

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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

Volume 4, Issue 20, September 30, 2008

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## MAMA’s Going Strong With New Director

# LIA MAMA Artwalk October 11th!

by Jim O’Bryan

The Lakewood Observer is happy to announce that Melissa Page will be carrying on the good work of Justine Cooper, leading the Madison Avenue Merchant Association. MAMA was started about three years ago by a few Madison Avenue small business owners and was championed by the Lakewood Observer.

We all look forward to “Mel” Page building on MAMA’s successes. Lakewood has already benefited greatly from Melissa’s service to the community. She is involved in many civic organizations and has had her hand in many positive Lakewood efforts.

After giving up a career in financial planning to devote her time to her family, she has found herself drawn to volunteer activities that benefit Lakewood. Mel brings a diverse and holistic background because of her wide range of experiences, having served on committees for Lakewood

Schools, Main Street Lakewood and the Lakewood Historical Society. Currently, she sits on the steering committees of LakewoodAlive as membership chair and the new Friends of Madison Park. Other ongoing extracurricular activities that are close to her heart are serving board and committee positions of the Junior Women’s Club of Lakewood and Lakewood Early Childhood PTA. Mel has worked on many Lakewood charitable fundraisers and community service projects.

Mel, her husband Charlie, and two small children have lived off Madison Avenue in central Lakewood for eight years, an experience is a true believer that Madison Ave. has tremendous potential. The Page family finds that the shopping, eating and other activities offered on Madison enrich their quality of life, and Mel will be sharing these benefits regularly through the Lakewood Observer. What impresses us most about Mel is that she is a bridge

builder who thrives on bringing out the best in others. She never claims to have all the answers but values the power of relational and informational resources and pulling together people to work toward a common goal. Mel is certain that once you get to know Madison Avenue’s heart, soul, and unique character you will love it too.

MAMA currently has about 26 Madison merchants working toward building on Madison’s current assets and connecting it with the surrounding community. For more information you can email: [mel.page@lakewoodobserver.com](mailto:mel.page@lakewoodobserver.com) or call 216-228-7223.



Melissa Page...the new MAMA in town!. See page 11 for list for business on the October 11th Artwalk

# Lakewood Students Rock The Vote At The Library

by Audrey Sumser

This November, while millions of American adults head to the voting booths to determine the next President of the United States of America, Lakewood students in 5th through 8th grade will have the opportunity to choose their own elected leader as a part of the Lakewood Public Library’s “Election!” program. This fall, the Children’s and Youth Services Department is asking student participants and the community at large to help decide who will become the first President of the United Streets of Lakewood, our fictional foray into the world of politics and the electoral process.

As a part of this 7-week program, students will learn about elections from start to finish by creating a candidate to run on the platform they choose. Children’s librarians will serve as blank-slate candidates who will represent their team’s viewpoints, allowing students the chance to groom a candidate to their specifications. From behind-the-scenes projects such as determining and researching issues to more public ventures including campaigning and writing speeches for their candidate, students will gain first-hand experience in roles such as press secretary and campaign manager as they work towards winning the election. Supplemental learning activities, including games and puzzles, will help round out

the program and provide students with yet another fun and engaging way to learn about the electoral process.

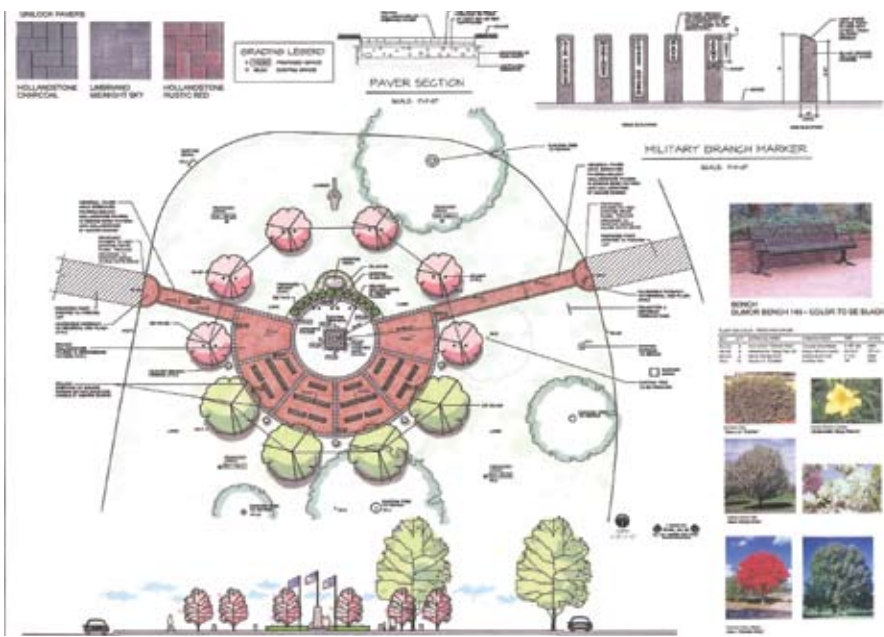
From now until November 4th, you can help support the library’s program and the students involved by stopping by the Children’s and Youth Services Department at the Main Library or by accessing the department’s web page at [www.lkwdpl.org/youth](http://www.lkwdpl.org/youth) to “vote” for

your favorite librarian-candidate. Brief biographies of the candidates as well as their position on city/library issues, as written by their team of students, will be available at both sites to help you make an informed decision. Your votes will be tallied on November 5th, and the winner will be announced that evening. Those students who are a part of the winning candidate’s team will cele-

brate their victory at a special breakfast with Mayor Ed Fitzgerald and Ward 2 City Council Member Tom Bullock on Friday, November 14th where they can discuss what they learned and ask questions of our much esteemed guests.

Students interested in participating in “Election!” which meets every Wednesday from 7-8:30 P.M., October 1st through November 12th, should contact the Lakewood Public Library’s Children’s and Youth Services Department at 216-226-8275, extension 140. Registration is required, and space is limited.

## Veteran’s Memorial Renovation And Fundraiser



The Lakewood Foundation’s sole mission is to rebuild the Lakewood Park Veteran’s Memorial from its broken and weathered status to a newly repaired and improved design in honor of these brave men and women. The Lakewood Park Veterans Memorial Fundraiser will take place on Wednesday, October 1 between 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Merry Arts Pub & Grille, 15607 Detroit Avenue. \$25 Minimum Contribution. Customized pavers can also be donated. See order form on page 20 for more details.

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Do you know the warning signs of a stroke? Think F.A.S.T. To learn more, or for your free stroke information kit, visit [lakewoodhospital.org](http://lakewoodhospital.org)



# 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](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)

## Demro Appointed Human Resource Chief

by Colleen Wing

Lakewood resident and former councilman Ryan Patrick Demro recently graduated from the United States Army Infantry Center's Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Adjutant General Corps, Demro has been appointed as the Human Resource Officer for the 983rd Engineer Battalion with headquarters based in Monclova, Ohio. Consisting of just over 800 soldiers, the battalion's mission is to accomplish wartime construction management in support of United States forces within the area of operation and the rear combat zone. This includes constructing, repairing, and maintaining main supply routes, landing strips, structures, and utilities. Recent domestic

projects have included extensive work along the Maumee River for the City of Rossford and construction of facilities at Pioneer Boy Scout Reservation. The soldiers of the 983rd have also deployed to Guatemala and El Salvador to conduct projects including building a school, clinic, and road in an outlying province. The unit deployed in defense of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. Upon returning home from Georgia, Demro said, "I am honored to serve with those who had the courage to join in a time of war. The soldiers I graduated with are so highly skilled and dedicated that one could not look at the group and think anything other than the Army will have strong leadership for generations to come." Demro is currently working in Toledo to acclimate to his unit before returning home in a few weeks.

## Are You Willing To Help Mentor Local Refugees?

by Luanne Bole-Becker

Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Lakewood will host a presentation about how families can help minister to refugees in our midst, including the growing Burmese population. The hour-long presentation will take place from 10:15 to 11:15 am on Sunday, Nov. 2 in the Gethsemane downstairs fellowship hall, 14560 Madison Avenue. Brian Upton of Building Hope in theCity, an organization committed to strengthening urban ministry, will present. According to a recent Plain Dealer article, the current Lakewood Burmese community numbers about two dozen

families. Several hundred more individuals are expected within the coming year. The Burmese refugees have been displaced as a result of a civil war that spans more than 60 years, affecting the mostly Christian Karen, an ethnic minority in Burma. Local Lutheran churches are exploring how they can better serve their refugee neighbors. For example, Messiah Lutheran Church in Fairview Park is already seeking mentoring families. At Gethsemane—which recently adopted the mission statement of "ordinary people bringing the extraordinary love of Jesus Christ to the world," this is just one possible way to tangibly demonstrate that love.



photo by Melanie Lawrence

Vernon gets a surprise party at Burger King, where he eats breakfast every day.

## Lakewood's Own Vernon Bogner Celebrates His 95th Birthday!

by Melanie Lawrence

Lifetime Lakewood resident Vernon Bogner has enjoyed breakfast at the Detroit Avenue Burger King in Downtown Lakewood every morning for years. On Monday, September 22nd, his usual routine was anything but ordinary when he arrived to discover birthday wishes posted on the restaurant's outdoor sign. Manager Char Darlington graciously planned a surprise birthday party for one of their favorite guests by supplying the cakes and a festive atmosphere for Vernon, to celebrate his 95th birthday. "I haven't felt this special in years, not bad for an old antique...", said Vernon. The combined efforts of some other very thoughtful people contributed to the success of the event by providing other accouterments to the party. Vernon later confided that as he blew out his candles, his birthday wish

was that all his dear friends would also one day feel the wealth of affection he had experienced as a result of their show of regard.



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## LakewoodAlive Announces Next Community Forum

by Jenni Baker:

LakewoodAlive will present its next forum, "A Healthy Partnership: Lakewood Hospital's Impact on our Community," on October 8 at 7 p.m. at Harding Middle School, 16601 Madison Ave. Issues to be addressed include the economic impact of the hospital on Lakewood, trends in healthcare and the management of community hospitals and the Lakewood Hospital City Lease. For more information, visit [www.lakewoodalive.com](http://www.lakewoodalive.com). The forum is free and advanced registration is not required.

Join the Discussion at: [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)



# Lakewood Public Library

## Bet You Didn't Know The Library Offers...

by Chris Weaver

From time to time, even the savviest Lakewood Public Library patron discovers a service or program available to them that they had never imagined. Here are three ways the Library works to make access to resources and information better and easier:

### Holds Lists/Email Notification

How often do you want to read, watch or listen to Library materials, only to find that they are checked out or have not yet been released? It is difficult to keep track of all the exciting new books, CDs and movies that are available, and it is often even harder to actually get your hands on them. A great option that the Library offers is putting items On Hold by requesting materials in person or over the phone. Just call the Library at 216-226-8275 and ask for the Reference Desk, or stop by next time you are in the building. All you need to do is give your name and the title and author of the item you are requesting and you will be put on a list for it. You can also request materials through our catalog from inside the Library or from home or work at [lkwdpl.org](http://lkwdpl.org). When you find an item you are interested in, just click on "Place Hold" and enter your User ID (on the back of your Library card, beginning with "PLPL") and PIN Number (available by showing your Driver's License or ID at the Circulation Desk). Your name is then put on the list for that item and will show up under Holds in the "My Account" area of the Catalog.

When the items that you request become available, you have two options for being notified. By default, each patron is set up to receive a note in the mail to let you know your materials are waiting. You will receive it within a day or two, depending on how close you live to the Lakewood Post Office. A quicker choice is adding your email address to our database by clicking "E-mail notification of available holds" at the top of the Catalog page. Not only will you know the same day that materials are available for you to pick up; you will also be skipping paper notices and helping to make Library operations a little "Greener."

### Ohio Web Library Access and Test Preparation

If you are a fan of doing research through the OPLIN Databases, you may have noticed a change to our homepage. Instead of the OPLIN logo, there now is an Ohio Web Library search box into which you can enter your search terms.

For those readers who have never used the OPLIN Databases to which the Library subscribes, they are a resource that offers a wealth of information from professional and scholarly journals, access to fiction recommendations through NoveList, and the NewsBank resource, for searching back issues of newspapers from across America. You can access these resources from the Technology Center at the Library, or from home with your Library User ID.

The Ohio Web Library search box gives results for all of the OPLIN Databases. Once you type in your query and click "Search," results will be displayed by relevance, with the option to sort by Title, Newest and Oldest. On the left side of the results page, each OPLIN Database is listed with the number of results it provides. Also listed are a series of Subjects into which your search terms fall within the results. If, for example, you search for the travel author Bill Bryson, you will see that subjects under which the results can be grouped include "Books—reviews," "Best sellers" and "Booksellers book-selling." There is also the Subject of "BRYSON, Bill" if you are looking for a more biographical article. You can also narrow your results by database (e.g. by clicking on MasterFILE Magazines), then picking out ones under a particular subject heading (e.g. HIKING).

At any time you are in the Ohio Web Library, you can also scroll to the bottom for such helpful tools as Explore Ohio and LearningExpressLibrary.

Explore Ohio features any and all kinds of information about the Buckeye State, from Family Fun Spots to Public Records to Home & Garden. Search by Keywords or browse by Subject, with

the option to narrow your results by County. Check out Explore Ohio next time you need a Biography of a famous Ohioan, information on local services for Senior Citizens, or a list of local charities to turn to for assistance or to offer your time and expertise.

LearningExpressLibrary is an outstanding test preparation program. Whether you are studying for the GED, your Real Estate license, a Civil Service exam, GREs, the ASVAB or dozens of other evaluations, this is the resource for you. Not only can you study for your exam and try out practice exercises, you can also take timed practice tests and get the results immediately, along with explanations of each answer and tips for further studying. You can access LearningExpressLibrary from the Library's Technology Center or from home after creating a user name and password.

### Homebound Patron Delivery Service

If you cannot come to the Library in person, the Library can come to you! Thanks to a van generously donated by the Friends of the Library, your enjoyment of Library materials is just a phone call away. Whether you are temporarily or permanently unable to

leave your home, it is easy to register for the Library's delivery service: Call 216-226-8275 ext. 110 and a member of the Staff can help you.

The service makes its rounds every other Tuesday afternoon, with the next delivery on September 30. Call by noon on the day of the delivery with a list of specific titles or general types of books, videos/DVDs or cassettes/CDs you would like. We highly recommend that you call a few days in advance, in case the items that you want are checked out. You will then have time call back with a list of other items you would like, or we can pick out similar materials for you.

Items that you would like borrow that are checked out by another patron when you call can be put On Hold. The materials will then be set aside for you when they are returned and we will send you a note in the mail. When you receive the notice that they are available, call the Library to let us know that you would like them brought to you on our next delivery day.

If you have any questions about any of these Library programs and services, please call and talk to a Lakewood Public Library Staff member. We can't wait to hear from you!

## Lakewood Chooses Seven Samurai

by Ben Burdick

The most requested film in the (relatively short) history of Lakewood Public Library's digital cinema is finally here. Akira Kurosawa's 1954 masterpiece, Seven Samurai will be shown on Saturday, October 11 at a special time—5:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. The show starts early because of the nearly three-and-a-half hour running time, including intermission. Dialogue is in Japanese with English subtitles, but don't worry. Masterful action and adventure cross the language barrier easily. Subtly beautiful cinematography is universal. Admission is free and so are snacks—as long as you bring your own from home. This film is Not Rated by the MPAA, though it should be noted that we don't recommend it for small children.

Seven Samurai has been called the Japanese Citizen Kane, but we frankly can't imagine Citizen Kane bringing in monster box office returns if it were re-released in theaters, as Samurai manages to do every few years in Japan. It's a classic and a wildly entertaining, non-boring one at that. When a small farming community in war-torn 16th century Japan is raided to the point of starvation, the villagers dare to hire masterless samurai (ronin) to protect them. By subverting strict class boundaries and appealing to the mercy of desperate, once-powerful men, they risk losing everything. Fortunately, they happen to meet wise Kambei, a kind and philosophical veteran of many wars who believes he can protect the village

with only seven samurai. Will he finally be allowed to die with honor?

The story from this point on is straightforward. Kambei recruits six other samurai, fortifies the town and fights a large battle. So simple and satisfying is this plot that it's been borrowed many times—most notably by The Magnificent Seven (1960) and Battle Beyond the Stars (1980). What makes Kurosawa's take special and what makes reading all the subtitles worthwhile is the way he puts flesh on the bones of these characters. There is love, honor and courage—and there is cowardice, treachery and naked fear. Larger-than-life heroes learn to celebrate and mourn with salt-of-the-earth peasants. Despite the fact that we are centuries removed and a half a world away, every beat rings true with no footnotes necessary.

Ultimately, the entire film is held together by the legendary performance of Toshio Mifune as the rogue samurai, Kikuchiyo. The contempt he holds for the villagers is almost as great as the anger he feels against the samurai. With his ridiculously long cavalry sword and unkempt appearance, he is clearly marked as a buffoon. Yet he's

the only one who can unite all parties. His rage sometimes borders on the abstract, threatening to rip him out of the film altogether, but it's no mistake on the part of the actor. This quality somehow magically makes him our connection, from the modern day to the distant past and from the comfort of the audience to the heart of the filmmaker. You'll have to see it to believe it.

Since its inception, the Lakewood Public Cinema has used audience surveys to determine the kinds of films that Lakewoodites want to see. Out of the hundreds of suggestions submitted so far, Seven Samurai has stood out as a common point among wildly divergent tastes. For years, the rights have been unavailable to the Library. Now thanks to a special arrangement made directly with Janus Films, Lakewood's movie lovers will be rewarded for their support of Library programming. We can't emphasize enough that the Lakewood Public Cinema does not show actual reels of film, but instead uses high quality DVDs and digital projection. The happy result of this arrangement is that we'll be showing the cleanest, most complete cut of the film ever available—the Criterion Collection two-disc reissue.



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# Lakewood Public Library Events Calendar

**SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS**  
**Alexis Antes**  
Witness a singer-songwriter blossoming into firm control of her own destiny in this intimate acoustic concert. Alexis Antes will share songs from her upcoming CD release and stories about her music and writing experiences.

**Sunday, October 5 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**  
**A Traditional Band Concert**  
The Al Koran Shrine Band has seen a few line-up changes over the past 103 years. Now under the leadership of Paul Lawrence, this colorful crew promises patriotic music, marches, show tunes and novelty numbers.

**Sunday, October 12 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**  
**LAKESWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**Maintenance and Energy Efficiency for Your Older Home**  
Have you been thinking about maintenance and repair projects at your old house? Would you like to get a head start on efficiency issues for the winter? Join old house expert Sara Hobbs, Associate Director at the Cleveland Restoration Society, as she tackles your older home’s maintenance and repair issues. She’ll share tips on inspecting your house from roof to basement and improving the energy efficiency of your home, then dispel some common efficiency myths.

**Monday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**  
**LOVE OF LEARNING**  
**Educator Resources from the Cleveland Museum of Art**  
Come spend a casual evening with members of the Education Department of The Cleveland Museum of Art. Information on programs for schools such as Art To Go suitcase presentations, Distance Learning videoconferences, and the Educator’s Academy (formerly The Teacher Resource Center) will be shared. There will be handouts, discussions, sample materials for teachers and plenty of opportunity to ask questions and plan for 2008-2009.

**Thursday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**  
**THE WRITTEN WORD**  
**BOOKED FOR MURDER:** For Lovers of Murder, Mystery and Mayhem:  
Join staff member Andrea Fisher for a discussion of *The Chicago Way* by Michael Harvey. When ex-cop Michael Kelly gets involved with an eight-year-old rape case, people wind up dead. In this rough, but witty murder mystery, the line between cops and criminals becomes blurry as Kelly must battle his corrupt colleagues, the Mafia and a cold-blooded killer in the search for justice. **Monday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room** \*\*Note change of date

**MEET THE FANTASY AUTHORS**  
**An Unlikely Journey and An Unlikely Reunion, Books One and Two of Raven’s Heart by Matthew and Stephanie Verish.** Everyone has a story to tell, but this unlikely tale takes two people. Matthew and Stephanie Verish have shared adventures in both writing and self-publishing. Take an illustrated tour of their rich fantasy world, listen to favorite passages read aloud, and ask questions about writing, publishing and fantasy. You might win a free book in the drawing. Books will also be available for sale and signing from the authors themselves. **Tuesday,**

## Make The Grade With Homework ER

by Tracie Drake

It’s that time of year again. School is back in session which means homework. Instead of dreading those homework assignments, why not come to Homework ER at the Lakewood Public Library.  
Our brand new homework room offers a quiet space for study and all kinds of educational resources to complete your homework. Students who take advantage of Homework ER will find many of the Lakewood schools’ textbooks, reference materials and basic school supplies. There are also friendly and knowledgeable librarians available to give guidance and direction and empower the students to utilize the library and help themselves answer questions.  
Teachers and parents agree that

## LPL FOUNDATION SPECIAL EVENT

### An Evening With Garrison Keillor

### Wednesday, October 1 at 7:00 p.m.

## TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

**General Admission Ticket \$20.00. Tickets at the door.**  
Join us for a conversation with Garrison Keillor about Lake Wobegon and his latest Lake Wobegon novel, Liberty. Borders will be on site with Garrison Keillor books for sale and signing.  
*Proceeds from the event will benefit the Lakewood Public Library Foundation. The event will be held at Lakewood Civic Auditorium, 14100 Franklin Boulevard, Lakewood, Ohio 44107*

October 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium  
**LAKESWOOD PUBLIC CINEMA**  
**Seven Samurai (1954)** Directed by Akira Kurosawa. This film is not rated.  
In the chaos of 16th century Japan, when even samurai go hungry and bandits live as lords, a war-torn peasant village dares to hire masterless ronin to protect their land. From this simple plot, Kurosawa weaves an engrossing epic that straddles edge-of-your-seat action and the full range of human emotion. To put it another way, this one’s got it all. **Saturday, October 11 at 5:00 p.m.** \*\* in the

**Main Library Auditorium** \*\*Note Special Time.  
**LEARNING LAB CLASSES AT THE MAIN LIBRARY**  
Reservations for computer instruction classes begin the first of each month. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127. We ask that all students come to class with a working knowledge of the mouse. If you need help, visit the Technology Center and ask the staff to set you up on our Mouse Training Program. It’s fun, easy and essential to becoming computer literate. You must have a Lakewood Public Library card in good standing the day of the class. No exceptions.

**INTERNET BASICS**  
Get familiar with online basics and find out what the Internet is all about.  
**Saturday, October 4 at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab**  
**WORD PROCESSING BASICS**  
Find out for yourself why everybody is getting rid of their typewriters.  
Saturday, October 11 at 11:00 a.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab  
**SHARP STUDENT ACADEMY:** For Middle and High School Students  
Build critical thinking skills and sharpen your study habits with real world computer challenges, smart instruction and the resources of the Lakewood Public Library. To learn more, call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127.

**MULTI-MEDIA DEBATE AND LITERACY: A Six Week Series**  
**Second meeting on Wednesday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES**  
**THE ZONE:** For students in kindergarten through fifth grade  
Get in the Zone and sign up for a week of themed activities! Visit [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth) for the list of fun and exciting programs just for kids. To register, please stop in; call Main Library at (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or Madison Branch (216) 228-7428.

**October 1 - 2:** A Week at the Museums  
**October 6-9** Get Your Game On!  
**October 13-16:** On the Wagon Trail: A Pioneer Journey  
**HOMEWORK ER:** For students in kindergarten through eighth grade  
**Tuesday, September 2, 2008 - Thursday, May 21, 2009**  
Need a little help with your homework or just want a cool place to work? Come to the new Homework Room in the Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library for help and resources.

**Monday-Thursday, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. In the Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library**  
**ELECTION!** For students in fifth through eighth grade  
Become part of the political machine as you and your team of campaigners create a candidate, establish platforms, write speeches and try to win an election. The winning team will earn a special breakfast with local political figures. To register, please stop in; call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140. **Wednesdays, October 1 – November 12. 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.**

**CREATION STATION:** For students in kindergarten through fifth grade  
**Fridays, September 5 – May 22 at 4:00 p.m.**  
Join us for crafts each and every Friday after school. There is no need to register; however, to schedule groups, please call Main Library (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or Madison Branch (216) 228-7428. **Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch**

**CLUB LIFE:** For students sixth through eighth grade  
**Thursdays, September 11 – May 21 at 4:00 p.m.**  
Make a difference and join the club. Learn new skills or hone those you already have as you participate in projects designed to help your community. For more information, visit [www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth](http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth). To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140. **Main Library Multipurpose Room**

**FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS:**  
Make the library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts. 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. Programs are held in the Activity Room at Main Library and the basement at the Madison Branch.  
**Friday:** 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.,  
**Saturday:** 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., Sunday: 2:00 p.m.  
**October 3, 4, 5:** Look What Spot Can Do  
**October 10, 11, 12:** Fun Times “3”



Lakewood Public Library

From Odd Girl Out To Woman In Charge

by Martha Wood

Lakewood Public Library’s “Sunday with the Friends” series is proud to present an intimate acoustic concert with singer/songwriter Alexis Antes on Sunday, October 5 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. This free event is generously funded by Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Friends of Lakewood Public Library.

Alexis has been performing music all her life. She grew up in Lakewood where she was raised in a creative environment by her mother, Bobbie, who is also an accomplished singer/songwriter and musician. Music was a focal point in her home and Alexis taught herself to play the guitar by the time she was twelve by listening to the radio until her chords matched the ones she heard. At age eighteen, she was the youngest founding member of the Cleveland-based folk-pop group, Odd Girl Out. OGO performed sold-out shows throughout the Midwest from 1990 to 1995. The group enjoyed a cult following, particularly on the college scene and received airplay on, and support from, commercial radio stations in the Cleveland market. In 1994, Cleveland Magazine’s Readers’ Poll voted the group “Favorite Local Band” and “Favorite Local Folk Band”.

When the band broke up Alexis tried to start another group but the venture never got off the ground. Instead Antes decided to go solo. She discovered her own voice and began to pursue her own path as both a writer and performer of her own songs. “It’s so hard to have to count on someone else,” she said. “I just got this idea to start trying to do it myself. It came easier than I thought.” Although Alexis already had experience performing, songwriting was uncharted territory for her and so she began with what she knew -- the music. Antes said that most of her ideas started with a melody that she hummed into a tape recorder in her car. “The lyrics tend to come last,” she said.

Her debut album, Stronger, was released in 1998. Her songs had solid, honest lyrics along with appealing rhythms. The intensely personal and sincere nature of her songs is what resonated with fans. Scene Magazine wrote, “Listeners are treated to a lone voice in the wilderness, singing introspective, soul-searching ballads about disillusionment, heartache and growth — songs that would not be out of place on a disc by Paula Cole”. The CD proved that Alexis was very much in control of her future and that she was comfortable alone in the spotlight. She received an invitation to play at Lilith Fair at Blossom Music Center in 1998.

All Come Down, the follow-up to Stronger, was released in 2003. It is more of a full band effort but it still contains songs with the heartfelt lyrics and melodies that have made Antes a noted songwriter among her contemporaries. The album also features a throw back to the Odd Girl days with a cover of The Supremes song, “My World

is Empty Without You,” which was one of OGO’s popular cover tunes.

In 2004 she performed her first house concert; literally a concert held at a residence. She performed as a support act for Annie Gallup, poet and folk musician from Ann Arbor, MI. Antes said, “It’s more active and personal when the audience is literally right on top of the stage. When you’re on a big stage and you can’t see anything, it’s easier to do your thing, but you have a harder time connecting with the audience.”

Alexis has shared the stage with such artists as Jewel, Paula Cole, Sarah McLachlan, Sheryl Crow, James Taylor, Melissa Etheridge, Stephen Stills and Dan Fogelberg. She was both nominee and performer at the 1999 Cleveland Scene Music Awards. She was one of five finalists in Time Warner Cable’s Road-Runner Rocks battle of the bands and she



Singer/Songwriter Alexis Antes on Sunday, October 5. was accepted into the Indiegrl national roster of performing members in 2000. Come experience her unique blend of pop, rock, and folk, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 5 in the Main Library Auditorium.

Magazines Offer Information And More

by Kristi Beredo

Have you ever sat waiting for a delayed airline flight and had nothing to read? Or you are sitting waiting for your car to be repaired and found that the only reading material available in the waiting room is a National Geographic magazine from 1982? Worse yet, you’re waiting in the dentist’s office and see the perfect recipe for a dreamy double chocolate cheesecake to take to dinner at your in-laws only to find the page with the ingredients and directions torn out? These disappointing scenarios could easily be avoided with a trip to your local library.

Lakewood Public Library carries an extensive collection of magazine periodicals to check out with your library card. All magazines circulate for two weeks and are also renewable. The adult magazine collection can be found in the New Books and Magazines room on the first floor of the Main library. The magazines are classified and shelved by subject headings such as Opinion, Leisure, Body and Mind, Home and Culture. These periodicals span a wide variety of subjects ranging from business and politics, to fashion, entertainment, health and travel. With over 480 titles in the adult and juvenile collections, there is bound to be something that suits every taste or interest. The Madison Branch, though smaller in size, also carries an impressive selection of magazine titles for its visitors.

Although the library obtains the majority of its magazine subscriptions from Ebsco Subscription Services, the collection also continues to expand through patron donations, as well as weekly trips to area retailers to supplement our collection with special issues and additional titles. So how does one go about getting that chocolate cheesecake recipe you saw in the magazine at the dentist’s office? It’s easy. The library usually carries and circulates at least six months worth of its subscription titles, after which the

magazines are cancelled and given to the Friends of Lakewood Public Library for its book sales. Patrons may place holds on a particular issue of a magazine that they seek by filling out a request form at the circulation desk. Once the issue becomes available the patron is notified by mail. Patrons may also place subscription requests for titles the library does not subscribe to and every effort will be made to fulfill the patron’s request.

So the next time you’re planning a trip, be it cross country or to the pediatrician’s office, need the perfect recipe for your next holiday party, want to learn how to maximize the closet space in your new tiny Lakewood apartment, or catch up on the latest news about your favorite presidential candidate, stop at the library. Pick up a magazine. You won’t regret it. You’re sure to find the information you seek or something to peak your interest within its diverse collection.

Musicians Jack Mizenko And Gary Rice Bring A Hootenanny To Lakewood Library

by Joan Rubenking

Join us as Jack Mizenko and Gary Rice lead their audience in songs from the “hippie” era and beyond on Sunday, October 19th, at 2:00 p.m. in the main library’s auditorium. The “Hippie Hootenanny” is an extension of the Monday evening acoustic jam sessions that have taken place since 2002 at the Lakewood Phoenix coffeehouse. The Lakewood Public Library is happy to give a new forum to these talented musicians. Since it is a hootenanny, the audience is encouraged to sing right along, so please come and participate! This event is free to the public.

Though Jack taught Special Education for the Cleveland Schools for 30 years before retiring in 2006, music has always been part of his life. Born and raised on the west side of Cleveland, Jack still has that first 45 that he begged his parents for at the age of 3 (“Great Balls of Fire” by Jerry Lee Lewis). Since then, he has continued to collect and listen to a wide range of music, and his musical heroes are too numerous to list here, especially since Jack is “afraid I’ll leave out someone I truly love.” Jack has been playing guitar for more than thirty years, and has recently branched out to the mandolin and keyboards. In keeping with his love of music, Jack also works part-time for an arts organization called Roots of American Music.

Beginning in September of 2002, Jack and his friend Mark Ronan started playing and singing in public at the Phoenix on Monday nights. Over the years, these popular acoustic sessions have attracted a number of local musicians, both amateur and professional. Currently, the last Monday of the each month is a “come one, come all” jam session, while other Mondays feature Jack and Mark, along with guest musicians. Gary Rice became one of those regular guests after striking up a conversation with Mark when Gary spotted Mark carrying a guitar down the street. Now, a number of Gary’s talented students and friends have also been “brought into the fold.”

Along with the regular Phoenix date, Jack is a full-time member of the group The Flip Side, joining at the group’s request after a few ‘subbing’ gigs, and with the encouragement of his wife, Donna, and their three daughters. Jack loves playing with The Flip Side because of “the high level of original songwriting, cover performances, harmony singing, and musicianship, but mostly because we have fun!” If you are looking to join the fun, bring your voice and your friends to this Sunday with the Friends.

This event is generously funded by Cuyahoga residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Friends of the Lakewood Public Library.



## Lakewood Hospital News

# Lakewood Hospital Employee Care Fund Helps Employees Care For Each Other

by Anne Kuenzel

Lakewood Hospital established an Employee Care Fund (ECF) in late 2004 to assist its employees facing an urgent, unforeseen financial emergency. Lakewood Hospital employees, physicians and volunteers have raised money for the ECF primarily through the annual Hospital Employees Reaching Out (H.E.R.O.) Campaign. Included in the total raised was a gift of \$10,000 from Lakewood Hospital's Medical Staff. An estimated \$70,000 has been given to 81 Lakewood Hospital employees to prevent them from being evicted from their home, having their utilities shut-off, and for basic items such as food.

The program began from the urging of Fred DeGrandis, then CEO of Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran hospitals. Mr. DeGrandis, now president and CEO of Cleveland Clinic regional hospitals, extols the benefits of having such a program for employees. DeGrandis explains, "As employees in the healthcare field, we are often drawn to help external organizations raise funds to eradicate diseases such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease. I think it's part of our professional calling, and I am pleased that we collaborate with

local agencies to help provide a better quality of life. However, one of the greatest callings I have witnessed is the desire to care for and help each other."

Many of the situations employees have presented when asking for funds do not fall into specific categories. For most applicants, this request is their last hope as other opportunities for support have been exhausted.

#### For example:

- A divorced mother of two young children requested financial assistance with utilities and food. Her ex-husband stopped paying child support and she had already received help from her parents, had exhausted her Paid Time Off, and had received disconnection notices.

- Another employee requested financial assistance with rent and utilities due to loss of income after death of a working parent with whom the employee lived and counted on for financial resources. The employee had received disconnection and eviction notices. Prior to asking for assistance, the employee sought help with a social service agency and church for food.

- Another employee requested financial assistance with utilities due to loss of income after her spouse suffered a disabling work injury. While waiting for Worker's

Compensation benefits she was able to pay her utilities.

The employees have been grateful for the assistance. One employee says, "I donated to the Employee Care Fund never thinking I would need such help. However, my circumstances changed; fate stepped in and the ECF support gave me strength I so desperately needed. My heartfelt thanks for the assistance ... I am determined to be a donor again soon!"

"I am not surprised by the kindness of our employees," says Jack Gustin, president of Lakewood Hospital. "We have the good fortune of being surrounded by compassionate people, who give generously, even when they don't have much to give."

Kristin Broadbent, director of Lakewood Hospital Foundation and ECF coordinator says, "We can each take comfort knowing that because of the ongoing support of employees and physicians, the resources of the Employee Care Fund are available to provide that extra margin of help

sometimes so desperately needed."

"We strive to be the best place to receive care, to practice medicine and to work," says Gustin. "The Employee Care Fund is an important initiative that allows us to be the best all around. I am extremely grateful to all of those who donate to the fund. Thank you for making a vital difference to our valued Lakewood Hospital family."

For more information on giving opportunities at Lakewood Hospital, call 216-529-7009 or visit [lakewoodhospital.org](http://lakewoodhospital.org) and click on "Giving Opportunities."

Lakewood Hospital, a Cleveland Clinic hospital, is a 400-bed acute care hospital that has served the diverse health care needs of the City of Lakewood and Cleveland's Westshore communities since 1907. Offering a wide range of health services and education programs for women, men and children, each year Lakewood Hospital provides high-quality and innovative patient care for more than 130,000 patients. [lakewoodhospital.org](http://lakewoodhospital.org)

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North Ridgeville, Ohio



Lakewood, Ohio



North Olmsted, Ohio

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## Lakewood Senior Health Campus Celebrates National Assisted Living Week

During the week of September 7, 2008, Lakewood Senior Health Campus celebrated National Assisted Living Week. The week was kicked off with a Grandparents' Day Social on Sunday, followed the rest of the week by events for the residents and staff.

**Above: Hat Parade**—Residents and staff paraded down Bunts to Detroit and into the skilled nursing facility to bring cheer to all the long term care

residents, as well as those recuperating from an illness or injury!

**Inset: First Responder Appreciation Party**—On 9/11, residents and staff honored our first responders for putting their lives in danger every day. A small ceremony commenced followed by cake and punch. The residents and staff got a close-up look at the inside of an ambulance and fire truck!

**Join us in celebrating our new Monday/ Wednesday 7PM class location!**  
The newly renovated Horace Mann Elementary School  
1351 W. Clifton Rd. (enter on Webb Ave)

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Lakewood Schools

Lakewood Board Of Education Approved Goals And Objectives

by Rosemary Wagner

Superintendent Dr. David Estrop pleased to share with everyone that the District accomplished all of the Board of Education approved 2007-2008 Goals and Objectives. It was a very successful year for the Lakewood City School District. As one can see, "It's Lakewood's Time!"

**Goal:** Improve student achievement by use of data and technology on a district wide basis in order to achieve an "Excellent" state designation.

**Result:** The District's State Designation improved from Continuous Improvement (the equivalent of a C grade) to Effective (the equivalent of a B grade) at a time when many school districts declined or remained the same in terms of their State Designation, Lakewood improved to an Effective Status.

**Goal:** Improve instruction and student academic achievement includ-

ing, but not limited to, those measured by the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT), Ohio Achievement Tests (OAT) and the Value Added Assessment Program.

**Result:** Increased use of data – we implemented a new electronic student data base (DASL), that was used by District and building improvement teams to produce improved academic results. Increased use of technology – our four new schools provided more and better technology such as the Promethean Boards and expanded computer capacities. Enhanced professional development for staff – we provided more customized professional development. Implemented Year Two of the Ohio Integrated Systems Model (OISM) – this model is designed to improve instruction and student conduct.

**Goal:** Provide quality educational opportunities for all students while staying off the ballot during 2007-08 school years.

**Result:** The District did not seek an operating levy in 2007-08 bringing to 7 years the amount of time since the last operating levy in Lakewood. Implemented an Extended Day Kindergarten Pilot Program at Hayes and Harrison Elementary Schools in the fall of 2007-2008. The program was expanded in the fall of 2008-09 to include Emerson and Horace Mann Elementary Schools. Created the West Shore Arts and Communication Technology Program in cooperation with the Beck Center for the Arts and other partners which opened in the Fall of 2008. Planned and implemented a Family Foreign Language Program within the Continuing Education Program. The program received state and national attention.

**Goal:** Complete the renovation of Emerson Elementary School, Horace Mann Elementary School and the west wing of Lakewood High School in a timely manner and on budget.

**Result:** Completed Phase 1 of the Facilities Master Plan. Garfield Middle School, Harding Middle School, Harrison Elementary School, and Hayes Elementary School were all opened "On time and on Budget". Implemented Phase 2 of the Facilities Master Plan. Emerson Elementary School and Horace Mann Elementary School were both opened "On time and on Budget". Planned and implemented a successful transition for Lakewood High School and the

Lakewood City Academy – during Winter Break of 2007, half of Lakewood High School and the Lakewood City Academy were moved to temporary quarters while renovation of the West half of Lakewood High School began. The renovation of LHS is on schedule.

**Goal:** Continue the District's emphasis on improving student conduct, school climate and school safety.

**Result:** Reviewed, evaluated, and implemented the recommendations of the Middle Schools and High School Student Conduct and School Climate Committees. This work was completed by the Board of Education's Education Committee during the 2007-08 school year. Planned and implemented a "Safe Routes to School Program" for the four new schools opened in the fall of 2007-08 and the two new schools opened in the Fall of 2008-09. We also piloted a "Walking School Bus Program" in cooperation with the Lakewood PTA Council, Lakewood Hospital and the City of Lakewood. Planned and implemented the "Tracks are for Trains" program to educate our families about the dangers of walking on the railroad right-of-way. Established an Elementary Student Conduct and School Climate Committee which met throughout the year and produced a report to the Superintendent in the spring of 2008. The report has been implemented to the extent that the District's budget would permit.

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Lakewood Schools

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## What A Celebration!

by Staff Writer

When the West Shore throws a party, it throws a party! What a Celebration! Reminding everyone that the arts, as well as arts and communication education are not only alive, but thriving on the West Shore. The Lakewood, Bay Village, Rocky River, and Westlake School Districts, along with the Beck Center for the Arts celebrated in fine fashion the evening of September 18th. With student performers scattered throughout the Beck Center, guests got a taste for themselves of the talent on the west side. With several dignitaries in attendance, Cindy Einhouse, CEO and President of the Beck Center for the Arts, welcomed everyone to the Beck. Lakewood and West Shore Superintendent Dr. David Estrop, noted that this Celebration was very special given that school systems across Ohio and the nation have either reduced or eliminated fine arts from their course offerings. Estrop quickly noted that was not the case on the West Shore where the fine arts offerings continue to be strong and, in fact, were being expanded with the new Arts and Communication Technology Program.

Ohio Representatives Michael Skindell and Jennifer Brady formally

recognized the occasion with a proclamation from the Ohio House of Representatives. Both Skindell and Brady commended the West Shore Schools for creating more opportunities for students, as well as creating a new template for programs such as the Arts and Communication Technology Program. Both indicated that they hoped programs such as this could be expanded to other school districts and other subject areas.

Keynote Speaker Robert Conrad, long time Cleveland radio voice and arts advocate, complimented the work of the school systems, the Beck Center and acknowledged the over 40 partnering organizations, including his own WCLV. Mr. Conrad spoke from a personal perspective as one who had been touched by music through education and how that experience had sent him on a long career in radio. Conrad also complimented the work of the West Shore in keeping the arts as a strong part of education.

Scott Spence, Artistic Director for the Beck, followed Mr. Conrad with part of a scene from "Urinetown" which is currently playing at the Beck. Under Mr. Spence direction, the scene was "deconstructed" showing all of the various components from sound, to lighting, to scenery,

to costumes that had to be involved in order for the scene to work. The deconstruction clearly showed the importance of everyone working together and the many opportunities available on stage and behind the curtain.

Mr. Chas Geiger, President of the Lakewood Board of Education, and Mr. Fred Unger, Chairman of the Beck Board of Directors, closed the evening thanking all in attendance and reminding the audience of the importance of partnerships that will create new opportunities for students, as well as keep the arts strong. Mr. Geiger stressed that the partnership among and between school districts, higher education, and the arts and communication organizations will provide students with additional education and employment opportunities in Northeast Ohio. Mr. Unger closed the program stressing the importance of education and the arts community working together to keep both strong. He again thanked all of the partners who had committed to support arts and communication education on the West Shore.

The evening was closed with a bountiful and delicious dessert reception prepared by the Culinary Arts Students from the West Shore Career and Technical School.

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Meg Estes  
Size 22 to Size 6!

Colleen Reiner  
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April Seighman  
Down 65 lbs!

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17008 Madison/216-228-3388  
Artist: Deborah Bredestege

## Pet's General Store

16821 Madison/216-226-0886  
Artist: Josh McLaughlin

## Cuttin' Loose Hair Salon

16621 Madison/216-521-4247  
www.cuttinloose.com  
Cuttin' Loose Fashion Trends Modeled  
Artists: Sandy Millman & Amy Siebold

## Harding Middle School

16600 Hilliard- East Entrance  
Student Art Show

## Storefront

16015 Madison  
Artists: Chris Richards & Shaun Edwards

## Lakewood Hardware

16608 Madison/216-226-8822  
www.lakewoodhardware.com  
Artists: Jim Tigut & Paul White

## Vance Music Studios

16420 Madison/216-227-2886  
www.vancemusicstudios.com  
Live Music by in-house groups  
Artist: Michael Heasley, Rock Shots exhibit  
Melanie Dohoda & Cindy Griffith

## Coin Wash Laundry

16212 Madison/216-226-9274  
Artist: Jennifer Gancaterino & Others.  
Hot Dogs and other snacks!

## Hilliard Square Theatre

16200 Hilliard  
Lobby Tour  
by Friends of Hilliard Square Theatre.  
Artist Jeanette Ho and Susan Fenske,  
Indie Director Johnny Wu's films  
• "A Joker's Card" (18mins)  
A Batman parody fan film  
• Taiko Drummer Live Performance of  
Chimera from the movie "The Rapture" (5mins)  
• "The Lesson" a martial art short film, teaches  
kungfu is not for fighting (5.57mins)

## Beshé

15707 Madison/216-502-8532  
Jewelry, Photography & custom made  
knitwear ensembles.

## Carol Lynn's Salon Plus

15410 Madison/216-226-4730  
Artists: Rob Burdick & Carol Congeni

## The Mars Bar

15314 Madison/216-228-4500  
Various Artists

## Wobblefoot Gallery

1662 Mars/216-226-2971  
www.wobblefoot.com  
Artists: Ray McNiece-Poetry, Singing & Hyjinx  
Hazel Chapman-book signing  
visual artist Neil Jenne and others!

## Carabel Beauty Salon & Store

15309 Madison/216-226-8616  
Ponytail Hair Fashion. Drawing for  
anyone coming in wearing a ponytail.

## Leather Naturally

15303 Madison/216-228-7800  
Artist: Joseph Kaiser

## Initially Yours

15028 Madison/216-228-4478  
Various Artists

## Madison Rose BookStore

13705 Madison/216-226-2665  
www.madisonrosebookstore.com  
Artist & Performer: Jeffrey Allen Smith  
Civil War Reenactor, 1st person portrayal  
4pm

## Manja

13373 Madison/440-915-8002  
Artists: Kevin Binder & Phil Robertson

## Chain Link Addiction

13369 Madison/216-228-1370  
Art by Sean Burns.  
Featured Clothing by Atomic Burnout.

## Turnstyle

13345 Madison/216-226-3266  
Artists: Brandon Brennan & Eartha Goodwin.  
Also, make your own jewelry.  
Tarot Card reading by Ginny.

## Waterbury Coach House

13333 Madison/216-226-9772  
Artist: Michelle Mowery & Marybeth Norton

## Allstate Insurance

13324 Madison/216-221-6263  
Artists: Graceann Kramer &  
Jewelry Designer, Jean Priddy

## bela dubby

13321 Madison/216-221-4479  
www.myspace.com/beladubb  
Artists: Kristen Burns, Liz Adams  
Knitted accessories & Jewelry by  
Suzanne Kohring Reich  
Music: Monarchs (from PA)  
& The Quickening (from Cleveland)  
\$1 off any beer and/or .50¢ off  
any coffee drink.

## Lakewood Public Library

13229 Madison/216-228-7428  
Children's Face Painting  
2-5pm

## Mahall's Twenty Lanes

13200 Madison/216-521-3280  
Music: Minimum Requirements, 7pm  
Kids in costume bowl .50¢ off/game  
all day & night!  
• ArtWalk "Special":  
Grilled Cheese, chips & pop \$4.00  
many other entrees, too!

• ArtWalk After Party Feat. music  
by Morticia's Chair @ 9:30pm

## Connie's Classics

12603 Madison/216-712-7515  
Various Artists

## The Coffee Pot

12415 Madison/216-226-6443  
Artists: Tony Boccoccio of AB plumbing &  
Renee Rothhaas  
Music: Jack Minzenko  
4-6pm

## Omega Cut

11833 Franklin/216-221-9008  
Artist: Pat Zimmerman (pzazart.com)  
Bellydancing by Sirens Hararidance  
5 & 7pm



Lakewood Schools

Class of 2009:

# Lakewood High School National Merit And Commended Scholars

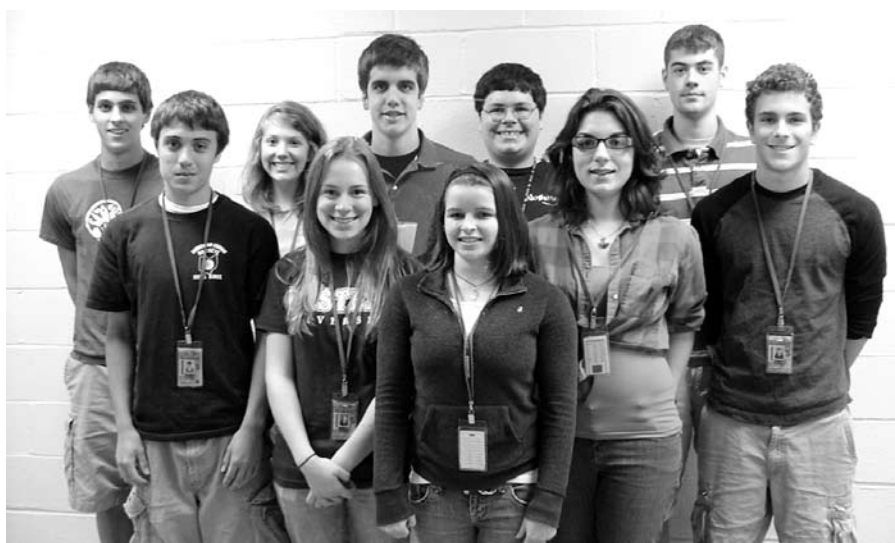
by Rosemary Wagner

The National Merit Scholarship program is an academic competition which students enter by taking the PSAT as high school juniors. More than 1.5 million students in over 21,000 high schools entered the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Competition, with 16,000 top scorers named Semifinalists. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, which represents less than one percent of U. S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. These academically talented high school seniors complete a detailed scholarship application in order to be considered for Finalist standing. They then continue in the competition for approximately 8,200 scholarships to be awarded next spring. Lakewood High School is honored to name six National Merit Semifinalists from the class of '09:

**National Merit Semifinalists:** Thealexa Becker, Matthew Huffman, Peter Malonis, Rebecca McKinsey,

Christopher Murrett, Daniel Pizzo In addition to the 16,000 Semifinalists, 34,000 students who placed among the top five percent of the over 1.5 million who entered the competition are named National Merit Commended Scholars and are recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the Scholarship competition, the students named Commended Scholars have demonstrated outstanding academic potential by their strong performance in this highly competitive program. We hope that this recognition will enhance their educational opportunities and that they will continue to diligently pursue their professional goals. Lakewood High School is proud to name four National Merit Commended Scholars from the class of '09:

**National Merit Commended Scholars:** Nicole Furtado, Benjamin Gallovic, Alec Jokubaitis, Julia Millman. Dr. Wagner, Principal of Lakewood High School, Mr. Lanning,



Lakewood High School National Merit Scholars, Class of 2009. Front Row (from left): Ben Gallovic (Commended Scholar), Rebecca McKinsey (Semifinalist), Nicole Furtado (Commended Scholar), Thealexa Becker (Semifinalist), Daniel Pizzo (Semifinalist). Back Row (from left), Christopher Murrett (Semifinalist), Julia Millman (Commended Scholar), Peter Malonis (Semifinalist), Alec Jokubaitis (Commended Scholar), Matthew Huffman (Semifinalist).

Associate Principal, the House Principals and the entire staff of Lakewood High School extend warmest congratulations to these outstanding students

and their families. The students will be formally recognized by the Board of Education and the Superintendent at a December Meeting of the Board.

# LHS Parade Filled With School Spirit

by Thealexa Becker

In the midst of Lakewood High School's annual Spirit Week, many of LHS' active student organizations and sports teams gathered together to participate in the LHS Spirit Parade.

The Spirit Parade, which is one of the highlighted events of Spirit Week, which culminates in the Homecoming Dance, started in Lakewood Park and marched up to the football stadium at the high school. Afterwards, there was a pep rally and a bonfire to promote school spirit in anticipation of the Homecoming football game against Solon.

The parade traditionally began with the LHS Ranger Marching Band, Rangerettes, and Flag Corp. Also showcased in the parade were the members of this year's Homecoming Court. At the Homecoming football game the following night, Devon Ross and Sara Mooney were announced as King and Queen.

Notable additions to this year's parade line-up were student representatives from Harding, Garfield, and Harrison schools, who pulled up the tail end of the parade.

"The spirit parade is a great example of the community involvement and diversity in Lakewood," said Gregory Sent, the German teacher and advisor of LHS' German Club.

In a lively section of the parade line-up, the foreign language clubs showed their pride by shouting phrases like "Vive La France!" or holding signs in Latin proclaiming "Solon is in great danger". All of the language clubs



LHS Cheerleaders Pep up fellow students in the Lakewood High Stadium



Some members of the LHS AYF leadership group march behind a rather large banner.

hoisted signs with catch phrases or symbols of their respective cultures. Some students even dressed the part with at least two members of German club sporting lederhosen and almost all of the Latin Club participants donning a toga for the occasion.

"There is nothing like walking through Lakewood in a toga," said Dr. Abrahamsen, the Latin teacher and Latin Club advisor.

The sports teams were vibrant as well. The Cross Country team had not only a banner, but several team members took turns riding a tandem. The representatives from H20 had one of the more striking additions to the parade: a larger than life paper Rangerman. Even the crowd was invited to join in the fun as nearly all of the student groups tossed handfuls of candy at expectant onlookers.



School pride at its finest!



Haley McGinty, a 10th grade cheerleader gets ready for the parade.

The parade itself lasted about six and a half minutes and drew a somewhat smaller crowd than last year, although the parade itself seemed filled with just as much energy.



Lakewood Sports

St. Edward Falls To St. Ignatius In Soccer's 'Holy War'

by Todd Shapiro

Soccer is about great rivalries, Argentina vs. England, Manchester United vs. Liverpool, and St. Edward vs. St. Ignatius.

Whenever these Westside all boys' parochial school powers meet in any sport it promises to be memorable and last Tuesday was no exception. St. Ignatius forward Denio Leone received an Alec King throw-in at the top of the penalty box and found the back of the net for the games' only goal with 10:09 remaining as the Wildcats defeated St. Edward 1-0 in front of a standing room only crowd at St. Edward's Coughlin Field.

"This is what it's all about," said Leone. "St. Ignatius vs. St. Edward is the biggest game in Cleveland. To be able to do this in front of our students section and fans is an awesome feeling."

The Eagles and the Wildcats entered the game No 1 and No.3 respectively in the state coaches' poll.

Like a pair of heavyweight fighters trying to feel each other out, both teams played most of the first half near midfield with few scoring opportunities. The Eagles had the best scoring opportunity of the half in the 39th minute when a Karl Helfrich shot appeared to be headed to the goal before Leone deflected it harmlessly across the sideline.

The Eagles had six shots on goals and numerous scoring opportunities in the second half. In the 54th minute forward Jordan Smigel passed to midfielder Adam Mackson whose header from nine yards out was stopped by a diving Joe Kalt.

The Wildcats preserved the shut-out for Kalt when defender Justin Cree stopped another Helfrich shot on the goaline from pointblank range.

"I told my kids not to hang their heads because I know we will have a second chance," said St. Edward coach Tony Dore. "The amount of pressure on the kids from both teams in this game is unfair. I hope they realize they were part of something special tonight."

Dore sees this annual "Holy War" as something bigger than just a soccer match, "Look up at those packed standing tonight. This game helps to unite the city."

That second chance for the Eagles

could come in the OHSAA District tournament. Both St. Edward and St. Ignatius will play in the University Heights district tournament and could meet in the district final.

Before they can look forward to tour-

namment play St. Edward has three games this week. Wednesday Oct. 1 the Eagles will host Toledo St. John. The Titans, who play one of the toughest schedules in Ohio, dropped a 2-0 decision to Sylvia Northview, the No. 2 ranked team in

Division I, last Thursday.

Thursday Oct. 2, the Eagles renew their neighborhood rivalry with Lakewood at Lakewood Stadium and end the week Saturday at home against North Royalton.

Eagles Dominate Bengals

by Todd Shapiro

The last time the St. Edward Eagles lost to Benedictine, Bill Clinton was in the White House and gas was just \$1.00 a gallon.

St. Edward (5-1) combined an overpowering defense, with just enough offense to defeat the Bengals 31-7 in a non-league game last Saturday night at Lakewood Stadium. The win gives the Eagles 11 consecutive wins in the series that dates back to 1957. Benedictine's last win against St. Edward was a 28-13 victory in 1997.

Seemingly every time the Bengals snapped the football, St. Edward defensive linemen David Browne, Matt Newman and Brad Weisenseel were in the Benedictine backfield. The Eagles held Benedictine's offense to zero or negative yard on 22 of its 43 offensive plays.

"We focus on the stopping the run

in practice all week," said St. Edward coach Scott Niedzwiecki. "Defensive coordinator Pat Murphy did a great job of getting our guys ready. We didn't change any of our schemes from last week, we just came out with a greater intensity."

The Eagles defense head Benedictine's star running back Anthony Urbania to just 10 yards on 15 carries.

Benedictine's lone bright spot came with 53 seconds remaining in the game when senior running back Justin Kollie eluded the entire St. Edward defense and ran untouched into the end zone from 80 yards out to put the Bengals on the board.

The Eagles are back on the road this week, traveling to Erie, Pennsylvania to take on Cathedral Prep. The last time the two teams played, St. Edward left the Keystone state with a 13-6 victory in 2003. It will be a tough week for the Ramblers as will play two games in five days. Cathedral Prep also had a

game on Monday against Erie East.

Benedictine (3-3), who plays one of the toughest schedules in Ohio, will find themselves on the road the next three weeks at Youngstown Cardinal Mooney, Walsh Jesuit and Elder before closing out the season at home against Columbus St. Francis DeSales. St. Edward fans will be rooting for the Bengals to give them some second level computer to help the Eagles qualify for the OHSAA playoffs. The Eagles are currently ranked fifth in Division I, Region I. The top eight teams in each region make the playoffs.

A scary moment just before half-time cast a pall on the Eagles victory. Sophomore defensive back Matt Dillow was carted off the field on a stretcher after lying motionless on the Lakewood Stadium turf for nearly 10 minutes. Dillow was taken to Lakewood Hospital where he quickly regained consciousness and had movement in all extremities.

Ranger Cross Country Takes On Canada

by Joseph Ott

On Saturday September 27, 2008 the Lakewood High School Cross Country teams competed at the 44th Annual McQuaid Invitational cross country meet. This meet is held at the scenic glenn in Genesee Valley Park, on the southern outskirts of Rochester New York. Lakewood Cross Country teams have competed here for 21 years. McQuaid, known as one of the largest meets in the country, draws competitors from over 13 different states and Canada. This year saw over 6000 competitors.

The McQuaid course, held mostly in a valley, starts in an open grassy field, and winds up and down hills crossing the open field several times for a length

of 3 miles. The weather forecast called for rain and temperatures in the 60's. It turned out to be mostly sunny and mid to upper 70's.

Lakewood Boys Varsity, returning Champions having won this event last year, raced in the second to last race of the day; Race #23 - Boys Seeded Varsity AAA (Large Schools). Lakewood placed 12th overall with 20 teams competing consisting of 158 runners.

Lakewood Senior Varsity runner Matt Miller was the highest placed Lakewood runner finishing 45th overall with a fast time of 16:19 followed closely by teammate Jay Toole. Miller and Toole were followed by Varsity teammates Pat Joyce, Jacob Ott, Brian Ritschel, Sam DeBaltzo, and Nick Jackosky.

Lakewood Girls Varsity competed in Race #19 - Girls Unseeded Varsity AA-2 (Medium/Large Schools). Senior Varsity runner Hannah Evans put in an amazing performance and placed 14th overall with 188 competitors. Evans was followed by Varsity teammates Melissa Richardson, Kelsey Lenahan, Victoria Lee, Morgan Bulger, Bianca Beltran, Rebecca Hartsel, Sarah Kelly, Nicole Parke, Samantha Cross, Abby Wimbiscus, Emily Pat-souras, and Lydia Rhoads. The girls team placed 5th overall with 21 teams competing.

*Pictured above right: Hannah Evans on her way to a 14th place overall finish*



2008 Strongsville Cross Country Invitational

by Joe Ott

Lakewood High School Cross Country teams competed Saturday September 20, 2008 at the Strongsville Cross Country Invitational. The Strongsville course is a flat course considered fast by most competitors.

Lakewood Boys Varsity runner Pat Joyce lead the Team to a 12th place overall finish with 21 teams competing consisting of over 180

competitors. Joyce was followed by varsity teammates Matt Miller, Jay Toole, Jacob Ott, Sam DeBaltzo, Nick Jackosky, Brian Ritschel, Clay Verga, and Ryan Walsh.

Lakewood Girls Varsity placed 18th overall with 21 teams competing. The girls team was lead by Varsity runner Hannah Evans followed by Bianca Beltran, Lauren Rudin, Victoria Lee, Rebecca Hartsel, Melissa Richardson, and Samantha Cross.



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Pulse Of The City

Musical Bloodlines? In Your Blood Too!

by Gary Rice

A few years ago, I was doing my usual hike through one of our local flea markets with a friend who shares my love of music. As we were talking, I wondered whether he had ever heard of my grandfather, who had been an old-time fiddler. My friend acted as if he had been hit by a thunderbolt, and said that not only had he HEARD of my grandfather, but he had his records as well! Thanks to my friend, I found out many things concerning a grandfather whom I'd never met.

Ironically, when I received the first of my grandfather's records, I discovered that I already knew many of the tunes, even though I had not spent a great deal of time with old-time traditional music. Steaming hot vacuum amplifier tubes and blistering rock and jazz lead guitar licks were more my speed, yet I somehow KNEW those old-timey tunes! Now, both Mom and Dad were modern music lovers. They had collaborated as a songwriting duo in the Swing Era, and Dad was, and is, a superlative jazzman. Neither parent had particularly embraced old-time music, but in some amazing way, I was nonetheless familiar with so many of those songs!

When I left the world of rock, Dad helped me to get started in jazz bands (and thankfully both parents had

been supportive of ALL of my musical interests). Although I played both guitar and electric bass, readers might be surprised to know that drums were my main musical interest at that time, and I filled the drumming chairs with several big bands for awhile. Additionally, my other grandfather had played old-timey fiddle and mandolin, and his wife was a college educated pianist. So I suppose that due to this combined musical bloodline, it is little wonder that I have made music a major part of my life .

I sometimes wonder how my life might have developed without music. The truth is, I cannot imagine not having an instrument close by. To express one's self musically is an extreme satisfaction to me, and, I hope, to you as well. Monday nights at Lakewood's Phoenix Coffee Shop, for example, have provided a great opportunity for local musicians to express their musical aspirations in a hands-on learning laboratory-type environment. Open jam sessions there are normally planned for the last Mondays of each month.

These days, there seems to be a return to acoustic musical roots by young people, along with their having interests in making and doing activities from older times--particularly activities that do not require consumption of

precious natural resources like electricity from fossil fuels. Whether with the increased use of bicycles and acoustic instruments or with the return to hand-made crafts, more and more people seem to be starting to realize the importance of the simple, do-it-yourself life.

As for me, from time to time I continue to be active as a volunteer with the Greater Cleveland inter-tribal community of Native Americans, and in this capacity I have played the pow-wow drum and the sacred cedar flute. In the Native community, the expression of Deity is often the word "Grandfather."

This word is used also, of course, to express reverence for one's ancestors. In my case, I marvel at the musical gifts that I have received from my bloodlines, and I can't help wondering about the duality of usage that native people have for the word "Grandfather." Perhaps this word is not far from being more inclusive than we might imagine. From across the divide of time, I can reach out to my ancestors--my parents, my grandfathers (and grandmothers!) and our spiritual Grandfather as well--and I cannot help but feel that at times we all truly and thankfully touch each other's hearts with the world of music!

All of this, of course, returns to you. How much do you know about your own family? Could you learn anything about them NOW while relatives may still be alive? Did family members play a style of music that perhaps you tried to leave behind as a youth? You may wish to revisit this style with renewed interest.

I emphatically believe that music of the family of humankind interweaves not unlike one of the beautiful blankets from indigenous peoples of the great American Southwest, with colors blending and over-crossing, and not necessarily fitting into those neat categorical store music bins. The

five-note Native American flute that I play, for example, seems to leap out at us from cultures in America, Africa, Europe, the Far East... and other places as well. Our guitar, too, has relatives all around this world that one may study and enjoy.

Truly, today seems to be a beautiful time to begin one's journey in music and heritage. A few minutes with Mr. Internet will soon reveal much to you in terms of information and instruction to serve as your springboard to mixing your music with your family tree! Whether your family's musical heritage runs to Slovenian or Polish polkas, Greek dances, Irish jigs, Lebanese traditional songs, or German waltzes, a beautiful rainbow of sound may well overtake you, should you decide to revisit the songs of your youth.

On your next visit to your family's tree, shake those branches and see what falls out! You might be amazed! Don't be afraid to start your musical journey later in life as well. I've had many friends who have started music lessons in adulthood, and wonder why they hadn't started sooner. Why not pick up an instrument, and help keep time with the pulse of our city?



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Notes From Iraq

# Tigris Valley Companion (With Apologies To Garrison Keillor)

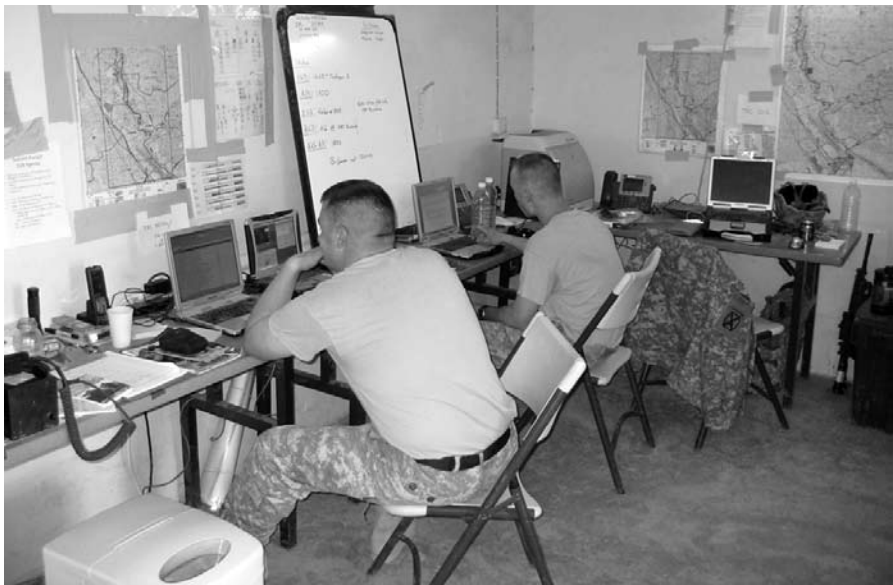
by Eric Smith

*\*Lakewood native Eric Smith has been serving in Iraq since May. Major Smith is stationed at Forward Operating Base McHenry, near Kirkuk.\**

*\*I hear the MRAP coming, and it's driving by my CHU;Another convoy, rolling somewhere new.Heat waves rising, from the desert floor,Sand is blowing,Rockets soaring,Honey could I ask for more?\**

It's been a quiet week here at FOB McHenry, on the edge of the Tigris River Valley. It's somewhere near the peak of summer, that transition from July to August when everything moves slower at midday. The dogs down at the burn pit amble aimlessly about, too hot to rummage for scraps in the swirling cinders. Waves of distorted air shimmer in your vision, and the concrete blast barriers soak up so much heat, they radiate long into the night, too hot to sit or lean on, even when the night air has reached a comfortable temperature. Cool beverages and air conditioned shipping containers are our respite. The mess hall has Gatorade and bottled water, we have a small PX that sells pop and energy drinks, and our Iraqi vendor, Jacob Azraf, has bottled beverages based on combinations of fruit nectar for those willing to step away from their normal drinks. There are no ice dispensers or ice makers, though occasionally we have ice shipped down from one of the larger FOBs if it is needed to support an operation.

Jacob runs a lucrative enterprise from two small buildings near the center of our compound. He sells all those items that hover on the edge of legality in a combat zone: cartons of cigarettes, DVDs of dubious origin, carpets, electronic gadgets, and a plethora of Arab-themed tchotchki. He is also our vendor of choice for anything you can't get through the Army supply system - sixty tons of gravel for a parking area, fireworks for the 4th of July, medical supplies for a local girl who was hit by an IED; there's nothing too big or outlandish for Jacob to get. Jacob has two employees: a tailor and his uncle. The tailor has his sewing machine set up in front of the store and will repair your uniform on the spot. His uncle works as a clerk in one of the stores and mopes about. "I miss my kids." He told me one day. "I haven't seen them since yesterday and I need to work in the store for three more days till I can go home." I



Above: Inside the TOC (Tactical Operations Center).

didn't have a lot of sympathy for him. "I have four more months until I can see mine," I told him.

But a seemingly quiet week here can be deceiving. Iraq is still dangerous and the sense of tension never leaves us. Several nights ago I was in our TOC (Tactical Operations Center - it's our headquarters, made of several shipping containers welded together) when our Intelligence Officer (or "S2"), Captain Bacardi, burst into the room. "I've got a tip on HVI #6, Mahmud Sabah. He's in Riyadh!" An HVI is a High Value Individual, someone we've been targeting and trying to find. Sabah was a suspected weapons trafficker, known for smuggling small arms and explosives through our area. Riyadh is a small village, about ten miles from where we are, in an area patrolled by Delta or "Dagger" Company.

"What's your confidence in the location?" I asked Bacardi. "He's there. No doubt." I called up the Dagger company commander, Captain Andrews, and asked him what he had going on tonight and could he shift a platoon. "Sabah, HVI #6, just surfaced in Riyadh," I told him. There was a pause and I could sense Andrews re-ordering his priorities for this night's mission.

"We were going to go to Riyadh anyway," he answered. "We'll get him first."

"Let me check on the rest of the details," I replied. I asked the Battle Captain sitting next to me, "What do we have out tonight?"

"We have a UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) available," he told me. These radio - ontrolled drones have cameras which transmit to video monitors in the TOC. "I'm trying to line up some CAS (close air sup-

port)," added our Air Force liaison as he worked his computer to see if any planes were flying that could be on standby to support us.

"What's the air status?" I asked. "Air is green," the Battle Captain answered. This meant there were no weather conditions that would hinder flight operations, so if we had to evacuate any casualties by helicopter, we could. Within five minutes, Lieutenant Server, the newest platoon leader in the battalion, and recently assigned to Dagger Company, walked in the room, dressed in full kit (body armor, helmet, etc.)

"Sir, I got a call that you had an HVI for us?" "Are you ready to go?" I asked.

"We can roll within thirty minutes," he answered.

"Roger that, you're our man. Get with the S2 for the most recent location intelligence while we line up your support. Battle Captain, what's our status?" "Sir, we've got UAV up, CAS request pending, air is green."

"Roger."

"I'm good," Server told me five minutes later, as he scooped up a stack of maps rolling out of the printer. I called the Dagger company commander back. "Server just left. The S2 briefed him and he's got updated maps. We've got UAV, green air, and pending CAS. Anything else you need?" "That

should do it," the commander told me. "I'll call back if we need something else."

There are live cameras watching every area of the base. Twenty minutes later, sitting in the TOC, we watched on our monitors as the platoon drove out the gate. It didn't take them long to get to Riyadh and the UAV drone circling overhead gave us a live video feed of their progress as they crept up the narrow streets. We watched as the platoon dismounted their vehicles and circled Sabah's house.

"Target contained," Lieutenant Server reported over the radio. A few minutes later, we saw someone come out of the house and walk toward the American Soldiers. We all leaned forward in our chairs, straining to see through the grainy picture. This could be Sabah, a suicide bomber, or an innocent neighbor wondering why a bunch of Americans had just surrounded his house in the middle of the night. This was probably the most dangerous part of the operation, when things could go very bad very quickly.

"Super Bowl," Server called over the radio, meaning the target had been captured. I leaned back in my chair, relieved. Everything had worked out, this time.

"Call the detention cell," I told the Battle Captain. "Let them know we have a customer inbound. And tell Dagger Company "good work"."

And that's all the news from FOB McHenry, where the men shave their heads, the women are armed, and all the children are at the other end of a webcam.

\*Major Eric Smith is serving in Iraq with the 10th Mountain Division. The division's home base is Ft. Drum in Watertown, New York where Major Smith lives with his wife Dina, three year old twins Kirsten and Skyler, and eight month old son Neil. The son of Pam and Tom Smith of Lakewood, Major Smith graduated from Lakewood High School in 1990 and was commissioned into the US Army after graduation from Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA.\*

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# Lakewood Business News

## A Healthy Partnership: Lakewood Hospital's Impact On Our Community

by Jennifer Raynor

Founded in 1907, Lakewood Hospital is a 400-bed acute care, community-oriented hospital located on Detroit Ave in the heart of Lakewood's Main Street. A member of the Cleveland Clinic health system and leader in Northeastern Ohio's healthcare com-

munity, Lakewood Hospital provides high quality and innovative patient care for more than 130,000 patients each year, including a large percentage of Lakewood residents. "What you may be surprised to learn is that Lakewood Hospital is also an important driver of economic vitality in the City of Lakewood," states Jay

Foran, President of LakewoodAlive. "With more than 1,300 employees and many more visitors, Lakewood Hospital is the city's largest employer and contributes significantly to the economics of our city." Lakewood Hospital also has a rich history of community involvement and support, dating back to its incep-

tion in the early twentieth century. "The hospital is committed to continuing this tradition and providing its resources for not only treating illnesses and injuries, but also offering educational wellness programs, public health screenings and other community programs," says Jack Gustin, President of Lakewood Hospital. Mary Anne Crampton, Executive Director of Main Street Lakewood, adds that Lakewood Hospital, "has offered continued advocacy and support for programs that have benefited Lakewood businesses and residents, including recent sponsorships of Lakewood Walks Main Street and Light Up Lakewood."

LakewoodAlive, a citizen's community development and advocacy group, will focus on the hospital in its Fall Forum, "A Healthy Partnership: Lakewood Hospital's Impact on Our Community." The forum will specifically address the history, importance and economic impact of Lakewood Hospital in Lakewood; healthcare trends, especially those impacting community hospitals; and the Cleveland Clinic's lease agreement with the City of Lakewood. Panelists for event include Fred DeGrandis, President and CEO, Cleveland Clinic Regional Hospitals; Mayor Edward FitzGerald, City of Lakewood; Jack Gustin, President, Lakewood Hospital; Jim Robey, Vice President of Research, Team NEO; and Bill Ryan, CEO, The Center for Health Affairs.

According to Foran, "This forum is a great opportunity to hear from an expert panel of speakers about health care - a topic that is of huge importance today - as well as learn more about an institution that significantly impacts our city." The forum will be held on Wednesday, October 8 at 7 pm at Harding Middle School, 16601 Madison Ave., Lakewood. The forum is free and advance registration is not required. LakewoodAlive is a non-partisan citizen group that informs and engages our community about issues that impact economic development and our quality of life. For more information, visit [www.lakewoodalive.com](http://www.lakewoodalive.com).

## Simply Esthetics Petite Spa Coming Soon!

by Staff Writer

Entrepreneur Sarah Russell-Aerni is pleased to announce the grand opening of her petite spa, Simply Esthetics, at 18401 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood's western corner on October 1, 2008. After working in various locations in and around the Cleveland area, Russell-Aerni opened the initial Simply Esthetics on the near West side of Cleve-

land in April 2007. Following a very successful year at that location she felt the need to expand and was thrilled to find what will be her current home at the corner of Maile, on the lot adjoining the popular India Garden Restaurant. Born and raised in Lakewood she is a 1996 Lakewood High School graduate, her daughter is a student at Lakewood Catholic Academy and her mother Charlotte Root now retired,

was employed with Lakewood City Hall under Judge Carol for several years. Because her husband is a Firefighter for the City of Cleveland she and her family now live on Cleveland's near west side. Simply Esthetics Petite Spa offers manicures, pedicures, facials, skin resurfacing, waxing services, mineral makeup, message services and is also equipped to entertain bridal, spa and bachelorette parties. To ensure the highest quality results, Simply Esthetics retails and utilizes OPI, Tend Skin, Danne M King Skin Care, Youngblood Mineral Makeup, Creative Nail and Blissful Bath body products.

Russell-Aerni is committed to offering superior services in a relaxing, soothing environment. She is licenced by the Ohio State Board of Cosmetology for manicuring, esthetics and instructing esthetics. She brings over 9 years of experience to the business. After completing a three part advanced program she is now registered with Danne M King as a Danne Dermal Technician. Sarah has attended the Las Vegas International Esthetics Convention and participated in courses with both the famed Dr. Mark Lees and skin guru Lydia Sarfati. She also teaches advanced esthetics courses local licenced professionals.

For a full listing of services, updated monthly specials and convenient online appointment schedule, or to sign up for the newsletter, please visit: [www.simplyesthetics.com](http://www.simplyesthetics.com) You can also stop in or call 216-244-8087 to make your appointment. Mention this article form the Lakewood Observer and receive \$5 off a treatment.

## Westside Yoga Studio Offers Strengthening, Empowerment, Inspiration & Healing

by Evin Bodell

Previously Heaven & Earth Yoga, Westside Yoga Studio is set to open its doors with a Studio opening celebration on Friday Oct 10th from 6-9 PM. Please save the date as we are opening the doors to the community for all to attend and share in the joy and festivities. Come and see this lovely renovated space, meet the wonderful yoga instructors and find out the details for the new class schedule. Plan for a fun enjoyable evening of socializing and munching on savory vegetarian treats. Our new home is located at 17100 Detroit Ave corner of Bonnieview, across from Jonny Maloy's Gepetto's.

Renovations are currently underway to make this studio a warm, friendly and relaxing home away from home for everyone. A separate lounge area is being created to offer a soft, quiet place for you to relax your body and mind, read,

sit quietly, chat with friends, meditate or just have a nice cup of hot tea. We intend to offer all classical yoga styles to appeal to every type of student from beginner to advanced practitioner. Styles of yoga being offered are Juicy Power Vinyasa Flow, Moderate Vinyasa Flow, Anusara Inspired Levels 1&2 "Universal Principles of Alignment" in a Vinyasa Style Format & Asthanga and Sivananda Yoga with a Twist of Bikram. We also intend to offer specialty classes for The Stiff, Sore Athlete; a perfect cross-training stretch class for Runners, Cyclists, Triathletes etc. Therapeutic Yoga Classes and Yoga Therapy in private instruction will also be an emphasis for healing bodies with limitations from chronic or acute disease, injury and pain. Lastly, we will be offering Tibetan Buddhist teachings and meditation classes and workshops in the technique of Shamatha/Vipashyana, which is Mindfulness/Awareness Meditation.



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# Lakewood Arts & Entertainment

## Lakewood Artwalk Returns To Madison Ave

by Staff Writer

Artists and art lovers will fill the sidewalks and businesses of Madison Avenue on Saturday, October 11th for the third Madison Avenue Lakewood ArtWalk. This is an extraordinary event. The the City of Lakewood has marked October as Arts and Humanities Month as part of the National initiative. ARTober is here to stay in Lakewood!

The Lakewood ArtWalk was designed to increase exposure for participating local artists, organizations and area businesses, as well as further establish Madison Avenue as a vibrant and evolving neighborhood with a meaningful connection to arts and culture. The ArtWalk stretches from Ample Duds (17008 Madison) to the Coffee Pot Restaurant(12415 Madison) with over 30 Madison businesses participating. Off the beaten track and part of the ArtWalk are the Hilliard Theatre (16200 Hilliard) and Omega Cuts (11833 Franklin).

The Art Walk is a collaborative effort between Madison Avenue businesses and LIA (Lakewood is Art) with the support of the Lakewood Observer, MAMA (Madison Avenue Merchants Association) and Cox Cable. Committee Members from LIA and Madison Avenue businesses have worked together to give the community another opportunity to gain exposure to the various art forms that are abundant in our area. Vance Music Studios Owner, Chris Vance, and Wobblefoot Owner, Tubal Cogar who are Madison Avenue business owners along with Ruth Koenigsmark, Chris Roberts, Phil Florian, Rhonda Loje and Barbara Michel of LIA volunteered their time to work closely with Madison Avenue business owners in creating enthusiasm for the Show. Businesses were encouraged to find their own artists. Additionally, Lakewood is Art volunteers worked with business owners and artists placing additional artists of all kinds.

“This Artwalk is made up of a wide variety of people - artists, performers, business owners and art enthusiasts. Yet everyone involved has contributions that are very creative,” says Vance Music Studios Owner, Chris Vance. “The whole thing is driven by a kind of grassroots, slightly unhinged energy that a handful of volunteers keep organized. Then, it all comes together in an intense burst of activity, right up to the last moment.”

Traditional galleries, like Wobblefoot Gallery and bela dubby will host a variety of visual artists and performance artists. Wobblefoot will host two poets, Hazel Chapman and Ray McNiece. Chapman will be on hand all evening to sign her book “The World as I See It” a collection of new poems. And internationally performing and leading poet, Ray McNiece, will provide “poetry, singing and hyjinx.” Starting at 8p.m. bela dubby will finish off a culturally fulfilling evening with live, original music being performed late into the evening.

ArtWalk attendees will have another opportunity to experience the architecturally significant neo-classic styled Hilliard Theater, as the Friends of Hilliard Theater and a variety of artists create an event to showcase this hidden treasure. Movie buffs will also have a chance to see three of indie director Johnny Wu’s films: “A Joker’s Card” (18mins) a Batman parody fan film with some wire-work, martial art and comedy; Taiko Drummer live performance of song Chimera from the movie “The

Rapture” (5mins) and “The Lesson”, a martial art short film, teaches kung fu is not for fighting(5.57mins).

There will be musical performances at Vance Music Studios, Coffee Pot Restaurant, Pet’s General Store, Mahall’s Twenty Lanes, and bela dubby that will host anything from folk to jazz to blues to rock. A mixed bag of talented musical artists! Additionally, Sirens Hararidance will perform at 5pm and 7pm at Omega Cuts(11833 Franklin) . “Lakewood ArtWalks are one great way of getting the business owners working

together towards something positive. We just need to continue working to come up with more and more creative ideas to show-off Madison Avenue” says Terrilynn Amos, owner of Turnstyle. You can pick up your Artwalk Map for a full list of events at any of the participating businesses which will be listed on the Lakewood is Art website([www.lakewoodisart.com](http://www.lakewoodisart.com) or [myspace.com/lakewoodisart](http://myspace.com/lakewoodisart)) by October 1—or pick up the September 30th edition of the Lakewood Observer to find the full Artwalk map!

## Halloween Is Going To The Dogs

by Christine Gordillo

Grab your best canine costumes, dig out your coolest doggie duds and kick off the Halloween season with Lakewood’s first-ever Spooky Pooch Parade on Oct. 18.

Beloved dogs of all shapes and sizes are expected to strut their stuff down Detroit Avenue. Owners and children are encouraged to come in costume, too. Make it a family affair.

“This hilarious new event will bring all of Lakewood together to celebrate Halloween,” said parade co-founder Rhonda Loje. “Come strut in costume through our great walkable city. It will be great fun for dogs and kids,” she said.

The first 200 registered participants will receive a goody bag filled with both doggie treats and toys. Registration check-in begins at 1 p.m. at the St. Charles Green (behind the parking garage on Belle Ave.) with the pooch parade set to step off at 2 p.m. The parade route marches down Detroit to the Lakewood Public Library.

More fun follows the parade as participants proceed over to the Arthur Avenue Extension (next to Discount Drug Mart) where celebrity judges, including news anchor Denise Dufala, will choose costume winners for both dogs and kids. Costume categories include most creative, most original, and best float. A raffle will also be held with a grand prize of one year’s worth of dog food courtesy of Pet’s General Store on Madison Avenue and two handmade dog houses from Lakewood Hardware. Vendors and non-profits will have booths providing dog-related information, services and merchandise. Activities for the kids and a North Coast Dogs’ obedience demonstration will keep things rolling.

Registration costs \$10 per dog, \$15 the day of the parade. Pre-register online at [www.mainstreetlakewood.org](http://www.mainstreetlakewood.org). Registration forms can also be downloaded or found at the library.

Now a few rules: All dogs must be on a non-retractable leash at all times; rabies and vaccinations must be current; all dogs must wear I.D. tags; no dogs in heat and no aggressive dogs; no



phot by Rhonda Loje

The Baker, Davis and Baker families

puppies under 4 months old or without vaccinations. Finally, be prepared to pick up the poop! And have fun!

Proceeds from the parade will benefit the Lakewood Animal Shelter, the Lakewood Dog Park and parade organizer Main Street Lakewood.

“Lakewood loves animals and I

know that we can have Halloween fun and also help support our own Animal Shelter and Dog Park at the same time,” said Loje, who suggests checking out [www.hauntedogs.org/howloween.html](http://www.hauntedogs.org/howloween.html) for costume suggestions.

So mark it down, Oct. 18. It’s sure to be a howlin’ good time.



LAKEWOOD SPOOKY POOCH PARADE  
REGISTRATION FORM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2008  
STEP-OFF AT 2:00 P.M.

CHECK-IN STARTS AT 1P.M. AT ST.CHARLES GREEN  
(behind parking garage located at 1360 Belle Avenue)  
ALL CHECK-INS MUST BE COMPLETE BY 1:45P.M. TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARADE

PARADE RULES

ALL DOGS MUST REMAIN LEASHED ON A NON-RETRACTABLE LEASH. RABIES AND VACCINATIONS MUST BE CURRENT, ALL DOGS MUST WEAR I.D. TAGS AT ALL TIMES, NO DOGS IN HEAT, NO AGGRESSIVE DOGS, COSTUMES MUST BE SAFE AND COMFORTABLE FOR DOGS, NO PUPPIES UNDER 4 MONTHS OLD OR W/O VACCINATIONS. PLEASE BE PREPARED TO PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG. HAVE FUN!

DOG INFORMATION (ONE DOG PER FORM)

DOG'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DOG BREED \_\_\_\_\_ DOG AGE \_\_\_\_\_ MALE \_\_\_\_\_ FEMALE \_\_\_\_\_  
COMPETITION CATEGORIES: INDIVIDUAL \_\_\_\_\_ DOG W/ADULT(S) \_\_\_\_\_ DOG W/CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_  
NON-MOTORIZED FLOAT \_\_\_\_\_ COSTUME DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

HUMAN INFORMATION:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
OWNER \_\_\_\_\_ HANDLER \_\_\_\_\_

WAIVER AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK:

For good and valuable consideration, including permission to participate in the Spooky Pooch Parade and related activities I, for myself, my successors, heirs, assigns, executors, administrators, spouse, my dog(s) and next of kin state as follows: 1. I have read this document, understand that I give up substantial rights and assume all risks by signing it, and sign voluntarily. 2. I acknowledge that I fully understand that my participation may involve risk of serious injury or death, including economic losses, which may result not only from my own action, in-actions, or negligence, but also from the actions, in-actions, or negligence of others, and/or their animals, the condition of the street/sidewalks, weather. 3. I assume any and all risk of property damages and bodily injuries to myself and my dog(s), including medical or hospital bills, permanent of partial disability, death caused by or arising from my participation in the above event or activity. 4. I covenant not to sue or present any claim for personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death against Main Street Lakewood, the City of Lakewood, the Spooky Pooch Parade, other sponsors and their officers, employees, volunteers, and agents for damages attributable to or arising from my participation in the above event or activity; 5. I release waive, discharge, and relinquish the Spooky Pooch Parade, Main Street Lakewood and the City of Lakewood and their officers, employees, volunteers, and agents from any liability, loss, damage, claim, demand, or cause of action against them arising from or attributable to my participation in the above event or activity, whether same shall arise by their negligence or otherwise; 6. I agree that all photographs, pictures, slides, movies or videos of me and/or my dog(s) may be taken in connection with my participation in the above event or activity without compensation, and consent to their use. 7. I warrant that my dog(s) are in good health, as per my veterinarian, that rabies and vaccinations are current, that my dog(s) are not in heat, are not aggressive, and are older than 4 months. Parent/guardian must sign below, if participant is under 18.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 DOG PARADE PRE-REGISTRATION DONATION. NO CHARGE FOR HUMANS TO WALK WITH YOUR DOG!  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 V.I.P. (VERY IMPORTANT POOCH) INCLUDES T-SHIRT & PLACEMENT NEAR THE FRONT OF THE PARADE  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 each SPOOKY POOCH PARADE T-SHIRTS Youth: S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ Adult: S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ 2XL \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL AMOUNT SHIRTS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ ADDITIONAL GIFT TO THE LAKEWOOD ANIMAL SHELTER AND DOG PARK \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ TOTAL\* \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to LCPI and mail to:  
SPOOKY POOCH PARADE, 18159 CLIFTON ROAD LAKEWOOD, OHIO 44107

\$15 REGISTRATION FEE THE DAY OF THE EVENT. ALL CHECK-INS MUST BE COMPLETE BY 1:45P.M. TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARADE.

\*Lakewood Community Progress Inc. (LCPI) is a 501-c (3) tax exempt organization that facilitates economic development in the inner-ring suburb of Lakewood, Ohio. Main Street Lakewood, a program of LCPI, is dedicated to the revitalization of Lakewood's historic downtown district. Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. [www.mainstreetlakewood.org](http://www.mainstreetlakewood.org)

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# Lakewood Arts & Entertainment

## Journey Back In Time With The Beck Center Part 3:

# Gaining Ground

by Kelly Kutler

As Will Rogers said, "Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." These words might have been the motto for the individuals who helped build today's Beck Center. Thanks to the indomitable spirits of those who refused to accept the status quo, a once struggling little theater evolved into the thriving cultural arts center that now inhabits 17801 Detroit Avenue. "We didn't see ourselves as pioneers back then," says actress, Helen Corns. "It was a labor of love. When you believe in something as much as we believed in the theater, you go above and beyond what's expected of you."

In 1938, the Lakewood Little Theatre found their first permanent home when they rented the former Lucier Movie Theater. After eight years of putting on shows wherever they could find space, the players were thrilled to take up residence on the West End of Detroit Avenue. Within five years, however, their leased home was in danger of being sold out from under them. Displaying their signature courage, members of the Men's and Women's Boards leapt into action. "These wonderful people actually took out second mortgages on their own homes and signed personal notes so that we could get a land contract on the property," says Lee Mackey, actress and wife of the late, Karl Mackey. "They weren't rich by any means, but their dedication to the Theatre was so remarkable that they were willing to take the risk."

By 1947, the group had raised the funds to take out a \$36,859 mortgage and obtain a title to the property. In just ten years, the Lakewood Little Theatre paid this mortgage off without the help of a single grant or public funds. Already renowned for this unique ability to subsist solely on subscriptions and box office receipts, the group began dreaming of transforming the Theatre into a comprehensive cultural arts center with a significant educational component. Having achieved success with the Children's Theater and adult classes in drama and speech, the group aspired to continue moving beyond the theater into community education. In 1958, they formed the Lakewood Little Theatre Fine Arts Foundation to pursue their long-term vision. "We were extremely well managed," says Mackey. "Our volunteers were phenomenal people from all professions, who made sure we were financially sound and independent."

In 1963, growth continued as the Theatre purchased 28,000 square feet of parking lot space for \$100,000. The resurfaced lot brought the entire estimated value of the property to \$250,000. For several years, expansion came in small steps as the Theatre gradually acquired surrounding storefronts, lots, and several apartments above the building. The addition of a rehearsal hall and classroom was followed by new central



air conditioning and heating systems. An extensive 1969 remodeling project improved audience seating and increased space for the growing Children's Theater and scenery work.

Then in April 1974, the future of the Lakewood Little Theatre was forever changed when a wealthy retiree entered the offices of then Mayor Robert Lawther. "Kenneth Beck came in one day to discuss leaving one million dollars to the City of Lakewood to build an art museum," says Lawther. "He said he was a retired millionaire and at first I wasn't sure whether he was serious. But when I was finally convinced he meant business, I put him in touch with Karl Mackey to discuss financing the Little Theatre's expansion."

An accomplished painter, Beck made his fortune designing signage for some of the world's leading manufacturers. After retiring during World War II, Beck often traveled the world studying and collecting art. Artistic and Managing Director, Karl Mackey talked to Beck several times before he agreed to support the Theatre's plans to build a multi-cultural arts center. "In the end Mr. Beck was very impressed with the way we did business," says Lee Mackey. "He believed in doing everything on his own and respected that the Little Theatre operated the same way."

Kenneth C. Beck's first gift to the Little Theatre was \$300,000. He later donated an additional \$300,000, with the condition that the community match the amount. Beck's generosity inspired the Little Theatre to launch an aggressive fundraising campaign. Before approaching the public, the group raised over \$100,000 from their own members. Next, they set out to request support from the public for the first time in Lakewood Little The-

atre history. Their ambitious goal was to raise 1.5 million dollars. "Mr. Beck's donation started the engine," says Mackey. "Fortunately, we had a professional fundraiser showing us how to raise the rest of it."

While some members made phone calls and paid visits to potential donors, others used their dramatic skills. Actresses Helen Corns and Valerie London dubbed themselves "The Beck and Call Girls" and staged mini-shows all over town. "We did a scene from Romeo and Juliet, impressions of Judy Garland," says Corns. "We would go wherever we could and raise \$75 here and there. Unfortunately, Karl Mackey made us change our name because it was a little too racy!" Early morning breakfasts for local business people were held on the Little Theatre stage to coach volunteers on fundraising tactics. "It was wild and hectic and wonderful," says Lee Mackey. "Everyone pitched in."

Two years and ten days after Beck announced his initial pledge, the Little Theatre had raised enough money to break ground for the new center. In December 1975, youth from the Children's Theater were given miniature shovels and surrounded Beck as he lifted the first scoop of earth. "We were dressed in our winter coats with hard hats on our heads," says Bing Staley, who attended the event as a child. "The adults drank champagne served from wheelbarrows and they let us keep our shovels as souvenirs."

Cleveland architect, Fred Toguchi, designed the plans for the complex. Beck made regular visits to the site, wearing the hard hat that Karl Mackey had made for him. But not everything went as expected. "Our original plans for an orchestra pit and basement had to be dropped because we found

that there was once a lake underneath that area," says Board Member, Bruce Wacker. "Controlling the drainage problem would've cost us another \$150,000." Karl Mackey had to fight with the utility companies to install gas heating instead of the prohibitively expensive electric. And sudden increases in construction costs made other modifications necessary.

Ultimately, no obstacle was too big for the Little Theatre to overcome. Construction was completed in nine months and three weeks. The new complex boasted a 500 seat theater, art museum, galleria, skylights, and indoor gardens. The main theater was equipped with a \$62,000 computerized light board, an innovative trap door system, and an orchestra area behind the stage. "We were the first theater in Greater Cleveland to have a state of the art computerized light board," says Lighting Engineer, Andrew Kosiorek.

Perhaps most exciting were the additional spaces that would soon be filled with students of all ages, from every arts discipline. The former inner lobby was transformed into silversmith classrooms and the former lounge redesigned to accommodate classes in the visual arts. A spacious skylight studio was ready for instructor, Lynda Sackett, to welcome dance students. And rooms in the old building were set aside for the Children's and Teen's Theaters. Classrooms for ceramics, sculpture, photography, adult drama, music, and crafts were also set and ready to go.

The Kenneth C. Beck Center for the Cultural Arts formally opened in October 1976, with a festive black tie celebration. Five hundred guests enjoyed a gourmet supper, followed by a lavish performance of Maxwell Anderson's Mary Queen of Scotland. "We spent all day getting ready," says Lee Mackey. "Karl was literally laying the bricks in one of the gardens that afternoon. Then I had to get into costume and make-up and perform in the show." Cast member, Helen Corns, recalls the euphoric atmosphere. "The curtain was delayed going up," says Corns. "But everyone was having such a good time, they didn't even notice."

At 80 years old, Kenneth Beck was known for saying that his connection to the Theatre had given him a new lease on life. He was often quoted as saying that he hoped to stand in front of the finished product and say "well, I helped a little bit." Too shy to deliver a speech on opening night, Beck watched from the audience as Board President, Howard Egert, spoke for him. Through Egert, Beck said that it was "the happiest day of his life." The elated audience gave him a standing ovation.

To continue following the Beck Center's story, keep reading the Lakewood Observer! To learn more about the Beck Center's current theater season and arts education classes, call 216-521-2540 or visit [www.beckcenter.org](http://www.beckcenter.org).

**Wanted:** looking for volunteers to join the Women's Board of Beck Center for the Arts. We are a support group for Beck Center. For further information please contact Cynthia Fisher at 440-779-6070, or E-mail her at [rbfcay@aol.com](mailto:rbfcay@aol.com).

The Women's Board is having a Card Party on Tuesday, October 28th, at noon. Tickets are \$12.00, which includes a box lunch. There will be raffles, a bake sale, and a silent auction. And of course, an afternoon of just relaxing and playing cards, or any other game you bring along. This would be a great time to learn about Beck Center, and the Women's Board, and how you can become a part of a Cleveland institution.



Conservation Corner

Making The Best Of The Fall

by Heather Ramsey

Though many of us probably wish it were otherwise, summer has ended and it is now officially autumn. Though the warmth may yet linger awhile, before we know it, the leaves will be falling, and, if you expend a tiny amount of effort, those leaves will provide a useful addition to your garden: leaf mold. Despite the unpleasant name, leaf mold is just the name for the fibrous organic soil conditioner created as leaves break down. Since trees have roots that extend deep into the soil, they are able to absorb useful minerals that other plants cannot. Some of these minerals end up in the tree's leaves and allow those leaves to break down into a useful product.

Leaf mold has a multitude of potential benefits, including improving the structure of soil and making conditions ideal for beneficial soil organisms. It betters the structure of any type of soil, whether helping aerate heavy clay soils, preventing sandy soils from drying out too quickly, or just soaking up rain and preventing evaporation. It is a renewable resource, unlike peat, which is often used for the same purposes, and it is free, unlike chemical fertilizers and soil additives. Leaf mold can retain up to 500 times its weight in water, so it is very useful in keeping your plants moist during times of drought. It helps plants get the nutrients they need by bringing down soil density to allow the roots to penetrate deeper into the ground where these nutrients lie. It also helps repress weed growth, is useful as a component of potting soil mixes, and can be used as a winter cover to protect new seeds and the garden bed from harsh winter weather extremes. If your lawn needs the benefits more than your garden (or you don't have a garden), you can also just use a mulching mower to shred the leaves where they fall and leave them to decompose directly on the lawn.

Making leaf mold is simple: collect leaves; allow them to decay. It does take a lot of leaves to produce a substantial amount of leaf mold, but your neighbors probably wouldn't mind you taking some off their hands if you want extra, especially if you'll collect them yourself. Better you put them to good use than have the city pay someone to collect them and use them elsewhere! Do be wary, however, of leaves from lawns that have been sprayed recently with chemical pesticides or herbicides and leaves that have been near the street, as these may have collected fuel and oil residues that may harm your garden. Some trees' leaves are less suitable for making leaf mold than others, like black walnut leaves, which may be toxic to some of your plants, but the majority are acceptable. Leaves take a long time to decompose, between 1 and 2 years, but considering the amount of work involved (very little!) and the amount some people pay to purchase what you can get for free, it's worth it. And, if you exert a little effort, you can

speed the process so that you might even have something usable by the next growing season.

The simplest method is to collect the leaves, place them in a pile somewhere inconspicuous, and leave for two years. However, you will be better off if you make some sort of cage-like container for them, so they don't blow away. An alternative to building or purchasing a cage is to put the leaves in a plastic garbage bag (or multiple bags) and poke a few small holes in the bag to

allow air and water to pass through. To speed along the process in either case, try chopping/shredding the leaves with a lawnmower. The smaller the pieces, the faster the decomposition will be. Allowing your pile to be in contact with the ground may help speed the process, as soil organisms already in your soil may find their way up into the pile to help it decompose. Also, make sure that the leaves are moist (but not soaking wet). Another possible way to speed up the process is to include

a small amount of grass clippings or green weeds to add nitrogen to the pile and turn the pile every few weeks. If you have chosen to make a pile rather than using bags, cover the pile with a plastic sheet to keep in warmth and keep moisture in and out. This will also keep the leaves from blowing away, provided you sufficiently weigh down the tarp. Thus, with a little bit of work and a fair amount of patience, you can have a free soil improvement for your lawn or garden.

Arts & Entertainment

Original Cast Members Convene In Urinetown At Beck

by Susan Fenske

Beck Center for the Arts has reunited the original cast and creative team from the very memorable production three years ago of *Urinetown...The Musical*. This encore presentation is running from now thru October 12.

In 2002, *Urinetown...The Musical* won three Tony Awards including best original score and best book of a musical. It is a satirical comedy with a slightly muddled story line. The play is unusual because there are small parodies of other well-known Broadway shows incorporated into the story. When you go see it, play a little game with yourself and see if you can find references to *West Side Story*, *Les Misérables*, *Annie* and others.

Act one opens with returning actor Matthew Wright reprising his role as Officer Lockbox. He comes to the edge of the stage to address the audience and while singing "Too Much Exposition" he fills you in on the situation at hand. A water shortage has made private bathrooms obsolete, all peeing is done in public toilets where the masses have to pay to tap their kidney. Wright is immersed in his role and I couldn't help but think of his performance as a cross between the physical

comedy of old school Steve Martin and the inept lawman of Mayberry, Barney Fife. Wright is fantastic throughout the show and anytime you see him walk onto the stage, keep your eye on him because he is golden.

He goes on to explain, with some help from another alumnus reprising her role, Betsy Kahl as Little Sally, the ultimate consequence tinkling in public could have...a trip to the fictional place where violators go but never return, Urinetown.

The supporting cast (most of whom are playing dual roles) gathers round the most horrendous pit stop in town owned by Urine Good Company. The shrewd operator Penelope Pennywise played by a returning Lenne Jacobs-Snively makes her presence known as she serenades the poor who

are waiting to whiz. In the whimsical reminder "It's a Privilege To Pee" she hits notes so high they could literally crack the porcelain.

A revolution is inevitable, the action on stage is sometimes a little chaotic and the plot is absurd, but the music and enthusiastic performances will cure any ills. The stage design is inventive and minimal, the sound is crisp and clear and the band is spot-on.

So don't try and hold it, or your chances to see this reunited cast will be flushed down the drain, call 216-521-2540 to reserve tickets. Beck Center for the Arts is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. There is free on-site parking and there is no charge for using the facilities.

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