

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 2, Issue 6, March 20, 2006

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Building Moving Along

It's About Teaching and Learning!

Jay Foran

With all the construction noise radiating from the four new school sites in Lakewood, it is easy to forget that the district's comprehensive building effort is firmly grounded in improving teaching and learning for every Lakewood Schools' student. No doubt we as a community are jubilant to be moving from the labors of planning meetings to the love of heavy machinery sounds and bricks and mortar being put into place. The dust has begun to fly and it will be fun to witness the new schools take shape as the coming months warm.

However, it's the opportunity to enact the thoughtfully planned effort by the community to improve teaching and learning that should really get our pulse jumping and expectations brimming! Teaching and learning will be enhanced significantly through the new buildings. As each brick is placed, we are endorsing our community-wide plan to improve teaching and learning, thereby strengthening our children's future and our prospects as both home owners and as a community!

Some history with an update may prove helpful. Lakewood residents approved the largest portion of a phased funding plan in March 2004. Construction is underway and on schedule

for two new middle schools: Harding and Garfield and two new elementary schools: Harrison and Hayes. The four new schools will open their doors for the 2007-2008 school year.

Planning and designing for the next group of schools in the queue (Lakewood High School, and what will become Emerson and Horace Mann elementary schools) are taking shape. A bond issue funding Phase II of the construction effort is anticipated sometime in 2007. Importantly, approval of this bond issue will move Lakewood closer to the matching funds from the State of Ohio that will reduce overall construction costs for Lakewood by approximately 25%.

It's about teaching and learning!

Moving from fourteen outdated, inefficient and high maintenance buildings (1 High School, 3 Middle Schools, 10 Elementary Schools) to a new, more efficient ten building configuration (current plan - 1 High School, 2 Middle Schools, 7 Elementary Schools) will have a significant positive impact on teaching and learning in Lakewood Schools. Here are just some of the ways:

1) School Populations – School population imbalances at both the overall school and grade level in the prior configuration made it challenging

to provide a consistency of programs from school to school. Split classes (two grade levels blended together) sometimes resulted and some class offerings had to be more limited due to the lack of a critical mass of eligible students. Getting school and grade level populations into balance will insure a greater consistency of program offerings and a more efficient utilization of teaching resources. All students, no matter where they go to school, will have an equal opportunity to learn and grow.

2) Teaching Tools and Technology – No doubt teaching approaches and tools have changed dramatically with time. Technology has enhanced the rate of change. While Lakewood is blessed to have a highly-talented and committed corps of teachers, we must provide them and our students the tools and technology to succeed in our changing world. As talented a golfer as Tiger Woods is, he would be hard-pressed to win a PGA tour event today with old wooden golf clubs. New schools will be outfitted with the latest technology and will be physically configured in a way that allows teachers to promote the best teaching approaches for the overall class as well as the individual student. This is vitally important, especially as we become more diverse as a community and, for example, the numbers of children who use English as a second language grow.

Our children will be better-prepared for an ever-changing world.

3) Classroom Environment – The infrastructure of our old buildings is tired and worn out. Unfortunately, outdated heating, ventilation, lighting and electrical systems, lack of central air conditioning, and the inflexible physical configuration of classrooms have been roadblocks in the learning process. New buildings with updated heating, ventilation and security systems will provide the right balance of temperature, air and lighting quality matched with the physical design of the space to enhance the learning capacity and insure better student safety. Classrooms will be better aligned by grade level and age group and access for our physically and emotionally handicapped children will be greatly improved. All our children will have a better chance of retaining the lessons taught and thus be better able to carry the basic learning requirements forward.

4) Cost efficiency – Our old buildings, while having served Lakewood well over 80 years, require significant maintenance and are a sizeable drain on operational costs. As we all know, ten more efficient buildings trump fourteen highly inefficient buildings

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Speaking To Local Democrats

Sherrod Brown Stops At Sullivan's



Congressman of the 13th District, Sherrod Brown, stopped in at Sullivan's on Madison Sunday, the 19th, to talk with local democrats about his run for Mike Dewine's Senate Seat. Some of Lakewood's key Democrats were there including President of Lakewood's Democratic Club and Councilman at Large Ed Fitzgerald, Judge Patrick Carroll and his wife Bonnie, and The Lakewood Observer's own City Council Reporter Stan Austin.

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Lakewood Government

Walking on Eggshells

Suzanne Metelko

Planning, like any long journey, begins with the first step....

On Wednesday, March 8th an email notification was forwarded by Councilperson Kevin Butler that an ad-hoc committee formed to address Council’s call for citywide strategic planning would meet on Thursday, March 9th from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the city hall jury room. The public was invited to participate. He knew it was short notice but it was an important subject.

The jury room is a tightly packed room with two large conference tables placed end to end. The group found itself seated primarily at the first table. Council members in attendance were Councilperson Madigan, Councilperson Antonio, Councilperson Demro as well as council clerk Mary Hagan. The administration was represented by Tom Jordon, Director of Planning. Community members J.B. Shaw and Suzanne Metelko were joined by Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathy Berkshire and legislative affairs chairperson Terry Vincent.

Councilperson Madigan brought the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and explained that it was the goal of the

evening to use the perspectives of the council, the administration and the community to clearly define the scope of an RFP (Request for Proposal) for a consultant to facilitate community strategic planning. A lively discussion ensued around the process of planning. Mr. Jordon opined that the 1993 Community Vision was of value to this process and suggested that it be distributed to the committee to study. The group agreed that an updated Community Vision would be a good jumping off point for community strategic planning. Councilperson Antonio mentioned that some council members had reviewed the Lakewood City Schools process. The Planning Department has agreed to fund the initial contract for \$10,000 and there was concern expressed by some council members that this may not be enough to get the process that is optimal. Regardless, it is the amount of money that can be allocated at this time and council members are respectful of the current budget crisis. Suggestions for alternative funding mechanisms during the planning process were also presented.

As the meeting drew to a close, Councilperson Madigan queried Director Jordon on the Mayor’s absence. Councilperson Madigan explained

that it was the intention of the council to develop the committee as one of joint governance and to operate the committee cooperatively to make the planning process as efficient and effective as possible. Director Jordon leaned forward onto the table and explained that the Mayor would not be joining the committee in its work. “This committee was essentially an outgrowth of the council’s communication relative to the income tax ...council voted down the income tax and this is council’s project.” The three council members were taken off guard and Councilperson Madison expressed surprise. She explained again that this process was to be a joint process. Director Jordon repeated that this was an ad-hoc committee of council and not a function of the administration.

Expressions of concern were heard from not only council members but community members as well. “The administration must be a partner rather than observer” believes Terry Vincent. James B. Shaw, long time resident of Lakewood and retired CEO of a financial institution commented, “Madame Chairwoman, without the leadership, commitment, cooperation and participation of our chief executive officer and his staff, we cannot proceed. It is time to go home.”

When contacted on Friday, Director Jordan was very clear that while the Mayor was completely supportive of the recommendation for community strategic planning; he was legally prohibited from participating in the work of the ad-hoc committee. Director Jordon further explained that as soon as the RFP for the consultant/facilitator was executed, that the Mayor expected to assume the leadership position in the planning process.

And so it begins.....

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 - Giant Eagle - W116th - on its last leg?
 - Power outage
 - Sherrod Brown in Lakewood,
 - Hayes Construction:
 - Wha’ happened to the trees??
 - Lakewood’s budget concerns
 - Malls
 - SBC DSL or Cox Cable
 - LHS Cardboard Boat Regatta
 - Could we have seen a red fox?
 - Length of Running Trail in Lakewood Park
 - NCBL -full circle
 - CitiStat Pilot Program - Critical Inquiry
 - Moving the Social Security Office

HOTTEST TOPIC



Should an absentee landlord who has ignored nearly every citation from our building department be able to get a “sweetheart” deal from the city? What does this teach other landlords? Where is the incentive for property owners to keep their property in good repair? Why are some property owners in court for small items while others are not?

Becoming an Observer Is Easy and Fun!

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!



THE
LAKEWOOD
OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for
Lakewood News & Opinion

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PUBLISHER
Jim O'Bryan

EDITOR
Heidi Hilty

ADVERTISING
Call 216.228.7223

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PHOTOGRAPHY
Rhonda Loje
Ivor Karabatkovic

ILLUSTRATION
Gary Dumm
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Lakewood City Hall

Budget Impasse Persists

Lakewood City Council met on March 6, 2006. The body first met at 6:15 P.M. as the committee of the whole and then transferred into a regular council meeting at 7:41. This article will report on both, since the first meeting is integral to the proceedings of the second.

The Ohio Revised Code 5705.38 mandates that a municipality shall have a budget no later than March 31 of each year.

Council has been meeting as a committee of the whole holding budget hearings since the end of January to develop this year's budget. This year the hearings have been more difficult and the meetings more numerous than in past years. This is because of the decision on the part of council and the administration not to seek a tax increase at this time. This has brought a tight budget into sharper focus than would have otherwise been the situation with added revenues. Add to the mix two new council members who are creating their own knowledge base of the budget and a longer than usual process is the result.

Council President Seelie had hoped to vote on a budget agreement at this meeting. Out of an overall budget of \$130 million and an operating budget of \$35 million only \$40,000 remained in contention. The kernel of the issue is the desire on the part of council members Kevin Butler (ward one) and Edward Fitzgerald (at-large) to establish an economic development fund, which was recommended in last year's Grow Lakewood Committee report. They have scoured the budget for cuts or savings which could be used to set up the fund. Having essentially agreed to the rest of the budget only two areas remained where they thought cuts could be made.

The first was the Office of Recycling and Litter Prevention in the Parks Department. Because that office had been identified by Fitzgerald at an earlier meeting, volunteers who give their time to many of the city's beatification efforts felt that their programs were threatened. Over a dozen of the volunteers in the Adopt-a-Spot program were in the audience. Gail Higgins, who runs that office, explained the programs which she supervises or coordinates. Apparently, some council members were unaware that Higgins was the necessary interface between the volunteers and the city that made the Adopt-a-Spot program work. If that office were cut then that program which maintains over fifty locations throughout the city would have to be eliminated.

In corridor comments (an exclusive Observer feature) Public Works Director Tony Beno indicated that if the Adopt-a-Spots were no longer maintained, the city would have to rip out the flowers and shrubs and if needed pave over the site to maintain safety. The cost could average about \$2,000 per site for a total of \$100,000 according to Beno's estimates.

Stan Austin
Lakewood Observer City Council Reporter

Higgins pointed out that the educational newsletter which residents receive periodically also serves as a necessary instructional tool which explains recycling programs. It also allows other worthy programs such as the recent letter from the president of the Lakewood Animal Shelter to piggy-back on the handout.

No consensus from council emerged to eliminate that office.

Another position was targeted. The position in the cross hairs is a part-time slot in the Human Resources Department. The current employee is part-time and receives no benefits. The salary is \$29,000 a year. The responsibilities include training and writing manuals to comply with new state and federal laws.

In corridor comments, Human Resources Director Terry Novak was asked how much it would cost to out-source those tasks to private attorneys or consultants. Novak estimated the cost at over \$98,000.

Mayor Thomas George indicated that the administration supported establishing an economic development fund. Budget Analyst Paul Novelli indicated that a transfer of \$40,000 could be made from the license plate revenues to the general fund because the general fund had loaned money to the street paving fund in prior years. Council member Michael Dever (at-large) said he would rather see that money spent on additional crack sealing.

Fitzgerald queried the administration about any other cuts it could make. Answering on behalf of the administration, Planning Director Thomas Jordan replied that there would be no further changes put forward by the administration.

Seelie looked around at council members and informally asked if there was a desire to vote on the budget. No member made a motion. Council member Mary Louise Madigan (ward four) gave voice to the common sentiment saying "we aren't ready to vote on this now."

Clearly frustrated Seelie stated, "while this makes for great political theater and everyone wants their fingerprint on this budget we can't come to an agreement because of \$40,000 out of \$130 million." That ended the committee of the whole meeting.

Council then moved into its regular meeting.

Mayor Thomas George and council recognized Geraldine Murphy who retired after 30 years of service to Lakewood, primarily in the Community Development Department. George pointed out that she volunteered many hours to organize events for her fellow employees. As her family gathered around for her picture accepting the resolution, Seelie commented that as she drove through the city she could

be proud of the results of her work in storefront and home renovations.

Seelie then reviewed the agenda. Since most of the items were for expenditures, he indicated that was

impossible because council failed to pass a budget earlier and therefore could not spend money. He moved to defer most items.

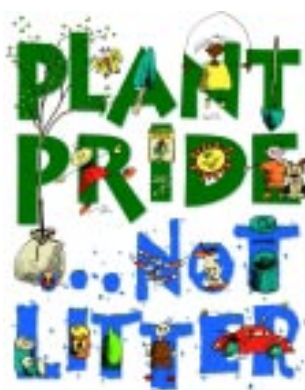
Council approved a new contract with the Lakewood Paramedics Association and there was constructive dialogue during a briefing provided by Assistant Law Director Thomas Corrigan about certain legal problems involving the Lakewood Park improvements.

Seelie then adjourned the meeting.

Ward News - Ward 4 Councilperson - Mary Louise Madigan

Neighborhoods in Ward 4, Lakewood's East End, are looking to themselves to keep an eye on safety. Working with the Lakewood Police, a street-based "Block Watch" has the potential to deter criminal and delinquent behavior while building a sense of community.

An old-fashioned "Block Watch" involves a bit of organization and a lot of tenacity. Concerned neighbors need to build a core team, agree on a captain, meet with a representative of the Police Department, develop a simple process based on common sense and collaboration – and then stay active! Unfortunately, many "Block Watch" groups disband over time because enthusiasm dissipates, someone moves or people get discouraged. An active, effective group has the potential to increase a sense of community because neighbors are talking more and working together toward our shared goal of maintaining our investment in Lakewood.



**LAKEWOOD SPRING
SPRUCE UP DAY
Saturday,
April 8, 2006
10:00 a.m. to NOON**

SHOW YOU CARE ABOUT A CLEAN LAKEWOOD! Join friends and neighbors to spring clean parks, playgrounds, neighborhoods, schools and church grounds, meeting places and business districts. Hike around your block to pick up litter or rake up fall and winter debris caught in fences and shrubs. Free trash bags have been donated by The Glad Products Company.

To register, call the Litter Prevention and Keep Lakewood Beautiful office at 216-529-6170.

**KEEP THE PLACE WHERE YOU LIVE CLEAN!
PICK UP LITTER AS SOON AS YOU SEE IT.
KEEP A LID ON TRASH CONTAINERS. TIGHTLY
TIE UP TRASH PLACED ON THE TREE LAWN.**

The City of Lakewood is a Keep America Beautiful community and is participating in the nationwide GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN UP.



Lakewood Schools

Grant Students Celebrate Pi Day

By Amy Kloss

Remember pi? No, not the fruit-filled crust you ate last Thanksgiving. Pi -- as in the ratio of diameter to circumference, also known as the number 3.14159. If the last time you encountered that particular math fact was in high school, you may be surprised to learn that people actually celebrate Pi Day. When does this celebration take place? On March 14 at 1:59, mathematicians around the world don their party hats and get out their noisemakers. (Get it? 3.14159...)

One teacher at Grant Elementary School was intrigued by the idea when she came upon a reference to Pi Day while searching the internet for math activities. Dina Bluemel, who teaches second and third graders at Grant, did a more extensive search and was amazed at the extent of Pi Day celebrations and the many activities that were suggested. She spoke with her students about the possibility of a Pi Day celebration and showed them how to search the internet for ideas. They were enthusiastic (especially when she men-

tioned that they might be eating pie -- what's a holiday without food?), and Pi Day planning began.

Students were asked to wear polka-dotted clothes and bring in any size circular items from home. Their first task for the day was to measure the circumference of a circle in centimeters, then measure the diameter of the circle. Using their calculators, they divided the circumference by the diameter.

"The point was, no matter what size the circle, the circumference divided by the diameter is always pi," says Bluemel. The students had fun measuring items such as cans, jugs, flashlights, rings and hula hoops, and then made charts to compare the measurements of different items. They also worked on several art projects which involved using a compass to draw circles on paper, an activity that improves coordination and dexterity. Bluemel read the students a book about Sir Cumference and his wife, Lady Di of Ameter, who commissioned a carpenter, Geo Metry, to build a round table for King Arthur. They also wrote new lyrics for



Dina Bluemel celebrates Pi Day with her class at Grant Elementary School.

familiar tunes so that they could sing about pi, and they listened to the song "American Pie" by Don McLean. The day was topped off by eating several varieties of pie donated by parents of the students.

Bluemel often uses this multi-sen-

sory approach to enhance her students' learning. Her goal is to use activities such as Pi Day to help students learn that math is fun. "Math is all around them," says Bluemel. "It's part of the real world, not just something they have to learn in school."

GET READY TO GROW GROW GROW!

DEAR STUDENTS AND PARENTS,

Planting, caring for, and harvesting fresh vegetables and flowers from your own garden is a fun experience for kids and parents.

This spring the Kiwanis Club of Lakewood is offering their student gardening program to all 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in Lakewood. Students will receive a variety of vegetable transplants and vegetable and flower seeds. Students who participate will receive instruction on how to plant the vegetables and flowers when they pick up their garden plants and seeds.

Students and Parents.....Please come to the Lakewood Public Library Auditorium, 15425 Detroit Ave) on Saturday, May 20, 2006 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to pick up your garden plants and seeds.

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Lakewood and the Lakewood High School Key Club will visit gardens during the summer to encourage students and answer gardening questions. Kiwanis Club members will host a "Garden Party" on Tuesday, August 15, 2006 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Lakewood Park in the Kiwanis Pavilion where students can display the vegetables and flowers they have grown.

GET CREATIVE – HAVE FUN – PLANT A GARDEN

Have Questions? Call Kim Paras at (216) 226-2950 or Jan Henderson at (216) 529-2506

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YES, I WANT TO PLANT A SUMMER GARDEN!

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To the attention of Kim Paras

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NEWS RELEASES

New Harding Middle School Will House "Madison Library" to Commemorate Former Madison Elementary School

What do you do when a building is demolished to make way for a new building under a different name? What about the history, the artifacts, the memories from the original building? These questions have been the subject of discussion by the Lakewood Board of Education for many months, as Madison Elementary School was torn down, and a new Harding Middle School begins to take shape in its place.

The answer to those questions came Monday night when the board voted to designate the Learning Resource Center (library) in the new Harding as the Madison Learning Resource Center.

Memorabilia, including an original tea set, donated to the board by the Madison PTA, will be on display there, as well as other artifacts and items. A commemorative plaque will officially announce to visitors that the LRC is named in honor of Madison Elementary School, which stood on that spot from 1912 – 2005.

Members of the former Madison school staff and PTA attended the meeting and were please at the outcome.

Lakewood High School PTA Presents: Connect to Learning!

Date: March 28, 2006

Time: Follows the PTA Meeting which begins at 7 P.M.

Location: Lakewood High School, LRC
14100 Franklin Blvd, Lakewood

Middle and High school parents and students are invited. Did you know that student learning is being promoted using technology and information sources in school and also from home? Hear about online resources that will help students with their homework and build skills in reading, math and test-taking. Career planning resources will also be presented. As a special bonus, art created by our advanced students will be on display. Come and join us for this informative evening.

Please join parents and staff on Tuesday March 28th, 2006 to learn more about how students can use technology and information sources in school and at home.

This program is free and open to the public.

Questions? Contact Sandy Storey, Lakewood School District Information Specialist at 216-521-4318.

Lakewood Public Library

Individual Library Plans Pave Way for Teen Success

By Andrew Harant - Manager,
Children and Youth Services
Department

While awaiting turns for Internet stations at Lakewood Public Library, many groups of teens wander aimlessly through the library or congregate in high-traffic areas. Behavior may easily become disorderly; then teens are expelled from the library.

Recently, a group of teenage girls redirected their energy and focus. Instead of wandering, they worked with children’s librarians and used other library resources to brush up on math, research topics for extra-credit or explore subjects of personal interest. They each had an “Individual Library Plan,” a new initiative at Lakewood Public Library.

Public libraries across the region and nation face challenges posed by swarms of teens visiting libraries after school. Euclid Public Library plays classical music through speakers outside the door to keep teens at bay. Hoping to stop loitering and vandalism, Wickliffe Public Library requires that students under 14 be chaperoned between 2:30 and 5:30 p.m. on weekdays. Joliet Public Library (IL) requires all teens to register and display identification after 5:00 p.m.

Over the past year, Lakewood Public Library has experienced a fresh influx of teens looking to connect to the Internet for both school work and social networking. Crowd control has become a challenge in Lakewood Public Library’s Technology Center, even with forty computers, the largest platform in the region. “When there



are twenty kids waiting for five available computers, we have to turn some away. We wanted to find a way to channel their energy toward the collection and educate them about the norms of the public library,” says John Guscott, Manager of Electronic Services.

A conversation about library services to teens with Jennifer Schwelik, a Lakewood resident and school librarian with the Beachwood City Schools, set the stage for Deputy Director Kim Senft-Paras to consider ways to help teens stay on track while in the library. Paras convinced an interdepartmental team of staff members to begin experimenting with an innovative, multidisciplinary approach to communication, community norms, developmental inquiry and library instruction.

On Tuesday March 7 Lakewood Public Library launched the “Individual Library Plan.” On the cusp of expulsion for disorderly behavior, a teen may choose to craft an Individual Library

Plan with a library staff member. The teen is asked first to share his premise about how the library works and how he works in the library. Values, goals and motivations are discussed. The teen will then create a plan and timeline of activities to do in the library that day, leaving the meeting with ILP in hand. “This program gives the children a chance to explain where they are coming from. They may not have been heard and we will listen. These are children who have not been here before. This is our tool to help them focus on library resources. It’s a pro-active reference session,” says Paras.

The inspirational goals that inform the ILP program include:

- Live in truth; Empower your mind; Set goals; Do something smart; Honor silence;
- Model good behavior for others; Use your time wisely; Awaken to the miracle of reading.

“When young people come to use the computers and find out they have to wait, they can’t seem to re-frame a way to make the best of their research time. They socialize and roam throughout the library,” explains Guscott. The ILP program is designed to help young people learn skills for self-regulation -- both individually and in their groups -- while enjoying library personnel and finding inspiration in resources. “The Individual Library Plan redirects that after-school energy not only by focusing the student on specific library activities for the moment, but also by introducing them to resources, people and methods that can help them succeed in future visits to any library,” says Guscott.

Many teens come to the library with the sole purpose of using computers and avoid contact with librarians. ILP’s provide a new avenue for our staff to connect with teens and help them explore library resources. The simple management of behavior is a concern of every public library. For various reasons the management of teen behavior often flattens into a simple structure for prohibition and punishment. Quite simply, without ILPs teens get “kicked out” due to disruptive and disrespectful behavior. Espousing norms which gently pressure behavior in support of growth and learning reflects the perennial archetype for library engagement. “I believe that the ILP program is educational, functional and inspirational. These are values the public library has always stood for, values we want to share with our young people,” says Kenneth Warren, Director..

Catfish Jumpin’ from Lakewood Public Library to Ghoulish Archipelago

By Kenneth Warren

When Scott C. Barbiaux needed a public library with a traditional appearance to film a scene for *Cemetery Games*, the horror flick he hopes will put Catfish Productions “at the head of the pack” of innovative film producers, he called Lakewood Public Library.

“I like the Lakewood Public Library. I used to go to Boy Scouts there. You were the first person I called,” says Barbiaux, whose film will feature Marni Task along with the emerging talents of Jacilyn Ledford, Marissa Karam and others.

Recently Barbiaux spent a Saturday with actors and crew shooting a scene in Lakewood Public Library’s reference room. “The old microfiche machines are really neat,” says Barbiaux, who attended Saint Cyril & Methodius School.

Despite the Lakewood Public Library connection, *Cemetery Games* is not exactly an inner-ring suburb horror flick. Cemetery Games spans the region to capture “the perfect blend

of horror, suspense and gore.” Barbiaux’s cutting-edge film needed a ghoulish archipelago of upscale McMansions rather than Lakewood doubles to set “a new standard in the horror genre.” First Barbiaux looked to Westlake to satisfy his vision of horror. However, red tape at Westlake City Hall allowed Seville’s fast-moving Mayor and Council to seize the opportunity.

“Seville stepped in. The Mayor asked “what can we do,” says Barbiaux. “Within five days, the city passed an ordinance declaring an emergency. We had access to schools, the graveyard, the police dispatcher.”

Not every suburb is a star, of course. “Seville wanted the publicity. After seeing the movie, people will drive there, go into the buildings and see the location.”

“Seville is more ominous than Westlake,” explains Barbiaux, satisfied with the setting and treatment by Seville city fathers. With eleven more Catfish Productions in the wings, Barbiaux hopes to film in Lakewood again.



Lakewood Observer

Acclaimed Author

Fenton Johnson to Appear at Lakewood

In his most recent memoir, Fenton Johnson proclaims that “one embarks on an interior journey at peril of one’s whole way of being” (7). Johnson lays bare his own perilous journey in *Keeping Faith: A Skeptic’s Journey Among Christian and Buddhist Monks*, published in 2003. He will discuss this memoir and a novel-in-progress at Lakewood Public Library on Thursday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

Johnson was born in 1953 in Appalachian Kentucky. His Roman Catholic family (which included eight older siblings) lived very close to the Trappist Abbey of Gethsemani. Indeed, several monks were friends of the family, and he was named after two of them. In 1971, a scholarship from the Seagram’s whiskey company enabled him to attend Stanford University. Gradually, he became widely published in magazines like the *New York Times Magazine* and *Harper’s*. He is the author of two novels, *Crossing the River* (1989) and *Scissors, Paper, Rock* (1993), as well as another memoir, *Geography of the Heart* (1996), which detailed the heartwrenching loss of his partner to AIDS. Currently, he teaches in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Arizona.

Keeping Faith is a fascinating exploration (from the inside out) of Eastern and Western monastic traditions. As an immersion journalist and a spiritual seeker, Johnson lived as a member of the Abbey of Gethsemani near his childhood home and at the branches of the San Francisco Zen Center. The result is a provocative meditation on contemporary spirituality and religion in the United States.

In our recent interview, Johnson described the intricate narrative structure of *Keeping Faith* as a “weave” of three different strands: his journalistic description of the monks’ lives, his interpretation of much historical scholarship for the lay reader, and his own personal narrative as he strives to learn what it means “to have and keep faith” (7). Johnson’s journey is especially notable because he is homosexual, which inherently complicates his relationship to the Catholic Church he grew up in, then abandoned in anger, and later re-examined as an adult.

In a well-researched account, Johnson outlines some of the key differences between Christianity and Buddhism before delving into what unifies the two religions. In his view, Christianity

evolved as a fusion of Jewish religion and Greek philosophy, both of which emphasized division between mind and body, as well as salvation from an external source--e.g. God’s grace. He contrasts Christianity’s dualism and external salvation with Buddhism’s emphasis on wholeness, or unity between mind and body, and salvation from within the self via meditation.

For Johnson, however, a potential source of unity between the two religions is the role of the body in every human’s faith journey. As he states, faith “begins not in the mind but in the body, in gesture and action” (143). This might take the form of learning rituals in childhood, as Johnson’s body has known how to make the sign of the cross “since before memory” (4). Ideally, such faith rituals will mature into bodily habits that affirm life: “Faith is found in the doing, the keeping of the lamp against all odds for the traveler who comes up the mountain in the dark” (275). Faith is also found in the simple Zen gesture of bowing to others, which “enforces presence in the here and now. I had to make space in my too-busy mind for the person who stood before me” (147).

But during Johnson’s visits to the Gethsemani abbey, his evolving theories about faith and the body were interrupted by a more sinister problem linked to the body: sexual abuse. In the

midst of his research, he was contacted by a few local citizens who suffered abuse at the hands of some of the monks. To his credit, Johnson does not flinch in handling this delicate issue. His moral honesty is evident as he incorporates their stories into the narrative and meditates on the irrepressible nature of human desire. His sensitive ruminations lead to a wide-ranging discussion of celibacy, suffering, forgiveness, the roles of women, and the need in both the East and the West “to construct a morality that deals responsibly with the body” (281).

In our interview, Johnson expressed that his “hardest ethical issue” in writing the book was “how to do justice to those abuse stories without reinforcing the notion that all monks are like that.” He wanted to “sustain respect for those people’s stories but also sustain respect for the institution.” As he writes in the book, he also struggled with “confronting my comfortable illusions about what it means to be a person of faith, inside or outside the monastic enclosure” (177).

The closing sections of *Keeping Faith* broaden Johnson’s spiritual journey to an inspirational challenge for our secular (and often cynical) American culture. He declares: “Let us have an American Christianity as well as an American Buddhism, each embracing elements of the other, existing amiably with their Old World ancestors but mindfully seeking a path founded in the

egalitarian principles that gave birth to the nation” (292). He also asks that the human body be “properly celebrated as integral to the expression of faith, in which properly disciplined desire is one of many paths to that end” (292).

Johnson is currently working on a novel that is a “fictionalization of the issues in *Keeping Faith*.” He explains that it is an “exploration of the condition of monasticism,” particularly the quality of being alone. He adds that “we all have a monk in us,” for the “monk is an archetype.” The novel features three characters shaped by war: a Trappist monk, a female Bengali doctor, and a Vietnam veteran who grows marijuana.

When asked about tips for aspiring writers, his first response was simple: read. He explained that “what you read is what you will ultimately write,” so it is important to “challenge yourself.” For him, “part of the joy of being a writing teacher is introduce great reading.” As for writing itself, he describes it in poetic terms: “let the writing reveal your self to yourself.” Significantly, Johnson added that a discipline of any kind is important for writers and non-writers alike: “Everyone should have a discipline because it provides a form for your life.”

Johnson’s appearance on March 30 at 7 p.m. is a free event that is part of the Creative Writer’s Reading Series at the library, a collaborative effort by the Lakewood Public Library and Cleveland State University’s Department of English, Poetry Center, and Creative Writing Program.

LakewoodAlive Announces

Follow-up Community Survey

By Jay Foran

LakewoodAlive, a citizens’ economic development advocacy group committed to helping create informed and engaged residents, has announced they will conduct a follow-up citizen survey to their most recent December 2005 survey. The online survey is available to every Lakewood citizen via their website at www.lakewoodalive.com. The nine-question survey will be conducted between March 21 and April 13, 2006. All Lakewood citizens are encouraged to complete the survey and post their comments. The survey results will be shared with city officials and published for public consumption

at a later date.

Recently, Lakewood City Council decided not to place a proposed income tax increase on the May 2006 ballot. On nearly the same timing, council members jointly authored an internal memo recommending that it was time for the Administration, City Council, City of Lakewood employees and Lakewood residents to formulate and adopt a longer term view regarding finances, services and resources. Results from the most recent LakewoodAlive survey indicated that the Grow Lakewood Report provided an important roadmap for the next phase of planning. Survey respondents indicated that a detailed plan was urgently

needed and that both the Mayor and City Council should jointly lead the effort. Additionally, respondents noted that housing, commercial development and city finances were prime opportunity areas to be incorporated into any planning effort. Recognizing that planning is easier in theory than in practice, LakewoodAlive is interested in how citizens believe the next phase of planning should be conducted by the city. Specifically, how does Lakewood build a comprehensive and winning strategic plan, in a timely manner that the community can enthusiastically support? The LakewoodAlive survey is intended to answer these and other important questions.

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Lakewood Business

Low Power Broadcasting Possible in Lakewood?

By Mark Timieski

Question: What one word describes these two people?
- *An individual who performs armed robbery in international waters.*
- *Someone who broadcasts news and music to a neighborhood.*
Answer: "Pirate"

In the summer of 1987, Radio New York International (RNI) (led by Alan Weiner protesting the "stale and stagnant" rock music of New York City), purchased a boat and loaded it with radio transmission equipment. The boat was anchored 3 1/2 miles from the coast with the contention that the broadcasts were being made from international waters outside the jurisdiction of the FCC. Within four days, the FCC boarded the ship, shut down the transmitters and had all on board arrested (including an editor for the *Village Voice*). Later that summer the charges were dropped.

The RNI incident, in tandem with a commercial radio system that continued to rapidly grow more homogenous and mundane, helped to spark a renaissance of pirate radio ("micro radio") stations in the 1990's. New stations sprang up all over the country during this time, giving a voice to groups that would normally go unheard. In Cleve-

land, a station broadcasting "house music", in addition to several Hispanic broadcasters, dotted the underground FM landscape.

The FCC eventually shut down the stations, but usually there followed a compelling community "activist vs. inhuman government body" story. Example: in an attempt to shut down a one-watt station operated by a blind African American who was broadcasting to tenants in a public housing project, the FCC received a great deal of bad press while the micro broadcasters gained credibility and continued to broadcast.

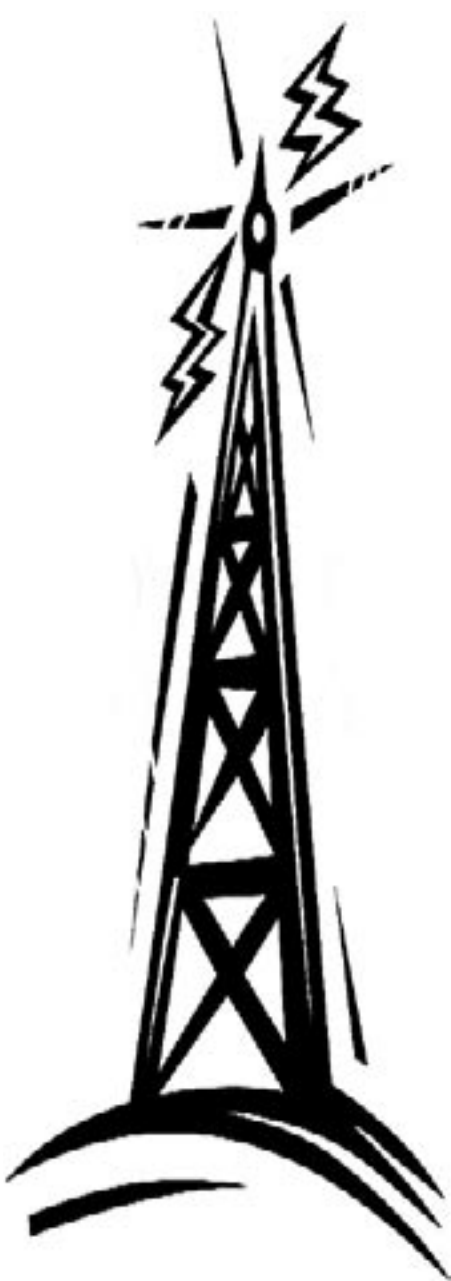
In response to the increasing bad publicity, the FCC created the low power FM (LPFM) license, but barred broadcasters who were operating illegally from applying. Most existing operators disappeared in an attempt to become legitimate. This ended the pirate radio renaissance.

In 2003, the FCC opened a five-day window to accept applications. Most of the new licenses were granted to religious broadcasters in rural locations. There has been no plan by the FCC to

accept more applications.

In populated areas, such as Lakewood, the radio spectrum is already crowded with existing stations. The FCC considers that the chance of interfering with existing stations is too great to grant LPFM licenses in areas such as ours. Critics state that it's highly unlikely that any populated area would be allowed a station. Legitimate operations of a low power FM station in our city seem unlikely, at least at this time.

Proponents of low power broadcasting are currently lobbying the FCC in attempts to ease some of the restrictions on the LPFM license as well as to initiate an AM license that would be available in Lakewood. For the time being, independent media broadcasters must limit the power of their FM transmitters to cover generally less than a half-block in order to stay within FCC guidelines. To reach a greater listening audience, broadcasters must currently find some alternate transmission means, such as renting time on an existing station or using the internet to deliver programming.



Secret Shopper Lakewood Home Furnishings



Lakewood Home Furnishings
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Monday - Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-4

One Sunday when I was out and about I popped into this shop to check it out. I was pleasantly surprised to find a wide array of home furnishings, from vases to couches! This is not a junk shop, but offers a variety of items from vintage to nearly new at affordable prices. Since my first encounter, I have stopped several times and have found something nice almost every time.

The shop owner, Pamela Walker, buys home accessories and furniture from estates, people moving and downsizing. Every week they have new items. Lakewood Home Furnishings is the perfect shop to find that lamp for the spare bedroom, end tables, a solid wood dinette, or a beautiful framed print for that bare wall.

If you are downsizing this is the shop to take items that you want to sell as they are always looking for new items. One person's trash is another person's treasure! Check it out on a lazy Sunday or other day! You will be greeted with a smile and friendly atmosphere! *By Justine Cooper*



Andy Tjotjos cutting an unidentified customer's hair 4 years ago. Andy was always happy and ready to talk bowling, fishing, or life with his customers.

WEST CLIFTON BARBER SHOP OPEN FOR BUSINESS FOR OVER FORTY YEARS

Nick Tjotjos

Andy Tjotjos was born and raised in Platanos, Samos, Greece. He married his one true love, Angela Tsiros in 1955. One year later, they both made the voyage to America. Not understanding much English, he started working at White Motor Trucking Co. as a laborer on the loading dock. He worked there for one year. While working, Andy put himself through Barber School. In the early 60s Andy started working for West Clifton Barber Shop. He then bought the shop a few years later. He remained at West Clifton as owner and Barber for 43 years.

Andy led a strong and healthy

life, until the unexpected occurred in February of 2004, when he was diagnosed with bladder cancer; which soon spread. Andy started chemotherapy soon after his diagnosis. He was so concerned about his clients, that he would make sure his chemo treatments were scheduled in the morning in order that he return to work in the afternoon. He never stopped until he succumbed to cancer in March of 2005.

West Clifton Barber Shop is still being managed by his wife Angela and three children Chris, Nick and Lilly and is staffed with one full-time barber and one part-time barber. Stop in for a great cut. Andy may be gone, but he will never be forgotten.

Lakewood High Sports

Lakewood Girls Rugby

by Don and Lynn Farris

One day in the spring of 1999, our daughter came home with a big smile and was full of excitement. A group of her friends were going to start a girls' rugby club at Lakewood High School. There were two recent graduates of Kent State University, Amy and Terra, who volunteered to coach. Our initial reaction was one of concern -- wasn't rugby a really rough boys sport? No protective pads and burly guys with their ears ripped off. Not to mention positions like Scrum Half and Hookers. This was our sweet little girl talking about playing a rough sport that we knew nothing about. Weren't sports like swimming, skiing and tennis enough? We had just finished paying for braces and were hoping she would graduate with all her teeth intact. We wondered how this sport appealed to high school girls. It seems they were all very excited about the prospect of participating in a full contact sport. It is hard to imagine, but apparently this conversation was going on in homes throughout Lakewood. Apparently the other Lakewood girls were as persistent as ours and the first Lakewood's Girls' Rugby team was born. The initial team consisted of approximately twenty girls, including Amy Carpenter, Kate Haber, Savannah Farris, Rozi and Gabi Smith, Molly Doyle, Magda Margulies, Colleen and Kate Sullivan and Mallory Carlson.

The first challenge the girls faced was to learn the rules. Few if any had ever watched, let alone played, a rugby game. The coaches had quite an uphill battle. After getting the basic rules down, the girls wanted to try their skills. But who could they play? There weren't any other high school girls' rugby teams in the area. They started by scrimmaging St. Ed's boys rugby team in a "touch" instead of "tackling" manner. This greatly helped them with the concept of the sport, but left them itching for the chance to really tackle someone. A women's rugby team in Ashland, Ohio, composed of Ashland College graduates and students, offered to play the girls. This was a great opportunity to learn the game. During their game, the Ashland women would shout



Lakewood's High's Girl's Rugby Team in a scrum.

out pointers like "hit me lower" and "Pass it". Sometimes the referee would have to stop the action (a rare event in a normal rugby game) to have a teaching moment and explain more about the flow of the game and what caused penalties. By the end, all the players were covered in mud and grinning ear to ear. A friendly hand shake ended a wonderful first game. The next day revealed many bruises that were proudly displayed as badges of honor. Who would be next? The girls continued to practice regularly and had several more scrimmages with other area teams including Oberlin College Women's Rugby team and Kent State Women's team. The season concluded with a tournament in Indiana with other high school rugby teams. They did a great job at the tournament and Lakewood High Girls' Rugby Club ended the year excited about the future. Who knew that less than six years later, the Lakewood High School Girls' Rugby team would go on

to win at the state and national levels? To find out more about this amazing team, go to their web site at:

<http://www.lhsgirlsrugby.com>

Some of these girls have adopted rugby as a life-long sport. One of the stars of that initial team was Amy Carpenter who is now the President of the Iron Maidens, the west side Adult Women's Rugby team (See: <http://www.maidensrugby.com/newplayinfo.htm> for more information). The Iron Maidens were formed in 2001 and for the last 2 years have been coached by Kurt Weaver, who played rugby at Bowling Green University. The Iron Maidens play three seasons a year: the fall, which is mostly league play with teams in Detroit, Pittsburgh, Buffalo and Rochester, and tournament play in the spring and summer seasons.

This year the Iron Maidens are joining with some members of the Columbus Rugby team to once again play in Europe under the name of the

Puddle Jumpers and Amy will be joining them. Two years ago in Brussels, this team tied for first place. This year they will be playing in Italy, Switzerland and Germany and are looking for sponsorship.

The Iron Maidens have a close relationship with the Lakewood High School Girls' Rugby team and they try to attend their games and fundraisers. They offered to scrimmage the High School team so that they can benefit from the women's experience. The Iron Maidens are always looking for new members. The only requirements are the will to have fun and work hard. Maidens Rugby takes ladies of all ages and all skill levels. They will teach the skills needed to succeed on the rugby field. If you have never played, the Iron Maidens encourage you to come and watch or jump right in. Practices are Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Lakewood Park. For more information contact .

RANGER ROUNDUP: BOOSTERS TO HOST "NIGHT AT THE RACES" MARCH 25TH

Mike Deneen

The Lakewood High School Athletic Boosters will be holding their second annual "Night at the Races" on Saturday, March 25th. The event will be held at St. Gregory's Hall on Madison Avenue from 6pm to 11:30pm. Tickets are \$25 at the door. However, if buy in advance, tickets are \$25 each or \$35 for two. Discounts are also available for tables of eight or ten. To order tickets or for more information, contact Pam Swindell at 221-1428 or Laurie Field at 280-9352.

The event will feature entertainment, dancing, food, raffles, side boards and ten races. Attendees will have the chance to purchase horses for \$10, with the owner of the winner of each race winning \$500. Proceeds from the event go to provide equipment or uniforms for Lakewood High School athletic programs.



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Lakewood High Sports

LHS Softball Features New Faces in 2006

By Mike Deneen

Springtime is upon us, which means a return to the baseball diamond for Lakewood High School's softball team. Hope springs eternal for the softball Rangers in 2006, which much like the major league Cleveland Indians, feature a young team looking to make a move to the top of the standings. Coach Bob Maver returns for his seventh season at the helm, assisted by pitching coach Vinnie Curiale and JV coach Ted Bruening.

The Rangers only return three starters from an overachieving team last season that finished a surprising third place in the LEL Lake Division.

The program has seen the fruits of summer ball as the 9th graders are the first class to have participated on two summer teams for the past 3 seasons. Freshman will start at shortstop and on the mound, while two sophomores and two juniors will also be in the starting lineup. The Rangers progress will depend on how quickly the young players mature at the varsity level.

Freshmen will hold key positions on the 2006 squad, including the roles of shortstop and of #1 starting pitcher. Jamie Wright has had excellent summer seasons and a great winter season in winning the #1 starter spot. Carrie Moran possesses an excellent arm with very good range at shortstop. Veteran

newcomers to the team include seniors Vicky Tomasick and Halli Scimenti. Tomasick is a versatile transfer from Avon Lake that will see action both as a pitcher and an outfielder. Scimenti, who is returning to the team after a year off, is expected to be the #2 starter.

Despite the influx of new faces, the Rangers have many key players returning. Senior catcher Sarah Czechanski, who is considered to be a legitimate college prospect, hit .248 in 2005 while doing a fine defensive job. Senior outfielder Ruby Bristow, also a college prospect, finished 2005 one home run shy of LHS's single season record, and had seven RBIs in a single game against Shaker Heights. Senior Chelsea Dixon

provides tremendous speed both on the basepaths and in the outfield. Junior outfielder Jessica Trnkus rounds out a solid corps of returning players, coming off a .260 batting average in 2005 after joining the team mid-season from JV.

The Rangers will be tested early as they open with North Olmsted, and then play LEL Erie champ Garfield Hts during the first week of the season. The Rangers will measure their progress with games against Keystone and Walsh Jesuit at the Keystone tournament in late April and with league rivals Mentor, Euclid, and Admiral King. Varsity home games will be played at Usher Field at Madison Park.

Lakewood Wrestler Qualifies for 2nd Trip to State Tourney

by Todd Shapiro

Lakewood High wrestler Matt Curley ended one of the most storied careers in Lakewood wrestling history by qualifying for his second trip to the OHSAA state wrestling tournament March 2-4 at the Jerome Schottenstein Center, on the campus of Ohio State University.

Curley, who was named Lake Erie League wrestler of the year, won his first match in the 135 pound division by defeating Centerville's Jamie Cramer 12-4. However, Curley failed to place in the state meet after being pinned by eventual state champion Thomas Straughn from Massillon Perry in the quarterfinals.

In addition to leading the Rangers with a 42-6 record on the season, Curley also led the team in pins, with 22, and takedowns. Curley was the champion of regular season tournaments in Willard, North Ridgeville and Vermilion.

After being named to the all-Lake Erie League team for a fourth straight year Curley went to finish second in the Lorain Southview Sectional and third in the Toledo District to earn his return trip to Columbus.

Upon graduation Curley hopes to attend Heidelberg College to continue his academic and athletic career.



Lakewood High wrestler Matt Curley.

Photo By Ivor Karabakovic

Lakewood High School Swimmers Finish Strong

Lakewood High School's swim team performances at the sectional, district and state swim meets yielded many outstanding results. At the sectional meet held February 11th at the Lakewood High School natatorium, the following Lakewood High swimmers qualified for the district swim meet: Courtney Moran (500 Free), Emma Paras (500 Free), Hilary Vigh (100 Breast), Maura Anderson (Breast and Fly), Kelsey Moran (Back), Neil Anderson (200 and 500 Free), Joe Fran-

kenfield (50 Free) and the girls medley relay consisting of Kelsey Moran (Back), Hilary Vigh (Breast), Courtney Moran (Fly) and Maura Anderson (Free).

At the District Meet held February 18th at Cleveland State University, the results were even more remarkable. The girls medley relay swam a 1:55.28 which is a Lakewood all-time best and a 4th-place finish. Maura Anderson's 59.83 100 Fly swim qualified her

for a trip to the State meet in Canton, Ohio. Courtney Moran swam the 500 Free in 5:19.97 for a 6th best all-time Lakewood finish. Freshman Kelsey Moran swam the same race in 1:02.78, which is a Lakewood all-time best 8th-place finish. She also swam the 100 Back in 1:01.38 which is a 4th-best finish. Joe Frankenfield swam the 50 Free in 22.63 which is a 5th-place tie for all-time Lakewood best. Neil Ander-

son now holds the school record times in both the 200 and 500 Free, 1:44.54 and 4:42.37 respectively. He was a State qualifier and his 500 time is so good that Neil will be eligible for All-American consideration this summer. Coach Bob Sedlak says, "Neil is the best long distance swimmer in the history of Lakewood High School swimming since the team started in 1927." Congratulations to the coaches, Bob Sedlak and Tom Stacy, and all the swimmers for a remarkable season.

By Kim Senft Paras

Lakewood Misc.

LHS HOSTING EARLY BIRD BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

Those of you that are aching to get baseball season started don't have to wait for the Indians' home opener at Jacobs Field. The Lakewood High baseball team will be hosting the fourth annual Al Gruss/Tony Dibiasio early bird baseball tournament the weekend of March 31. It is a five team tournament with two games on Friday, March 31, five games on Saturday, April 1 and three games on Sunday, April 2. Other high school entrants are St Edward's, North Olmsted, Holy Name and Valley Forge. Each team will play four games, and the refreshment stand will be open. The cost of the event is \$5 for adults, \$2 for students and senior citizens and ages 12 and under are free.

Tournament schedule

Friday March 31	Saturday April 1	Sunday April 2
4:00 Lakewood v. Valley Forge	9:30 Lakewood v. Holy Name	12:00 Valley Forge v. Holy Name
6:30 St Edward v. Holy Name	12:00 North Olmsted v. Holy Name	2:30 St Edward v. North Olmsted
	2:30 North Olmsted v. Valley Forge	5:00 Lakewood v. North Olmsted
	5:00 Valley Forge v. St Edward	
	7:30 St Edward v. Lakewood	

2006 LHS Boat Regatta

Photos By Ivor Karabatkovic



Seniors Julie Reed and Charles Duffy paddle their way to become the overall winners of the 2006 LHS Boat Regatta.



Principal Dr. Wagner and House 1 Principal Mr. Posendek get ready to enter their boat and challenge the nurses to the end of the pool

Milestone for Church Youth Musical

A 25-year milestone will be reached this month as the youth of Lakewood Congregational Church UCC continue their musical ministry with a production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Three performances are scheduled – 7:30 p.m. on both Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1 with a closing matinee at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 2. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students. The church is located at 1375 West Clifton Blvd. in Lakewood.

The popular musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber follows the adventures of Joseph after he is sold into slavery and then finds himself in the Pharaoh's inner circle in Egypt.

Larry Picard, Director of Music Ministries at the church, says it's appropriate that this anniversary year features Joseph – the show that started it all in 1981 when the church's tradition of the annual youth musical began. "Hundreds of kids have been involved in the musicals over the years," Picard says. "This year, about 25 hard working, talented youth are involved ranging in age from 7 through 18."

The coordinators of this year's musical are hoping to make it a reunion of sorts and are especially encouraging "alumni" from past productions to attend. Kim Roberts, a former youth musical participant, remembers her days in the musicals with fondness saying, "It's great to have my kids be part of something that was so important to me growing up here."

The youth are involved in other outreach activities as well, including an Annual Homeless Awareness Sleepout and a summer mission trip. Funds from the musical will help pay for this year's mission trip to the Heifer International Farm in Massachusetts. Participating youth will spend one week working on the Heifer farm – an organization which works to end world hunger and poverty by providing livestock and teaching self-reliance to people in developing countries.

For more information or to purchase tickets for the musical, please call the church office at (216) 221-9555. Lakewood Congregational Church is located at the corner of Detroit Avenue and West Clifton Blvd. in Lakewood.

Lakewood Air Keepers Join with Bellaire-Puritas Group!

By Jan Greenfield

On February 2nd, citizens from Lakewood Air Keepers and the Bellaire-Puritas Development Corp Airport Noise/Air Pollution group met with officials from the Cleveland Division of Air Quality. George Baker--Chief of Enforcement, David Hearne--Chief of Engineering, and Richard Nemeth--CDAQ Commissioner, presented a recent history of the two Ford Plants in Brook Park, the EPA Enforcement Action of October 4, 2002 and subsequent fines of \$137,256 paid by Ford. The Ford Plants are of particular interest because those of us in Lakewood, who have been monitoring pollution odors, are in agreement that they seem to be the same odor-blown to Lakewood by particular wind patterns--which we have smelled when driving near the Brook Park Ford facilities.

During May 2006, the CDAQ will again be conducting a full-scale enforcement inspection of the Ford Plants. Volunteer monitoring and reporting of air pollution odors will be especially useful during this upcoming May and our offer of citizen input was warmly welcomed by the CDAQ officials. Those of us in attendance were impressed and heartened that these three CDAQ officials live within close range of Lakewood and are sincerely devoted to doing what can be done to help alleviate these pollution odors. If you are willing to participate in such tracking and reporting and/or completing an official CDAQ Odor Survey, please email: jan.greenfield@mac.com



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Lakewood Health Care

Lakewood Hospital Nursing Scholarship Program Current Recipient, Kathy Lenihan

By Rita Ryland

Lakewood Hospital employee, Kathy Lenihan, is a current recipient of the Lakewood Hospital Nursing Scholarship Program. Kathy applied for the scholarship in April, 2005. She began the Accelerated Nursing Program at Ursuline College a month later. Kathy has a Master's degree in Social Work and began working at Lakewood Hospital 8 1/2 years ago. She has worked on every floor of the hospital and because of this, became very interested in the medical side of health care. "I wanted to do more. I wanted to expand my knowledge and skills," Kathy said.

She attributes her decision to apply to the nursing scholarship program to her boss, Candy Sanson, Director of Social Work Case Management. "She recognized my strengths, strengths I didn't know I had. She was an advocate," Kathy said. Carolyn Paisley

Seelbach, a member of the scholarship committee and one of the founders of the nursing scholarship said, "We try to help as many applicants as we possibly can." The scholarship money has helped Kathy pay for very expensive textbooks, insurance and tuition.

When asked how the application process was, Kathy responded, "The application is not difficult if you're doing it for the right reasons. If it's difficult, then maybe it's not the right decision." Although the application process is pretty straightforward, Ms. Seelbach cautions applicants to complete every section as Incomplete applications will not be considered. Currently, Kathy Lenihan works three evenings a week and attends classes during the day. Her goal is to work in a critical care setting when she graduates in July.



Kathy Lenihan

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Chef Geoff

You Leave Me (Bad) Breathless

Jeff Endress

When Mr. Potter reviled the citizens of Bedford Falls as a “bunch of garlic eaters” in “It’s a Wonderful Life”, no doubt his derision stemmed from the garlic’s well deserved reputation as the anti-breath mint. It is justifiably called the “stinking rose” and without question, there are few ingredients which have a greater impact on the failure to obtain a goodnight kiss. Nevertheless, garlic is a well-accepted ingredient in most cuisines, from the Pacific Rim, to Mexican and of course Italian. I would go so far as to opine that were it not for garlic, escargot would remain merely snails. So, let’s talk a little about this disrupter of romance.

Garlic, or *Allium Sativum*, is a member of the *Amaryllis* family. Not surprisingly, it is a cousin to other members of that family, leeks, onions and shallots. The most commonly used portion of the garlic plant is that which is found underground, the bulb or head (although some recipes do call for the green sprouts). Each head of garlic is made up of a number of bulblets called cloves. The head and cloves are covered in a paper-like skin. Garlic is generally odorless, until the cloves are crushed or chopped, breaking the garlic cells and releasing the classic smell and flavor. Garlic’s use spans many centuries, and it is posited by some that the Egyptian pyramids were built by slaves on a diet of bread, water and garlic.

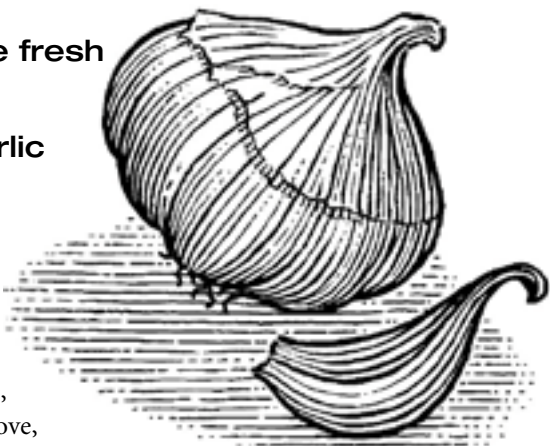
Garlic is reputed to have a number of health benefits, including fighting heart disease, high cholesterol and diabetes. There is some indication that garlic has a low-level antibiotic effect and is helpful in warding off colds and infections. Modern science is beginning to find evidence that substantiates old wives’ tales about the medicinal effects of these odiferous bulbs. Notwithstanding the negative impact on romance, Americans consume some 250 million pounds annually. There is no proof that garlic has any effect on

Roasted Garlic recipe

- one (or more) heads of garlic: be sure to use fresh heads, avoid any that have begun sprouting
- 1 tbsp. of extra virgin olive oil per head of garlic
- freshly ground black pepper (coarse grind)
- salt
- a thread or two of saffron (optional)

Remove the outer papery skin of the head of garlic. With a sharp knife, trim off the top of the garlic head. (This will “open” one end of each clove, so that the roasted garlic can later be “squeezed” out). Place the head, root side down, in a small baking ramekin. Drizzle the olive oil over the top of the head, sprinkle with freshly ground pepper and salt and add a thread or two of saffron (if desired). Tightly cover the dish with foil and bake for 1 hour at 275, or until the cloves are very soft, with a buttery consistency and a caramel colored golden brown. Allow to cool.

To serve, each individual clove can be separated from the head, and the roasted garlic gently squeezed from the individual clove’s skin. The roasted garlic makes a wonderful addition to soups, sauces, rice and mashed potatoes, or try it spread on French bread, sprinkle with parmesan reggiano, and broiled till golden brown.



vampires, and it is strongly suggested that this use is merely an urban legend.

The smell of garlic is most intense when raw, as it is found in Caesar salad dressing and similar preparations. Certain compatriots of mine share in household restrictions on our enjoyment of a thick steak at the Schvitz topped with a huge scoop of minced garlic and broiled. Disapproving household members have alleged (though never proven) that the garlic smell can last for three days, altoids notwithstanding. Sautéing can somewhat reduce the effects, and generally speaking, the more cooking involved, the more the garlic odor is reduced.

All that being said, I must confess to being a lover of garlic, despite its negative side effects. I find it difficult to believe that you can ever use too much and am certainly not deterred from a recipe just because it’s titled “chicken

with 20 cloves of garlic”. Why stop at 20? Garlic stuffed olives, Chinese pork with garlic sauce, garlicky kosher dills, crispy garlic bread....I love them all. But, if I must choose a favorite, it would have to be any preparation with roasted garlic.

Roasting garlic does something magical to the *Allium Sativum*. The sometimes pungent taste becomes much milder, with nutty elements. The sugars present in this bulb, like its onion cousins, caramelize lending a wonderful sweetness. Traditional roasting requires only the removal of the outer skin of the head, and slicing off the top (not root) end. The result is a golden brown bunch of cloves, that can be separated off the head and “squeezed” out onto crispy bread rounds and spread like butter. The problem is, like anything this good, there simply won’t be enough. So, I like to take a dozen heads, divide them into individual cloves, trim, peel and roast them, en masse, drizzled liberally with olive oil. Once cooked, these delightful little nuggets of sweet flavor can be stored, covered in olive oil, in a sealed container in the

refrigerator where they’ll keep a month or more, ever at the ready to add a new dimension to your tired old gravy or your boring mashed potatoes.

The key to successful roasted garlic is to cook slowly, at a lower temperature, which allows the natural sugars in the root to caramelize, as the cloves soften, rather than the browning that occurs at a higher temperature when sautéing. It is this slow reduction and concentration of the sugars that produce the sweet and nutty flavor that causes roasted garlic to develop the distinctive character. And while the unique garlic taste (and smell) is certainly present, the roasting reduces the pungency otherwise present. While there are a good many gadgets on the market designed to aid in the roasting process, from garlic bulb shaped electric roasters, to terra cotta ovenware, there is nothing more needed than a small ramekin that can be covered with tin foil. The resulting flavors will be a culinary treat that wakes up your taste buds. You may find you enjoy roasted garlic so much that you’ll even risk consuming it on a first date.

Kitchen Gadget Contest



Send in your best guess as to what this is and does in your kitchen and win a Lakewood Observer T-Shirt, A Peace-On-Earth T-Shirt, and your choice of a gift from Revelations Spa on Detroit, or a gift certificate from the Reagle Beagle Hair Saloon on Detroit.

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Minding the Issues

Earned Income Tax Credit - the Sara Lee of Social Policy

In the 1960s, when the Left was still alive, some activists and theorists called for a “guaranteed annual income” to insure a decent standard of living for everyone. In their eyes it was totally unacceptable that some should wallow in luxury while others struggled in poverty. If that was what the capitalist system gave us, they opined, so much the worse for the capitalist system.

Then, in 1975, Congress created the Earned Income Tax Credit, a sort of reverse income tax, which, if not exactly matching the vision of a guaranteed annual income, is at least the nearest to it that we are likely to see. The EITC (also called EIC, for Earned Income Credit) was born during the administration of a Republican president (Ford), and has been blessed by two other Republican presidents, George H. W. Bush and Ronald Reagan, as well as by Democrat Bill Clinton. Furthermore, it was expanded in major ways in 1986, 1990 and 1993. Nobody doesn’t like the EITC; the lion has lain down with the lamb.

Its bipartisan appeal arises from the fact that in a deep way it serves equality of opportunity, a basic and universal American value. By increasing the rewards of the poorest-paid it brings closer a situation in which equal efforts bring equal rewards, which is equality of opportunity in the strictest sense.

However, the two sides of the political fence have different perspectives on equality of opportunity and the way in which the E.I.T.C. promotes it. The Right sees the middle class as enjoying less-than-equal opportunity because they must work for their income while the poor get something for nothing; the E.I.T.C. meets this complaint because it is not a handout and because it moves individuals from welfare to work. On the other side, the Left sees the poor as enjoying less-than-equal opportunity because they don’t have a chance to get a middle-class income; the E.I.T.C. helps meet this complaint by increasing the income of the poor.

The EITC, as I mentioned, is in effect a reverse income tax. The eligible worker sends in a return stating

wages received, but instead of paying money to the government, he or she receives money from the government in the form of a “refundable” tax credit, meaning that the worker gets the full amount, even if it exceeds his tax liability. (For example, if the worker owed \$500 in taxes and his credit amounted to \$2,000, he would receive a net amount of \$1,500. If he owed nothing, he would receive the full \$2,000.) Of course, not all workers are eligible, only those at the lowest end of the income scale and primarily those with children.

Currently 18 states – Ohio not included -- have their own EITC programs to complement the federal one.

The pattern that the amounts of these credits conform to serves to give low-income workers a greater reward for work done – to “make work pay” – and thus lift them above, or close to, the poverty line.

The EITC amount varies with the amount earned. At the lowest level, it increases with earnings. For example, consider a married couple with two or more children in 2005: As annual earnings rise from 0 to \$11,000, the credit amount increases at a rate of about 40%, up to \$4,400. For earnings of \$11,000 to \$17,500, the amount stays constant at \$4,400. For earnings of \$17,500 to \$38,000 the amount decreases from \$4,400 back down to 0. (See the accompanying graph.)

Let’s look at what this means in terms of total income for the married couple with two children at various points on the earnings scale:

For earnings of \$5,000, the EITC credit would amount to \$2,000, for a total income of \$7,000.

For earnings of \$11,000, the EITC credit would be \$4,400, for a total income of \$15,400.

For earnings of \$17,500, the EITC credit would still be \$4,400, for a total income of \$21,900.

For earnings of \$25,000, the EITC credit would be down to about \$2,750, for a total income of \$27,750. And when

earnings have increased to \$38,000, the credit is zero.

The federal poverty threshold for 2005 was \$20,144, so you can see that the value of the EITC is limited; it doesn’t provide everyone with even a moderately comfortable income. But it does lift many families (and in particular those with children) above the poverty line and gives a boost to those in desperate circumstances.

For workers without children, the credit amount is much smaller; its maximum is \$399 per year. One of the suggestions made for improving the EITC is to bring these payments more in line with those for families with children.

The EITC invites comparison with the minimum wage, and I would suggest that the former deserves at least as much support as the latter. The minimum wage has met resistance on the grounds that it creates economic distortions, benefits the wrong people (e.g. teen-age children of well-off families), and may even hurt the poor it is supposed to help. No such objections apply to the Earned Income Tax Credit. Increases in the credit amounts can be targeted to those most

in need, e.g., parents who make less than \$11,000 per year, or those who have more than three children, or low-income workers without children. Of course, substantial increases might cost around a billion dollars yearly (the total program costs \$30 billion per year for 20 million families), and that would have to be paid for through taxes. But the minimum wage is itself a kind of tax on employers, and a billion dollars is no great attention-grabber in a federal budget of two and a half trillion. (Perhaps it could be slipped through as an earmark.)

Despite the obvious benefits of the EITC, a substantial number of qualified working people do not take advantage of it for a number of reasons, including the apparent difficulty of applying for it. Help is available. The nearest place to find it is at the Lakewood Library Technology Center, which will take reservations for sessions of the EITC Assistance Program on Monday nights at 6:30 and 7:30 at the Madison Branch of the Library, as well as giving information about other sources of volunteer help. The Technology Center can also display an on-line copy of the IRS Publication 596, Earned Income Credit.

Help is also available through the IRS web site (www.irs.gov) and through the local IRS office, (216) 522-4048.

Arguments and Issues:

A Reasoning Puzzle

Or what you should have learned in school but probably didn’t.

In order to think clearly and effectively, you must be clear about the structure of your thought, that is, the claims you are making plus your reasons for the claim, as well as the crucial point(s) of difference between your thinking and that of others in the discussion. Most basically, this means explicitly recognizing the arguments on all sides (an argument consists of a conclusion and the reasons or premises that back it up), as well as identifying the issue or issues (questions that must be answered in order to arrive at a justified conclusion).

In this puzzle we ask for the issue raised in the controversy

Egbert: We ought to take the fastest way.
I-90 is the fastest way.
Therefore we ought to take I-90.
Fred: Yes, we ought to take the fastest way.
But the Lakeshore is the fastest way.
Therefore we ought to take the Lakeshore.

(Answer is below)

Which is the fastest way -- I-90 or the Lakeshore?

The issue is:

Arguments and Issues Answer



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Lakewood Life

Parents, Friends and Neighbors

Part One

Months ago, I attended the memorial service of a friend in California. I sat in the church and listened as Ann’s three children, now grown, talked about their mother. One daughter talked about the road trip she and her mother had taken from Cleveland, Ohio to the Stanford campus in Palo Alto, California. She talked about her mother’s sadness in leaving her high school teaching position and a home she loved. Each day, Ann suggested a detour, a sight that must be seen. Every night, Ann phoned her husband, Dick, to tell him where they were and that they’d be another day on the road. I believe the drive, the delays were Ann’s way of working through the loss of her life in Cleveland. Another daughter spoke about how angry she had been as a teenager, how her mother had dealt with that anger by spending time with her, walking. “One day we walked so long, I was so tired, that I forgot what I had been angry about in the beginning,” she said, with a laugh. Walking, driving. Time.

My mind drifted, as I held back what felt like a river of tears. And then, one of the children said, “Before she died, my mother told us that when we were born she held us and she knew that we weren’t an extension of her, that we were each unique, separate beings and she looked forward to getting to know us.” Tears streamed down my cheeks as my heart contracted over the loss of a very special woman, a mother.

In January, the Observer received a letter from a Lakewood mother whose teenage son told her that he is gay. She wanted to share with the community the process she went through to accept her son’s sexuality. She wanted to say that she loved her son as she always had. He was the same beautiful child. Despite this mother’s enthusiasm, several of us at the Observer expressed concern that her letter could backfire. Our concerns were twofold—outing them to the community and her son’s safety. One could argue we were overly cautious. But, I don’t think so.

Weeks later, I met this woman. I listened as she talked about confronting her son with her suspicions, his denial, and then, finally, hearing the truth. She told me her son had recently been harassed in school. She talked about how angry she had been with God, how disappointed she was in some of her neighbors, neighbors who now shun her family, how uncertain she was of who to tell, when to tell, and, most importantly, how concerned she was for her son’s well-being. Many parents in Lakewood and throughout the world share the same feelings and concerns. Ten percent of the world’s population is gay. According to PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) one out of every four families has a gay, lesbian, or bisexual member.

In a meeting with Renee Althof, R.N. MSN, Clinical Nurse Specialist,

at the Lakewood Hospital Teen Health Center, she said, “As a parent you pick up something. There’s something happening to your child that’s moving them in a direction.” But what do you do with your intuition if you suspect your child may be gay? Most parents hesitate to discuss their concerns with their spouse or partner, with another family member or a friend. When it comes to sexual orientation of their children, many parents isolate. They come up with and reject ways to talk with their child. They withdraw from friends. Some parents slip into denial, donning a mask that magically avoids what’s in front of them.

Stephanie Boyd, teacher at Lakewood High School and Advisor to the Unity Group, gives this advice. “Don’t panic.” Parents panic, Stephanie said, because, “We do not want to think about our children as sexual beings. They are our little boy, little girl, and it is difficult to think of them as

dentists and the best schools. Then, the parent makes the appointment and takes the child. Even when the child becomes a teenager, the parent wants to make sure their child has the best education and medical care. These are the building blocks to a healthy adulthood.

Within the family structure, most children come out first to their mother. The child may leave items for the mother to ‘accidentally’ find—a note to a lover of the same sex left on the kitchen counter, magazines, and a diary, heretofore locked, left open on the bed. The child may make subtle comments about others who are openly gay, such as classmates, television characters, or movie and rock stars. “Children get everything. They hear everything at right angles,” said Mika Major, a Lakewood resident and Youth Program Coordinator at The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland. They’re listening when parents talk about a co-worker, a friend, the

In January, the Observer received a letter from a Lakewood mother whose teenage son told her that he is gay. She wanted to share with the community the process she went through to accept her son’s sexuality. She wanted to say that she loved her son as she always had. He was the same beautiful child.

sexual.” In addition, if you think your child may be gay, you panic because, “Parents may believe that it’s too difficult a lifestyle.”

Every counselor I spoke with told me the same thing. The pre-teen and teen years are when children question who they are, where they fit in the world, and ask themselves how they want to be in the world. In school, the kids evaluate where they are in the class hierarchy, how their body type, hair style, and clothing fit in with their friend’s. They ask themselves if they are athletic or creative, prefer to pick up a baseball bat or a guitar, love a popular rock group or hate it, are attracted to their friend of the same sex or to someone of the opposite sex. I picture the pre-teen, teen like someone in a large department store. Much time is spent looking. An even greater amount of time is spent in secret, in the dressing room trying on clothes. For me, this shopping business creates a lot of anxiety. Add to that, the question of who I am attracted to sexually, and wow, I’m overwhelmed. So are many parents.

The role of the parent in a child’s sexuality is as important as any other aspect of their child’s life. A parent doesn’t leave it to a child to get immunized, seek dental care, or enroll in school. The parent generally talks to friends, family members, or other parents about the best doctors, the best

grocery clerk, the hairdresser who is gay. If the parent uses derogatory terms, the kids get it. And, they will retreat.

“Mothers know stuff. They’re intuitive,” said John Farina, Development Director of the Beck Center in Lakewood. When John came out to his mother in his twenties, she told him that she had suspected he was gay. John’s advice is the same as Stephanie Boyd’s—“Don’t panic.” In fact, that’s the overall advice from counselors. Take a deep breath. Don’t confront your child. Talk to someone you can trust.

In Lakewood, there are a number of agencies with qualified staff ready to meet with you at no charge or very little charge. They will keep your phone call or visit confidential. This list is not meant to be exhaustive.

Lakewood-Department of Human Services 216-529-6046

Division of Youth

This department offers one on one counseling service for parents, teens, parents and teens, and families. The services are free.

Lakewood Hospital Teen Health Center 216-391-8336

The teen is the patient. But the counselors will answer any questions a parent may have in an initial inquiry. The center takes insurance and also has grant money for those who are not insured.

The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center of Greater

Cleveland
www.lgbtcleveland.org 216-651-5428

Located on the west side, this center offers free support and resources to parents and children. They also have services for transgender youth.

PFLAG (Parents, Friends, Family of Lesbians and Gays)

www.pflagcleveland.org 216-556-1701

This local chapter of the national organization of PFLAG was started in Cleveland twenty years ago. Monthly meetings are held at Trinity Cathedral. The phone number above will give you details about the meetings and also will get you in touch with someone to talk to. Services are free.

Recently, I overheard a woman in a Lakewood store say, proudly and with a laugh, “My daughters are jocks.” Does that mean her daughters are gay? No. “You can’t assume that what you see is all there is,” said Jeanne Hoopes, Counselor at Lakewood High School. My friend, Jeff, a forty-year-old gay man, was the high school quarterback. He was king at his Senior Prom. If your daughter, at times, dresses masculine (whatever that means) it doesn’t indicate that she’s a lesbian. She may be trying a new style to see how it fits. A young man may have friends who are gay. That doesn’t mean he’s gay. In fact, Mika Major says that today’s teens travel in packs. The pack is made up of gay, straight and possibly transgender teens. She’s seeing a trend in this younger generation toward acceptance of the uniqueness of each other. Something my friend, Ann, saw many years ago in her children.

“Some children know from a very early age that they are gay”, said Renee Althof, Lakewood Hospital Teen Center. Others may not. Jane Daroff, a counselor at Case Western and a founding member of Cleveland PFLAG, said that by age fifteen, kids are mostly sure of their sexual orientation. “Most gay men know there’s something different about them when they are little boys.” Jane said. For some, questioning continues on into adulthood.

The most important thing a parent can do is to keep communication open. Jeanne Hoopes, Lakewood H.S. counselor, said that the kids really want to spend time with their parents and many feel that their parents don’t have time for them. Jeanne suggested thinking of creative ways to be alone with your child. She gave examples of going to a movie, taking your child out for breakfast before school. If met with resistance, “push,” Jeanne said, adding, “They often both end up enjoying each other.” And you can use the tactic my friend, Ann, used with her angry teen daughter—take your child for a long walk or drive. Another way to find out what’s happening is to volunteer to drive your child and their friends to the movies or a school activity. Then

continued on next page (16)

The Buck Stops Here

Glimpsing Utopia

“You don’t understand, Gold. We want a happy story about happy people with happy problems.” Response of TV producer to a story Herbert Gold had given him.

We are sent down this road daily. We should be happy. If we are not, we should seek it out. Once we have it, we are told we can have more of it. To be happy is not enough. There is always more happiness to run after.

Where does one find it? In the look of a loved one, satisfying work, a new car, a rock lyric, the bottom of the glass, friends, family? Each of us has his answer. How does one find it? That is more complicated. We may know what we want, but never be able to attain it. “You can’t always get what you want,” the Stones remind us. We may not know what we want, and when happiness presents itself not know if that is what we want. Dwight MacDonald asks if Americans get what they want or want what they get.

It goes without saying that happiness is affected, if not determined, by where we live. Charles Fourier, a leading nineteenth century utopian thinker, asks, “What is one to think of an elegant salon that requires a visitor, on his way there, first to pass through a courtyard littered with refuse, a stairwell full of rubbish?” In the twentieth century, we seem to be more callous. CLUB MED, goes the Situationist slogan of the Sixties, A CHEAP HOLIDAY IN OTHER PEOPLE’S MISERY. Those at Club Med no doubt fail to notice.

Thomas More’s *Utopia*, writ-

Robert Buckeye



Illustration of Thomas More’s Map of Utopia

ten in 1516, has given us the name for the ideal community we need in order to live fuller, happier lives. *Icarus*, *Oceana*, and *The New Atlantis* are later versions, *Looking Backward* and *News From Nowhere* its technological

applications, *Herland*, its feminist text, *Walden Two*, its psychological prescription. Brook Farm and New Harmony were its manifestations in nineteenth century daily life. We believed in progress, and the twentieth century was

heralded with great anticipation. Something happened to progress on its way to the future. “The concept of progress should be based on the idea of the catastrophe,” Walter Benjamin writes. “That things ‘just keep on going’ is the catastrophe. It isn’t that which always lies ahead but that which always is given.” Nazi Germany, Communist Soviet Union and capitalist America gave birth, if you will, to *Brave New World*, *1984*, *Fahrenheit 451*, and any number of other negative utopias whose ideal worlds choke the life out of its citizens. What is good for you, as children know, has often more to do with control and domination. In these visions of perverted ideal futures, you escape or die; and escape was never much more than a death.

Our sense of utopia today is much diminished, and we look for it, for the most part, closer to home -- in family and children, a hobby, Wednesday night bowling, church, the Indians or Cavaliers – rather than in the society we live in. “Falling in love,” Laura Kipnis writes, “is the nearest most of us come to glimpsing utopia in our lifetimes.”

Even lovers know they do not shut the world out. Thing is, as alone as we may be, as solitary the human condition, as much as society does not deliver the goods, we do not live apart from others. The question is always how we live with our neighbors. As the Sixties slogan put it, if you’re not part of the solution, you’re part of the problem.

Spilled Ink

Building
continued from page 1

any time, any where. Likewise, as staffing reductions are managed through attrition as we transition to the ten school configuration, additional operational savings are achieved.

It’s about teaching and learning! Over time, the educational process only benefits when you can choose to buy another ream of paper and a set of crayons for that creative student rather than

patching an old boiler. Dollars invested into education by our community will go more directly to the education of a child versus other support areas.

So the next time you drive by one of our four current school construction sites or hear the droning sound of construction equipment or maybe, even have to wash your car due to the resulting dust, let’s work to remember what it is all about. It’s about teaching and learning! Only from that will our children, our community and our world prosper.

continued from previous page -

Friends and Neighbors

just listen.

“The presence or absence of a parent in a child’s life is the most important thing—period,” said Mika Major, LGBT Youth Program Coordinator, punching her fingers against the chair arm for emphasis. Mika’s words were echoed by Jeanne Hoopes, “It always surprises me how parents underestimate the influence they have on their kids.” My friend, the quarterback, told me some years ago that usually by the time a teen tells their parents that they are gay, they have already had sex. The child doesn’t need to figure out if they are gay or lesbian; their greater uncertainty is how to tell their parents. A longtime Lakewood resident told me, “I knew my son was gay from an early age. I just knew.” This mother waited for her son to tell her. Her son graduated from Lakewood High School; then, four years later when he graduated from college, he told her he was gay. And he told his mother before he told his father.

In today’s world, people are coming out at an earlier age. They are no

longer satisfied to live in the closet. In fact, they see no reason to hide. Yet they tiptoe around the people who love them the most. The loneliness, the anxiety, the doubts any parent may be feeling surrounding their child’s sexuality is a concern. In Lakewood, this person is not alone. “Lakewood is a very special place,” said Jeanne Hoopes. “It’s small enough that we can pick up the phone and talk to someone who is competent.” And, I believe, after talking with all the counselors I interviewed for this article, that you can talk to someone who has your child’s best interest at heart.

In addition to the people cited in this article, I would like to thank Mary Hall, Assistant Director, and Jim Muth, Counselor at the City of Lakewood Department of Human Services, Division of Youth; Tim Marshall, Director of Communications, LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland; Kristine Jares, LISW, Lakewood Hospital Teen Health Center; and Nickie Antonio, Lakewood resident and member of the City Council.



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Lakewood Gallery Watch

Gallery Watch

By Ruth A. Koenigsmark
and Christine A. Kazimer

If you have a free afternoon, you should make your way over to the Beck Center, as we did on a suggestion from a friend. With three exhibits going on concurrently, we flipped a coin and made our way to the Garden Preschools' exhibit, "What the Mind Imagines, the Body Creates." This is an absolutely charming collection of children's art renderings inspired by artists such as Eric Carle. As we passed one adorable picture after another, we learned that the children have illustrated and written a book called the "Secret Preschool." The first passage reads like this, "There once was a secret pre-school. I had a gold fish who lives for a long time, and a white rabbit that eats carrots...." To find out how the story ends stop by before the show ends April 14th.

Also running at the Beck is the Cleveland Artist Foundation's retrospect, "Edris Eckhardt: Visionary and Innovator in American Studio Ceramics and Glass." Eckhardt was head of the Sculpture and Ceramics Division of the Federal Art Program of the WPA (Works Progress Administration) in Cleveland. In the 1950s, she became one of the founders of the studio glass movement in the United States as she began to fire glass in her ceramics kiln.

Remarkably, she rediscovered the lost technique of roman glass production, created innovative light boxes; and experimented with works of glass and bronze. A panel discussion will be held on Wednesday, March 29 at 7:00pm. The show runs through April 15.

We also don't want to forget to mention the 2006 Faculty Art Show which represents the work of Beck Center Staff representative of numerous artistic styles and mediums. Much to see at the Beck this month!

"Art is either plagiarism or revolution."
-Paul Gauguin



Gallery Events for March 21 through April 3

bela dubby

13221 Madison Avenue • 216.221.4479
Hours: Tues-Thurs, 10am–10pm, Fri-Sat, 10am-12pm.
bela dubby will continue exhibiting, "Dark Little Oil Paintings" by Jon Hammer, and "My Roots are Deep," by painter Paul Sydorenko.

Beck Center For The Arts

17801 Detroit Avenue • 216.521.2540
Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus Garden Preschool and the Early Childhood Education Learning Center, in conjunction with the Beck Center for the Arts, presents a special children's art exhibit titled, "What the Mind Imagines, the Body Creates" through April 14.

Local Girl Gallery

16106 Detroit Avenue • 216.228.1802
Hours: Tues-Thurs 12-5pm, Fri- Sat, 12-6pm.
"Figurative works in oil" by John Carlson. John's works capture the flavor of the 1930's, 40's and 50's and continues on a timeline to today's influences. On exhibit will be over 18 paints and 4 drawings. Opening reception: Saturday March 25th 6-10 pm. Exhibit runs through March.

Pop Shop Gallery and Studio

17020 Madison Avenue • 216.227.8440
Hours: Mon-Tues, 9:30-11pm, Thurs 4pm-11pm, every other Saturday and Sunday 1-6pm. The gallery is open other days depending on artists schedules or by appointment.
The All Inclusive Show, featuring works by Hewn, Revise CMW, Joey Potts, and Scar 1.0 will, continue through April 8th.

*Art gallery news and event information should be forwarded to
gallerywatchgals@yahoo.com. Every effort will be made to include it
in our next column.*



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Rescue Me
a first novel by
Northern Ohio author Ken Pullen

Lakewood Pets

Three-legged dog teaches lessons of love and perseverance

By Annie Stahlheber

It took me 2 years to make the decision to get a dog. My parents warned me of the hard work and that I wouldn't be able to go on impromptu vacations, or spend long hours in the office. I read about the dogs being killed in shelters and how they always need people to care for stray dogs. I have a good job at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. I am a determined person with a house and a yard in Lakewood. I thought that I was perfectly capable of taking care of a dog that needed a good home. One thing that I had never thought about, much less experienced, was having someone dependent on me for all of their basic needs. Being a dog owner taught me how to care for someone over myself. I learned how to put my dog's needs ahead of mine in order to rehabilitate and raise him. This is Redford's story.

Examining the pages and pages of pets on petfinder.com, I had specific criteria – male, not a puppy, but not too old, not too big, definitely long, curly hair to reduce allergens. A wheaten terrier? A golden doodle? Ooh, there's the perfect one, a fully-grown male red cocker spaniel. His adorable puppy eyes just melted my heart. What a cutie! A little symbol next to his picture indicated that he is a special needs dog, but why? I clicked on Redford's picture, and read about what he had been going through.

Redford lived at a foster home in Marysville, but had been placed there by Cherished Cocker (a cocker spaniel rescue center) from a kill shelter in Cincinnati. Redford was found a stray, both starving and limping. The rescue center took him to the vet, got him checked over, and found that he had a badly broken front right leg. The damage was old, and it seemed that Redford had been a stray for some time. The vet recommended amputation which the rescue center agreed to. He spent many months rehabilitating at the foster home in Marysville, where he anxiously awaited adoption.

I went to Marysville to visit Redford after several phone calls with the foster owner and sending a written application. He was living at a rural home, with about 8 other dogs who were either also waiting for adoption or pets of the lady who was taking care of them. He was outside on the front patio when he met his first visitor. He was so shy, that he cowered away and urinated when I bent down and held my palm up for him to sniff. He warmed up a bit after I gave him a giant dog biscuit, gobbling it up in a few quick chomps. Inside the home, I tossed a tennis ball to him as he scampered to catch it. He was quite athletic despite still getting used to having a leg missing. He walked differently than I imagined – rather than the front first and then the back legs, he had sort of a triangular gait, with his head bobbing up and down to thrust the front leg forward. Although he certainly seemed submissive and fearful, I felt that I couldn't

turn my back on him, and would work with him to overcome his problems with obedience training. My Dad and I met the foster owner to adopt Redford on April 2, 2005.

About a month later, I decided that it was time for obedience training. I called North Coast Dogs, and it turned out that they have a discount for people who rescue dogs. Redford was signed up. He was already getting better with the rules of the house, and walking on a leash. He followed me all around the house and slept on the bed with me at night. He had a crate for when I went to work, but he barked to get out when he was in there. Other than the barking, he was doing pretty well. Car rides were another area where we needed work because Redford became so excited for car rides, that he would chew anything and jump around frantically.

The training went well and Redford was making significant advances. He was becoming more social and would go for longer walks on the leash. I was starting to leave him out of his crate when I left the house for short times with the basement gated off. There were a couple times when

out in the house with only the basement gated off. As I was driving home from the car place, I noticed that it had started to thunderstorm. I knew that this was something that scared Redford and hoped that I didn't come home to find a dog "mess". Instead, when I opened the side door I found Redford rolling around and howling in pain. He had jumped over the baby gate, and fallen down the steps. His front leg was wobbling all over and when I tried to touch it I realized that it was badly broken. I was horrified! All his progress, and hard work with training on one leg! I quickly called the vet's office, and they told me to take him to the emergency clinic in Brookpark, since it was after hours and he'd need an x-ray for sure. As I scooped up poor "Red", he squealed in pain and chomped on my right hand. I didn't even feel the pain, and sat him on my lap as I sobbed and drove off.

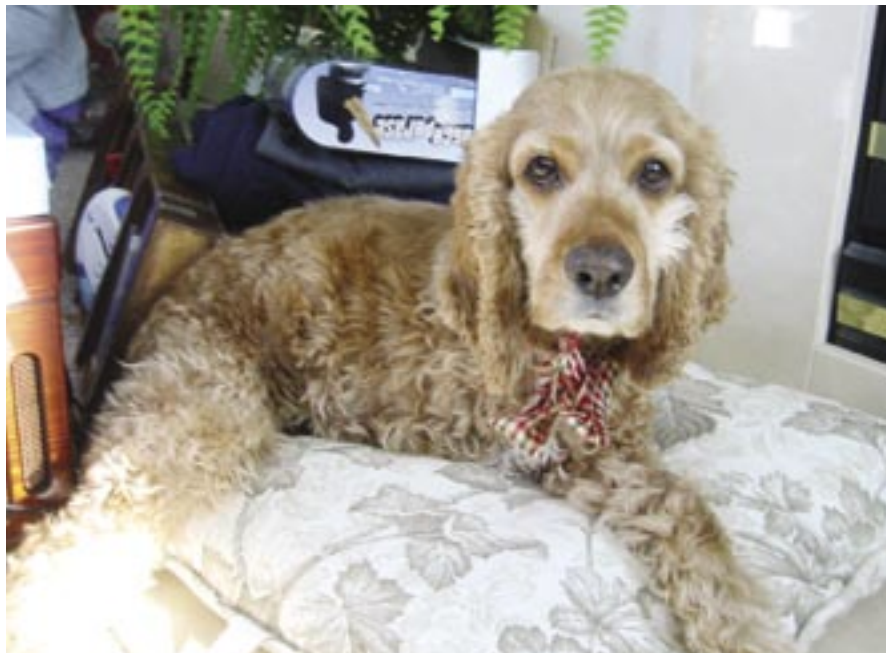
At the emergency clinic, the vet on duty informed me that he did indeed have a severely broken humerus (the upper bone of the "arm"). He would need extensive surgery rather than a simple cast. They admitted him to their

that it would cost for this hospital bill.

The next thing to worry about was how to keep Redford from putting weight on his leg so that it could heal while he has no other leg to put weight on in front. Dr. Anson instructed me that Redford needed to be taking antibiotics, pain medication and a sedative to keep him from being too active. He was to spend his time lying down with padding to prevent pressure sores in a very small area to keep him from moving around. He was supposed to be only up only twice a day to go outside with a sling to support his upper body. My parents and I discussed where Redford might be able to stay for the 12-week recovery. The crate was out of the question because its metal wires might catch on his external fixator and pull out the pins.

It was decided that Redford's safest bet was in my parents' shower stall. I moved back in with my parents temporarily until Redford had his fixator removed and he could go back into his crate in my home during the day. My Mom and I created a sling to hold up Red's bad leg so he could "walk" with his two back legs to go outside. Sleeping in the shower stall was miserable for Redford, since he was used to sleeping with me. He couldn't sleep with me at her parent's house because there was a risk that he'd fall off the bed. He howled and moaned all night the first night. He clearly needed his "Mommy" by him or no one in the house was going to get any sleep. The only solution was to have me sleep on the bathroom floor with him. I did this for 2 weeks until most of the bleeding and drainage stopped, and we decided that we could both sleep on the floor in a carpeted room with blankets and padding. I tended to his pin hole openings and made sure they were clean and disinfected. He had several setbacks, but after 3 months I moved Red back to my home. He still had the fixator, but was set up in my carpeted computer room where he could lounge all day on the futon and sleep. He still had some socialization and aggression problems, but he was coming along with the healing process. In December, Redford finally got the fixator removed, 8 weeks later than planned. He had started putting pressure on his leg, but was forbidden from going down stairs and jumping from the couch or bed. Soon after that, he had a nice haircut and shampoo, and started to look like the adorable dog I had adopted last April.

Today, Redford is showing our family that it was well worth the time, effort and great strain on the budget that his injury caused. He is very excited for car rides, going for walks in the valley, chewing stuffed animals, and of course eating treats! He loves me and still follows her all around the house, upstairs and downstairs, and is again sleeping with me on my bed. We still have a few things to work on, such as the fear of odd noises, and aggressive behavior, but overall he is a lovebug and a great joy in my life.



Redford used the basement as his bathroom, but he would respect the rest of the house so I thought if I just gated off the basement he'd be a good dog. He was gaining confidence and was starting to be comfortable around strangers and other dogs. He still had some fears of noises such as honking horns, thunderstorms and the opening of windows and blinds. These things would usually trigger a "freak out", but with a distraction, he was learning to overcome them. Once a week he went with me to my beach volleyball matches. He'd sit under a tree and all the passers by would pet him and he loved it. He really seemed to be making progress, but with only a week to go in 'doggie school' things took a significant turn.

I had some work done on her car and needed to pick it up at the shop. I had crated Redford all day when I was at work, and came home for his dinner and walk. I just needed to return my rental car and then pick up my car from the shop, so I thought that it would be a good time for Redford to practice being

hospital, and arranged to have a surgeon available at the Akron Veterinary Clinic on the following day, Saturday July 16, 2005. I went home and sobbed continuously until the next day. My Mom and I picked up a very medicated Redford from the emergency clinic the next day and drove him to Akron. They admitted him there, where the surgeon, Dr. Anson, reviewed the procedure. He was very concerned with performing the surgery, since if he didn't fix it properly, Red would have no front leg to stand on. Redford's injury involved four pieces of bone, and depending on the amount of fragments, the surgery might get very complicated. He required multiple pins, wires and an external fixator was attached to his leg in three places. After the surgery, Dr. Anson called me with the news that the surgery has gone as well as it could. They found no bone fragments and were able to successfully attach all the bones. I planned how I was going to care for Redford and how I was going to come up with the more than \$5,000

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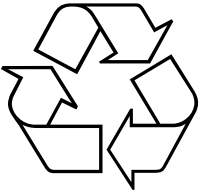
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STORY BY SCOTT MACGREGOR
ART BY GARY DUMM
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BIG FAMILIES WERE COMMON IN THOSE YEARS. THERE WERE GAGGLES OF KIDS HANGING OUT OF EVERY TREE.

YOW!

DESPITE ALL THE HAPPY YARDS, THERE WAS ONE THAT WAS NOT. I CAN STILL SEE THE LONELY OLD WIDOW WOMAN WHO ALWAYS CRIED WHILE SHE SNAPPED BEANS INTO A CAST IRON POT.

SOB! SOB!

SNAP!

BUT THEN THERE WAS THE PRECOCIOUS PEEP INTO THE UNDERTAKER'S GARAGE...WHERE AN OLD GIRLIE CALENDAR COULD BE SEEN HANGING OVER AN IDLE WORKBENCH...

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ARTHUR AVENUE

IN MY HOMETOWN OF LAKEWOOD, OHIO EVERY STREET IS A VILLAGE. MY VILLAGE WAS ARTHUR AVENUE.

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