

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Lakewood's Only Newspaper And Finest Website – An Official Google News Source

Volume 2, Issue 1, January 10, 2006

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Lakewood Is Ohio's Newest Main Street

It was announced at a Columbus ceremony on December 8, 2005, that Lakewood has officially been accepted into the Ohio Main Street Program. This is great news for the City as it will provide the tools necessary to increase investment in the downtown commercial district, protect and strengthen the tax base, attract new businesses to the community, create a distinct image for downtown and improve the overall appearance of the buildings and streetscape.

Lakewood Community Progress, Incorporated (LCPI) is an independent, private, non-profit corporation with a Board of Directors with representatives from downtown businesses, residents, the City administration and the Chamber of Commerce. LCPI is the organization that will manage the Main Street Program. LCPI was created to encourage and support quality planning, economic development,

rehabilitation and restoration by fostering public and private partnerships and promoting and celebrating the unique assets of downtown Lakewood.

The process to become a Main Street community began in March of this year with the Downtown Assessment Resource Team (D.A.R.T.) visit held at the Beck Center Armory. The event drew the largest crowd ever for a DART. Based on this tremendous community response, plans were formalized to move forward with the Ohio Main Street Program application. The application process is competitive and Lakewood is one of only a few communities to be accepted upon the first application. Other communities accepted into the program this year are Millersburg and Port Clinton.

As a result of becoming an official Main Street community, LCPI will receive intensive training and technical support needed to enhance downtown



From left to right are Tim Laskey, Kathy Berkshire, Jennifer Hooper, Tom Jordan, Dryck Bennett.

Lakewood. The assistance includes volunteer, program manager and board training on issues including marketing and promotion, business recruitment, market analysis, design, historic preservation and fundraising. Downtown Ohio, Inc., the organization that administers the statewide program, will also conduct on-site visits to help LCPI develop its work program and plan for success.

The Ohio Main Street Program is modeled after the National Trust Main Street Center's comprehensive approach to downtown revitalization. Benefits of the program include renewed vitality of the downtown area along with enhanced economic perfor-

mance. To date, the Main Street Program has been instituted in 43 states and over 1,787 communities. Nationwide, it has helped create 231,682 net new jobs and 57,470 new businesses.

Watch for monthly updates on Main Street initiatives in the *Observer*. Members of the community who are interested in being involved with the Main Street Program in Lakewood are encouraged to call Jennifer Hooper, Executive Director of LCPI at 521-0655 or email at jhooper@lcpi.org. There are many volunteer opportunities available. More information on the Ohio Main Street Program can be found on the Downtown Ohio Inc. website, www.downtownohio.org.

Bob Seelie Elected for Fifth Term

Councilman Robert M. Seelie was elected as president of council by his colleagues for the fifth consecutive two-year term. Having served four years as vice president and the last eight years as president, Seelie has become the longest serving councilman in a leadership position in the history of the City of Lakewood. Seelie relatives were original Lakewood residents and parishioners of St. James and St. Clements Parishes. He resides in a home his family has owned for 80 years. His grandparents were friends of Edward Weigand, a former council president and Mayor of Lakewood during the 1920s.

"The importance of my family's heritage overrides any personal financial investments or my position with the City of Lakewood," according to Seelie. "I want the fifth generation of my family to be as proud of this community as the first."

Seelie stated that he plans to move with all deliberate speed to assist in improving municipal efficiencies, finances and transparencies. As a former assistant to the County Administrator, Seelie will use his education and years of experience with the new council and administrative officials and continue his work in regionalism. "The most important goal this year is

to engage the community in the possibilities and realities of the City of Lakewood's future," said Seelie. Councilman at-large Michael Dever was elected vice president.

Any and all residents wishing to assist him and his colleagues on council can contact him at the council office at 216-529-6055 or by email at Robert.Seelie@lakewoodoh.net.

Lakewood Hospital Ribbon-Cutting

Full story on page 17



Left to right: Larry Faulhaber, Board member Lakewood Hospital Foundation; Scotty Schuenger, volunteer at Lakewood Hospital since 1972; Judge Patrick Carroll, City of Lakewood; Jack Gustin, Chief Administrative Officer, Lakewood Hospital; Rev. Jon Fancher, Board member Lakewood Hospital Board of Trustees; Fred DeGrandis, Chief Executive Officer and President of Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran Hospitals.

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Full story on page 20

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood News

MaMa's First Born Called a Beautiful Success

Madison Avenue Merchant Association (MaMa) had their first event last year called, "The Twelve Shops Of Christmas" and by all accounts it was a huge success.

The idea was based in part on a smaller version of "Light up Lakewood" with a couple different ideas thrown in for luck, and because the women putting it on had slightly different ideas and visions for their contest.

The idea was simple, stop in the

12 stores listed, get a signature of the person working and you had a chance to win \$150 for holiday spending anywhere.

Reverend Paula Maeder Connors and her daughter were the winners.

One of the other people in the drawing thought this was a great idea.

The next thing on MaMa's agenda is to get more businesses in and around Madison on board, and start planning some events for spring and summer.



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From left to right: Patty Ryan, Assistant Director of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, and this year's Light Up Lakewood Grand Prize Winner, Chris Gordillo.

Light Up Lakewood

The second annual Light Up Lakewood concluded Monday at the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce office with the grand prize drawing. This year's lucky shopper was Chris Gordillo of Lakewood. Chris won a large basket full of merchandise worth well over \$800.00, donated by participating businesses.

"I saw Light Up Lakewood advertised in the *Lakewood Observer* and on their website," said Chris. "I loved going around and exploring Lakewood businesses. I visited some new shops, as well some of the stores I regularly visit. It gave me a chance to meet some of the local merchants."

Light Up Lakewood was a community event sponsored by the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce to encourage local shoppers to stay in Lakewood for the weekend of December 2, 3 and 4 to shop, dine and celebrate.

Thank you to all who participated in Light Up Lakewood festivities and helped make it a successful event!

For more information, contact the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce at 216-226-2900.

Hot Off The Deck

Join the discussion online – visit the OBSERVATION DECK

LAKEWOOD DISCUSSION

Topics	Replies	Author	Views	Last Post
EVENT CALENDAR!!!	0	Jim O'Bryan	305	Wed Nov 30, 2005 6:09 pm
Smelling Salts Please	27	Jim O'Bryan	525	Mon Jan 09, 2006 7:14 am
First Rockport Square resident	4	Thomas J. George	198	Sun Jan 08, 2006 11:50 pm
Status of CitiStat Program	7	Rhonda loje	232	Sat Jan 07, 2006 11:49 am
TV Feedback	7	Mike Deneen	143	Sat Jan 07, 2006 5:14 am
Bob Ignizio				
Best/Worst of Last Year - Please Join In	4	Jim O'Bryan	216	Sat Jan 07, 2006 5:05 am
Critique of Income Tax Proposal	2	Ryan Patrick Demro	160	Fri Jan 06, 2006 7:52 am
The Eminent Domain Spectator	0	Mark Timieski	50	Thu Jan 05, 2006 9:44 pm
Book Club	3	Erin White	113	Thu Jan 05, 2006 4:16 pm

GLOBAL DISCUSSION

The President admits to committing an Impeachable offense!	64	Donald Farris	1148	Sat Jan 07, 2006 2:38 pm
Big Brother Facts	1	Mark Crnolatas	44	Sat Jan 07, 2006 8:25 am
The Death of the West	41	Bill Call	510	Fri Jan 06, 2006 11:05 pm
Did Jesus Exist?	2	Jim O'Bryan	50	Fri Jan 06, 2006 9:27 pm
Timelines?!	0	Jim O'Bryan	16	Fri Jan 06, 2006 8:28 pm
How many have died?	57	Donald Farris	1167	Thu Jan 05, 2006 4:25 pm

Become an Observer!

The *Lakewood Observer* is looking for people, ages 15–100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help.

If you are interested, e-mail to: publisher@lakewoodobserver.com

News releases—If you have information on an event, organization, program or news on *anything* that has to do with Lakewood, send it to: city.editor@lakewoodobserver.com

Calendar of Events—To appear on our calendar of events, e-mail: events@lakewoodobserver.com

Newsies/Delivery People—The *Lakewood Observer* is looking for people that would like to help deliver the newspaper. If interested, e-mail: delivery@lakewoodobserver.com

We need you to get involved! If you have or know of a story, we want it!



Your Independent Source for
Lakewood News & Opinion

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Lakewood Government

Let's Get Ready to...Legislate!

Council must organize itself before it can legislate. The Lakewood City Charter prescribes the procedure.

Article III Section 4. Meetings “at 7:30 P.M. on the first Monday in January following each regular municipal election, at which time the Council shall elect its officers for the next two years... The member of Council present who has the longest consecutive tenure of office shall preside...”

Meeting those qualifications was council member Robert Seelie (ward 3) who called the meeting to order. He instructed the clerk to call the roll. Responding to her first roll call was the newest member, Nickie Antonio (at large). She had been formally sworn in at a ceremony in front of dozens of well-wishers several days earlier. Seelie then asked for nominations for council president.

Usually, when council considers proposals the debate and negotiation is public in the committee meetings or on the floor of council. This is not the case with the election of council leadership. Discussions between the seven members are generally private and only occasionally can some of the deliberations and reasoning be reported either first hand or by attribution.

In a small legislative body of seven some of the criteria for president might be length of service, past performance, party affiliation, and simple matters of friendship and respect. By their nature, politicians are ambitious. A member may want to be considered for leadership but other political aspirations might preclude the responsibilities of a leadership position. Occasionally, quirks of circumstances make for an unexpected president. Such was the case back in the 1950s and 1960s when

**Reported by Stan Austin,
Lakewood Observer City Council Reporter**

six of seven members were Republicans who couldn't get along with each other. Hence, they elected Thomas Ward (ward 3) as president even though he was the lone Democrat. (The Merl neighborhood park was dedicated in his honor in 2000).



Lakewood City Council President, Robert Seelie.

In this case Robert Seelie was reelected council president by a vote of 6 to 1 with council member Ryan Demro (ward 2) voting against and Michael Dever (at large) was unanimously elected to council vice president. There were no comments on the floor regarding the candidacies. After the meeting in corridor comments (an exclusive Lakewood Observer feature) Demro was asked why he voted against Seelie for president of council.

Demro, the lone Republican on council, said his vote had nothing to do

with partisanship but rather he was disappointed with “lackluster leadership of Seelie as past president and a lack of strategic planning.” He added that “this needs to be a council of all of us and I would have voted for Dever for president.” Demro stated that his support of Dever who is a Democrat demonstrates his non-partisan approach in this matter.

The beginning of the year also marks the date when many terms on boards and commissions expire. Council and the Mayor find it particularly fitting to acknowledge the service of citizen/volunteer members of these bodies. One reason for this recognition is the fact that the citizen boards and commissions shoulder a lot of the work of city government. Council may pass an ordinance regulating signs, but ultimately the Architectural Board of Review must make a final decision on a sign application. Similarly, a property

owner might request a zoning variance but that decision on granting a variance falls to the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Planning Commission devotes many hours of service to near term and long range planning for the city and presents council with recommendations which then can become policy. All but a handful of city employees are hired under rules of civil service. The

Civil Service Commission objectively reviews prospective employee applications and administers civil service promotion exams. And, the Heritage Advisory Board establishes guidelines to help preserve historic and authentic structures in Lakewood.

Mayor Thomas George and Council passed resolutions of commendation to William Trentel as a member of the Architectural Board of Review. Planning Director Thomas Jordan expressed his personal appreciation for Trentel's work which directly involves the Planning Department. Trentel's three children kibitzed in the audience as Dad was accepting the resolution.

Chris Keim was recognized for service on the Board of Zoning Appeals and in absentia received high praise from the Mayor.

Next, **Paul Wingenfeld** was congratulated by the Mayor and Council along with Jordan for his chairing of the Planning Commission.

Judy Riley was next in line for recognition for her service on the Civil Service Commission. She has been a member through the terms of four mayors and has been continually impressed by the high caliber of applicants who want to work for Lakewood. Proud husband Bob and their daughter were in the audience.

Paula Reed was recognized for her service on the Heritage Advisory Board with Mayor George, who hinted that he was going to call upon her for continuing help with city projects.

Newly reelected council president Seelie adjourned the meeting at 8:07.

Flannery Announces for Governor

Bryan Flannery kicked off his campaign for Ohio Governor at his Alma mater, St. Edward High School.

Flannery, former Lakewood Councilman at Large and State Representative from Lakewood and the Cleveland West Side, recounted his family's history to emphasize his main campaign theme, making Ohio the education state.

During his career in the Legislature Flannery worked to reform the funding of the state's public school system. He continued that effort after leaving the legislature as a private citizen. Flannery believes the key

to Ohio's future lies with offering a “good and constitutional education system.” From that will flow the economic advances into high tech and biomedical industries.

Standing at his side for the announcement was Flannery's running mate for Lieutenant Governor, Frank Stams of Akron. Flannery and Stams played side by side on the National Champion University of Notre Dame football team in 1982.

The two teammates are now off to announce their plan for Ohio in scheduled press conferences throughout the rest of the state.

Mayor George Elected President of Ohio Municipal League

Lakewood Mayor Thomas J. George has been elected President of the Ohio Municipal League. The Ohio Municipal League (OML) was incorporated as an Ohio non-profit corporation in 1952 by city and village officials who saw the need for a statewide association to serve the interests of Ohio municipal government. The OML represents the collective interest of Ohio cities and villages before the Ohio General Assembly and the state elected and administrative offices.

Any city or village, by proper

action of its legislative body and payment of the annual membership fee, may become a member. When an Ohio municipality becomes an active League member, all of the elected and key appointed officials are eligible to use the available services.

“I am honored to serve as President of the Ohio Municipal League,” stated Mayor George. “This is an outstanding organization that provides valuable services to Lakewood and cities and villages throughout Ohio.”



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Police and Fire Beat

Crackle, Crackle, Obrock, Bow Wow Bow Wow WOW!

By Rita Ryland

Just prior to Christmas, I received a phone call from a scanner. You know. Scanners live in Lakewood and listen to their police scanner 24/7. They gather at Phoenix Coffee on Detroit or bella dubby on Madison or simply phone each other and talk about what happened in the city in the past 24 hours.

So. Back to the phone call. It went something like— “Last night I was listening to my scanner. The police talked about calling out Obrock, no apostrophe.”

“Who’s Obrock?” I asked. Obviously, I’m not a scanner.

“He has a dog. You know. A police dog,” the scanner said.

I didn’t know.

“Anyway, they decided not to, but I’d love to know more about the police dog. I think everyone would.”

A Real Team

The City of Lakewood has two K9 teams. One team is Officer Obrock and Shep, a German Shepherd. The other team is Officer Tim Schad and Arco, a Belgian Malinois. Both dogs were obtained from the same kennel in Holland.

The City of Lakewood is in good company. The Secret Service (see www.secretservice.gov) uses Belgian Malinois from Holland. According to its website, the Malinois is fast, has a strong bite, and is very sociable.

The Lakewood Police Department started its K9 program in November 2002. The handlers, Officer Obrock and Officer Schad, were selected from within the police department. The city contracted with Gold Shield Training Kennels in Columbus, Ohio, to obtain

the dogs. Gold Shield trained the dogs for five weeks before Officers Obrock and Schad met their dogs. Then,

the officers and the dogs trained together for another five weeks. This interview was conducted with Officer Tim Schad at the Lakewood Police Department.

“On day one, I gave Arco a bath,” Officer Schad said. And from day one, Tim Schad and Arco trained and became a team.

Arco and Officer Schad are together 24/7. When Officer Schad has a day off, Arco has a day off. Arco lives with Officer Schad.

“When I’m getting ready to go to work, he’s getting ready. He paces. He whines. He comes up to me to put on his collar,” said Officer Schad.

The team’s patrol car is designed for Arco. He sits in the back seat area. It is air-conditioned; the windows are tinted to reduce summer heat. A water bowl rests on the carpeted flooring. If you walk too close to his territory, he barks. And the bark will stop you in your tracks.

That’s what happens with most suspects. They hear the bark and stop. Trained to use minimum force, Arco will hold a suspect until the suspect is in cuffs. Other

police officers transport the suspect to the police station. According to Officer Schad, Arco and Shep have found many suspects. “They make an excellent addition to what we do,” Officer Schad said that sometimes Arco calms a situation down, diffuses a situation.

In addition to tracking, building searches, and apprehending suspects, Arco is trained to find drugs. Recently, Arco assisted the Cleveland Police Department by uncovering a half kilo of cocaine.

The K9 teams work 40 hours a week. As to the discussion heard over the scanner as to whether or not to call Obrock and Shep—they are on call as needed.

“Exercise is a part of his daily routine, both at home and at work,” said Officer Schad. In addition to daily exercise, Arco receives weekly training in searching and tracking.

You might think that there is a contradiction in the secret service description of the qualities of the Belgian Malinois — fast, has a strong bite, and is very sociable. Not so. Arco visits students in the Lakewood schools. Officer Schad carries crayons in the trunk of the patrol car.

Finally, towards the end of the interview, I met Arco. He trotted into the classroom of the police station. He weighs 80 pounds and is a beautiful caramel color with a black snout. Arco walked to me. I petted him. It was a tentative pet. I know power when I see it. Then he trotted out with Officer Schad and climbed into the back of the police car. I walked alongside the police car. He barked. I stepped away. Arco was on duty.

As Officer Schad said, “Arco commands respect. He’s a great tool.”



Photo by: Rhonda Loje

Officer Schad and Arco.

Lakewood’s New Year’s Resolution

By Kathleen South

Just as the Ho, Ho, Hos fade away and the visions of sugarplums turn to i-Pods and DVDs, another holiday tradition begins: New Year’s Resolutions.

A typical Lakewood resident might resolve to read more and watch less TV or hit the gym more and the apple pie less. But for the city, Lakewoodites are seeking loftier goals. While showing pride in their community, they challenge the city to reach to the next level. What’s on the minds of residents and civic leaders includes seeking more economic development, maintaining and improving housing stock, and keeping the spirit of involvement alive, according to a recent, informal survey.

Dottie Buckon, Director of Human Resources for the city and a long-time resident, sets forth an aggressive agenda for the new year: “I would like to see Lakewood stay true to itself. Residents have always been involved. They want their voices heard and that’s an important part of the town.”

The city is about to launch a task

force to study the needs of young people, but Buckon wants that plan extended citywide. “I would like to see a huge master plan on a par with the one recently undertaken by the schools” that led to the decision to build five new schools, she said. That effort involved a series of meetings to inform and gather input from the public.

Schools Superintendent David C. Estrop also calls for community involvement. “We need to continue to work together to make Lakewood the very best community it can be. I don’t think it can be the very best if we don’t work together,” he said.

Most often cited as the city’s biggest concern is addressing the aging housing stock. Michael Flynn, investigator for the city’s Law Department, encourages the city to build on its strengths. “I can’t express too much how vitally important it is to improve the housing stock in order to maintain Lakewood’s reputation as a solid, secure community to live, work and invest in,” he said. He added that several other projects in the offing, including the library expansion,

the new YMCA, and the new school buildings are significant steps toward maintaining that image.

Edward FitzGerald, project manager for A New Lakewood, calls for the city to employ more people to address the aging infrastructure. He said he also favors inspection of all residential property: “We have to take care of it (housing stock) so it doesn’t create a huge problem.”

Police Sgt. Edward Favre agrees that housing problems must be addressed now: “I believe Lakewood is at a tipping point. Once the city begins to decline, it’s difficult, if not impossible, to get its momentum back.” Favre is also a member of the Lakewood school board. He said he is hopeful and that the ball is in Lakewood’s court. “It is our situation to squander,” he said.

City Council president Robert Seelie supports an increase in income tax to fund the proposed housing program. He also supports maintaining and expanding other programs, such as the city’s streets and parks. “Lakewood doesn’t have the money to

fix its infrastructure. The only way (to fund those improvements) is to pass a small increase in the income tax,” he said, adding that earmarking the proceeds of the levy for specific programs should make it more palatable for voters. He also cited youth programs as important for the city: “The youth need a place to hang out, places to play and create a culture.”

Barry Weymyss, volunteer coordinator, added the needs of the elderly to the wish list: “My wish for Lakewood is that it would continue to be elder friendly and that we meet the needs of baby boomers as they age.”

Seelie sounded a universal theme in calling for a united front for the city to stay its course, while aiming at higher goals. “It is crucial for all organizations and citizens to become attentive to the needs and assets of Lakewood and organize,” he said. Kenneth Warren, director of the Lakewood Public Library, echoes that sentiment: “We need to create a vision that deals with the identity and imagination of the community.”

Lakewood Public Library

LIBRARY BRIEFS

Kim Langley’s professional capabilities spring from a deep personal place. This is one reason why her interests and skills span a wide range of practical approaches to challenges concerned with life/work balance, personal spirituality, and, creativity and passion. She has, in fact, lived what she teaches and so has proved her approaches in her own life. January 10 at 7 p.m., as part of the library **The New You** series, she will focus on **The Fine Art of Goal Setting**.


Crime novel maven **Kathy Kline** will be leading a discussion of the best-selling **Clare Fergusson/Russ Van Alstyne** mystery *Out of the Deep I Cry*, on January 12 at 7 p.m. Kathy is the head sleuth of the library’s Booked For Murder programs and she’s expert at leading mystery buffs to the very bottom of each case!

Dhimiter Anagnosti, the prominent Albanian filmmaker, whose first film was released in 1961, made *Përralle Nga e Kaluara*, “*A Tale From The Past*,” in 1987. His last film was made two years later. His career spans the modern history of the Albanian cinema. On January 20, at 6 p.m., **Përralle Nga e Kaluara** will be shown as part of the library’s Friday film series. Anagnosti’s second-to-last film is a comedy of Albanian manners about a 20 year old woman who must wiggle her way out of an arranged marriage with a 14 year old boy. *Take note—this movie is NOT SUBTITLED.*

Renee Hendershott, a cellist and member of the Symphony West Orchestra, has put together a trio with two violins and her cello for An Afternoon of Musical Delights on January 15, at 2 p.m. Join other fans of zinging strings for this special afternoon of music, part of the library’s monthly **Sunday With The Friends**.

How awful is a virus infection for your personal computer? The worst case is loss of all your data and programs. What exactly is an: “irretrievable hard drive crash”? What do

Lakewood Public Library- 2 Week Schedule Jan.10-16							
call 226-8275 x127 for details web: http://www.lkwdpl.org/calendar/							
	Tuesday 1/10	Wednesday 1/11	Thursday 1/12	Friday 1/13	Saturday 1/14	Sunday 1/15	Monday 1/16
Featured program	7:00pm THE FINE ART OF GOAL SETTING		7:00pm BOOKED FOR MURDER (book discussion)		7:00pm 2ND SATURDAY FOLK MUSIC	2:00pm AFTERNOON OF MUSICAL DELIGHTS	
Childrens programs *both Main & Madison				10:30am/2pm /7pm FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS	10:30am/2pm /4pm FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS	2:00pm FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS	
Computer Programs 226-8275 x 127 to register		2:00pm BASIC COMPUTERS FOR SENIORS Session 2*			3:00pm INTERNET BASICS*		7:00pm PROTECTING YOUR COMPUTER*
	*please sign up in advance 226-8276 x127						

Lakewood Public Library- 2 Week Schedule Jan.17-23							
call 226-8275 x127 for details web: http://www.lkwdpl.org/calendar/							
	Tuesday 1/17	Wednesday 1/18	Thursday 1/19	Friday 1/20	Saturday 1/21	Sunday 1/22	Monday 1/23
Featured program			8:00pm LPL BOARD MEETING	6:00pm PERALLE NGA E KALURA (movie)	4:00pm WRITER'S WORKSHOP 7:00pm FAMILY MUSIC&MORE	2:00pm JAZZ PIANO GREATS 6:00pm CLUB ANIME	
Childrens programs *both Main & Madison				10:30am/2pm /7pm FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS	10:30am/2pm /4pm FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS	2:00pm FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS	
Computer Programs 226-8275 x 127 to register		2:00pm BASIC COMPUTERS FOR SENIORS Session 2*			3:00pm SEARCHING THE WEB* (internet searching)		
	*please sign up in advance 226-8276 x127						

you need to know to use a computer in a networked world, protect your data, and avoid the blue screen of death? This and more are the subjects of the computer class on January 16 at 7 p.m. **Protecting Your Computer.** In-house computer expert **Nick Kelley** has the know-how and his goal is to teach the essentials to you. Participants must pre-register for this class.

Jazz pianist and Lakewood resident **Jessica Stewart** presents a program

of jazz piano on January 22 at 2 p.m. One of Jessica’s influences, the master and mystical pianist Thelonious Monk stated, “I don’t know what the definition of jazz is. You’re just supposed

to know it when you hear it.” At this **Sunday With The Friends** program, listeners will understand this insight in the affirmative when Jessica’s fingers hit the ivories.

Spilled Ink

Intelligent Design

continued from page 15
made—that explains or justifies his suffering and death?

And as for moral evil, the suffering that follows from evil choices is all too often inflicted not on the evil-doer but on innocents. To take one gross and obvious example, the Nazis in World War II made many evil choices. Because of these choices the Germans bombed London and the Allies bombed Hamburg, Dresden and other German cities. Many innocent men, women and children were killed as a result. Are we to say that the death of these innocents is justified by the evil choices of the Nazis?—If so, where is the justice, and where is the love in a God that would allow the slaughter of innocents?

Original sin may be proposed as justification for the slaughter of innocents. The implication is that we are poor benighted creatures who deserve whatever affliction we may suffer, in total disregard of what we have done.

Where is the loving God in this scenario? And where is the justice?

The second line of defense against the Problem of Evil is the claim that our earthly life is really unimportant; it is just a waiting-room, or testing-room, for the Afterlife. Thus it doesn’t matter that innocent children die totally undeserved deaths, for they are merely going more quickly to their Heavenly reward. If you really believe this, you will get rid of your worldly possessions and retire to a monastery to prove your worthiness while awaiting your time. But more to the point, a God who would test some of us with overwhelming afflictions is a cruel God indeed.

The third line of defense is that the ways of God are a mystery. Bravo! I agree wholeheartedly. The trouble is that some (not all) who proclaim that God is a mystery turn right around and confidently assert that they know exactly how God wants us to live and whom he wants us to oppress.

Why can’t those on both sides of the fence simply admit that we don’t know?



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Lakewood Education

Part Two of the Lakewood Observer’s Look at NCLB Schools Left Behind in “No Child Left Behind”

In a previous edition of the *Lakewood Observer*, Gordon Brumm dissected the “No Child Left Behind” (NCLB) act, laying out its basic tenets and concluding that it represents a slander upon many public schools, including Lakewood’s. The apparent paradox of Lakewood’s state designation as an effective district, juxtaposed against a contradictory federal one (as you recall, Lakewood came up short on 2 of the 112 federal benchmarks), begs for an analysis of the underlying motivations of NCLB.

Try to imagine that you do not believe in public institutions (in political science, such persons are often referred to as “movement conservatives”). In your mind, the private sector and the free market can do anything better than the public sector. Workers produce the best results, be they kindergarten teachers or car salespersons, when they face competitive pressures and can readily lose customers to a more efficient enterprise. Unfortunately, owing to the New Deal, Horace Mann, the progressive era, etc., the country has become used to relying on collective, democratic community based efforts, through Social Security, Medicare and public schools, to meet perceived public need for education, health, etc.

A frontal, ideological assault on these institutions is fruitless, because most persons have positive experiences with them and little passion for change. So, step one is to undermine

public confidence in specific schools/programs, and to begin eroding overall public confidence in the system. Recall the sudden “crisis” with Social Security, which would become insolvent in 35 years (yikes!) if nothing changed? The movement conservative solution—private accounts—was rejected by the public, who are less driven by ideology and more influenced by their own experiences, which are generally positive with respect to Social Security.

Enter public schools, a bold experiment in democracy and community—the ultimate insult, and challenge, to the movement conservative. Step one, again, is to undermine confidence in public education in general, and NCLB is a brilliantly crafted tactic. As Mr. Brumm, and others, pointed out, NCLB sets up larger economically and ethnically diverse districts, like Lakewood, for failure. With 112 categories, the law of averages, if nothing else, virtually guarantees that Lakewood and other districts will come up short on at least one or two measures. Then, the entire school district and/or a particular school, not just isolated aspects, in a brazen example of intellectual dishonesty, can be designated as “Needs Improvement” and fed into the series of yearly mandates/punishments leading to the following: “an alternative governance or restructur-

ing plan that may include converting to a charter school, replacing all/most of the staff, turning it over to a private management company, or any other major restructuring of the school’s governance arrangement that makes fundamental reforms.” But, privatization and profiteering could not be the end game, could it?

You bet it is. (See the Charter Schools article. Volume 1, Issue 1, “What’s In a Name” Also online under News/Schools, or do a search at <http://lakewoodobserver.com>). Movement ideologues of all stripes, conservative, communist, etc., think strategically and are in the fight for the long-haul. When they get too anxious or overt, as in Social Security, their plans get derailed. They are willing to accept seemingly contradictory policies/alliances in the short run that serve the long-term goals. Why else would movement conservatives, generally drawn from the right wing of the Republican Party, be willing to accept such a direct, heavy handed federal involvement in local schools, typically anathema to conservatives?

Other aspects of NCLB also reveal seemingly nonsensical efforts to truly “leave no child behind,” and illuminate the real motivation—to malign public schools. Take this example. Say your child, for whatever reason, does poorly in the standardized tests but is attend-

ing a school that has met the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) threshold. Your child is not given any special consideration under NCLB, even though he/she is struggling. On the other hand, say your child did extremely well on the tests, but his/her school did not meet the standard. That child and all others in that school, in theory, can transfer to another school in the district. Never mind that, realistically, loading another 150 students from a “failing” school into a “successful” one might hurt everyone. When a policy is driven by long-term ideological goals, the irrationality of the specific remedies and the plight of individual children are of little consequence.

Fortunately, Lakewood has a rich history of bi-partisan citizen support for its public schools. Most local Republicans are not movement conservatives, and have often been among the most vocal and generous supporters of our schools.

It is imperative, however, that everyone who believes in the mission of public education, despite honest differences on curriculum, funding, testing, etc., understand the agenda that drives right-wing education policies, including NCLB. When we understand that for a movement conservative, the only thing more distressing than a failing public school is a successful one, the apparent contradictions of NCLB become clear and our own strategic thinking is enhanced.

Lakewood School District Improving Student Performance Committees

Middle School Student Conduct and School Climate Committee:

Mr. Rick Wair reported that 45 people attended the first committee meeting on November 29. The charge of this committee is to provide recommendations for improving middle school conduct and school climate. The committee will meet every other Tuesday and complete its work by mid-March, 2006. Dr. Charles Greanoff and Mr. Michael Pellegrino are committee co-chairs. There will be three sub-committees: Student Conduct, School Climate and Transition/Consolidation. Mr. Wair extended an invitation for anyone interested to join the committee.

Design Committee:

This committee held a community meeting on November 29 that was attended by approximately 100 people. The architects gave an overview of the elementary and high school renovations projects. This committee is divided into two sub-committees: one devoted to Lakewood High School and the other concentrating on the renovation of Emerson and Horace Mann into elementary schools. Both committees are meeting on December 15 at 7 p.m. Following the December 15 meeting, the committees will meet twice a month on alternating Thursdays beginning with the high school committee on January 5, 2006 and the elementary committee on January 12.

Heritage Committee:

The first meeting of this committee was held on December 8 at 7 p.m. at Horace Mann Middle School. The committee will be involved with decommissioning certain middle school buildings, identifying and preserving or reincorporating items of historical significance from these buildings into the remodeled buildings, and then recommissioning the buildings as elementary schools. The same work of identifying, preserving and reincorporating will also occur in the sections of Lakewood High School selected for renovation during Phase II.

Communications Committee:

The committee’s first meeting was November 15. The main goals of this committee for 2005-06 are to continue to improve the District’s website, increase programming on Channel 74 as well as to improve the calendar feature, and publicize the Speaker’s Bureau. Mrs. Susan Adams reported on the “Ask Dr. Estrop” online Lakewood Buzz Q & A sessions, which have been scheduled one day a month with two one-hour sessions in the day. The District’s email address is seeing increasing traffic and Mrs. Adams reported that the District’s Annual Report will be mailed within a week or so. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, at 7 p.m. in the Board Auditorium. A sub-committee will meet prior to January 17 to discuss website issues.

After Prom Tradition Continues

By Eileen Dixon

In the midst of the holiday excitement from pumpkins, turkeys, Christmas shopping and the celebration of Hanukkah...the parent committees for The Lakewood High School After Prom are already taking shape.

For over 30 years now, Lakewood High School parents have gathered together to plan a safe alternative for after prom activities for graduating

seniors. While Cathy Coyne Jackman “LHS class of 1972” attended after prom at Lakewood Masonic Temple, her sister Teresa Coyne Andreani “LHS class of 1982” remembers attending the after prom at the Lakewood Y. For many years now Lakewood High School has prided themselves in having the event at the High School.

The parents of the LHS class of 2006 began meeting in October with the encouragement from Kim Bin-

dell, student activities secretary, House I Principal, Mr. Posendek, and several class of 2005 parents, including Sue Botsch, Dave Norton and Sandy DaDante. Committees began to take shape and a surprise theme has been chosen that hopefully will be kept under wraps until the big event occurs. At the November planning meeting many parents joined us to share decoration ideas, talk about food donations and ways to encourage retailers to share prizes and donations. We had a lot of fun making new acquaintances and

rekindling old friendships from when our children were in grade school and middle school.

The prom will be at La Centre in Westlake, just minutes away from Lakewood, on Friday May 26, 2006. Seniors will be encouraged to attend after prom to take part in a plethora of fun and exciting activities.

If you are interested in joining in the excitement, or making a donation, contact Eileen Dixon at 216-521-6457 or Christine Whitman at cmw61@hotmail.com.

Lakewood Sports

One Shot Tells the Story



Lakewood wins by one shot (basket) at the final buzzer. Lakewood Observer and Times photographer Ivor Karabatkovic put these two photos together in Adobe Photoshop to create a panorama shot that captures the excitement for the Lakewood team and fans.

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Lakewood's Sounds

An Interview with Harlem Airshaft

By Dave Mooney

For the past year Harlem Airshaft has been burning up the local music scene with its specialized brand of punk rock. Taking the experience they have had from the countless other bands they have worked with Nick “Stiner” Riley (drums), Lonnn Schubert (lead vocals/guitar), Matt Allen (bass) and Matt Taha (guitar/vocals) have formed a truly unique band in a genre full of copycats. Harlem Airshaft was kind enough to give me a little insight on their world.

DM: I know you guys have all been in a lot of other bands, what are some of the more notable ones?

HA: Comfort in Misery, Redshift, Nick Riley Allstars, Red Brick Autumn, Canister, Civil Riot, Mystery Of Two, Lobster Clause, Cadence, and Squidfish.

DM: How long has the band been together?

HA: 1 year

DM: How did the band form?

HA: The thirst for musical expression in the wake of The Lobster Clause left Nick and Lonnn open and looking for a new band. They set off armed

with a backlog of Lonnn songs and Matt Allen who was forced to learn bass. 3 weeks later Matt Taha started on guitar. With a mutual love for music and Sparks (the drink), The Harlem Airshaft was born.

DM: Harlem Airshaft is an interesting name, where does it come from?

HA: A term made popular by a Duke Ellington composition, a Harlem airshaft was a ventilation technique used in low income housing in Harlem. It was known to be a gathering place for tenants of such slums because it was the only source of clean air.

DM: What bands would you say have been the biggest influence on your music?

HA: The Raspberries, The Replacements, Jawbreaker, The Weaker Hans, Against Me!, The Clash, Johnny Thunders and The Heartbreakers, and Dee King.

DM: I know you have played with lots of different bands, which are some of your favorite?

HA: Machine Go Boom, Wake Up, Compassion In Action, The Lovekill, Insurrect, No Peace!, The Gunshy, I Love You But I've Chosen Darkness

DM: Do you have a recording peo-



ple could pick up?

HA: Aside from the ability to download our music for free @www.myspace.com/harlemairshaft, we will have a full length release coming soon.

DM: Finally, if the band was going to lend its image to a breakfast cereal, which would it be and why?

HA: Well this is a hard one. First let me say that the shaft doesn't just "lend"

its image to anyone, they pay. Second, our image is too much for any normal television to handle, so we would have to require that as part of the contract they would need to put it in High Definition TV. So that pretty much means that if they want to use the shaft, they must be willing to foot the bill. Right now Fruity Pebbles comes to mind. Maybe in a swimming pool?

January Music Happenings

By Bob Ignizio

Monday, January 23, at The Winchester, it's The Chris Duarte Group. It'll be heaven for guitar fans when renowned Austin, Texas, ax man Chris Duarte brings his band to The Winchester for two sets of blistering blues rock. Although often compared to Stevie Ray Vaughn and Johnny Winter, Duarte actually has a style all his own. Opening the show will be Jeff Powers

and Dead Guy Blues. Admission is \$10. Show starts at 9 p.m.

Wednesday, January 25, at The Winchester, it's legendary British blues rockers Savoy Brown. This is the band's 40th anniversary tour, and they will be playing as a three-piece. Throughout their career the only mainstay in the band has been guitarist Kim Simmonds, who now also handles lead vocals. Admission is \$15.

Sunday, January 29, at The Hi Fi

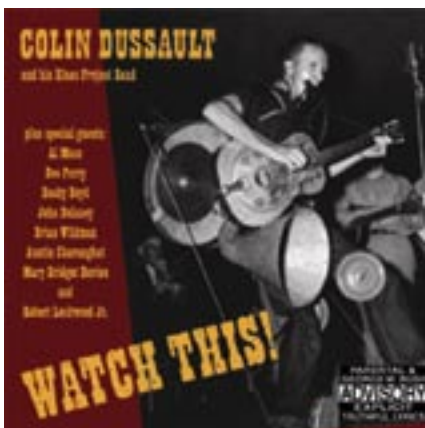
Club, it's The Rockstar Player's Ball hosted by Ron Jeremy. Bands playing will include The A-10's, The Sex Crimes, Dozen Dead Roses, and Rounding 3rd. But hey, all you need to know is that Ron Jeremy is going to be there to emcee the evening. Ron is probably the most recognizable male performer in adult films (having starred in literally thousands of them since the '70s), and he's also appeared in mainstream flicks like 'Detroit Rock City,' 'Boondock

Saints,' and 'Citizen Toxie: The Toxic Avenger IV.'

Advance tickets can only be purchased by calling (216) 631-6916 or emailing info@hardcoremarketing.com or booking@hificlub.com. This extravaganza starts at 2 p.m. and in addition to Ron and the bands there will be a wet T-Shirt contest, KY wrestling, and lots of giveaways. This will probably sell out, so get your tickets now if you plan to go.

Lakewood CD Releases Reviewed

By Bob Ignizio



Colin Dussault and his Blues Project Band 'Watch This!' (Erica Records)

Watch This! opens with the appropriately titled "Blues for Robert Lockwood Jr." It's a heartfelt, up-tempo tribute to Cleveland's living blues legend, which even includes some guitar playing from the subject of the song. It's also the only original composition on the album. So this album really sinks or swims on the band's interpretations of other artists' material. There's no question in my mind that songs like "Rocky Top," "At Last," and "Georgia on My Mind" are great compositions. I'm just not that thrilled with how they come across on this disc. The musicianship and production are flawless, but maybe that's part of the problem, at least for me. The band shows they can get down and dirty when they want to on "Guilty," but there's just not enough of that sort of thing on *Watch This!* for my tastes. By no means is this "bad," it just doesn't do it for me. For more info, visit www.colindussault.com.

Colorforms 'Colorforms' (self released)

Okay, this is ambient music. If you don't like the genre, this ain't gonna' change your opinion. However, if you're like me and enjoy zoning out to some trippy mellow tunes now and then, The Colorforms should be just your thing. No beats to speak of, just lots of swirling spacey sounds to put you in a meditative mood. If you've got headphones, break 'em out because this sucker has lots of layers to it, many of which require your full attention to discern. It's definitely not for everyone, but if you like stuff like Aphex Twin, The Orb, or Hawkwind's early '90s albums, you should check these guys out at their website: <http://www.colorforms.net/>.



Growing Lakewood

Young Woman’s Vision for Lakewood Park: ‘A Place To Grow’

Savannah Farris, a 2001 graduate of Lakewood High School and student at the Cleveland Institute of Art, has proposed, in her BFA thesis, a redesign of Lakewood Park, as well as a 26-acre peninsula designed to stimulate the economy and bring activity down to the waterfront.

Savannah states, “I grew up in Lakewood and wanted to do a project for the city. I love the city and believe it has so much potential for growth.” When she began the thesis project, Savannah did some informal surveys of Lakewood residents to see what they thought were Lakewood’s greatest assets and problems. Overwhelmingly, the location and proximity to Lake Erie were Lakewood’s greatest assets. Many residents saw the lakefront as a great opportunity for the City of Lakewood to capitalize on its location. Many people also loved that Lakewood was a walking city and that it was clean and safe. Others commented that it was a neo-urbanist environment with a generally progressive population. However, among the problems facing Lakewood, the economy was clearly the issue, including high taxes, the need for more business and flight to the outer ring suburbs.

Savannah decided that it made sense to focus on the lakefront and Lakewood Park. This 33-acre park already serves as the de-facto town square, at least in the summer months. Savannah states, “I spent most of my summers growing up in Lakewood Park, enjoying the playground and taking swimming and tennis lessons. As a member of the Lakewood Recreational Swim Team, I remember watching the sun rise every morning as I swam in the summer. As an adult I started to see that the park, while good, could be so much more. I was acutely aware that the city’s budget was tight, and any plan to enhance Lakewood Park must be accompanied by revenue-enhancing proposals. I saw Lakewood Park as a great place for growth in four major areas: community building, learning about the environment and alternative forms of energy, entertainment for all ages, and economic prosperity.”

Savannah’s thesis lays out the plan for the new Lakewood Park and Peninsula. She thought it was important to keep the large green expanse on the east side of the park and the activities on the west side. The entrance to the park is now more formal and inviting. Generally, the plan groups similar

activities and creates synergy. Another major change moves the stage from the middle of the green way to a central location, with views of the lake. This will allow music to waft over the entire park. A new amphitheatre is planned to accommodate full theatrical and musical productions. A new learning lab will provide hands-on activities dealing with nature, the environment and energy issues. Another feature is the utilization of the center island as the marketplace. It enhances the location and accessibility of revenue producing activities like the Farmer’s Market. Savannah recommends that the market be moved to Saturday morning at Lakewood Park to encourage greater participation. Additionally this marketplace can be used by different groups for antique fairs, holiday fairs, craft shows and other events.

To promote the revenue enhancing portion of the project, a 26-acre peninsula was designed featuring approximately 140 buildings including restaurants, retail stores and homes. A 124-dock marina features both private and public dock spaces. The creation of the peninsula will also allow the development of a real beach. A wind-mill farm off the coast of the penin-

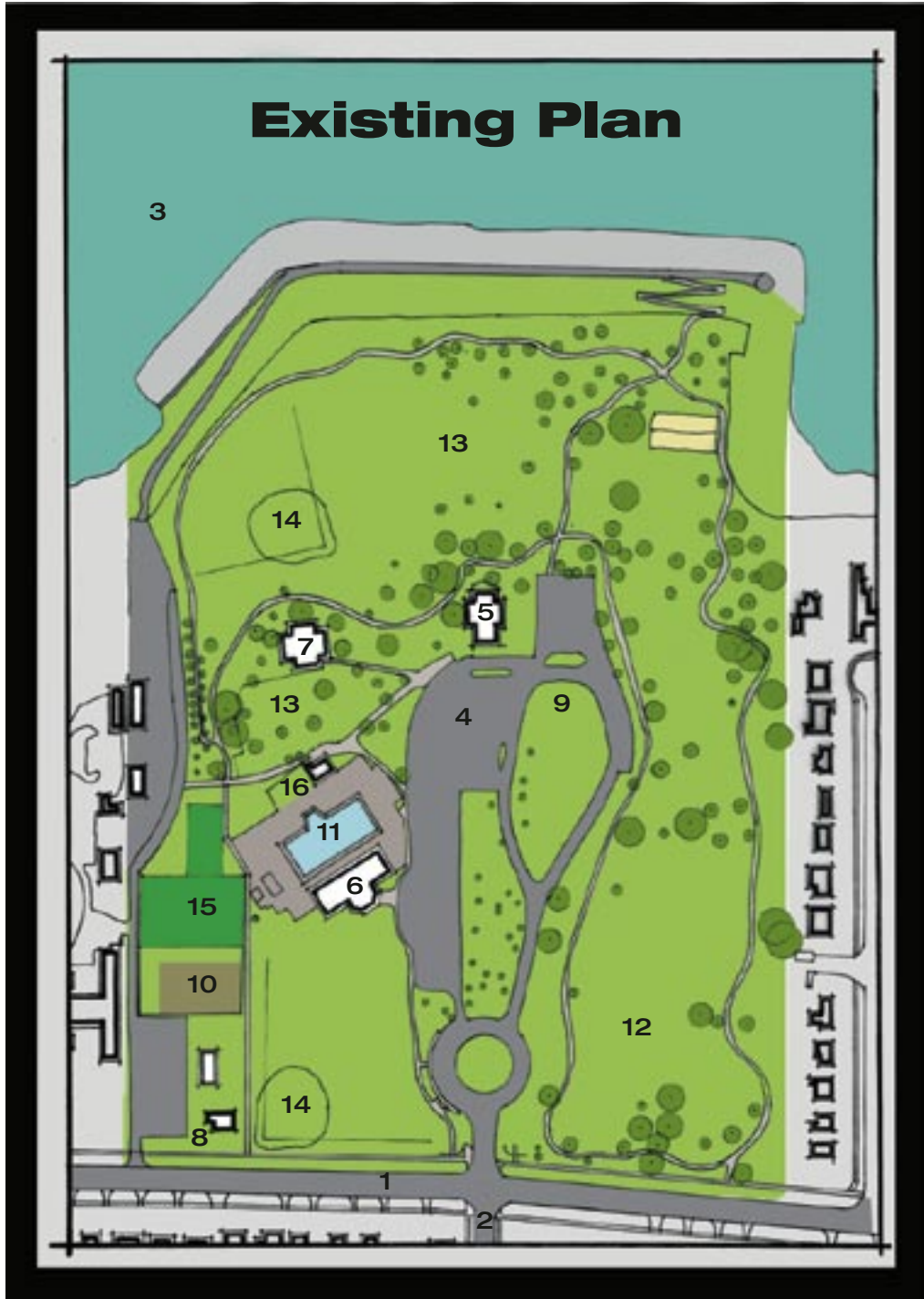
sula could cleanly generate power for Lakewood and produce enough energy to sell to other cities. This same offshore location could be the site of a water intake system to provide Lakewood with fresh water and allow the city to compete with Cleveland for the sale of water to other municipalities.

Savannah’s (A Place to Grow) project is designed to generate a significant revenue stream by increasing property tax for the schools, income tax for the city, sales tax for the county and to reduce water and energy cost for all of us. The redesign of Lakewood Park will also make Lakewood a more inviting place to live and will attract new residents to the city.

Savannah Farris’ plan, “Lakewood Park: A Place To Grow,” can be viewed on the following pages. All text and images courtesy of Savannah Farris.

Savannah can be contacted by email at sav2006@yahoo.com

To view her entire project, contact the Lakewood Observer at admin@lakewoodobserver.com



EXISTING PLAN KEY

1. Lake Rd.

2. Belle Ave.

3. Lake Erie

4. Parking

5. Women’s Pavilion

6. Foster Pool Bathhouse

7. Kiwanis Open Air Pavilion

8. Old Stone House

9. Veteran’s Memorial

10. Skatepark

11. Foster Pool

12. Multipurpose Playing Fields

13. Kid’s Cove Playground

14. Baseball

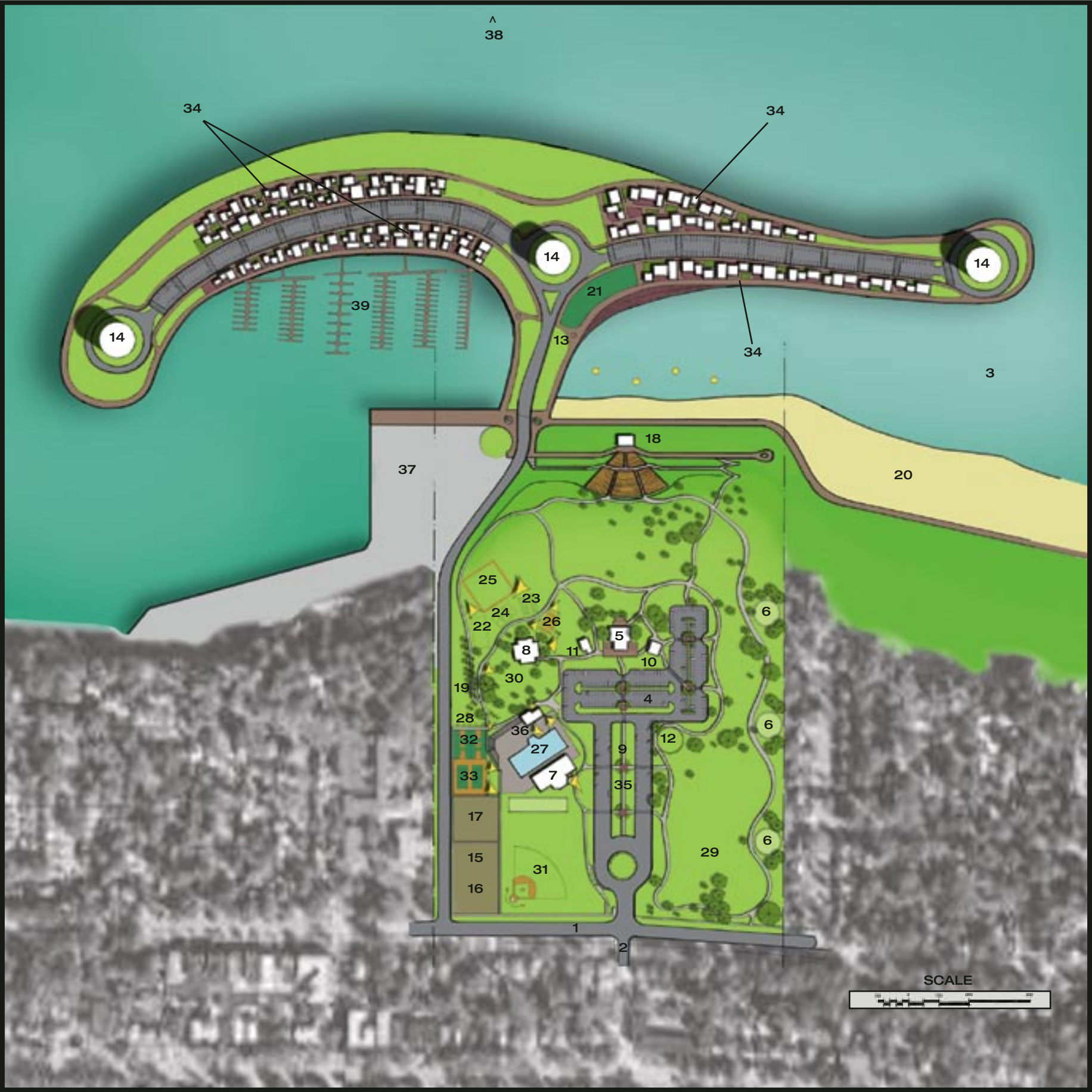
15. Tennis Courts

16. Concessions/Restrooms

Continued On Next Page ...

Growing Lakewood

Savannah Farris’ Proposed Expansion for Lakewood Park



Lakewood Park Expansion Plan Key

Location Markers

- 1. Lake Rd.
- 2. Belle Ave.
- 3. Lake Erie
- 4. Parking

Gathering Areas

- 5. Woman’s Pavilion
- 6. Rest Pockets
- 7. Foster Pool Bath house
- 8. Kiwanis’ Open Air Pavilion
- 9. Market Seating

Learning Areas

- 10. Learning Lab
- 11. Old Stone House
- 12. Veterans’ Memorial
- 13. Satellite Beach Learning Lab
- 14. Lighthouse

Playing Areas

- 15. Skatepark
- 16. Bikepark
- 17. Rollerbladepark
- 18. Amphitheatre
- 19. Chess and Checkers Tables

Playing Areas Continued...

- 20. Lakewood Public Beach
- 21. Waterpark
- 22. Croquet
- 23. Shuffleboard
- 24. Badminton
- 25. Lawn Bowling
- 26. Bocci Ball
- 27. Foster Pool
- 28. Four Square
- 29. Multipurpose Playing Fields
- 30. Kids Cove Playground
- 31. Baseball
- 32. Basketball
- 33. Tennis

Prosperous Areas

- 34. Mixed Use Buildings (Restaurants, Retail & Residences)
- 35. Market
- 36. Concessions (New Plan is Expanded to include equipment Rental)
- 37. Boat Launch & Trailer Parking
- 38. Windfarm & Water Intake Crib
- 39. Docks and Marina

Growing Lakewood

A Place To Gather



Plan Key 6.
Rest Pockets

Opportunities for Gathering at Lakewood Park are improved by:

- Redesign layout of the park to group similar activities and create more pockets for gathering.
- Redesign of the Women’s Pavilion to add a deck and fire pits outside for more use in the winter.
- Redesign of the Kiwanis Outdoor Pavilion to make it more attractive and rearrangement and addition of picnic tables throughout the park.
- Redesign and enlargement of the swimming pool deck to accommodate more seating and lounge chairs for sunning, as well, as adding some shady areas for people who have had too much sun.
- Rest pockets featuring vertical gardens with seating.
- Sculpture areas where either permanent sculptures can be located or traveling displays of outdoor sculpture can be exhibited for a period of time, which should provide opportunities for artist talks.
- Along the multi-use path place LED lights which will charge during the day and provide lighting for evening strolls, making the park friendlier at night.
- Places to sit in the community market and rest and talk with friends. Now there are several places for groups of all sizes which are more defined.

A Place To Learn



Plan Key 10.
Learning Lab

Opportunities for Learning at Lakewood Park are improved by:

- Relocating the Historic Old Stone House to a central location for better inclusion in park activities.
- Relocating the Veterans Memorial to a new location for better visibility and larger memorial services.
- Construction of a Learning Lab for the public to learn more about the environment and for teachers to conduct science classes. The Lab would be designed to conduct experiments and have hands on activities and displays. The lab will be surfaced with photovoltaics (PV solar panels) to create a great leaning opportunity for both children and adults about renewable energy.
- Incorporation of a Wind Farm off the coast of Lakewood Park to generate electricity for Lakewood. This is an opportunity for Lakewood to make a giant step toward improving the environment and increasing revenues by reducing the cost of energy. Several of the displays in the learning lab can be dedicated to how wind mills generate energy.
- Informal satellite learning lab on the beach for other activities and experiments.
- Labeled plants and trees throughout the park. to foster greater awareness of nature.
- Displays in lighthouses regarding various information.
- Walks conducted by citizens on different subjects.
- More classes offered at Lakewood Park by Recreational office especially including sport instruction. Currently, the swimming lessons offered at Lakewood Park are very popular.

A Place To Play



Plan Key 36.
Concessions and Equipment Rental

Opportunities for Playing at Lakewood Park are improved by:

- The addition of activities such as bocci ball, chess and checker tables, shuffleboard courts, badminton courts, croquet, and lawn bowling.
- Addition to the Concession Stand to accommodate renting out of equipment necessary for various activities.
- Addition to the extremely successful and highly popular Skatepark. The addition allows for skateboarders, bikers and rollerbladers to play in different areas.
- Addition of two full size basketball courts.
- Relocation of stage and additional features to make the stage a full amphitheatre where events can vary from movie screening to concerts and theater. Events could be free of charge to all or the seating can be charged.
- More Winter Activities including a Winter Carnival.
- The New Peninsula into Lake Erie. This affords many things:
- A beach and access to the water! Floating islands are in the water for people to swim out to and rest.
- A marina with a boat launch and docks. The marina also offers rentals in kayaks, windsurfing boards, small sailboats and motor boats as well as water tours and parasailing.
- A new water playground where children can safely play with shooting water.
- More green spaces and lookout points for various activities.

Opportunities for Prospering at Lakewood Park are improved by:

The addition of a 26-acre peninsula built on reclaimed land. Features:

- A full service marina with rental space for docks as well as temporary docking for visitors.
- Mixed use buildings with retail, restaurants and residences. This brings not only increased income tax to the city, but property tax as well. Additionally, the county benefits by the increase in sales tax revenues.
- Two amazing lookout points, one of the downtown Cleveland skyline and one for the setting sun.
- Modern lighthouses powered by the wind farm provide Lakewood with a trademark symbol that will be capable of being viewed from downtown, the water or from shore.
- Lots of green space and surrounding boardwalk.
- Protection of the land from erosion and allows for a beach.
- Implementing a wind farm off the coast of Lakewood Park, which would be capable of generating energy for Lakewood and potentially for sale to neighboring municipalities.
- The incorporation of alternative sustainable energy sources used in the learning lab and windmill farms, should establish Lakewood as a forward-thinking community ripe for innovative businesses.
- Implementation of a fresh water intake to provide Lakewood our own fresh water and to allow us to compete with the City of Cleveland for sale of water to other municipalities.
- The utilization of the center island as the marketplace enhances the location and accessibility of revenue producing activities like the Farmers Market, which should be moved to Saturday morning at this location so that more participation is possible. Additionally, this market can be used by various groups for such things as antique fairs, holiday fairs, and craft shows

A Place To Prosper



Plan Key 20.
Lakewood Public Beach

Lakewood Historical Society

Nicholson House, Older Than “Oldest”

By Paula Reed

The Nicholson House, built in 1835, is the oldest house in Lakewood—beating out the Oldest Stone House by three years. Unlike the Oldest Stone House, the Nicholson House is not a museum but an event facility. James and Betsey Nicholson were Lakewood’s first permanent settlers and played an important role in the development of the community, including building the first church and first school. The house itself evolved over time, undergoing a “modernizing face-lift” around 1870 and acquiring an addition at the turn of the century. It served four generations of Nicholsons, remaining in the family until 1947.

In 1985 the house was saved from possible demolition when it was purchased and renovated by the Lakewood Historical Society and the City of Lakewood; the age of the structure is still apparent from the hand-hewn beams and tree trunk support posts visible in the basement. The Society is currently soliciting donations to help retire the mortgage on the Nicholson House. To make a tax-deductible



These young ladies are from Twinsburg High School’s Victorian Club. Next door in another beautifully restored room were the gentlemen relaxing in the sitting room around the fire.

contribution, contact Mazie Adams, Executive Director, at 216-221-7343. The Historical Society’s goal is to share this wonderful piece of Lakewood’s history with the public, and operates the house as a venue for weddings, showers, business luncheons, reunions, graduation parties and other events. Although the house is used frequently by local people, it attracts groups from all over northeast Ohio, recently hosting Twinsburg High School’s Victorian Club. For further information on renting the Nicholson House, please call Karen Saer at 216-221-7343.

Lakewood Resident Leads League of Area Writers

By Vincent O’Keefe

How would you like to take a small writing class taught by a well-published Cleveland-area author? How about discussing literature with an area author who has won national awards? Both options are available at a very low cost nearly every season at the Poets’ and Writers’ League of Greater Cleveland, an organization directed by Lakewood resident Darlene Montanaro. Whether you are a novice, intermediate, or veteran writer (or simply an avid reader), there is probably a class that will fit your needs at the Poets’ and Writers’ League.

Montanaro is a published poet and has been a Lakewood resident for thirty years. Before her current job, she taught a class called “Overcoming Writer’s Block” in the Lakewood Adult

Education Department. She is quick to explain why she has always found Lakewood so attractive: “I love the old homes. I’ve always wanted to have a Victorian home, which I have now.” She also appreciates how Lakewood residents tend to be “culturally aware and involved in the arts.” When asked how Lakewood might be further improved, Montanaro replied: “I would love to see more people supporting our beautiful storefronts and walk-up businesses. Lakewood has such a wonderful heritage.”

Montanaro has been the League’s Executive Director for 12 years. Part of her job is to explain the purpose of the organization: “Our goal has been to allow writers who are successful to help other writers become more successful.” Fittingly, she elaborates in poetic terms: “We don’t know what we don’t know.” Examples of what aspiring writers may not know include how to avoid mistakes in craft, how to find markets for their work, and how to correct the many misconceptions about a writer’s life. “Most of us write in a vacuum,” she says, “but these teachers have been where you are,” and in some ways they might serve as mentors for class participants. Many of the Cleveland area’s top writers have taught classes in the past, including Dan Chaon, Les Roberts, Jan Snow, and Deanna Adams.

The next schedule of writing (and reading) classes offered by the League begins in mid-January. There are classes for all levels of writing experience. Many genres are covered each term, often including poetry, fiction, nonfiction, songwriting, writing as healing, memoir, journalism, and travel writing. There are also classes on “the business of writing” that focus on how to achieve publishing success as a freelance writer. Even high school writers are offered a few classes to sharpen their skills. Finally, some discussion groups for readers are usually available.

Readers interested in the Poets’ and Writers’ League or its classes beginning in January are invited to visit the website at www.pwlgc.com or call 216-421-0403 (or e-mail pwlgc@yahoo.com). Members receive many benefits, including a subscription to *Ohio Writer*, discounts on classes, and an e-mail listserv that provides information on writing events and conferences around the area. Currently, the League’s classes are held at The Lit Center, 12200 Fairhill Road, Cleveland. Montanaro adds that the League is actively pursuing a west side location for classes in the near future.

Steve Barry

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Lakewood People

Bottom of the World, Bottom of the Standings

Lakewood Native Takes Browns Backers to South Pole

By Mike Deneen

As many Lakewoodites know, it's not easy being a Cleveland Browns fan. The losing seasons, the bad draft choices, the seemingly endless string of losses to Pittsburgh can take its toll. However, despite all the failure, loyal Browns fans continue to stick by their team. Someday, somehow, someway, they live in the hope that the Browns will win the Super Bowl before they die.

Despite the obvious drawbacks, millions of people around the world choose to follow the team. The Browns have 287 Browns Backers fan clubs around the world. From Mansfield, Ohio, to Mali, Africa, Browns Backers clubs offer a chance for Browns fans to gather, mingle and commiserate.

However, it took a Lakewood woman to bring the Browns Backers to the most distant and least populated place on earth—Antarctica. Nicky Gerome, a 1999 graduate of Lakewood High School, started the Browns Backers of Antarctica in 2004 when she took a job at McMurdo Station, one of



three stations on the Continent. While at LHS, Gerome competed in soccer, basketball and softball. As a senior she was captain of the girls' soccer and softball teams and voted Athlete of the Year. Her decision to start the club was inspired by her father, a longtime Browns fan and the athletic director at Lakewood High.

If you think its tough being a Browns fan in Lakewood, try being a Browns fan in Antarctica. Although it varies throughout the year, the population typically ranges between 900 and 1000 people at Curd throughout the year. Since it is in the southern hemisphere, the seasons are reversed. Therefore, it is currently summer, and the temperatures have climbed as high as the mid 20s. In addition, the sun is up 24 hours a day. However, during the winter, temperatures will fall to 100° below (with wind chill) and it will remain dark all day. There is an 18-hour time difference, so a 1 p.m. Sunday game is actually on 7 a.m. Monday morning.

Despite the hardships, the club has grown. In 2004 there were only five members. But in 2005 the group grew to 12. All the Backers either grew up or lived in Cleveland for a while, and many still have parents in Northeast Ohio.

The group gathers to watch the games (or, in some cases, tapes of the game since many are not televised live). They wear their Browns winter gear outside and their t-shirts indoors, and swap stories and memories of the Browns, trips to the old stadium, favorite players and memories.

As with most Browns Backers clubs around the world, the club is about more than just football. Members get together and reminisce about Cleveland, family, and home. Like Browns fans everywhere else, they will spend the next couple of months pondering the best potential draft pick for the team, and of course looking forward to next year.



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Strolling with Rita

Let's Stroll

Beck Center Children's Choir

By Rita Ryland

Lakewood children sing. Lakewood children perform in Lakewood and other communities. Lakewood children have fun, develop friendships, and learn the skill of making beautiful music.

On December 13, if you had walked into the Community Meal at St. Peter's, you would have heard the Beck Center's Performing Choir (4th-7th grades) entertain dinner guests with carols and holiday classics. Before the performance, the carolers rehearsed briefly in a conference room. Led by Katie Krumreig, a former chorister, they warmed up with stretching exercises, vocal exercises—"sh,sh,sh, tu,tu,tu,tu, ti,ti,ti, sh,sh,sh,sh," and breathing exercises. "Relax your shoulders. Stand tall," Ms. Krumreig said. Choir members wore choir t-shirts and khaki slacks. Some diners sang along; all clapped and ate their turkey dinner with a smile.

On December 14, at the Beck Center, the Intermediate Choir (2nd-3rd grades) led by Judy Fesko, sang at an Informance—an informal program for families for the holidays. The choir warmed up their voices with games. "Stand straight as if a string is holding us up," Ms. Fesko said. And the children did. One chorister was welcomed back after having her tonsils removed.

The Choir started their program with Grand Old Flag. They sang a Russian song about a sleigh, titled Minka. Their program ended with Go Now in Peace.

On the following Saturday, the Chamber Choir (6th-10th grades) performed at the First Federal Savings and Loan on Detroit Avenue. The Chamber Choir director is Kathleen Bassett. Ms. Bassett is also the current Choir

Program Director. Some members of the Chamber Choir also performed with Apollo's Fire at Christmas Concerts in Canton and Akron. Monica Owen, Choir Manager, accompanied

At the request of David Blazer, Ms. Sevilla Morse founded the Choir program at the Koch School of Music in 1989 in Rocky River. The program started with 35 children. In 1991-92,

included this song in their program. Little arms pointed to the ground and reached to the sky. Tender voices filled the auditorium. Whenever the Tree Song is performed, former choristers in the audience are always invited to sing along.

In 2004, for the 15th anniversary of the choir, Mr. Medema wrote a song titled "Scattering Seeds of Peace."

Ms. Morse's last performance with the Choir was in July 2005 at the Niagara International Music Festival. "It was an anguished decision," Ms. Morse said about her retirement. Ms. Morse went on to say that the choirs are in very competent hands with Ms. Bassett.

All choirs practice weekly at Lakewood's Beck Center. Girls, and boys whose voices haven't changed, are invited to audition. Auditions are "placement auditions." That means nobody will be turned away. The audition determines which choir is most appropriate for the child. You do not have to be a resident of Lakewood to join. Choir members live in many of Lakewood's surrounding communities, including Cleveland, Shaker Heights, Avon, Avon Lake, Bay Village, Fairview, Rocky River, North Olmsted and Westlake.

If you have a child who enjoys singing, a child who is shy and does better in small groups, or a child looking for an activity outside of school, the Beck Center Children's Choir may be for him or her.

Auditions are taking place now. The new semester starts January 23. The tuition for the second semester is \$92.50 for Performing Choir and \$160.00 for Chamber Choir. Scholarships are available. For more information contact Kathleen Bassett at 216/351-5312 or Monica Owen at 216/226-3680.



If you have a child who enjoys singing, a child who is shy and does better in small groups, or a child looking for an activity outside of school, the Beck Center Children's Choir may be for him or her.

the singers to Akron.

In the past, the Beck Center Chamber Choir has sung the National Anthem at Jacobs Field and Gund Arena. They have performed for the Ohio Choral Directors Association and, in Canada, at the Niagara International Music Festival.

Children are never too young to start singing. The Primary Music Makers (kindergarten and grade 1) meet weekly with Director Tricia Crane.

the school moved to Lakewood and became known as the Riverside Academy of Music. In 2001, the Choir program merged with the Beck Center and is the Center's music school. The choir enrollment for the fall semester was 56

During Ms. Morse's tenure, the Chamber and Performing choirs sang the Tree Song at each performance. The song, written by Ken Medema, encourages us to plant roots and grow strong. The Intermediate Choir

Lakewood's Youth

By Kathleen South

Community leaders and city officials have embarked on a mission destined to revamp youth programs in the city.

The panel, consisting of a cross section of leaders in city government, business and public institutions, met today to map out the long-range strategy they will use to evaluate the needs of the community and what resources are available to meet them. The youth will also participate in the endeavor.

"The blue-ribbon committee will identify areas to look at from early childhood" to age 20, according to Dottie Buckon, director of Lakewood's human resources department. The panel will also look for duplication of services for the youth.

A grant from the National League of Cities is funding the one-year project. Lakewood is only one of five cities in

the country to receive this distinction, according to Buckon. NLC, working with Cleveland State University and University of Akron, will provide the technical assistance for the effort.

The commission has its roots in the Lakewood Cares program, an informal coalition of city and school officials, business and civic leaders and residents.

Community leaders also hope the agenda set by the committee's work will ward off troubles later on.

"Clearly, we (police) deal mostly with juveniles with problems. You can pretty much see why when you look into the environment," said Ed Favre, a Lakewood Police Detective and President of the Lakewood Board of Education.

A good youth program also makes good economic sense.

"The state of Ohio pays nearly \$20,000 a year for each inmate. If I

could take that \$20,000 and put it into (a youth program) we would likely not have as many inmates," Favre said.

Superintendent David Estrop thinks the study will enhance cooperative efforts in place now.

"We pledge to work more collaboratively with the providers of services to the maximum efficiency and effectiveness," he said, citing, as an example, the music programs offered by student groups at the Westerly Apartments, a senior complex.

"They are looking for programs and it meets of the needs of young performers. We hope it will generate some intergenerational conversations," he said.

It is hoped that programs outside of the classroom will help youngsters academically.

"The youth need attention, respect and places to hang out to create a culture to advance learning," said Robert M. Seelie, City Council president and a

member of the Lakewood Cares steering committee.

Favre agrees, especially when it relates to physical activities.

"Anything with physical activity will help with emotional stress and family issues and will lead to better academic performance."

The initial review will include services provided by the city and schools, as well as those provided by such agencies as the YMCA, Lakewood Public Library, Beck Center and community churches and it will identify any duplication of services.

"We have to figure out what we are called to do," according to the Rev. Mark Thomas, pastor of Lakewood Congregational Church.

Buckon agrees. "The community has a wonderful variety of different ethnic groups and faith communities. Finding issues to talk about and build on can only make a better Lakewood."

Minding the Issues - Gordon Brumm

Intelligent Design: Skeptical Thoughts about the Skepticism (2)

In my last column I distinguished between evolution and natural selection, which is the supposed mechanism by which evolution is accomplished. Evolution is established beyond question, in my opinion, but not natural selection. The crucial question is: What is the cause of evolution—natural selection? Intelligent Design? something else?

I bemoaned the weakness of some of the arguments put forth by those scientists who argue for natural selection against Intelligent Design, and I critically examined three of their claims: that Intelligent Design is inherently unscientific; that to abandon natural selection would be to abandon the basic framework of biology; and that we see natural selection all around us as in the genesis of new strains of germs.

In this column I will look at some other points that make me dubious about the natural-selection position.

The Case of the Peppered Moth. As a theory, natural selection has an obvious weakness, namely, that it is difficult if not impossible to prove. To demonstrate decisively that natural selection is the cause of evolution, we have to manipulate nature in such a way as to show that evolutionary change occurs when, and only when, natural selection occurs. That is a tough assignment.

So the world of biology was thrilled to learn of a set of experiments performed in 1953 by an English doctor-turned-naturalist named Bernard Kettlewell.

Kettlewell's experiments involved the peppered moth, of which there were two forms. The more usual (called the "typical") is cream-colored. The other form is black (melanic). This melanic form had first appeared in Manchester, England, during the mid-1800s when the Industrial Revolution produced enormous clouds of pollution that literally blackened the atmosphere and the landscape. The melanic form thrived in these surroundings, and it seemed logical to suppose that it became predominant over the cream-colored form because in the dark soot-covered environment it was better able to survive and reproduce—in other words, through natural selection.

Kettlewell aimed to prove the truth of this supposition in a scientifically rigorous manner. His hypothesis was 1) the melanic moths would be better camouflaged on tree trunks that had been darkened by pollution, while the lighter cream-colored moths would be better camouflaged on trees in their original state, and 2) birds would eat a larger percentage of uncamouflaged moths. (Birds were the "agent of selection.") Therefore more melanic moths would survive in a polluted area, and more cream-colored moths would survive in a pristine area.

He conducted his experiment in two stages, one in a polluted area and one in a non-polluted area. First he marked a number of each kind of moth.

By Gordon Brumm

Then he placed the moths of each kind on tree trunks. Finally, he recaptured the moths, noting how many of the marked and recaptured moths were lighter-colored and how many were melanic. (He assumed that the proportion of each kind of moth recaptured was equal to the proportion of that kind that had survived the assaults of birds.)

And sure enough, in the dark soot-covered environment, about twice as many melanic moths were recaptured, while in the pristine environment, about three times as many of the lighter-colored variety were recaptured! Each variety of peppered moth had won out (i.e. had been "selected") in its favored environment!

So the peppered moth became the prime exhibit for natural selection. Kettlewell's experiments were hailed as demonstrating natural selection in action and thereby proving that natural selection was indeed the engine of evolution. They became standard fare in textbooks, and biologists and biology teachers cited them as the proof of evolution through natural selection.

Let's pause and assume that these experiments are trustworthy. Then let's ask whether they do indeed prove that natural selection is the engine of evolution. Two points are worth noting: 1) A single set of experiments regarding a single instance of natural selection is cited as proof of the entire theory. This is a weak reed to rest the theory on, and the fact that the one set of experiments is made to bear such a heavy burden should be cause for suspicion.

2) The experiment shows us the *proliferation* of the melanic form of peppered moth, but tells us nothing about its *origin*. According to evolutionary theory, a new species begins with a random mutation that provides the means for an individual organism to thrive. But Kettlewell's experiments have nothing to do with the origin of the melanic peppered moths. These moths are already on the scene when he begins his experiments; for all we know, they could be the product of Intelligent Design.

So the Kettlewell experiments do little to prove the theory of natural selection, but they do much to show how the supporters of natural selection can jump to conclusions.

I get the impression that the scientists who support natural selection against Intelligent Design are very good at doing science, but not very good at thinking about science.

But in any case, Kettlewell's experiments were not what they seemed. Recent scrutiny has shown them to be deeply flawed at best, as described in *Of Moths and Men* by Judith Hooper. Here are some of the main defects, as described in her book:

The number of moths Kettlewell set on the trees was far above the number that would settle on the trees naturally (he set up a "bird feeder"); thus birds were much more attracted

to them than in a natural setting. (pp. 243, 254)

The natural resting place for moths is not on the tree trunks, where Kettlewell placed them, but on the undersides of branches, where they would be less vulnerable. (p. 260)

Kettlewell twice changed his methodology during the course of the experiment when the results he was getting failed to match the results he expected and desired. (p. 254)

These flaws were summed up in the quip that Kettlewell's experiments demonstrated "unnatural selection." (pp. 267, 284)

Finally, the experiments have not been satisfactorily replicated. (p. 262-263)

In short, Kettlewell's experiments are not reliable, and even if they were reliable they would serve at most as an *illustration* of how natural selection might occur, not as proof that it is responsible for the entire process of evolution.

Random mutations. The theory of natural selection holds that new species originate when random mutations in the genes of one or a few individuals make these individuals better adapted to their environment.

But random mutations hardly ever occur. We don't see people or animals randomly born with two noses or three eyes. Could there be someone who engineers mutations to get just the ones that He, She, or It wants?

A scientist supporting natural selection might well reply by pointing to DNA and saying that mutations are not completely random but rather can occur only at some definite point on the DNA chain, within well-defined boundaries (e.g. lengthening a bird's bill, not creating a second bill). OK—that sounds reasonable. But let's keep the matter of random mutations in mind.

Then there's the flounder. The flounder is a fish that has both eyes on the same side of its head. That is to say, both eyes are on the same side when the flounder is an adult; when born, its two eyes are on the two sides of its head, and one eye migrates to the other side as the flounder grows up, thus recapitulating its evolution.

Both eyes on one side! If that isn't random mutation, what could be? So where are we on this matter of random mutation? If mutations aren't random, then how explain the flounder? If they are random, then why don't we see more of them?

What I have been trying to point out in these two columns is that opponents of Intelligent Design, in trying to dismiss that viewpoint out of hand, are in danger of replacing religious dogmatism with their own kind of scientific dogmatism. But perhaps this is because they are attacking Intelligent Design at the wrong point.

Although proponents of Intelligent Design may well be sincere in their claims to be doing science, it is clear that they have an extended agenda—

they want to prove the existence of an Intelligent Designer because they believe the Intelligent Designer is the Christian God.

Their argument, in effect, is twofold: An Intelligent Designer is responsible for the existence of the species AND the Intelligent Designer is the Christian God. (I would be willing to bet that the proponents' scientific zeal would diminish radically if they had to abandon the second step of their argument.)

In fairness, we should consider the second step as well as the first. Proponents say that the facts of the world imply that there is an Intelligent Designer. If this is true, then what kind of world has the Designer designed? Do the facts of the world also imply that the Intelligent Designer is the Christian God?

I hesitate to go down this road, because in the back of my mind I hear voices saying that I will be attacking the main fabric of many people's lives. But perhaps we have been over-reticent in matters concerning organized religion, and thereby have not only discouraged frank discussion but also provided a sanctuary from which the Religious Right can sally forth to ravage our civic life. So maybe it's time to put truth above courtesy.

At issue is the hypothesis that the characteristics of the world around us show that the Intelligent Designer—assuming there is one—is the Christian God.

There is one insurmountable difficulty with this hypothesis. It is usually termed the Problem of Evil.

The Problem of Evil arises from the supposition that God is all-powerful and all-loving. In addition, He (or She or It) is presumed to be just and, as the Intelligent Designer, supremely intelligent. But these attributes—in particular being all-powerful and all-loving—are inconsistent with the presence of evil in the world. For if the Designer-God could abolish evil but does not, then He is not all-loving. If the Designer-God would like to abolish evil but cannot, then He is not all-powerful. However you look at it, the existence of the Christian Designer-God cannot be squared with the presence of evil in the world.

(For a much more eloquent statement of the problem, read the section titled "Rebellion" in Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*.)

The first line of defense against the Problem of Evil is that evil arises from mankind's misuse of the wonderful gift of free will. There are two fatal flaws in this defense, corresponding to the two types of evil—moral evil (arising from human choice) and natural evil (arising from natural events apart from human choice).

The first flaw is that this line of defense cannot explain natural evil. A six-year-old boy dies of leukemia. What choice has he made—or has anyone else

see *Intelligent Design*, page 5

Lakewood Observer

A New Home Brings New Opportunities

By Jessica Gruenke and
Terry Hamovitch

One year ago, it was a storage room with holes in the floor, peeling paint, and remnants from a shop class taught many years ago. Now, the basement of Horace Mann Middle School is the new home of the Lakewood Adult Basic and Literacy Education Program (ABLE). ABLE is a publicly funded program providing free educational opportunities to adults that need to improve their skills, so that they can obtain a GED (General Educational Development Diploma), improve their English communication, apply for U.S. citizenship, or develop their employability. The Lakewood program focuses on basic skill development in reading and writing and on GED Test preparation. ABLE provides adult students with a standards based curriculum. Students take standardized assessments and receive individualized learning plans to help them realize their goals.

"I learn all day, that is why I come

here," says Sherry Chen, a Chinese immigrant who was working in the ESOL program and recently started working on GED preparation. "My goal is to finish my GED and go on to job training. I'm also using what I learn to teach my children at home, although sometimes they teach me." Ms. Chen has two children, ages nine and eleven, also benefiting from her GED and English preparation.

Joummana Mualem, an immigrant from Syria, is currently preparing herself to obtain U.S. citizenship. She holds two master's degrees, one in Arabic Literature and the other in Educational Methods. Her biggest challenge is becoming proficient in English, so she attends ESOL classes four times a week. In addition, she attends two classes a week in computer instruction and two for conversational English. "I want to apply for a Ph.D. in modern languages; I just have to obtain the vocabulary necessary to enter a program taught in English."

Joummana is not the only person facing a language barrier. Gaynel Mel-

lino recently started volunteering with the ABLE program. "Lakewood is a diverse community and it made sense to understand what people are facing with the language barrier," she says. "Volunteering has made me more aware of how difficult many tasks can be for someone who doesn't speak English."

Anis Harba, also from Syria, has been in the United States for four months, after having been a journalist in Syria for 23 years. He currently works at a local Aladdin restaurant and needs to learn English. "I come to both morning and evening classes to learn English. At home I speak Arabic, at work I speak Arabic, and I need a place that gives me the opportunity to speak English."

Each day, GED and ESOL students overcome barriers and successfully complete the Adult Education program, with the help of certified teachers. There are 160 adult students currently enrolled in the ABLE program. Nineteen students have already obtained their GED. Last year, 68 students also obtained a GED credential. These successes are just a few examples of why the Lakewood ABLE program has received exemplary status in all four content areas by the State of Ohio for the past three years.

Lakewood City Schools, Community Recreation and Education Department. For more information regarding the ABLE program or to volunteer, please contact Terry Hamovitch, ABLE Coordinator, at (216) 529-4240.

The ABLE program is just one of the many adult education opportunities the Lakewood Community Recreation and Education Department supports. The department will be holding a community meeting on February 23, 2006 at 7 p.m. in the Lakewood High School West Cafeteria to discuss community education and workforce development as they develop additional adult education programming. This meeting is the second part of a three part series to gain community input on all recreation department programming. On February 16, 2006 at 7:30 there will be a discussion on athletics and on February 28, 2006 at 7 p.m. the community is invited to discuss facilities and aquatics. All meetings will be held in the LHS West Cafeteria. For more information regarding these community meetings please contact the recreation department at (216) 529-4081.

Protect Yourself When Getting Your Car Repaired

By Lynn and Don Farris

Most auto dealers and mechanics are hard working individuals with no desire to cheat you. Yet there is always the question how do you know if you have selected the right auto repair shop for your car.

First, ask your friends and neighbors who services their car and if they are happy with the service. Keep in mind some mechanics specialize in different makes of cars. A mechanic who works well with your neighbor's car might not know the first thing about your car.

Second, don't be afraid to get a second opinion about what is wrong with your car and how much it will cost to repair. Know the value of your car. You may want to consider not spending more to repair your car than what it is worth.

The Attorney General's office receives more complaints from Ohio Consumers about automobiles than any other consumer product or service. Consumer complaints include: spending hundreds of dollars on jobs which should cost much less; repairs not properly made the first time; repairs made without permission; and unnecessary repairs.

It is up to you to know your rights as a consumer in the State of Ohio. These are your rights:

- 1) You have the right to a written estimate before repairs should the cost exceed \$25. The estimate must contain both the estimate amount and the anticipated completion date. The estimate may be faxed to you.
- 2) The mechanic must contact you and get your permission to continue the repair work should the cost exceed the estimate by more than 10%.
- 3) The mechanic must return replaced parts to you unless rebuilt or sold by the shop. Any reuse must be made known to you in advance.
- 4) The mechanic must inform you concerning any form of surcharge, such as a flat percentage charge for miscellaneous materials and supplies.
- 5) The mechanic must advise you about any charge for dis-assembly, reassembly or partially completed work.
- 6) The mechanic must tell you before starting work if any will be done by another shop unless a warranty is being extended to the other shop's work. If you ask, the facility must tell you the name of the other shop.
- 7) The mechanic must give you, upon request, an itemized receipt for a motor vehicle or any parts you turn over to a facility.
- 8) The mechanic must provide you with an itemized list of repairs and services including the cost for labor and the name of the mechanic who did the work.
- 9) The mechanic must advise you up front concerning any storage fees and if so how much.

The repair shop cannot:

- 1) Charge you for repairs or services you did not authorize.
- 2) Tell you repairs are necessary when they are not.
- 3) Tell you that repairs were performed when they were not.
- 4) Tell you that your auto is in dangerous condition when it is not.
- 5) Substantially underestimate the repair or service costs.

If you have problems the Attorney General suggests giving the repair shop a chance to fix the trouble. Take the car back and talk to the repair or department manager, the business owner or the dealer. If you do not get satisfactory results call the Consumer Protection Section, 30 E. Broad St. 14th Floor, Columbus Ohio 43215-3400. Toll Free 1-800-282-0515. Information provided by the Attorney General's office.

The Lakewood ABLE program holds GED preparation classes Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

ESOL classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and Monday and Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The ESOL computer skills class is held on Monday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon.

All GED and ESOL classes provide individual and group instruction to students. GED testing is offered at the Lakewood Library on Madison.

The ABLE program is administered through the Ohio Department of Education, Career-Technical and Adult Education office, and is authorized by the Workforce Investment Act, Title II, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, P.L. 105-220. The Lakewood ABLE program is coordinated under the

GED Facts:

- Only seven out of ten graduating high school seniors would earn passing scores if they took the GED tests.
- People who pass the GED tests have stronger reading skills on average than graduating high school seniors.
- More than 96 percent of employers nationwide employ GED graduates on the same basis as high school graduates in terms of hiring, salary, and opportunity for advancement.
- Since 1942, more than 12 million adults have earned GED diplomas.
- Ohio's primary program, the Adult and Basic Literacy Education (ABLE) initiative, received nearly \$15 million in federal funds in 2004, with another \$11 million from state and local sources. According to state education officials, that \$26 million helped to move nearly 200 adults off public assistance, saving Ohio about \$2 million, and another 15,000 secured new employment, translating to \$166 million in annual income.

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Lakewood Healthcare

Lakewood Hospital News

Dedication Ceremony

On Tuesday morning, December 13, the lobby of Lakewood Hospital buzzed with excitement as members of the community and hospital employees greeted each other. The day was clear and cold; the lobby heated. Volunteers handed out red carnations and programs. Santa Claus spread good cheer.

At 11 o'clock, Jack Gustin, Chief Administrative Officer, welcomed city dignitaries, board members, volunteers, hospital employees and friends to the dedication of the renovated main lobby and cafeteria.

Mr. Gustin thanked project leaders for their hard work. He cited the diligence of Ron Colaguori, Chief of Operations, Bill Koziol, V.P. Operations, Jim Rowe, V.P. Operations, and Sue Windbigler, Manager of Nutrition Services. Mr. Gustin thanked Maureen Duffy and the volunteers for their efforts during the remodeling. Mr. Gustin informed the guests of other improvements that have taken place throughout the hospital to better meet the needs of patients. These include renovations in step down, skilled nursing, the Digestive Health Center, the Child Care Center, the parking garage, radiology, new furniture in the third floor atrium and various renovations to the medical building. The total investment in the hospital, as a result of these improvements, is \$3.7 million. And that is in addition to the \$3 million investment in the Heart Center in 2004. "We are investing not only in Lakewood Hospital, but also in the community," Mr. Gustin said.

The Reverend David Walker, hospital Chaplain, blessed the lobby and cafeteria and added that Lakewood Hospital is, "the best place to receive care, practice medicine, and the best place to work."

In an address titled, Patients First, Fred DeGrandis, President and Chief Executive Officer, Cleveland Clinic Health System—Western Region, said, "We are making an investment in our key customers; volunteers, physicians, patients and families, and staff." He went on to say that the Information and Welcoming desk was centrally located to greet patients, their families, and physicians. In addition to a readily identifiable welcoming desk, he told the audience that the patient advocate office was now on the first floor, steps from the front door.

Mr. DeGrandis said that the cafeteria, an area not usually celebrated, provided an area of respite for the staff. "We are investing in the folks who make Lakewood Hospital what it is. We are supporting the staff to deliver the best care."

After the blessing and remarks, the audience was invited to enjoy lunch in the new cafeteria. December 13 was also the day management staff served a meal to all three shifts. For more detail on the dedication ceremony and colored photos go to www.lakewoodhospital.org.

By Rita Ryland

org. "This is really a community hospital," Deborah Gaebelein, Manager, Marketing Department. "The commu-

nity is part of everything we do."

Several days after the dedication ceremony, I returned to Lakewood



From left to right: Tom Jordan, City of Lakewood Development Director; Caroline Seelbach, volunteer at Lakewood Hospital since 1948; Tom Gable, second vice-president of Lakewood Hospital Foundation Board; Jack Gustin, Chief Administrative Officer, Lakewood Hospital; Michele Thorman, Chief Nurse Officer, Lakewood Hospital; Ron Colaguori, Sr. Vice President of Operations, Lakewood Hospital.



Main Lobby waiting room.



Main entrance hallway.



Cafeteria.

Hospital and met with Deborah Gaebelein, the manager of the marketing department.

If you've ever been in a hospital, you know how stressful just walking in the doors can be. I recalled visiting my mother in a Pennsylvania hospital several years ago. I remember stepping into a dark lobby and walking up to an empty information desk. Not so at Lakewood Hospital where it is obvious that the planning committee and administration made every effort to make your visit user-friendly.

The main hospital doors are handicapped accessible and open automatically. The area immediately inside is heated. The lobby is light. The cream and sand colors are soft and soothing.

To the right of the main entrance is a seating area furnished with lounge chairs that invite you to sit, take a deep breath, collect your thoughts, and rest. This is also an ideal area if you are with someone who tires easily or cannot walk with you to get the car. They can wait comfortably in the lobby.

Just inside the main door, in the central corridor of the lobby, is the Information and Welcome desk. On the day I visited, two volunteers, dressed in royal blue smocks, sat at the desk ready to answer questions.

Should you want to give flowers to someone in the hospital, the Blossom Shop is in the lobby. "We make the arrangements ourselves," the volunteer said with pride. The prices are very reasonable. For example, a large poinsettia that I paid \$15 for elsewhere was \$10 in the hospital shop. Across from the Blossom Shop is a well-stocked gift shop.

The patient advocates' offices are also located in the lobby area. Usually by the time someone asks to speak with the patient advocate, they are upset. The private offices provide a safe space for a patient or family member to express their concerns, ask their questions and get answers. The patient advocates' offices are open Monday through Friday.

Walk past the Information and Welcome desk, down the well-lit lobby corridor, and you enter the cafeteria. Lakewood Hospital offers a variety of food at modest cost. Some of the venues are Saladventures, with fresh lettuces, veggies, and an assortment of dressings; the Trattoria offers grill items including flatbread pizza; a Patisserie; and Dujour, where on the day I was there, you had a choice of broiled cod (\$3.50) or chicken stir-fry. The cafeteria also offers soups, fresh fruit, coffee and juices.

Even with a crowded cafeteria, the noise level was remarkably low. The lighting in the cafeteria is soft. The quiet setting creates a restorative atmosphere for staff and loved ones.

As I walked away from the hospital through the cafeteria, past the welcoming desk, the Blossom Shop, the gift shop, and the patient advocate office, I was reminded of the words of Fred DeGrandis when he said the hospital was investing in what is most important, "the care of patients."

Lakewood Beck Center

Beauty and the Beast Live at the Beck Center

By Mary Bodnar
Theater Critic

The Beck Center of the Arts took on a huge endeavor with the production of the well-known and much loved Disney version of *Beauty and the Beast*. Director Fred Sternfeld, choreographer Martin Cespedes and musical Director Larry Goodpastor masterfully brought this epic love story to life in an amazing way. It certainly conformed to the highest theatrical standards. Disney lovers and *Beauty and the Beast* enthusiasts will not be disappointed. On Opening night, Friday, December 2, an excited audience was rewarded with curtains opening to reveal a lavish stage design complete with castle walls and climbing vines. Costume designs were simply exquisite, and costume designer Aimee Kluiber paid attention to the finest detail.

The music of Howard Menkin and lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice were orchestrated beautifully by Belle, played by talented and beautiful Natalie Green, the Beast, powerfully impersonated by Dan Folino, and the show-stealer, the heart-stopping Gaston, played by Josh R. Noble. The orchestral numbers, which were enchanting, seemed to be slightly muffled at some points. (I don't remember this being the case for *Aida* or *Urinetown*—*Urinetown*'s orchestra, however, was right up on stage, as opposed to being behind the stage).

Natalie Green (Belle) was as charming in person as she was to watch on stage. She graciously spent 20 minutes on her knees to be at eye level with the long line of eager children (including my three who were utterly speechless in her presence) who awaited her autograph. She patiently addressed each child by name and enthusiastically answered all their questions. (Wow! Are there really still people like that in the world?)

Josh R. Noble (Gaston) currently residing in New York City, was phenomenal as the dorky, self-centered, egomaniac, womanizing, town evil villain. Talk about another truly likable down to earth guy—about as far from his character in the story. His hilarious acting and comical facial expressions were as close to actually being a cartoon character as you could get.

Zak Hudak, who was great as Gaston's pathetic sidekick Lefou, was dropped, thrown and generally assaulted so many times that my compassionate eight-year-old daughter was truly worried about him. She asked him after the performance if it hurt. He said yes. This guy was equally amazing in *Urinetown*. He can really move his body. Nehring was enchanting as Lumiere, the French maitre d' turned candlestick.

My six-year-old son was just smitten



Photo courtesy of Stephen Campanella

Amiee as Mrs. Potts (teapot); in background, from left to right, Larry Nehring as Lumiere (the candelabra) and Douglas Collier as Cogsworth (the clock).

ten with Kristen Netzbund, who played Babette, the enchanted Feather Duster. To keep her feathers moving, her derriere was in constant motion.

Andre Parmalee, who played the Doormat, whizzing across the stage performing backflips, was a foreign exchange student in China where he studied a plethora of gymnastic styles and techniques. When asked when he started taking gymnastics, he answered "My Mom put me in gymnastics when she noticed me flipping

all over the house."

Our favorite musical number is when Lumiere goes into the kitchen to get something to eat for Belle and all the dinnerware is so excited that they finally get to serve someone. They all respond in "Be Our Guest" and the corresponding dance routine is fantastic. Napkins, Mrs. Potts, Spoons, Knives, Pepper, Measuring Spoons, Cake Server, Wooden Spoon, Corkscrew, etc., whirl about the stage in an eye full of splendor.

The Beck Center for the Arts presents

Verb Ballets' Verb Pops and the World Premiere of Super Friends

The Beck Center for the Arts presents Cleveland's National Repertory Dance Company, Verb Ballets, for one week-end only! Verb Ballets continues its fourth triumphant season launching Verb Pops on the Beck Center's Main Stage January 20-22, 2006. Tickets range from \$10 - \$20.

The Verb Pops program features a revival of Ian Horvath's blues ballet, "Laura's Women," Verb's own rock n' roll tribute, "MoonDogg," and the world premiere of Artistic Director Hernando Cortez' "Super Friends," a

madcap dance sitcom featuring members of the Westside community. "Our new Pops program highlights our commitment to family enriching repertory," says Artistic Director Hernando Cortez.

Beck's Artistic Director Scott Spence says, "It's a perfect collaboration—the marriage of theater and dance under one roof. I am confident our Westsiders will be thrilled and delighted when they experience Verb's electrifying energy, it's infectious."

Longtime Clevelander and direc-

tor of Beck's dance program, Lynda Sackett embraced the collaboration whole-heartedly. "As soon as these talented professionals entered the studios, my students' drive, energy and work ethic soared. We all know the effect of having professional dancers around dance students, it's amazing."

This production is a culmination of a six-week residency hosted by the Beck Center for the Arts with support from the John P. Murphy Foundation and the following sponsors: BFL Communications and ideastream.

Show times are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students (22 and under with I.D.) and \$10 for children (12 and under). To reserve your seats contact the Beck Center box office at (216) 521-2540 or visit us online at <<http://www.beckcenter.org/>>www.beckcenter.org. Discounts are available for groups of ten or more. The Beck Center for the Arts is located just 10 minutes west of downtown Cleveland at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood.



Beck Center Faculty and Friends – Sunday, January 29, 2006

Free Chamber Music Recital

The Beck Center for the Arts invites you to enjoy Chamber Music, a free music recital with Beck Center faculty and friends on Sunday, January 29, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. in the Music-Armory Building. Chamber Music will feature the talents of members of the accomplished Beck Center music faculty; as well as special guest performers, the Isis Trio. This recital is free and open to the public.

Chamber Music performers include Kathleen Bosl (soprano), Jocelyn Chang (harp), Jill Collier (cello), Chris Ellicott (guitar), Bruce Erwin (violin), Natasha Inski (cello), Patty Knox (viola), and Michael Leese (flute). The Isis Trio features cellist Jie Jin, pianist Shuai Wang and violinist Jing Zeng.

The Beck Music Department offers private lessons in voice, piano and all orchestral and band instruments. The Music Conservatory offers an opportunity for exceptional students to increase their level of education and prepare them for acceptance to the finest colleges and universities in the country. It is a unique and intensive course of study that offers college preparatory instruction, as well as performance opportunities. In addition, the Music Department offers classes in voice, music theory, early childhood music, Suzuki violin, and Dalcroze Eurhythmics. The Beck Center Youth Choirs program includes five separate choirs involving over 200 students from kindergarten through ninth grade.

For more information about this and other music or performing arts events at the Beck Center for the Arts, please call (216) 521-2540 or visit us online at <<http://www.beckcenter.org/>>www.beckcenter.org.

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Lakewood's Back Page

Now Here Is A Real Fish Story

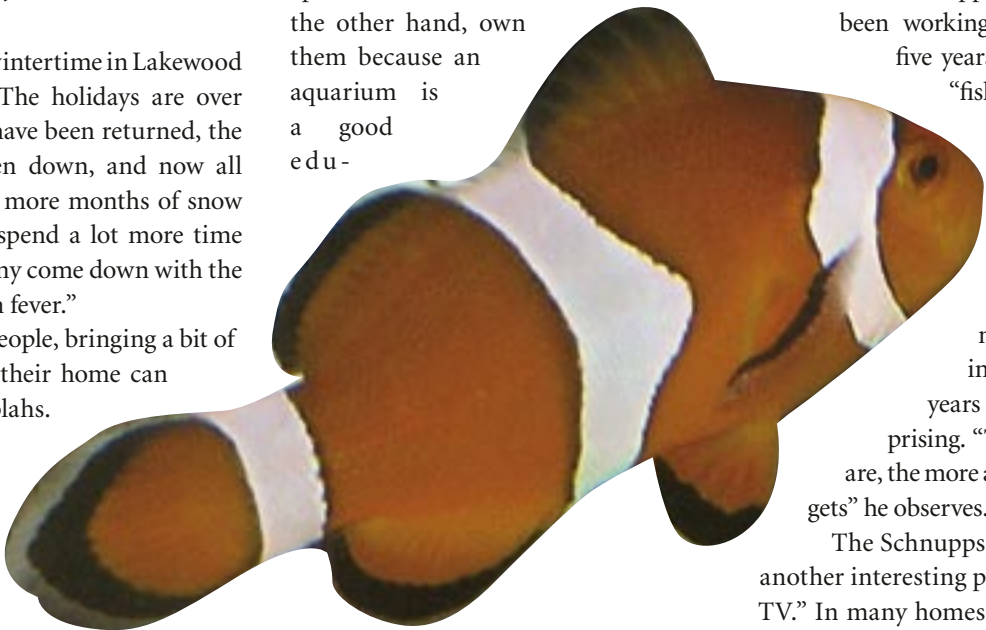
By Mike Deneen

As we all know, wintertime in Lakewood can get rough. The holidays are over — the presents have been returned, the decorations taken down, and now all we have is three more months of snow and ice. People spend a lot more time indoors, and many come down with the proverbial “cabin fever.”

For lots of people, bringing a bit of the tropics into their home can fight the winter blahs. That is why the winter months are the most popular time for aquarium sales. Having tropical fish not only conjures pleasant images of palm trees and sandy beaches, but also bestows health benefits. The serenity and beauty of a well-stocked aquarium helps to reduce stress level in humans. In fact, many medical offices have aquariums installed in lobbies or waiting rooms in order to provide a calming influence on patients.

A wide variety of Lakewood residents own pet fish. For example, younger adults, many of whom are living away from home for the first time, choose fish to brighten up their first

apartment. Families, on the other hand, own them because an aquarium is a good education



cation tool for children. Greg Schnupp, owner of Pet's General Store on Madison Avenue, has seen all types of customers. Pet's not only sells a wide range of fish and equipment, but is a leading source in Northeast Ohio for information on fish keeping.

Before buying the store five years ago, Greg owned a pet shop in Westlake for a dozen years. Before that, he spent eight years working at the 4th floor Higbee's pet department on Public Square.

John Schnupp, Greg's son, has been working at the store for five years. A self-described “fish geek”, John has noticed that many of the store's customers form close attachments to their fish. With many species having life-spans of 10 years or so, it is not surprising. “The bigger the fish are, the more attached the owner gets” he observes.

The Schnupps have also noticed another interesting phenomenon: “Cat TV.” In many homes, the resident that

spends the most time watching the aquarium is the pet cat. The movement of the fish triggers the cat's hunting instinct, and many cats spend hours watching the tank. (Note: Obviously, cat owners need to have covered aquariums, or else they will wind up with an empty tank and a full cat.)

If you've ever considered owning tropical fish, you can get a stocked 10-gallon aquarium for as little as about \$50. Many hobbyists start out with a smaller tank, and then move up to a larger model as their interest grows. In addition to daily feedings, an owner needs to spend time each week changing water and cleaning.

To learn more, stop by Pet's General Store 16821 Madison Avenue.



I always tell my girls, Payton (3 years old) and Jordan (1 year old), that I am the luckiest Mommy in the world because I have the two of them. Jordan, as it turns out, was born with a heart defect. It is hard to use the word “lucky” in conjunction with something as serious and as potentially devastating as a congenital heart defect, but in my case I truly believe that my family is. I am lucky that I reluctantly decided to take my daughter to the doctor at four weeks because she just had the sniffles. I am lucky that my doctor told me that she heard a heart murmur and thought it would be best to have it checked by a pediatric cardiologist. I am also lucky that the pediatric cardiologist told us when Jordan was ten weeks old that she had a bicuspid aortic valve. In layman's terms, or the terms I can understand, it means that her valve did not form properly and because of this she has a weakening and narrowing of the artery (Stenosis) and leakage back (Regurgitation) into the chamber. The reason I say I am “lucky” is for this very reason: the pediatric cardiologist told us that Jordan should live a normal life because it was caught early. If the condition had not been diagnosed, it could have been very serious or potentially fatal. Therefore, when I say to my girls I am the luckiest Mommy in the whole world, I truly believe it.

Congenital heart defects (CHD) result in structural abnormalities in the heart when a baby is born. The shocking truth about CHDs is that it affects 1 out of 100 children. This year alone 40,000 babies will be born with a CHD in the United States making it the number one birth defect to affect children to date. Although some babies will be diagnosed at birth, sometimes a diagnosis is not made until days, weeks, months, or even years later. Undiagnosed CHDs and Childhood Onset Heart Disease, for example, have been the cause of many widely publicized sudden cardiac deaths in young athletes. This month, there is a significant chance that a teenage athlete will die during a sporting event because a CHD was not diagnosed.

My husband and I stumbled across the Congenital Heart Information Network during a frantic search on the Internet to find out more information about Jordan's diagnosis. It is an organization that offers support, advice, information, comfort and resources to families afflicted with a CHD. The two of us decided that we wanted to help this organization and its cause so we have organized several fundraisers locally during its national awareness week of February 7–14.

We will be selling paper hearts through local businesses to show support. The donations will be \$1.00 per “heart” at the following locations (with more businesses lending their support each day): **Color By Numbers Hair Salon, Rozi's Wine House, Sweet Designs Chocolates, Geiger's Sporting Goods, Panini's Bar and Grill, Catchin' Some Rays Tanning Salon, and Cerny's Shoes.** When you purchase a heart you will be entered into a drawing for prizes donated by local retailers such as **The Breadsmith, Color By Numbers, Rozi's Wine House, Panini's, and more.** In addition, Rozi's Wine House will be having a special wine tasting with 100% of the proceeds going to Congenital Heart Information Network in February featuring Tom Burgess of Burgess Vineyards, owner/winemaker, of Napa Valley. For more information please contact Corey Rossen at Coreyroz@yahoo.com or at Rozi's Wine House at 216-221-1119.

If you are a retailer or business wishing to help support, or get involved, please contact us immediately! We thank everybody ahead of time for their continued support and efforts in making this a success.

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