive elements from Moralistic

political culture. According to Clark, "Most visible are African-Americans whose links to the South were grounded in slavery and whose (moralistic) resentment of the closed elitism fueled civic and political activism, like that of Martin Luther King. This kindled a powerful egalitarianism and search for respect in battles with symbols of the hierarchical past. In electronic preachers and evangelical missions, the religious fervor of this anti-hierarchical and egalitarian version of Southern culture is spreading globally today. It adapts elements of Moralistic culture to fight the Traditional legacy."

While there are obviously degrees of overlap among these three categories of foundational culture in Lakewood, conflicts over values can be viewed productively through Elazar's typology. Depending upon migration stream, cultural heritage, and self-assessment skills, Lakewood Observers can now contemplate the dominant type through which their values converge and diverge with others now living in the community. As Lakewood Observers come to know more about the foundational cultures that instilled attitudes, beliefs and values in themselves and their neighbors, the civic space of debate in the city will become more finely attuned to pathways for transformation and progress.

Although no type holds an exclusive claim on any one of these qualities, the Moralistic, with a spirit of mutuality, the Individualist, with a sense of personal responsibility, and the Traditionalist, with a culture of honor, all stand in our minds as ideas that can heighten our capacity for living together and generating a joyful urban know-how, which comes only from deep citizen reflexivity and ongoing contact with persons formed by different cultures.

Sources

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The Buck Stops Here

The End Of The Line

"The rage of a people born into a country they were sure had no use for them at all." -- Greil Marcus.

Last year in Franklin County, Ohio, Timothy Bowers went into a bank and robbed it. The teller gave him four twenty dollar bills in an envelope and hit the alarm. Bowers went over to the security guard and handed him the envelope, saying, "Here, be a hero today." His plan was to get arrested and be sentenced to prison for three years, or until he was eligible for Social Security.

"At my age," Bowers told the judge, "the jobs available to me are minimum-wage jobs and the jobs I would

prefer to have I can't get because of my age. There is age discrimination in this country, contrary to what a lot of people believe." Prison would take care of food, bills, health and housing, which he was unable to manage until he received Social Security.

On August 23, 2005, Russian journalist, Anna Politkovskaya reports that the mothers of children who died after being held hostage in a school in Breslan had locked themselves in the court building. They had trusted Putin they said after the tragedy, had indeed voted

for him, and were confident "he would ensure an objective inquiry" into their children's deaths. "The inquiry," Politkovskaya continues, "exonerated all the bureaucrats and security agents who planned and carried out the assault that led to the deaths of so many children and adults. The women are now demanding that they themselves be arrested. They consider themselves responsible for the deaths of their own children, because they voted for Putin."

On May 16 of this year, Edwin L.

Eaton, city manager of Long Beach, New York, had had it with all the attention the media had given Paris Hilton, Anna Nicole Smith and Britney Spears. "While our society and media outlets appear to be consumed by the activities of the 'glitterati,'" reads his memo, "we tend to forget that each day Americans are anonymously dying in Iraq, I think it only fair that they be remembered and honored. To achieve that end, we hereby direct that American flags throughout the city be flown at half mast." The six flags at city buildings remain at half-mast.

Upset leads to anger, as it did in the case of The Dixie Chicks who were reviled and savaged for mentioning that they were not proud that President Bush was, like them, from Texas. In their next album, The Dixie Chicks gave their response. They were not ready to make nice.

However, sometimes anger gets tamped down for what are thought to be larger issues. At Lakewood, I was sports page editor of The High Times. Our faculty advisor had done an excellent job instructing us in the importance of honesty and integrity for the journalist. However, what we wrote did not sit well with some parents and high school administrators who read the paper. The principal came down hard on the faculty advisor. Either we did a different paper or he would lose his job. We liked him. We wanted him to keep his job. We wrote the paper the principal wanted.

It was a small sacrifice. If we had refused, our advisor would have lost his job and there would have been new editors for the paper. As far as I know, it did not affect the lives of those who were my fellow editors. I don't know, and I don't know if it was the right decision. Today I'd feel better about myself if we had refused. I use that acquiescence then to measure myself against decisions today.

Perhaps our anger had not reached the rage Marcus describes, in which it is no longer possible not to do what you do, because not only don't you count, but you might never have. Timothy Bowers, the Russian mothers of the children of Breslan, and, perhaps to a lesser extent, Edwin L. Eaton, had reached the end of the line

Robert Buckeye

On Dogs, Persons And Commodities

Gordon Brumm

The crimes of Michael Vick haunt me. I look into our beloved dogs' eyes and I think of the atrocities that Vick and his partners-in-crime committed, and I shudder. "How could they have done such things?"

How could they? By seeing dogs as commodities, as objects to be used for their own convenience and pleasure. In this, they were like puppy mills which raise dogs in isolation and squalor purely for the sake of profit, or like

the dog-slanderers who see dogs as creatures who "sleep 22 hours a day . . . drink from a toilet . . . chow on dog waste. . ." [Regina Brett column, Aug. 10] They cannot see a dog's humanity.

Humanity – in a dog? Isn't that going too far? Perhaps. Perhaps it is only the product of a loving imagination. Dogs are not human; they don't have our capacities nor our values and priorities for the most part. But it is not going too far to say that they are persons. They recognize cause and effect and the passage of time. They under-

stand the language that is important to them. They make decisions – conscious decisions.

At bottom, dogs are conscious beings, as we humans are.

And that may be the greatest gift our dogs give us: Through our relationship with them, in recognizing what they are, we recognize what we are. We recognize that we are essentially conscious beings, not things to be manipulated.

What we sometimes fail to recognize is that we should therefore treat each other as conscious beings, not as commodities. In our relationships with one another, we should balance the welfare of others against our own as best we can, not merely use others for our own purposes.

P.S. Suggestion for the judge who sentences Michael Vick: Work out a deal. Grant a moderate reduction in his prison sentence (24 months reduced to 18 months, for example), in return for a donation of, say, two million dollars; half to be donated to animal welfare groups, primarily to support no-kill dog shelters; the other half to provide bountiful rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone engaged in dog-fighting (this to compensate for the difficulty that law-enforcement agencies face in infiltrating or otherwise gathering evidence on such groups).



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Real Estate

Block Parties: A Lakewood Tradition Continues

by Val Mechenbier

Block parties have been held in Lakewood for many years. Some parties are larger, with many activities scheduled throughout the day, and some are smaller and unstructured, with perhaps only a potluck dinner. Regardless, the purpose of a block party is always the same: getting to know the neighbors and keeping the street safe and happy. And from a Real Estate perspective, a block party can be an advantage when marketing a home.

On Andrews Avenue, the Block Party Pizza Contest pits the best Lakewood pizza parlors against one another in their attempts to win a coveted title such as "Favorite Crust", "Favorite Topping", or "Best Overall". Supplementing the donations of pizza from various pizza shops, residents on the east side of the street bring desserts, and residents on the west side bring salads to the dinner-time competition. Look for the 2007 official award certificates at your favorite pizza shops.

Two streets over, the 40th Annual Virginia Avenue block party was

recently held, with events scheduled over the course of 1½ days. On Friday, kids decorated their bikes for the Saturday morning parade, created chalk drawings on sidewalks for judging, and went trick-or-treating. Later that evening, the Friday Night Adult Party was held in a resident's backyard. And on Saturday, the block party resumed with the Bike Parade, followed by Coffee & Donuts, Pet Parade, Kids' Games, Lunch Grill, Corn Hole Tournament, and of course, visits from the Lakewood Police and Fire Departments. Following the Potluck Dinner, the Dessert Bake-off Competition was held, with both a men's division and a kid's division. The evening ended with an outdoor movie.

Many other streets in Lakewood hold annual block parties - Park Row, Lakeland, Summit, Manor Park, and French, to name a few. If your block would like to organize a block party, please contact Melissa Garrett at City Hall. It's a great way to get out with the neighbors, catch up with old friends, and welcome new residents to the neighborhood!

Realty Reality: Questions From Our Readers

by Maggie Fraley

Q: I'm buying my first home. While I'm waiting to close, should I open a new store account to purchase new furniture on credit?

A: When you buy a house, it's not a good idea to create new debt between the time you make the offer and the closing on the mortgage, even though buying new furniture may seem very appealing! This is because the mort-

gage lender doesn't want your monthly debt payments (for everything from credit cards to auto payments to student loans) to exceed a certain percentage of your monthly income. Your lender will check your credit report just before closing, and if you have added a lot of new debt since you applied for the home loan, you may no longer qualify. Thus, it would be in your best interest to wait until the mortgage closes before assuming any new debt.

Lakewood Real Estate Information

(According to Multiple Listing Service)

by Andy Tabor

July	2006	2007
Multi-Family Pending (Under Contract)	14	18
Multi-Family Closed	9	10

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Marjorie Corrigan

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Real Estate

Great Neighbors Make Lakewood The Place To Be

by Kathy Lewis

As one walks or drives through Lakewood on weekends in August and September, he/she will likely see signs of Lakewood neighborliness. One of these signs prohibits non-resident access on a street due to a block party. Block parties are evidence of the friendly relationships on Lakewood's streets that develop into a neighborhood gathering for food, fun, games, and friendly chatter.

Other signs of Lakewood neighborliness include people gathering and talking together on the sidewalks, one neighbor helping another with an outdoor chore, and themed yard décor that continues from one house to another.

Realtors who work in Lakewood hear a consistent comment: "We love our neighbors!" Recently, a Lakewood homeowner who is relocating for a job said to me, "Our neighbors are wonderful. It's too bad you can't put that in the house description. We moved in and the neighbors came over!"

What encourages neighborliness in Lakewood?

We have front porches. We walk - to church, to stores, to restaurants. Our children walk to school together. Most

of us have smaller yards, and are out working in those yards. Our geographic proximity encourages sociability.

Many of us are long-term Lakewood residents. We have known the same people on our street and in our neighborhood for many years. Our lives are intertwined from school years past and generations past.

We have so many gathering places where we are likely to see and connect with those who live around us: restaurants, parks, pools, libraries, shopping, and community events.

Our neighbors become like family. Like family, they give us a helping hand, an invitation to dinner, consolation at times of loss. Neighbors in Lakewood have street-wide yard sales, block parties, and holiday parties and caroling. We keep a watchful eye out for each other. We offer home repair advice, helper referrals, and use of yard tools. We share recipes and garden bounty. We enjoy a good-morning wave and the pleasure of watching the neighborhood kids grow up.

If you live in Lakewood, this probably sounds like your neighborhood. If it doesn't sound like your neighborhood, you can help make it happen with a simple good-morning wave and a smile!

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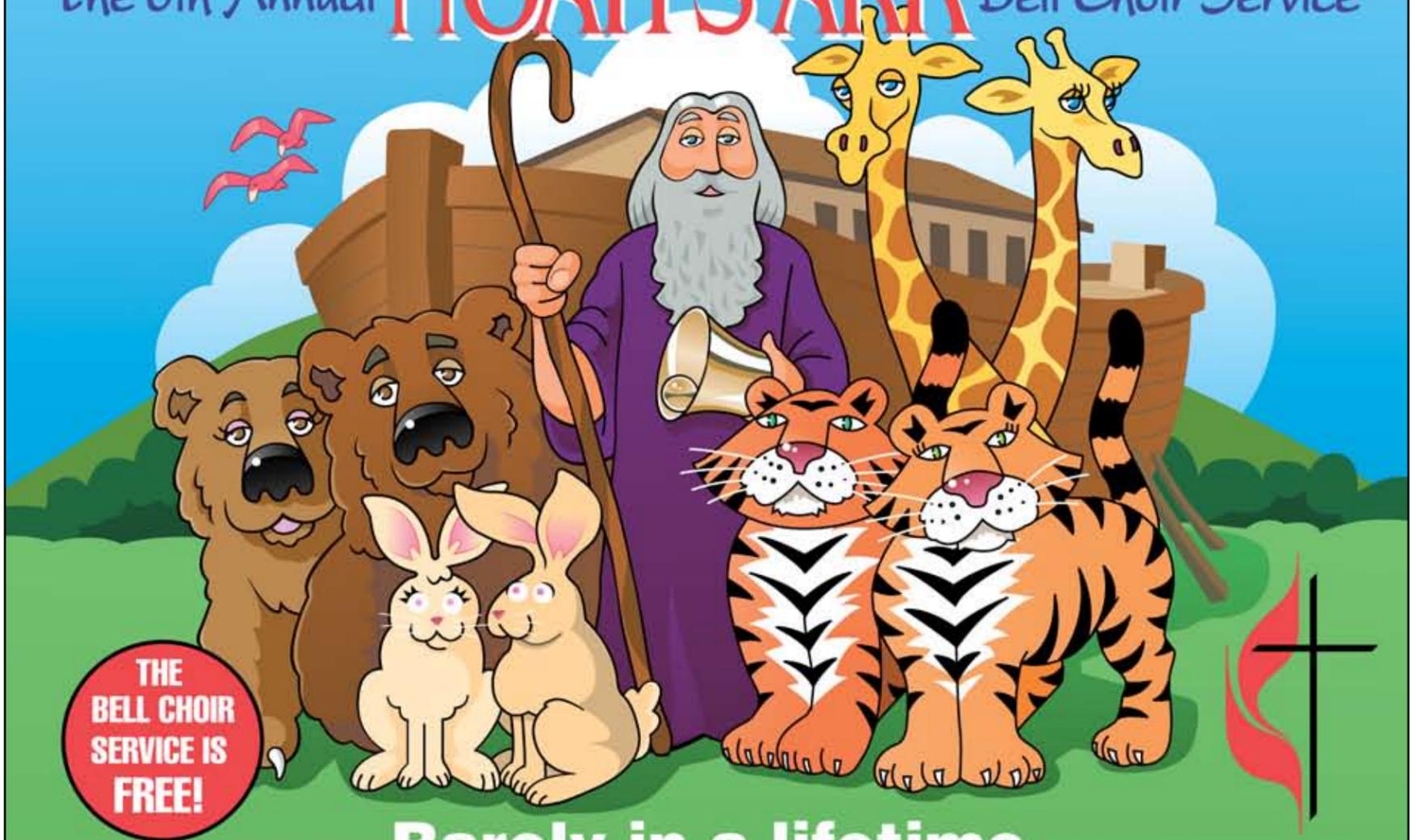





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Kinzer Habecker
Narrator



Barbara Habecker
Director of Music



Rev. Jan Munsey
Cove UMC

The Bell Choir Service includes the Cove United Methodist Church Chancel Choir under the guidance of Director of Music Barbara Habecker, performing *Bless the Beast and the Children* by Barry DeVorzon and Perry Botkin Jr. Service performed by Rev. Jan Munsey.

"A spectacular performance..." *"...the Bell Choir stirs the soul!"*

September 9, 2007
10:45 AM

Cove United Methodist Church • 12501 Lake Ave. • Lakewood, Ohio 44107 • 216-521-7424