

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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

Volume 3, Issue 23, November 13, 2007

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The Times They Are Changing

Ed FitzGerald - Lakewood's Newest Mayor

By Dan Slife
Managing Editor

The Lakewood Observer congratulates the winners of the 2007 general election. It was a long, tough race. No doubt, all seats were won through intense, grass-roots campaigning. Now, it's time for the community to come together, connect with new representatives and support them in their work to imagine and realize a brighter present and future for our city.

Those elected have triumphed in some of the most hotly contested races in recent history. They will enter office at a critical time in the history of Lakewood. With budget deficits on the horizon, structural imbalances at city hall and issues of safety and civility shaking neighborhoods throughout the community, our elected representatives will have their work cut out for them. These are the issues to which the candidates had spoken; these are the issues to which the people of Lakewood responded with overwhelming margins of support in some races.

The road ahead is destined to be a tough one. At the same time, the community has never been so engaged and energized.

And energy we will need. De-industrialization and the general out-sourcing of middle-class prosperity in the United States has left our region with a number of challenges,



Veteran Larry Faulhaber, stand next to Lakewood's Mayor Elect Edward FitzGerald and Councilman Elect Mike Summers at the Veteran Day observance.

not one of which can be separated from that fundamental transformation of the US economy. With erosion

of both personal and civic resources, our community faces the prospects of either figuring out new ways to run

our city and our lives, or fading away into extinction like the old industrial economy that created this wonderful place.

Candidates, you are faced with a great number of difficult and seemingly insurmountable challenges. May your efforts give discipline and direction to Lakewood's civic energy, human potential and municipal resources. With wise planning and competent execution, these challenges can be met and transformed into opportunities. It is possible that we might realize an altogether different, as of yet inconceivable civic life in Lakewood, one that sets the stage for future prosperity, despite the many challenges we face.

Good luck to everyone.

The results:

Mayoral
Ed Fitzgerald 6345
Tom George 3961

Ward 1
Kevin Butler 1830
Paul Conroy 402

Ward 2
Tom Bullock 1469
Dan Shields 1365

Ward 3
Mike Summers 1850
Joe D'Angelo 629

Ward 4
Mary Louise Madigan 1355

Lakewood Board of Education
Charles Geiger III 6943
Linda Beebe 6537
Matthew Markling 3109
Martin Lowell 2957
Dawn DeFreeze 2564

LHS Girls' Soccer Team Honored

by Mary Bryner

The Lakewood High School Girls Soccer team was recognized by the Lakewood Board of Education on Monday evening for placing first in the Northeast Ohio Conference. This is the first time in LHS history that the girls have attained the title of conference champions. Their coach Josh Thornsberry, who is in his first year with the Lady Rangers, was named Coach of the Year. Not only have these girls excelled on the field, but they are to be commended for their excellence in the classroom as well. Coach Thornsberry came to Lakewood this year with the goal of developing the girls program from the ground up. He is off to a good start with this accomplishment. Congratulations Girls!



The Lakewood High School Girls Soccer Team

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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

2008 Lakewood Home Show

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and the Lakewood City Schools Community Recreation and Education Department announce that the popular Lakewood Home Show returns in March 2008! This year's Home Show will feature 100 local companies coming together to help fulfill all your home needs, from the basement to the roof, and from financial to fitness. The show takes place for two fun filled days, March 8 and 9, at the NEW Harding Middle School, 16601 Madison Avenue, Lakewood.

Check your basements and attics! A group of experts will be on hand Saturday morning from 9-12 for an "Identification & Information" session on your antiques. Find out if you have Trash... or Treasure!!! The Home Show will also feature demonstrations and entertainment continuously running during show hours.

Booths are on sale now and filling up quickly. For information on exhibiting please contact the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce at (216) 226-2900, or CMS at (440) 359-1974.

Tickets will be available online, at the door, and at the Lakewood Cham-

ber of Commerce. The Home Show runs Saturday March 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday March 9 from 1 p.m. through 5 p.m. Tickets for the LAKEWOOD AREA HOME SHOW are just \$5, and children under 18 are free.

According to Kathy Berkshire, CEO & President of the Chamber, "Speaking with the businesses who participated last year was very motivating. They were pleased with all aspects of the show, from its appearance and the attention they received to the great connections they made with consumers and fellow business owners. We are excited about this year's show. It will build on last year's success and we think it will become a long running annual event for Lakewood area residents. We are also excited about hosting the show at the beautiful new Harding Middle School!"

For more information on this year's show please visit www.lakewoodhomeshow.com.

Contact:
CMS/Lakewood Area Home Show
David Schroedel
(440) 359-1974
david@cmsohio.com

LECPTA Holiday Poinsettia Sale

by Delaney Gilliland

Are you in need of some Holiday cheer in your home or workplace? The Lakewood Early Childhood PTA has just what you need. LECPTA is currently selling greenhouse quality poinsettias and wreaths at great prices to fit every budget. There are four poinsettia sizes

and the 24" wreaths are full and beautiful enough to adorn any door or home. Proceeds will benefit the LECPTA, a local organization striving to provide a nurturing environment for the children in our community. Orders are requested no later than Nov. 26, 2007. To place your order, visit www.lecpta.com today to see prices and download the order form.

Lakewood Adult Education Classes Offer Students A Chance at Success!

by Lisa Shaver

Free adult education classes are currently being held at Franklin School in Lakewood from Monday through Thursday. Evening classes are also available. This ABLE/Plus program covers an extensive range of Adult Literacy classes. Students can attend a variety of classes in order to to earn a GED, learn to read and write English, acquire computer and job skills or just improve their basic literacy. They also offer an ABLE junior program for children ages 1-5 whose parents come to the classes and qualify under the Cuyahoga County TANF grant eligibility guide-

lines. It is a fantastic, FREE program that has had much success in the past. While continuing to improve their curriculum, the Lakewood ABLE/Plus staff is sensitive to all individuals seeking to better themselves. The classes are funded, in part, by the Cuyahoga County Board of Commissioners as well as federal, state, and local grants. If you have any questions or need more information, contact Terry Hamovitch at 216.529.4240 or terry.hamovitch@lakewood.k12.oh.us

Buy Local!

Spend It Here. Keep It Here.

by Mary Anne Crampton

On November 30th, during the Light Up Lakewood holiday season kick-off event, Main Street Lakewood and LakewoodAlive will launch a "buy local" campaign by selling Lakewood CertifiCheck gift certificates, which will be redeemable at any registered Lakewood business.

Start your holiday shopping with Lakewood CertifiCheck gift certificates! The perfect gift for teachers,

coaches, employees, friends and family: Lakewood CertifiChecks..

YOU CAN PRE-ORDER NOW FOR PICK-UP at the LIGHT UP LAKEWOOD EVENT! Go to www.lakewoodalive.com for an order form.

CertifiCheck gift certificates function like a cashier's check, and can be directly deposited into business bank accounts at full face value. Change is given in cash. They are available in denominations from \$5 to \$50. This is not a fundraiser. LakewoodAlive and

Lakewood Community Progress Inc. are subsidizing administrative and start-up costs as a community service.

A list of our sponsors, events and participating businesses are printed in the Light Up Lakewood pull-out guide on pages 9-12 of this issue. Every buyer will receive a list of retailers where the gift certificates can be redeemed - currently 150!

For more information, contact Mary Anne Crampton at Main Street Lakewood: macrampton@lcp.org or 216-521-0655

Free Trees Available To Rocky River Watershed Residents Through The Rocky River Backyard Buffers Program

by Jared Bartley,
Rocky River Watershed Coordinator

The Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District is currently accepting enrollment forms for the Rocky River Backyard Buffers Program. Anyone who owns streamside property in the Rocky River Watershed is eligible and encouraged to enroll. No stream is too small! Program participants will receive free tree and shrub seedlings to plant along their backyard streams, in order to establish forested riparian, or streamside, buffers. Enrollment ends December 12th, and seedlings will be available in March and April for spring planting. This is a great opportunity for residents to get directly involved in the preservation of the Rocky River Watershed, which includes parts of

Cuyahoga, Medina, Lorain and Summit Counties. For more information, to enroll, or to find out if you live in the Rocky River Watershed, contact Jared Bartley at 216/524-6580 x14 or by email at jbartley@cuyahogawcd.org. Enrollment forms can also be downloaded at www.MyRockyRiver.org.

The riparian area is the land alongside a stream or river that directly affects—or is affected by—the water. Healthy riparian buffers contain trees, shrubs, and other vegetation that protect both the stream and the streamside property. In the Rocky River Watershed, many of our riparian buffers have been cleared in order to make additional space for lawns, houses, fields and roads. Properly maintained riparian buffers stabilize stream banks, decrease peak storm flows, filter nutrients and sediment from storm

water, provide essential habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife, and increase property values. The Rocky River Backyard Buffers Program is made possible through a grant from the Lake Erie Protection Fund, which is managed by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission. The Lake Erie Protection Fund is supported by the citizens of Ohio through their purchase of the Lake Erie License Plate. For more information, to enroll, or to find out if you live in the Rocky River Watershed, contact Jared Bartley at 216/524-6580 x14 or by email at jbartley@cuyahogawcd.org. The Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District's mission is to promote conservation of land and aquatic resources in a developed environment through stewardship initiatives, education programs, and technical assistance. www.cuyahogawcd.org.



Your Independent Source for
Lakewood News & Opinion

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lakewoodhospital.org/neuro

Lakewood City Council

The Election Eve Council Meeting

President Robert Seelie called the election eve council meeting of November 5, 2007 to order at 7:35. The first order of business is the roll call. Edward FitzGerald (at large) was absent.

Normally, Seelie makes a motion to excuse the absence as he did this time. Michael Dever (at large) seconded the motion to excuse. Then Ryan Demro (ward two) questioned, as he has from the beginning of his tenure, the validity of any absence. The lack of response to Demro also followed pattern. The vote was taken with Demro voting against excusing FitzGerald's absence.

Nickie Antonio (at large) then offered a resolution for one of Lakewood's most fun fall contests. The resolution honored the winners of the Schoolchildren's Decorated Windows of Detroit Avenue a Treat for Lakewood. In this contest, kids paint Halloween scenes on the storefront windows of participating businesses. It brings as much fun to shoppers and patrons as it does for the kids. Some pictures will be in the print version of The Observer.

Michael Dever then presented the outlines of a plan for safety on Lake Road. The Cleveland portion of Lake Road has been restriped for different lanes and traffic patterns. Next year Rocky River will repave Lake Road with similar lane markings. That leaves Lakewood in the middle which could cause traffic safety

and congestion problems. Dever wanted the communication referred to the Public Works Committee for review.

Audience members are normally allowed to comment on agenda items as they are presented. Colletta Graham of Chase Avenue questioned Dever's motives for this Lake Road recommendation. Her line of questioning seemed to indicate that Dever, who lives on Lake Road, is making these recommendations solely for his own benefit at the expense of Clifton Boulevard residents.

Two measures from the Finance Department, one on the agenda and one announced earlier in the week will drive the accounting and budgeting process into the new administration and new council.

Director Jennifer Pae presented an ordinance to authorize the formation of an Audit Committee. This has been a recommendation from the State Auditor's Office for the past two years. It will provide for the independent review and oversight of the City's financial reporting processes, the internal controls, and the auditor's comments.

This committee would be comprised of members of Council and financial experts from the community. A key ben-

efit is that it will provide a forum in which audit related issues can be candidly discussed with members of the governing body apart from management.

Earlier in the week, Pae began the communication of the Financial Strength and Stability Process which will update interested citizens and participants on the ongoing efforts to achieve a balanced budget of general fund revenues higher than expenditures for 2007 and create a structurally sound budget in 2008. This process is an outgrowth of the Grow Lakewood Committee which was established by Mayor George shortly after he took office. That committee has been chaired by Michael Summers, who will take a seat on council this January as

the ward three representative.

These two initiatives will be drivers of the budgeting and auditing process.

Finally, in more comments from the audience, Colletta Graham questioned what she claimed were Lakewood YMCA memberships that showed favoritism to Lakewood Hospital employees as compared to ordinary people who wanted to join. Because the City has contributed to the construction of the new "Y" this is city business. The information that Graham used was inaccurate and out of date. Corrections were pointed out by Human Services Director Dottie Buckon. Specifically, a promotional program last year offered the waiver of the \$100 initiation fee to anybody who joined the "Y".

Lakewood Cub Scout Pack 512 attentively sat through the meeting as part of their citizenship scouting requirements.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Stan Austin
City Council Reporter

MAMA's Holiday Hop

If you are looking for a local holiday experience to find some unique holiday gifts while patronizing local businesses, look in the next edition for Mama's Holiday Hop! Over 15 Madison Avenue business participating the day after Light Up Lakewood to bring you holiday magic right at home! Pop Shop Gallery is hosting its 3rd Annual True Value Vintage Show, a show dedicated to games, toys, and childhood memories, in addition to a jewelry show! Mullen's Bar will host the after hour party! Goddess Blessed will have Reiki practitioners, tarot readers and special raffles, Mahall's Bowling will have a Santa to come visit and bring your camera for pictures, as well as jewelry and other artists/crafters set up for easy shopping. There will be a Santa on the West side of Madison for pictures with your pet! Bela Duby will host live music and artists set up for holiday shopping, Madison branch library will host children's activities. Coffee Pot, Omega Cuts and Connie's Collectibles will host jewelry and other artists as well as pastries, etc. Wobblefoot Gallery will have refreshments and book signing of his own children's book! We also have professional carolers to be announced at three different locations! Experience the wonder of the holiday in Lakewood and let the business owners know we appreciate them too! To show appreciation for you, look for the Twelve Shops of Christmas and just for stopping in to twelve of the listed businesses, be entered for raffle with cash prize over \$100 and second prize a bag full of gift certificates!

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Lakewood Public Library

The Book Of Nature Opens To Noel Hill

by Kenneth Warren

In a Lakewood driveway the book of nature opened a new chapter to Noel Hill, author of **Hedgerows and Byways: Short Stories and Poems**, a collection of fifty years of work, now available at Lakewood Public Library. "While watching an ant hauling a dead worm, many times its size, back to its colony beneath my driveway," explains Hill, "I was struck by the tenacity and sense of purpose of this tiny insect. The drive to overcome all obstacles is fascinating."

"I'm a part of him. He evokes in me a connection. I'm resourceful. I'm tenacious," says Hill. Hill's contemplation of the ant's work to secure the

safety of his community has led him to apply his skill to the art of fable. Beyond himself, then, Hill sees in the ant an inspiring lesson worth sharing with the human community through writing and reading. "His spirit is indomitable. Even though he was offered help by other ants, he wanted to do the job alone, which he finally did," Hill recalls.

Accordingly, Hill is developing *Angus the Ant*, the main character of a series of stories he hopes to publish shortly in an effort to inspire virtue in children ages five thru eight. "It struck me that a series of stories could be crafted that would motivate children, in an interesting and entertaining way,

to emulate the admirable characteristics of *Angus the Ant*," notes Hill. "I want children to learn – kindness, in a gentle way, and respect for their elders."

Hill started writing while serving with the Royal Air Force in 1945. He started with poetry and then moved into prose. After leaving the Royal Air Force, he spent time in New Zealand during the early fifties. Hill's brother, Leo Hill, and his sister, Monica Foley, had settled in Lakewood, however. With proximity to family in mind, he arrived in Lakewood in 1956. "I like the small city or small town atmosphere, and the amenities that it provides," says Hill.

For twenty three years, Hill worked at Halle Brothers downtown. He man-

aged the jewelry department, before moving to the May Company, from which he retired.

The modern Irish literary tradition informs Hill's artful sense of writing. "I'm a Joyce fan naturally, along with Frank O'Connor, the short story writer, and W.B. Yeats," declares Hill, who is also a distinguished runner. At age sixty five he took first place for his age in the Revco 10 Marathon. Today, at eighty four, he still jogs and cycles, doing about ten miles a week on a route along Lake Avenue and Edgewater drive. "I do the Lakefront two days a week. There's always that thing in nature that triggers a response. Then I leave stories and poems around them," says Hill.

LAKESWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday With the Friends

New Main Library Auditorium 2:00 p.m.

December 2 Cleveland Comedy Kitchen What's cooking in the kitchen? Treat yourself to a slab of stand-up comedy from up-and-coming performers eager to try out their latest material on a hungry audience. Don't forget to save room for Bengston & Sidley!

December 16 Tracy Marie & Friends With special mystery guests along for the ride, sweetheart singer-songwriter Tracy Marie serenades the new Library with her original rock, country and blues and a larger-than-life voice that must be heard and felt to be believed.

Business Book Talk With Tim Zaun and Friends

Why Not? How to Use Everyday Ingenuity To Solve Problems Big and Small
By Barry Nalebuff and Ian Ayers

Thursday, November 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the New Main Library Auditorium

Lakewood Public Cinema

A Scanner Darkly (2006) Directed by Richard Linklater R

Keanu Reeves is a cop so strung out on slightly futuristic drugs that he's begun to narc on himself in this surreally-slick, animated adaptation of the Philip K. Dick novel. With friends and/or targets like Robert Downey Jr., Winona Ryder and Woody Harrelson looking out for him, everything is not going to be ok. Saturday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the new Main Library Auditorium

The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992) G

We always knew that Michael Caine was a Muppet, but who knew he was such a fine actor? His heartbroken miser truly stands out from the crowded field of great Scrooge performances. And a Victorian world filled with singing Muppets neatly illustrates both Ebenezer's isolation and the open arms of holiday cheer. Saturday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the new Main Library Auditorium

Lakewood Historical Society and the Lakewood Public Library Present:

Streetcar: A Film by Jasper Woods (1955) Two Showings! Back by popular demand – a rare treat for film lovers and local history enthusiasts alike! Relive the last days of the streetcar in Cleveland with this lyrical, avant-garde film completed shortly after they were gone forever. Catch a glimpse of Cleveland in the 1950s and witness people from all walks of life rubbing shoulders in cramped cars as seen through the lens of acclaimed photographer Jasper Woods. Thursday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. in the new Main Library Auditorium

Friends of Lakewood Public Library Book Sale

Saturday December 8 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Omni 13000 Athens Avenue

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:

November 16, 17, 18 Feeling Creative

November 23, 24, 25 Nighttime, Shhh!

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

Homework ER: for students in kindergarten through eighth 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 eighth 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
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 problem-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, November 15

The Watson's Go to Birmingham

Thursday, November 29

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis

Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz

Airborne by Kenneth Oppel

Summary of the eleven books

Thursday, December 6

7:45 p.m.-8:45 p.m. at the Madison Branch

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Lakewood Public Library

Anyone Can Harness Hidden Creative Powers

by John Guscott

Business Book Talk with Tim Zaun and Friends November's Featured Book: **Why Not?: How to Use Everyday Ingenuity to Solve Problems Big And Small?**

Creativity is often considered the domain of gifted individuals, such as Leonardo da Vinci, engineers like Buckminster Fuller, or musicians and artists alike. Creativity is the bedrock of the arts. But it also critical in business, and offers meaningful applications to everyday life. Could there be a way to automate innovation, so that even the

least creatively-inclined individuals can hatch blockbuster ideas? Authors of **Why Not?: How to Use Everyday Ingenuity to Solve Problems Big And Small?** seem to think so.

Barry Nalebuff, a professor at Yale School of Management, and Ian Ayres, a lawyer who teaches at Yale Law School, offer over fifty innovative approaches and problem solving techniques to roadblocks and obstacles that impact our lives, particularly in the realm of business. They propose that many innovations are not new at all, sometimes they are meant for

one problem, but can be successfully applied to another. Nalebuff and Ayres are advocates for "open source" technology, whereby an unorganized group people can develop solutions, and others can freely tap into their ideas.

In the book, the authors explore cutting-edge creativity tools that can be applied by anyone. One of their principles involves asking "What would Croesus do?" The authors suggest putting oneself in the shoes of a modern day Croesus (a Roman "Bill Gates") to answer how he would approach a dilemma, such as waiting on hold on

a telephone. A very rich person would have a personal assistant doing the waiting, but because we are not that wealthy, we can look to technology to help us. One solution the authors have to waiting on hold is to have a service in conjunction with caller ID that would allow someone to push a button to have the call center call back. Many of their suggestions are simply new ways to apply time-honored solutions, but in non-traditional ways.

Join host Tim Zaun in an animated conversation to discuss the book and the creative techniques contained therein at the Lakewood Public Library on Thursday, November 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the new Main Library Auditorium. Mr. Zaun is an entrepreneur, trainer and author, whose engaging passion and insight into business literature makes the Business Book Talk a must-attend event for anyone looking to get ahead in their career. Mr. Zaun also writes a blog chronicling trends in business and environmental topics at <http://www.timzaun.com>. Be sure to visit it for insights into global, national and local business happenings.

Business Book Talk with Tim Zaun and Friends will return again to the library on Thursday, January 17 to discuss the book, *China, Inc.: How the Rise of the Next Superpower Challenges America and the World* by Ted C. Fishman.

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Lakewood Sports

Lakewood Recreation Programs To Utilize New Schools

by Mike Callahan

With the fall classic Ohio State vs. Michigan game just around the corner, it's time to start thinking winter. For those in the Lakewood community who are seeking either youth or adult recreation opportunities, keep in mind the Lakewood Recreation Department's winter athletics line-up, which will feature many programs in Lakewood's four new schools.

This year the department will offer six men's adult basketball leagues ranging from weekday to Sunday afternoon/evening games, utilizing some of the Lakewood City Schools' brand new gyms. Teams will share court time at the new Harrison Elementary School gym, as well as at the refurbished Harding Middle School and Hayes Elementary School gyms. Sunday leagues will also use the new Garfield Middle School gym. Registration is still being accepted while space is available.

If adult basketball doesn't suit you, and you have some extra steam to blow off, maybe the Fourth Annual Lakewood Recreation Adult Dodge Ball Tournament is what you are looking for. The event will take place at Harding Middle School on Saturday, December 1, 2007. Team registration is available through the month of November. "Last year there were quite a few teams who really had a lot of fun," said veteran tournament referee Kathryn Modock.

In addition to basketball and the



photo by Mike Callahan

Coach Mark Hamm works with two members of a fifth grade Lake Erie Basketball League team in preparation for the upcoming season.

dodge ball tournament, the Recreation Department will offer winter adult volleyball. Registration is taking place now through December 12, with league play to begin in January. Coed, men's and women's leagues are available. Sign your team up today!

The school gyms will be very busy this winter. Recreation adult programs will share after-school gym space with middle school athletics, as well as the Recreation Department's youth basketball program.

Children in grades three through six may participate in leagues. Practices will begin in December and games will begin on Saturdays in January. In addition, at the conclusion of the high school basketball season, the Recreation Department will offer an intramural basketball program for

grades six through twelve, where students will form their own teams.

Also underway are several youth travel basketball teams, practicing for play in the Lake Erie Basketball League (LEBL). The Recreation Department has five teams of elementary and middle school age basketball players getting ready for the tough competition in this northeast Ohio elite travel league.

"The LEBL will show the kids the level of play that is outside the community" said LEBL coach and Harding Middle School physical education teacher Gary Gerhardt, who is coaching in his second year in the Lake Erie Basketball League.

Lakewood residents have participated

in this league in the past, but the Recreation Department has selected teams this year with the assistance of the Lakewood High School basketball coaches. The registration process now comes through the Recreation Department.

"We give [LEBL participants] gym time, provide equipment and have a screening process for coaches, said Lakewood Recreation Athletic Coordinator Leslie Favre. "The standard of play has been elevated," Favre added.

Planning for a youth basketball instructional program is also underway, which will feature skills sessions for children in grades one through three, on Saturday mornings in January and February.

"It is the mission of the Recreation Department to offer meaningful recreational opportunities for children and adults of all ages. The basketball programs are one example of that mission," said Recreation Commissioner Erin Fach.

"We are working on plans that will allow Lakewood kids to use the indoor school gyms for open gym time," Fach added.

For information on all Lakewood Recreation Department programs, visit www.lakewoodrecreation.com, or call (216) 529-4081.

Mike Callahan is the Athletic Manager for the Lakewood City Schools, Community Recreation and Education Department.

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Friday Nov. 23, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. All Ages.

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Chef Geoff

As American As Apple Pie

Jeff Endress

What could be more American than apple pie? We have all grown up with the idea that the fruit-filled pastry represents America as much as the 4th of July and baseball. Sometimes reality flies in the face of perception or, at the very least, requires some clarification. In the same way that American society represents a melting pot of its composite components, so too does what we consider to be our native foods. As various immigrants and settlers fanned out across the United States, they brought with them their national traditions, which reinvented, recombined and reformulated into what we consider to be American cuisine. Which, in turn, leads us to that all-American apple pie.

Pies, in their original incarnations, were not generally considered as desserts. Many European cultures have a form of savory main dish pie somewhat along the lines of our potpies which were anything but dessert. Romans were known to encase meats in a flour and water paste, which would be baked, sealing the cooking juices within the "pastry shell". The nursery rhyme that speaks of four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie was not far from the reality of the situation. English cuisine featured all manner of dif-

ferent meat pies, from the Scottish Bridies to English steak and kidney and Shepherd's pies. Certainly these European main dish pies involved pastry with a filling, but that filling was not the stuff of desserts.

Then, of course, there is the apple itself. Despite our fascination with such folklore as Johnny Appleseed, in point of fact, the apple is anything but American. Apples were naturally indigenous to areas of central and southwest Asia, China, parts of Italy, Switzerland, and Greece. The fruit was brought by the Romans to England and by the Spaniards to Mexico and South America, but it did not appear in North America until the mid-1600's, when the pilgrims brought seeds with them to Massachusetts. It wasn't long before orchards were established, with the first American apple orchard reputed to have been in Boston on Beacon Hill. The apple, which could be stored in fruit cellars and contains a rich variety of vitamins, minerals and nutritious elements, became a staple in the American diet.

These were not the apples that we typically think of today. The hybrids we see in our grocery stores are specifically bred for appearance and shelf life. The original apples are now only found at specialty orchards that

Heidi's Harvest Apple Pie

- Basic pastry dough for 9-inch two-crust pie*
- ¼ cup packed brown sugar
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. nutmeg
- 2 tbsp. flour
- 6 large apples (I used 2 each: Pink Lady, Honey Crisp, Granny Smith)
- 2 tbsp. butter



Preheat oven to 425°. Line 9-inch pie pan with half of the rolled out pastry dough. Mix the sugars, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg and flour in a large bowl. Peel, core and slice the apples and toss them in the sugar mixture, coating well. Pile them in the lined pan and dot with butter. Roll out the top crust and cut in strips about ¼ inch wide (can vary thickness of lattice strips as preferred). Place the strips on the filled pie, weaving them in and out of each other. Fold the edge of the bottom crust up over the ends of the strips and press together. Crimp the edge all around. Bake 15 minutes on lowest rack of preheated oven (Fannie Farmer taught me that it makes for a crisper bottom crust this way), then lower heat to 350° and bake for 30-40 minutes, until top is nicely browned.

**Basic pastry dough recipe is from Fannie Farmer Cookbook (13th Edition), page 639. Pillsbury refrigerated roll-out pie crusts can be used for a convenient and tasty substitute.*

carry such heirlooms as the Winesap or Yellow Sweeting. These are apples that generally have a far superior taste and texture, but limited shelf life and an appearance which is not nearly as appealing to the eye as a perfectly formed Red Delicious apple.

So, the stage was set in America for the convergence of European pie with an imported fruit which had become an American mainstay. It is thought that the first fruit pies were probably the invention of the Pennsylvania Dutch, who changed the age-old idea of a savory food stuffed within pastry. They replaced the stewed mutton or kidneys with the apples they found they had in abundance. It became not only popular, but also somewhat of a status symbol, taking a European pastry, and turning it into something uniquely American. So we now celebrate it as a part of Americana, the apple pie: made from a fruit which is not native to North America with the pastry technology that began in ancient Rome

spreading through the British Isles. In fact, we are celebrating a collaboration which found fertile ground among the components of our melting pot to create something new from diverse elements. What could better serve as the standard for representing Americana as a culinary treat than something that finds its roots in the melting pot which is America.

Recently LEAF had its fall harvest festival. People were invited to bring their favorite pie for tasting and judging. There were any number of wonderful confections, but as it should be, the favorite was a good-old American apple pie in the form of Heidi Hilty's Harvest Apple Pie. Ms. Hilty has been good enough to provide the Lakewood Observer with her award-winning recipe, which follows. It is, indeed, apropos that this old American favorite is the winning entry as a demonstration of not only our national melting pot, but also our culinary consolidations.

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Light Up Lakewood

Let's Light Up Lakewood!

Bring your family and friends out to ring in the season on Friday, November 30 from 6 to 8 p.m. for a spectacular community holiday lighting ceremony and celebration. Rain or shine, downtown Lakewood—on Detroit Ave. between Marlowe and Arthur—will become an old-fashioned main street featuring a sparkling tree lighting ceremony, a visit from Santa Claus, entertainment at multiple venues, children's activities, refreshments, and good cheer.

In years past, Lakewood citizens did indeed come downtown to kickoff the holiday season in style. Now that the tradition has been revived, Light Up Lakewood is sure to become an annual holiday event for families, residents, and businesses in our community.

The evening will start outside Lakewood Hospital; where Santa will arrive in style to participate in a grand lighting ceremony on the hospital's front lawn. WTAM radio personality and Lakewood resident Darren Toms will serve as emcee. From there, Santa and his helpers will proceed down Detroit Avenue; where you'll find strolling carolers, refreshments,



and entertainment. Entertainment includes the St. Edward Trash Talkers, performers from the Beck Center for the Arts, the Lakewood Catholic Academy Performance Band and Chorale groups, Lakewood City School Choirs, and more. Special surprises and activities for all ages will enchant residents as they stroll down Detroit Avenue.

The festivities will continue at Lakewood Public Library, where kids can visit with Santa & Friends, create a delightful holiday craft, and experience a special holiday story time.

Visit www.lightuplakewood.com regularly for updated information about Light Up Lakewood.

- Ride Lolly the Trolley to Light Up Lakewood-- Park at Rockport Square and catch Lolly the Trolley to Marlowe Avenue (and back!) from 5:30p.m. to 8:30 p.m., courtesy of Rockport Square
- Bring a donation of a non-perishable food item for the Lakewood Christian Service Center for Lakewood families in need. Place your food item under the tree on the hospital's lawn. Coordinated by the Lakewood Earth And Food (LEAF) Community.
- The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Light Up Lakewood "Why I Love Lakewood," essay contest for all fourth graders in Lakewood. For more information, visit www.lakewoodchamber.org or call 226-2900. The winner of the contest will participate in the lighting ceremony and win a gift certificate from Spin.

Light Up Lakewood is brought to you by LakewoodAlive and Main Street Lakewood. A Big Thanks to all our generous sponsors:



Light Up Lakewood Schedule

6:00-8:00 p.m. Light Up Lakewood begins at Lakewood Hospital Green. Detroit Avenue from Belle Avenue to Arthur Avenue will be closed to traffic. Enjoy refreshments, entertainment, and special holiday surprises all evening. Main Street Lakewood businesses will be open with special promotions for Light Up Lakewood.

6:20 p.m. Santa Arrives at Lakewood Hospital Green

6:30 p.m. Holiday Lighting Ceremony at Lakewood Hospital Green

7:00-9:00p.m. Visits with Santa Claus & Friends, create Holiday Crafts and enjoy Story Time every half hour at Lakewood Public Library.



Light Up Lakewood Volunteer Committee

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Lakewood CertifiChecks will be available for direct sale at the Lakewood Library during Light Up Lakewood ceremonies. After December 3rd, Lakewood CertifiChecks will be available at the Main Street Lakewood office & at Phoenix Coffee.

* Main Street Lakewood is dedicated to the revitalization of Lakewood's historic downtown district and is a program of Lakewood Community Progress Inc, a 501-c(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

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Light Up Lakewood

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December 1st, 2007

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Light Up Lakewood



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*Go to lakewoodalive.com for a Lakewood Gift Certificates order form and an updated list of participating merchants.

*Lakewood Gift Certificates will be on sale at Lakewood Public Library during Light Up Lakewood on November 30th, and at Phoenix Coffee and the Main Street Lakewood office thereafter.



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| Ally's Salon Of Lakewood | Donato's Pizza | Lakewood Hardware | Rose-n-Sons Antiques |
| Alto Capelli | Dough Boy's Bakery | Lakewood Historical Society | Ross Deli |
| Angelo's Pizza | Dramatics Hair Design | Lakewood Hospital Gift Shop | Rozi's Wine House, Inc. |
| ArcAncient | Drink Cafe | Lakewood Massotherapy | Rush Inn |
| Around The Corner | Edible Arrangements | Leather Naturally | Sacred Hour Massage |
| A'venue Fine Pastries | Ed's Barber Shop | Lighthouse Auto Spa | Sakura Japanese Cuisine |
| Barton Center | Educators Music | Lin Garden | Samson's Hair |
| Beck Center For The Cultural Arts | Einstein Brothers Bagels | Lion And Blue | Scent-Sations Inc. |
| Beer Engine | Elements Hair Studio | Local Girl Gallery | Shear Images |
| Bela Dubby | Elmwood Home Bakery | Lube Stop | Sheep in a Heap |
| Belle Barber Shop | Folicle a Salon Inc. | Madison Ave Car Wash | Sherwin Williams |
| Beran's Studio | Forbici Salon | Mahall's Twenty Lanes | Shore Restaurant |
| Better Impression Print & Copy | Friendly Mini-Mart | MaJo's | Silhouette School of Dance |
| Beverage Square | Four Seasons Tanning | Malley's Chocolates | Simone's Beverage & Deli |
| Blockbuster Video | GameStop | Marc's | Soma Wellness Center |
| Boston Market | Geiger's Clothing & Sports | Maria's Roman Room | Spin Inc. |
| Breadsmith | Georgio's Oven Fresh Pizza | Mary Kay Cosmetics- Carol Mason | St. Edward High School |
| Brennan's Floral Gift Shop | Geppetto's/Johnny Malloy's | Mary Kay Cosmetics - Susan Wagner | Stanton's Touch Flower Shoppe |
| Broestl & Wallis Fine Jewelry, Inc. | Giant Eagle | Max Tan | Styling Tips, Inc. |
| Brown Pleasance Florists | Ginger Care Massotherapy | McCarthy's Ale House | Subway |
| Bubbles & Bows | Gingham Goose Gift Shop | Melt Bar And Grilled | Sullivan's Pub |
| Burger King | Goddess Blessed, Inc. | Merry Arts Lounge | Sunsational Tanning |
| Candy Bouquet | Grand Poo-Bas Record Shoppe | M'Lords Hairdressers | Sweet Designs Chocolatier |
| Caribou Coffee Company Inc | Granger City Antiques | Moon's Market | Sweetwater Landing |
| Carlucci's Pizza | Hair Shop of Lakewood | Mr. Hero | Swingo's On The Lake |
| Celebrity Tan | Hinkley Lighting | Music Company | Szechwan Garden |
| Cerny Shoes | Hixson's | My Mind's Eye | Thai Hut |
| Chain Link Addiction | Hobart Health Foods | Nature's Bin | Thai Kitchen |
| Changes Hair Salon | Hockey Stop | North Coast Dogs | The Exchange |
| China Express | Hylander | Olga's Little Darlings | The Mission |
| Chipotle | IHOP | Option Signs | The Old Stand |
| Cirino Photography | Ink Stop | P. S. Graphics | Three Birds Restaurant |
| City Dweller | India Garden | Pacers | TJ's Butcher Block & Deli |
| Class Act Resale Shoppe | Initially Yours Engravers | Panini's at the Riviera | Tomy's Pastries |
| Classic Hair | Italian Creations | Papa John's Pizza | Two Peas In A Pod |
| Cosmic Collectables | Jesse Kramer Photography | Pepper's Italian Restaurant | UPS Store |
| Cottage Of Flowers | Jo Ann Fabrics | Phoenix Coffee Shop | Vance Music Studios |
| Create-A-Cake, Inc. | John's Diner | Pier W | Vase to Vase |
| Curry Copy Center | Jolanda Salon | Pizza Pan | Walgreen's |
| Curves | Kathy's Sewing Center | Plantation Home | Waterbury Coach House |
| CVS Pharmacy | Khiem's Cuisine | Players On Madison | West End Tavern |
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Lakewood Observer

Bulbs For Building A Better Future

The holiday season is coming and the Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA) is selling amaryllis bulbs as gifts for various occasions. When you purchase an amaryllis kit you help support the fight against Huntington's Disease (HD), an inherited, degenerative brain disorder that results in the progressive loss of body and mind. As yet there is no cure. However, current research shows progress.

As a part of its public awareness program HDSA kicked off its annual amaryllis campaign at a private party in Lakewood. Informative invitations were produced by October-Design, courtesy of Jeffery Weber, active HDSA member and Lakewood resident. The event attracted fifty northeast Ohioans from both the east and west sides of Cleveland who came together for a good cause. The following incomplete listing showcases HDSA's link of supporters from all parts of NE Ohio. Not all attendees could be listed here.

Event Chairperson, Nicole Visconsi Mawby of Mayfield Heights Committee chairs, Lakewoodites Eva Weissman and William Flynn Master of Ceremonies, Past Chapter President, David E. Waltermire of Richmond Heights National HDSA Trustee and Immediate Past Chapter President, Donald L. Barr of Chesterland Speaker, Mary Wheeler of Chagrin Falls Former Amaryllis Campaign Chairperson, Dr. Marion Good of Lakewood Special guest, Barbara Kaiser of Twinsburg Executive Director of Cleveland's Advertising Federation in Rocky River, Richard Squire Chapter President and Chairman of the Family Service Committee, Wesley G. Johnston of Cuyahoga Falls (Missing was Dr. Alan Tartakoff, CWRU Professor and Director of the Cell Biology Program in the School of Medicine, also a former Chapter President. He was in Europe at a scientific conference.)

Eva Weissman stated that all present are considered VIPs of the Huntington's Disease Society of America. She explained that HD research sheds light also on other neurological diseases, like Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and Lou Gehrig's Disease, and that campaign proceeds will be used right here in north-



east Ohio. Richard Squire invited Eva Weissman to speak about the amaryllis campaign at its November meeting.

Wesley G. Johnston closed the gathering by describing the impor-

tance of the amaryllis campaign as a way of bringing a positive attitude to fighting Huntington's Disease and by selling flowers that bring joy on dreary winter days. Lisa Schwan of Liggett Stasover vol-

unteered as sales manager and cashier. We've already received many orders, large and small. Please keep the coming!

Each amaryllis kit contains a large bulb, decorative pot, growing mix and planting instructions. The costs is only \$10. All kits are packaged in an attractive box showing the flower's color: red, white, pink or red/white. A case of 16 individual kits for \$160 can be shipped directly to your door. Individual kits can be obtained by special arrangements. Don't delay, call in your order today. Telephone (216)226-6633 or (440)423-HDSA. Web address: lkwpl.org/hdsa.

Note: Chapter Board member Linda Smythe (Shaker Heights), Karen Rechenbach (Westlake) and Margie Rowe (Olmsted Township) also attended the amaryllis party. They received kudos for having directed the Chapter's recent large income benefit at the Cleveland Playhouse. It was overheard that all three sat together, and have already begun planning the 2008 Chapter social fundraiser? Stay tuned!

A Weight Controlled Thanksgiving

by Karen Kilbane

The annual routine is always the same. Watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, stuff yourself full of turkey and gravy, indulge in a slice of fresh-baked pie, and then lounge on the couch for a full-stomach induced slumber. Round out the day with a couple of football games (viewing, not playing, that is), and your Thanksgiving is complete.

For the health-conscious among us, it may seem impossible to maintain a weight-controlled holiday, without putting a damper on the festive occasion. After all, who wants to eat brussel sprouts in place of mashed potatoes and gravy?

The problem is that most of us gain approximately one pound every holiday season, according to the National Institute of Health. And while one pound may not ring ominous at first glance, that pound stays with us, and is accompanied by another pound of

weight gain every subsequent year. Add up dozens of holiday weight-gaining seasons over the years, and it's a recipe for an expanding waistline.

It's not impossible to ward off the weight during this holiday season, however. Judi Sheppard Missett, founder and CEO of Jazzercise, Inc., offers the following recommendations for keeping the pounds off this Thanksgiving:

* Set reasonable goals – Don't attempt to lose five pounds during the week of Thanksgiving. Instead, set a realistic goal, such as maintaining your current weight.

* Play favorites – You're under no obligation to eat a portion of everything on the table. Instead, choose your favorite three or four dishes, and help yourself to a reasonable serving size of those items.

* Find time for exercise – Take an hour of the day and devote it to fitness. Propose a family Turkey Trot after the main course before polishing off a piece of pumpkin pie.

* Set limits – Before you begin eating, set a limit for your alcohol intake. Don't refill your glass until you finish what's already in it. Try drinking water or a non-alcoholic beverage in between each alcoholic drink.

* Eat breakfast – Don't save up your calories for one big meal late in the day. You'll just end up downing excess calories to satisfy your grumbling stomach. Eat a healthy breakfast and a midday snack, so that you're not tempted to chow-down on three servings of stuffing late in the day.

* Make substitutions – Try fat-free milk instead of whole milk in your pumpkin pie and mashed potatoes. Substitute whole-wheat dinner rolls for biscuits. And serve wine spritzer in place of wine.

* Trim the fat – Chill your gravy overnight, then skim off the top layer of hardened fat before serving.

Make a few small changes this Thanksgiving. You'll find that your family can enjoy the holiday just as much, without gaining the excess pounds.

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Lakewood Arts & Entertainment

Beck Center Announces Its Third & Final Presentation Of Disney's Beauty And The Beast

by Fran Storch

November 30 – December 30, 2007 You won't want to miss the Beck Center's third and final annual presentation of the critically acclaimed Disney's Beauty and the Beast. This musical extravaganza of a "tale as old as time" opens November 30 on the Mackey Main Stage and runs through December 30. Loved by audiences and critics alike, Beauty and the Beast will return featuring the same wonderful actors in the following leading roles: Dan Folino as the Beast, Natalie Green as Belle and Josh R. Noble as Gaston. Joining the cast are Bob Abelman as Belle's inventor father Maurice, Zac Hudak as Gaston's crony Lefou, and

Larry Nehring*, Douglas Collier, and Tracee Patterson* as the magically transformed Lumière, Cogsworth, and Mrs. Potts, respectively. "Merging seamlessly enriching sound effects and a couple of dazzling feats of illusion with his thoroughly committed cast, director Fred Sternfeld creates a spectacular stage experience that should be required viewing for two groups of people: children under the age of 12, and everyone else," exclaims Christine Howey, Cleveland Scene Magazine Theater Critic. It is a must-see for families this holiday season.

Director Fred Sternfeld, Musical Director Larry Goodpaster and Choreographer Martín Céspedes will all return for this spellbinding production.

"I am thrilled that we are drawing audiences that might not go to live theater otherwise," says Sternfeld. "Frequently seasoned theatergoers came out in the lobby afterwards visibly moved. Our goal as producers of theater is to not only entertain, but move our audiences to laughter, tears and different ways of looking at the world. Disney's Beauty and the Beast fulfills that goal..." This will be the last opportunity for theatergoers and theater novices alike to be moved by the magic of Disney's Beauty and the Beast. Next month marks the final of three annual productions of the musical at the Beck Center.

Disney's Beauty and the Beast is sponsored by Cox Communications, School One, WDOK Soft Rock 102.1, WFHM 95.5 The Fish Radio, the Ohio Arts Council, and Lakewoodbuzz.com. Programming at the Beck Center is made possible through the generous support of The Cleveland Founda-

tion, The George Gund Foundation, The John P. Murphy Foundation, The Kulas Foundation, The Eva L. & Joseph M. Bruening Foundation, The Abington Foundation, and the Thomas H. White Foundation. To reserve tickets for Beck Center's final production of Disney's Beauty & the Beast, call the Beck Center Box Office at (216) 521-2540 or log onto www.beckcenter.org. Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors, \$17 for students (22 and under with I.D.) and \$10 for children 12 and under (includes a \$3 administrative fee applied at the time of purchase). Additional discounts are available for groups of 12 or more. Beck Center for the Arts is located just 10 minutes west of downtown Cleveland at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. Free, convenient on-site parking is available. *Actor appears courtesy of the Actors Equity Association (AEA), the union of actors and stage managers.

Surrealist Painter, Natasha Turovsky At Beck Center, Nov. 15

by Fran Storch

Beck Center for the Arts will host a Meet the Artist reception with nationally acclaimed surrealist painter, Natasha Turovsky on Thursday, November 15 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Daniels Lounge.

Inspired by composer Modest Musorgsky's most famous work, Pictures at an Exhibition, Turovsky has created a series of larger-than-life oil paintings some of which will be on exhibit at the Beck Center, November 15 through December 31 in the Jean Bulicek Gallery. The reception and exhibition are free and open to the public.

Born in Russia, Turovsky is a Montreal-based surrealist artist, professional musician and filmmaker whose

work has been acclaimed throughout the United States and Canada. For this exhibit, she has skillfully compiled her choreographed images into a short film that will play continuously during the exhibition. This film was selected for the 2007 New York International Independent Film Festival Award for Excellence in Cinema for a Short Film.

Beck Center for the Arts is among five other galleries, and the only west-side location, presenting Turovsky's animated exhibition. Beck Center for the Arts is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Convenient free on-site parking is available. For gallery hours or more information call (216) 521-2540 or log on to www.beckcenter.org.



Bacchu's Birthday by Natasha Turovsky

Kris Barnes Mixed Media Show @ bela dubby November 2007

by Anita Tucker

October 31, 2007 – Mixed media artist Kris Barnes has a love of all things childlike, colorful and fun. Her art evokes memories of days spent with a giant box of crayons and the fearless desire for self-expression. Remember what it's like to be a kid again at her latest show featuring original paintings, collage books, and a new series of Knit-wits, Kris's colorful knit and felted fine art dolls. An original piece by Kris's Art Club students from Montessori Children's School in Westlake will also be featured. The show runs November 1-30, 2007, at Lakewood's bela dubby, an art/coffee house serving up Phoenix brand Fair-Trade roasted coffees, a great selection of microbrews, live music, free WiFi, and the best original art in Cleveland+. Opening reception will



be Thursday, November 8 from 6:00 to 9:00pm. For more information about the artist, visit www.krisbarnes.com. For directions and more information about bela dubby, visit <http://www.myspace.com/beladubby>.

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Pulse Of The City

November Memories...

Well, it's that time again...the second half of November. Like a perennial tidal wave, this time keeps coming back, nearly drowning me in a wave of sorrow.

It's bad enough with those chilly autumn skies, and those windy nights, and the brown and yellow leaves blowing up the driveway with their swishing sounds, and the all-too-short days, and the all-too-long nights.

Yeah, the long nights. I never realized how long a night could be.

Two events happened in the second half of November that changed my life. The first was the death of President John F. Kennedy on November 22nd, 1963, and the second was the death of my dear mother, Betty Rice, on November 27th, 2004. The first event probably changed the lives of most Americans living at that time. The second event was personal. Real personal.

There's a third event around this same time, of course, and that's Thanksgiving. Even that normally happy and festive occasion was tempered with the sobering reality that this feast signaled the beginning of the end for many Native American peoples. I remember Grandfather telling me never to reveal that I was part Native American.

There were good reasons for that admonition. In 1830, The Indian Removal Act forced many Native Americans to move west of the Mississippi on forced marches, leaving their homes and, often, nearly everything they owned. Those who stayed behind tended to keep their mouths shut and their identities secret.

Thanksgiving, therefore, was not "our" holiday at all. There was nothing for us to be thankful about, except maybe that we were still alive.

Of course, that was only a part of our family heritage, so of course, we did the Thanksgiving thing like the rest of America.

Those were huge events in the heady '50's and '60's. The women worked like dogs, starting the night before, preparing the stuffing with secret recipes as well-kept as any military secret. Their floral print aprons and gorgeous dresses accentuated the atmosphere of snow-white crocheted tablecloths set with the finest English bone china, linen, sterling silver and crystal.

Although our family was "middle class," the grandparents always had the linen and the sterling, the crystal and the china. Back then, these items might have been their only valuable possessions, but they had them.

My grandmother also crocheted her own tablecloths and embroidered her own napkins. There were often three forks and as many knives at each setting. There were fresh carrots and stuffed celery from the garden, and we each had our own salt dips for those vegetables. The meat had to be able to be cut with the fork only, or it would not be served. We always had one hand

Gary Rice



The Grandparents Rice with Mom and young Gary (not yet having dressed for dinner) sit before a resplendent holiday table

on our laps and no elbows on the table. White shirts and ties were required for the menfolk, regardless of age. Passing the food always went from left to right, so that the heavy silver plates of food were received by strong right hands. As a lefty, I just had to make the adjustment to all this. Our favorite time as children, naturally, was eating the hand-cranked ice cream waiting outside on the card table under the old grape arbor. The luckiest kid got to lick the paddles of the old ice cream bucket.

Before all else transpired, The Prayer was raised to God Almighty for His bountiful gifts. The Prayer was seldom long or complex. It was, however, The Prayer. It was the most important part of the meal.

The table talk was polite and reserved. Topics that were inappropriate were ignored when brought up, or faced down with a quick and piercing look from Grandfather. All cues came from Grandfather. It's no accident either, that many Native Americans refer to Diety as "Grandfather." The connection was easily made back then...

After dinner, the menfolk retired to the study, where pipes were lit and stories were told. The women sat around the dining room table with their own topics of interest. Occasionally the children would go out back in the woods, or up to their rooms for play. There would not, however, be an occasion for changing into play clothes on Thanksgiving. That was for another time.

These days, things have changed. Lots. The Prayer, if it's even said, has become "a prayer": an almost anecdotal afterthought in character. Turkeys are often purchased pre-cooked, prepared by persons unknown, and filled with who-knows-what from who-knows-where. Side dishes are microwave-zapped, served with butter-in-the-tub and drinks-in-the-can, along with football-on-the-tube.

Aprons have just about gone, as have dresses, shirts and ties, as well as manners and decorum. Profanity so often laces the Thanksgiving experi-

ence touchdown after fumble, as often does an excess of alcohol.

Those of you who've lived as long as I have remember these changes. Those of you too young to remember will just have to take our word for it. Not all things get better in life. Not by a long, long shot.

Still, there is an important lesson in all of this. The oldsters back then had just as many aches, pains, and sorrows going on in their lives as we have today. Or more...with this difference:

We baby-boomer types tend to gripe about everything we can think of. If we get a stubbed toe, it's off to the doctor and a dizzying variety of tests. We cry, we whine, we wring our hands at nothing at all. While trying to save whales and seals and end world hunger, we so often forget about the anguish in our own backyards.

Back then, those folks around the table...those folks who experienced the worst economic depression in world history...those folks who survived the horrors of both World Wars One and Two...they did everything possible to make us happy.

These days, some people talk about America's, or even Lakewood's, potential "decline." Some even talk about having to get by with less. Well, if that were true, maybe this would not be such a bad thing, after all.

Maybe we'd learn not to be such crybabies. Maybe we'd learn to roll up our sleeves and work our problems out, like they did in the old days. Maybe we'd rediscover The Prayer again. Maybe, just maybe, we'd try to show our children how to be happy again.

That is, if we even remember how to do that ourselves. God help us all, if we have forgotten.

The pulse of the city would then have nothing left to do but stop.

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Conservation Corner

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"Pre-approved" credit offers, seemingly random catalogs, mass mailer coupons, more "pre-approved" credit offers: each one of us receives, on average, over 300 pieces of junk mail per year, weighing in at 41 pounds. The resources needed to make all of this paper add up to more than 100 million trees each year in the United States alone (equivalent to cutting down the Rocky Mountain National Park three times!), while also using gallons upon gallons of water. The energy used to make all of this paper is equivalent to the energy consumed by several million cars. Though our country's population is only around 5% of the world as a whole, our paper use makes up 30% of the global total. One-third of the waste in the US is comprised of this paper.

Junk mail in the US each year weighs over 5 million tons. Of that 5 million, more than 4 million go to landfills. Not only that, but nearly half of it goes to the landfill without being either opened or read beforehand. Together, our cities are paying hundreds of millions of dollars in dumping fees to dispose of unwanted, unread mail. If our community halved its junk mail, we could save over 8,000 trees each year.

So, how do we do this? There are several ways:

1. Register with the Direct Marketing Association's Mail Preference

Service. The Direct Marketing Association is an organization whose aim is to promote (surprise!) direct marketing for companies. It has thousands of members all across the country (and the world). By signing up for the Mail Preference Service and paying them a \$1 fee, they will add your name to a Do Not Mail List that will be seen by all of their members. Registration is good for three years. Forms are available at <https://www.dmchoice.org/MPS/>.

2. To opt out of offers for credit cards, call 1-888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688). This one is free and you can choose to sign up permanently or for a few years at a time. You can also do this online at https://www.optoutpre-screen.com/opt_form.cgi.

3. Sign up for a junk mail reduction service, such as Green Dimes (<http://www.greendimes.com>) or 41Pounds (<http://www.41pounds.org>). For \$15, Green Dimes will reduce your junk mail by up to 90% and plant 10 trees. They'll take care of most of the work, but you'll have to send in a few postcards (given to you pre-written by Green Dimes) to get some companies to remove you from their lists. 41Pounds works in much the same way, but charges \$41 for five years of service, and rather than planting trees, donates

Heather Ramsey

more than one-third of each fee to a charity of your choice.

4. Stop receiving catalogs you do not need. This can be done in several ways. When working with Green Dimes or 41Pounds.org (or any other service like them), you can list the catalogs you'd like to stop receiving and they will remove you from the lists. On your own, you can call the catalog companies or try Catalog Choice (<http://www.catalogchoice.org>), which will give you a list of catalogs and remove your name from any that you choose, free of charge.

5. Recycle what mail you DO get! In Lakewood, you can recycle catalogs, magazines, and any other form of junk mail (or even mail you DID want). Just keep a paper bag handy to collect all your paper waste or bundle it together with string and put it out for curbside pickup at the appropriate time.

If you reduce your junk mail, not only will you be conserving trees, water, and space in the landfill, but you'll also be saving time that you would have wasted dealing with unwanted mail. Plus, fewer items in the mail with your personal information on them means less fear of identity theft when you take out the trash (or the recycling).

The Move: A Poem

The wait for a place was nerve-racking, the housing specialist not returning my case-worker's calls, me, a downpour of pessimism. Until the week before my 41st birthday – she reached my social worker. She had a place in Lakewood – what did I think about that? There are several words in English for "wonderful," some of them more extravagant than "wonderful." I chose "awesome," maybe not quite extravagant enough a word to describe what I was feeling – I had lived

in Lakewood for five great years in the 90s. I loved the small suburb, with its kind of edgy, forward-thinking feel. When I saw the place (a condo owned by a mental-health, housing organization), located in a quiet section of the town, with its 7th floor balcony (okay, maybe I get a little vertigo out there), air-conditioning, cable-capability, and (I believe in God, but still could barely believe this) – a pool, I sensed there really are no words in English to describe how I felt about it. It is within walking distance of my old haunts, some new haunts, a poetry reading and a music open-mic at the Phoenix coffeeshop, and free, live music and a wonderful spiritual discussion group at Bela Duby. I have found great new friends to hang out with, and – I have wondered what I did to deserve this. I have been clowning around, not making much of my life (though I guess I've been doing that for quite some time). So I think – "what does God want from me, now that he's given me, in short, all I need but a job (which may be forthcoming)?" I don't know, maybe I should stop calculating.

Maybe I should surrender, and just say those other two, most extravagant, English words – "Thank you."

Marc Mannheimer (2007)

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Wednesday, November 21st, 2007
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Thursday November 22nd, 2007
Hot Carl's Turkey Jam Comedy Night - This is the 4th annual Turkey Jam comedy night. 10pm after dinner obligations. \$5.00!!

Friday, November 22nd, 2007
Freekbass - Freekbass is George Clinton's protege. Tickets are \$10.00. 9pm.

Saturday, November 24th, 2007
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Real Estate

Is "Bank Owned" The Latest Craze?

by *Monica Woodman*
Prudential Lucien Realtor

Bank-owned properties have certainly become a big part of the real estate market in Cuyahoga County. And, yes, while it has a negative feel to it, it is reality. Working in this segment of the market does not involve traditional negotiation. The banks have come up with very structured processes that eliminate much of the negotiating and entail a more systematic approach to purchasing homes. It has become a specialized area for real estate agents working with banks and investors. Not only are the most savvy of investors playing in this market — it has created a learning ground for the novice as well.

Some areas of Cuyahoga County have more bank-owned properties than others. Many properties are priced well below market value due to their condi-

tion. Being priced low is what seems to take away much of the negotiation. The work that needs to be done to bring these homes back up to market value will vary from house to house. Some of these homes have not been maintained for many years. They may need any combination of typical repairs, such as a new roof, furnace, hot water tank, windows, flooring or fresh paint.

Some homes are broken into by vandals who steal the copper piping, and in the process leave behind considerable damage. When this occurs, more often than not, these houses are deemed uninhabitable. Such homes generally drop so far below market value that banks will not provide a mortgage loan for them. These are the properties many investors buy for cash. Some sell for as little as a moderately priced car.

If you have questions about foreclosure or bank-owned properties, please contact your lender or real estate professional.

Realty Reality: Questions From Our Readers

by *Maggie Fraley*
Prudential Lucien Realtor

Because the Federal Reserve cut the target for the Federal Funds Rate by a quarter point, many people have asked, "What does that mean for mortgage rates?" I've asked guest expert Liz Schneider, loan officer from First Place Bank, to address this question:

"This important decision has many implications and there's still some debate among experts about what this means to the economy as a whole. While no one is certain how market volatility and inflation concerns will affect future policy and decision making, consumers may want to take advantage of this opportunity to capture a lower interest rate for refinancing or buying a home. If you have an Adjustable Rate Mortgage, while this rate cut might help to improve

your situation, now is the time to refinance into a fixed-rate loan. If you have a Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) or credit cards tied to the Prime Rate, the Fed's cut in the Fed Funds Rate just put a little money in your pocket.

Borrowers waiting for a lower fixed-rate mortgage may be waiting for a long time. The chart below clearly shows how Fed Funds Rate cuts do not translate into cuts in fixed-rate mortgages. In January 2001, the Fed Funds Rate was at 6% and 30-year fixed rates averaged 7.03%. By December 2001, following 4.25% in cuts throughout the year, home loan rates were actually up to 7.07%.

We may experience some temporary improvements in rates in the coming weeks, but the markets will remain volatile as long as inflation and recession are a possible threat to the Federal Reserve's long-term economic policies."

Farmer-Turned-Realtor Named Four Streets

by *Val Mechenbier*
Prudential Lucien Realtor

Adam Wagar, son of Mars Wagar, once owned a large piece of land near the Hilliard and Madison intersection in Lakewood. A notable fruit farmer and civic-minded individual who

served as township clerk, trustee and school board member, Adam joined his brothers in the real estate business after the farming business started to decline. When he subdivided the former farm, he named the newly created roads after his wife, Margaret; two daughters, Carabell and Olive; and grandson, Morrison.

Lakewood Real Estate Information

(According to Multiple Listing Service)
by *Andy Tabor, Realtor, GRI-Prudential Lucien*

September	2006	2007
Multi-Family Closed	10	6
Multi-Family Pending (Under Contract)	11	8

Interesting Real Estate Information

Lakewood Multi-Family Homes
Currently for Sale in Multiple Listing: 167

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New listing! Don't miss this lovely & spacious colonial at a highly desired location. Beautiful hardwood floors, 1st floor family room, large master bedroom with walk-in closet, lovely backyard deck, 252' deep lot, more! Home warranty. Call to see! **Val Mechenbier**
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So clean and charming, plus a new kitchen, replacement windows, gleaming hardwood floors and woodwork. See photos at 1239gladys.lucienrealty.com
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West Park \$127,500



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11312 Lake Ave * Lakewood \$300,000
Cozy Woodburning Fireplace*4 bedrooms*2 baths*Private backyard with pond*Wonderful kitchen with nook*Just minutes from downtown.
Flavia Petrescu-Boboc 216-952-7957



2133 McKinley Ave * Lakewood \$128,950
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1445 Grace Ave * Lakewood \$209,000
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Eric Lowrey 216-650-0365



1609 St. Charles Ave * Lakewood \$155,000
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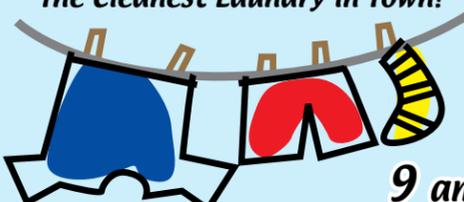
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With the real-time 12-Lead EKG data received from the ambulance, Roy Seitz, MD, Medical Director of St. John West Shore Hospital's Emergency Department, was able to diagnose Dave before he even arrived. Dave virtually bypassed the Emergency Department.

Dave credits Dr. Seitz, North Ridgeville EMS and the 12-Lead EKG equipment used that day with helping save his life, a life he's back to living fully. In fact, in his spare time Dave enjoys teeing off at the golf course as often as he can.

For a physician referral, please call 1-866-733-9112.



Roy Seitz, MD, Medical Director, Emergency Department with Dave Preston (right) and North Ridgeville EMS

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