

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 2, Issue 10, May 16, 2006

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Waterfront Development Announced

By DL Meckes
First Waterfront Development in Lakewood in over 40 Years: The Cliffs on Rocky River Unveiled

The first new waterfront development in Lakewood in over 40 years, was announced Monday by Mayor Tom George, local development team The Foran Group LLC, and M. Montlack Development.

At a news conference Monday at Lakewood City Hall, plans were unveiled for The Cliffs on Rocky River, a 46-unit multi-level luxury condominium and boat marina development on a unique site at the former site of the Krumreig Marina.

Total value of the project is estimated to be over \$20,000,000 when completed in three years. Construction is due to begin in 8 weeks, with first occupants moving in this time next year.

The site is located across from the Cleveland Yacht Club and the Westlake Marina, 1000 yards from the mouth of the river and the historic Clifton Park Lagoons.

The building will be constructed into the cliff-side and step back with



each floor level to create huge terraces and glass-walled residences with spectacular views of the boat traffic to the north and west, and views of the MetroParks to the south. It will rise only 35 feet above grade on Sloane—

about the height of a single family home.

Architect Michael Caito of the award-winning City Architecture firm notes, "The building is designed to maximize views of nature with which

residents will be able to interact. The hillside setting influences the organic nature of the building form, which steps up the hill, allowing for large, open terraces at each unit. The building ... will visually reinforce its organic setting and nautical ties to the water."

Units would be priced from \$275,000 to \$1 million. The 10-level structure will house 27 single-floor flats, 13 dockside townhouses with *continued on Page 9*

Library Celebrates 90th Birthday - Groundbreaking Ceremony Looks To Future

By John Guscott

Over three hundred Lakewoodites braved the balmy spring weather on Sunday, May 7 in order to celebrate both the 90th anniversary of the Lakewood Public Library and the official groundbreaking for its

new building. Under the picture-perfect azure sky, Lakewoodites from all walks of life assembled on the corner of Arthur and Detroit to honor one of our community's most treasured institutions.

Rather than holding the traditional groundbreaking ceremony,

library officials instead opted to offer all Lakewoodites the chance to ceremonially turn the earth. Library trustee Paul Dimmick constructed a wooden box from scrap wood taken from the old Children's room to serve as the container holding the earth. Library director Kenneth Warren presided over the event, giving everyone present a chance to plunge the gold-tipped spade into the earth-filled box and "make a wish for family, community and library."

Library Board of Trustees president Jeffrey Endress offered the first turn of the earth to the longest-serving library trustee, Mary Louise Nixon. Many other citizens followed with digs and turns of their own, including the mayor, members of city council, representatives of Lakewood civic groups, former library trustees, library employees, and many Lakewood families and schoolchildren.

As participants in the ceremony, attendees were given a miniature shovel with the inscription "Celebrating 90 Years & Digging a New Beginning" as a

continued on Page 6



Mayor Tom George takes the first scoop of dirt with the help of some of Lakewood's younger residents.

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Lakewood News

Granger Standoff Has Tragic Ending

By Stan Austin

Due to the inconclusive ruling of this case as a homicide, the Lakewood Observer will follow up with a much more in-depth story once the Cuyahoga County Coroner releases her full report.

After 1 PM May 03 Lakewood Police received a 911 domestic disturbance call from inside the home of Lakewood resident Bradley P. Babbitt. Allegedly, Babbitt's aunt called LPD due to Babbitt's erratic and violent behavior and threatening speech. When the police responded with several cars, they took fire from the upstairs of a house at 1233 Granger. A quick record and history check turned

up past police involvement for Babbitt at that address. A deeper look into the life of Babbitt showed his psychiatric evaluation and treatment at Lakewood Hospital just last year.

The Westshore SWAT unit was called out and participating members from surrounding police departments responded. Most of the surrounding neighborhood was cordoned off including a half mile section of Clifton Boulevard. Four nearby schools, Horace Mann Middle School, McKinley Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary and St. James alternative, instituted a lock-down as a precaution against Babbitt engaging in a larger area. During a lock-down children may only leave the



Photos by Lin Geissenhainer

Armored SWAT truck heads to the house while Chief Malley discusses situation.

school with a parent or guardian as a safety precaution.

Special negotiators tried over a period of several hours to talk Babbitt into coming out. Finally, an armored vehicle was backed into the driveway

of the involved house. From that point SWAT officers attempted to enter the house. Gunshots were heard. Babbitt was found dead by the rear door with wounds to the chest and head.

The night before the shooting, Babbitt spoke to his friend about purchasing some liquor for the evening. "I have a feeling something bad's going to happen" Babbitt was quoted as saying by his friend.

As of 5:15 PM the scene was slowly unwinding, and a Lakewood Police vehicle emerged with three rounds lodged in its body.

Parents were picking up their children at the schools while the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office was on the scene picking up the body of Babbitt, 18.



Photos by Lin Geissenhainer

SWAT Team sharp shooter heads back to the command center.

Observer's Observation Deck

<http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum>

Where Lakewoodites Go To Hang Out And Talk

Topic	Replies	Author	Views	Date
New Waterfront Project?	4	Joseph Milan	39	Mon May 15, 2006 6:08 pm
Lakewood Library in the News	11	Bill Grulich	280	Mon May 15, 2006 3:51 pm
Religion and Churches? Fading away or not.	26	Mark Crnolatas	484	Sun May 14, 2006 9:03 pm
Surveying residents who leave	32	Jeff Endress	1039	Sun May 14, 2006 10:15 am
Taxes Not High Enough?!	21	Jim O'Bryan	634	Sat May 13, 2006 1:34 pm
Wanted: Best Wings In Lakewood	54	Shawn Juris	1370	Sat May 13, 2006 12:46 pm
Numbers	6	dl meckes	144	Sat May 13, 2006 7:33 am
Drugs, Crime and the Nuisance Ordinance	20	Bill Call	744	Fri May 12, 2006 9:19 am
Community Currency?	21	DougHuntingdon	482	Thu May 11, 2006 1:18 pm

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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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Lakewood City Hall

Time Expired on the Edwards Parking Lot

Council 05.01.06

Council President Robert Seelie called the May 1, 2006 meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. after an extended committee of the whole meeting.

The first item of business was a resolution offered by council member Kevin Butler (ward one) commending Prudential Lucien Realty. This firm is opening a large branch office at 18630 Detroit and has made extensive renovations to that storefront. Mayor Thomas George commented, “it’s a healthy sign for Lakewood when a real estate company moves in.” Ron Lucien and one of the firm’s top agents, Paula Reed, were on hand for the customary photo.

The two proposed ordinances to build and operate a municipal parking lot at Edwards and Detroit failed by a vote of 6 to 1.

A familiar part of civics classes has been the segment called “how a bill is passed.” This describes the process of legislating in our form of government. Describing and chronicling the opposite, “why a proposal failed” can be equally instructive about how a unit of government works.

It all started with the exchange of a few remarks between Planning Director Thomas Jordan and property owner Angelo Coutris at the groundbreaking of the new YMCA last year. Coutris, a member of the YMCA advisory board, brought up the idea of a parking lot on two parcels that he owns at Detroit and Edwards Avenues. Jordan was receptive to the idea because of the ever present need for more parking in the business districts in Lakewood.

A small working group including Jordan, Coutris, and Butler drew up a plan which would include demolition of two houses on the lots, building the parking lot, and leasing it to Coutris’ holding company to operate. This plan then attracted a wider audience and more scrutiny. One of the first to enter the fray was adjacent homeowner Michael Gill. The Lakewood Historical Society became a participant because one of the structures involved is the Hall House, one of Lakewood’s

Stan Austin
Lakewood Observer City Council Reporter

first homes. Chick Holtkamp, a major property owner, also started to look at the project.

The rescue of the Hall House also became an issue after the entry of the Historical Society into the discussion. Preservation of that house moved up on the list of priorities because of the attention brought to the matter.

The proposal was given a first reading at council six weeks ago and was met with tepid response. Council

in the city had many code violations. To Demro, this would seem to disqualify Coutris from benefiting from city assistance in this parking lot proposal.

The Lakewood Historical Society found a champion in Coutris who agreed to give the society the Hall House and in Chick Holtkamp who offered a section on one of his parcels and moving costs for the structure.

Council member Mary Louse Madigan (ward four) was openly skept-



Local resident Michael Gill addresses City Council, and members of City Hall about what it might be like living next to a parking lot.

member Butler then held a neighborhood meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church for all interested parties. At that meeting, all the public and unspoken objections came to the surface. Foremost among the concerns was the apparent rewarding of a business that people had ongoing complaints with (McCarthy’s) with a city subsidized parking lot.

Two weeks later in committee of the whole meetings and before the full council, Jordan laid out the case for the need for additional parking in that area and how this proposal fit in with the larger plan of the city to provide that parking. The positions of the major players started to gel.

Council member Ryan Demro (ward two), pointed out that Coutris’ houses on these parcels and elsewhere

tical of Jordan’s assertion of parking needs and how he applied that need to this location.

Council member Robert Seelie (ward three) found that this proposal met the overall plan for parking and this opportunity had to be taken while it was available.

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce joined in by reminding council that this expansion of parking was

exactly what the chamber has been advocating for several years.

The final stop of this legislative journey was at tonight’s meeting. The YMCA became a last minute entry into the equation. Glen Haley, President and CEO of the Greater Cleveland YMCA, along with Jordan, presented a plan by Lakewood YMCA to build a day care center on the proposed lot for which this additional parking was crucial.

If the proponents of this lot thought that this last minute tweak by the YMCA would turn the tide, their strategy proved wrong. Council members subjected this new change to harsh questioning which emphasized their dissatisfaction with the constantly changing plan.

In the committee of the whole, Seelie used personal appeals along with some deft parliamentary maneuvering to allow the full council to vote on the two proposals a short time later. As items two and four under old business the two ordinances were voted down with only Seelie voting in favor.

As it stands now, Coutris can build the parking lots on his own and control them as he sees fit.

Paula Reed, president of the Historical Society said, “We’re back to square one with the Hall House. We have every intention of working on this to try and save the Hall House.”

In corridor comments – a Lakewood Observer exclusive feature- Robert Seelie said “I’m frustrated. I thought this was the right thing to do so I held my position to the end.”

However, as the great political philosopher Yogi Berra said, “It ain’t over ‘till it’s over.” Therefore, observers should keep an eye on this lot for the next game.



Councilman Mike Dever and Mayor Tom George award a special resolution to a representative of the Red Cross.

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Lakewood Sports

Lakewood Rugby’s Toughest Opponent: Gas Prices

By Mike Deneen
Lakewood Observer Sports Columnist

The Lakewood Girls’ Rugby team has rolled through another successful season on the field. They currently have a record of 13-1, having won the State championship on April 22nd in Marion, Ohio. The team has outscored its opponents by a margin of 529 to 54 in its 14 matches.

However, the team is running into an opponent tougher than anything

it has ever encountered on the rough-and-tumble rugby field: gas prices. By virtue of its performance, the team has earned a spot in the national championships on June 3rd and 4th. The Championships will be held in Portland, Maine, requiring a lengthy bus trip and overnight hotel stay.

Cost of the trip is expected to be over \$7,000, including \$5,000 for the bus. Since the team is a club sport and not a varsity sport, the team must raise its own funds for the trip. So far the team has raised about \$2,000 but needs to come up with more in order to compete in Maine.

If you would like to make a donation or would like to learn how to help, call Liz Murphy at 216-221-7099. The team will be holding fundraisers in the next couple of weeks. To learn more, visit their website at www.lhs-girlsrugby.com or check the calendar of upcoming events at the Lakewood Observer website.

Softball Team Eliminated From Tournament

By Mike Deneen

Due to the unique scheduling needs of high school baseball and softball, the state softball tournament takes place simultaneously with the latter portion of the regular season. In its first tournament game, the Lakewood Ranger softball team thumped Lorain Southview 13-0 on Wednesday, May 3rd at Lakewood’s Usher Field. The victory moved the team on to a second round match up with the seeded North Olmsted Eagles on May 10th.

In the sectional final game, North Olmsted eliminated Lakewood with a 7-0 victory at Lakewood’s Usher Field. Freshman pitcher Jamie Wright kept the Rangers in the game early, holding the Eagles to one run in the first four innings. However, North Olmsted scored five runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to put the game out of reach. The tournament loss dropped Lakewood to a record of 10-13 with two regular season games left in the season.



The Lakewood Ranger softball team

And In Baseball News...

by Ivor Karabatkovic

The Rangers became the Sectionals Champions after a victory on Monday. They’re rolling right along and are ready for a great game at Tri-C next monday for a District Tourney match against Midpark.



The Team

LHS Athletics to Hold Uniform Sale

The Lakewood High School Athletic Department will be holding a uniform sale in the “L” Room on Monday, May 22nd. Uniforms from numerous sports will be on sale beginning at 3pm. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Athletic Department. For more information, call 216-529-4034.

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Lakewood Observations

City Year Cleveland Celebrates 10th Anniversary

By Kaye Pryor

City Year, a proud member of AmeriCorps, unites over 1,000 diverse young adults, ages 17 to 24, in 16 communities across the country for a demanding year of full-time community service, leadership development and civic engagement. This year, in Cleveland, 70 of these idealistic young leaders will make a difference in the lives of 10,000 children, providing nearly 120,000 hours of service.

In May 2006, City Year Cleveland will not only be celebrating their 10th anniversary but also one million hours served to the region. In order to recognize this achievement, City Year is holding the largest ever 10th Anniversary Day on Saturday, May 13th. The Ward 17 community has been chosen as the neighborhood in which this project will occur. Over 1,000 volunteers will engage in service for the area on this day. City Year chose Ward 17 because of a strong relationship with Councilman Matt Zone as well as service partnerships that have spanned over a five-year period. City Year Corps members work at the Joseph M. Gallagher School (in Ward 17) on a daily basis providing tutoring, mentoring and after-school programs.

On May 13, City Year Cleveland



will be collaborating with the Cleveland Bar Association, the Ward 17 Community Forum, Councilman Matt Zone, the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, the Stockyard Redevelopment Organization and the Ohio City Near West Development Corporation to host the day. There will be a wide variety of service taking place from green space revitalization to painting murals.

Lakewood borders the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood and City Year is interested in involving Lakewood residents. Many of City Year Corps members reside in Lakewood, such as attorneys from the Bar Association. It is a great opportunity for Lakewood residents to make a positive difference in an area very close to home.

“I just moved to Lakewood at the end of August from Findlay, OH and

I love it. For Million Hours, I am a project coordinator at Metro Catholic School where we will be cleaning up the garden, mulching pathways and trimming hedges. I am really looking forward to Million Hours and being able to see the difference we make in the Detroit Shoreway area.”

-Melissa Patterson, Lakewood resident, City Year Corps member

“After a day of hard work, I enjoy coming home to Lakewood each night knowing that I can walk up the street to get a bite to eat or go listen to live music. I also enjoy the quality of the programs that are being offered in Lakewood--such as body sculpting and abdominal classes. Lakewood is a place to relax and hang out with friends!”

-Liz Juchno, Lakewood resident, City Year Corps member

Where:
Michael Zone Recreation Center
When:
Saturday, May 13, 2006
8:30 am – 3 pm
--Lunch will be provided

For more information or to register to volunteer, please contact City Year’s Volunteer Service Leader, Kaye Pryor, at 216-574-2677 ext. 239 or kpryor06@cityyear.org

Gary R. Fix Appointed President Of First Federal Of Lakewood

First Federal of Lakewood has announced the appointment of Gary R. Fix to the position of president, chief executive officer (CEO) and managing officer. Fix, who was named CEO and managing officer in 2005, will continue to lead and set the direction for the company.

Fix joined First Federal of Lakewood in 1985. Prior to being named CEO and managing officer in 2005 he served as executive vice president and chief operating officer, and previously as senior vice president, chief financial officer and treasurer. Fix remains a director of First Federal of Lakewood’s board.

“Gary Fix has been at the forefront of First Federal of Lakewood’s growth, strength and stability for more than 20



Gary R. Fix

years. He is committed to this institution, to its employees, to our customers and to the growing number of communities we serve,” said Ronald W. Dees, First Federal of Lakewood chairman.

Fix succeeds Terry G. Tracy as president. Tracy has retired after more than 40 years of service to the institution. He will remain a director.

Fix, a Rocky River resident, began his career in public accounting and was chief financial officer at two other local financial institutions before joining First Federal of Lakewood. He is past president of the Northeastern Ohio Financial Manager’s Society, the Northeastern Ohio Institute of Financial Education and the Metro West Kiwanis Club.

Fix majored in accounting and earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration from St. Edward University in Austin, Texas. He is also a graduate of the Ohio Savings & Loan Academy and attended the Darden

Graduate School at the University of Virginia. Fix served in the United States Army’s 101st Air Borne Division, completed a 14-month tour of duty in Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star.

First Federal of Lakewood, with 13 locations in Northeast Ohio, has total assets exceeding \$1 billion. Founded in 1935, First Federal of Lakewood is a community savings and loan institution with a deep-rooted tradition of financial strength, stability and integrity. For additional information visit www.FFL.net.

Last week the photo of Gary R. Fix ran with a story on Ronald W. Dees. Our apologies.

Dr. Estrop Earns Outstanding Leadership & Vision Award

The Fenn College of Engineering at Cleveland State University and the Oversight Board of the Fenn Academy have awarded Dr. David Estrop, Superintendent of the Lakewood City School District, with the Outstanding Leadership and Vision Award. Dr. Estrop received this award for the “outstanding leadership and vision in the promotion of the Engineering Profession among secondary school students.”

Lakewood is the first school district to be a member of the Fenn Academy. In his comments, Dr. Estrop credited Linda Thayer, Director of Career-Technical Education with the

West Shore Career & Technical District housed in Lakewood High School, “It was through her work with the West Shore Career and Technical Program that led to Lakewood being the first member. This is part of our efforts to help all students prepare for the future, provide more choices for students, and improve academic performance by providing improved opportunities to enter into engineering.”

Estrop also stated, “by working together, the Lakewood City School District and the Fenn College of Engineering at Cleveland State University have taken a major problem facing our

nation and Northeast Ohio, namely the lack of engineers, and have jointly and creatively pursued solutions.”

Through this program, high school students can take a high school pre-engineering curriculum and have opportunities for internships, job shadowing and cooperative education placements with engineering firms.

The program has since expanded to include other school districts including Beachwood, Euclid, Mentor, Hudson, Cuyahoga Falls, North Royalton and Brecksville/Broadview Heights.

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Lakewood Library

Library Groundbreaking

continued from Page 1

commemoration of the event. With support from the Friends of the Lakewood Public Library, the Elmwood Bakery supplied several hundred frosted and sugar coated shortbread cookies, which were fittingly shaped like books, much to everyone's enjoyment.

Following the groundbreaking ceremony, the crowd gathered downstairs in the auditorium to listen to civic proclamations and a presentation from Alex Lamis, the project leader from Robert A. M. Stern, the architectural firm commissioned to design the new building.

Mayor Tom George presented the library with an official proclamation honoring the library's past and future, calling the institution "one of the most valuable assets to the city of Lakewood" and noting that it consistently ranks among the top public libraries nationwide.

Ohio House Representative and Lakewood resident Michael Skindell sponsored a recognition of the library, stating: "Since opening its doors ninety years ago, the Lakewood Public Library has become one of the community's most vibrant and venerable public institutions. Thanks for the generous efforts of a host of local citizens, it remains an exciting hub of language and learning, a place of intellectual discovery, and an indispensable center for the exchange of ideas and information."

United States House of Representative Dennis Kucinich also honored the library's celebration. Earlier in the month, at the United States House of Representatives, addressed the Speaker

stating "The library's collection of books, resources, historical documentation and advanced technology, offered free to the public, is a priceless component that continues to shape our culture, broaden our horizons and raise our collective and individual dreams into the light of reality – through imagination, discovery and learning, with every turn of the page."

Alex Lamis presented an overview of the architecture of the new building, drawing parallels between the new library with the original library's design, location and purpose. The location of the library on Arthur and Detroit was specifically chosen early in the 1900s to give honor to Arthur W. Hall, a bibliophile whose grandfather had settled in the area that is now Lakewood in 1837. Mr. Arthur Hall was a fruit farmer by occupation, but was well known to be an avid book collector and bookbinder hobbyist. He was also a bookshelf maker, using wood from his own Lakewood farm. Because of Mr. Hall's interest in books, the early Arthur Avenue homeowners actively lobbied local officials to make the northern end of Detroit the site for the community's library. The city turned to renowned New York architect Edward L. Tilton, who had become a specialist in designing Carnegie libraries. In his time, Tilton was known nationally as an expert in blending the modern needs of library service with classic architectural detail. In 1916, a grant from the Andrew Carnegie Corporation provided the funds to open the library on May 19. It is fitting that in this new century Lakewood again sought a world-class architect in Rob-



A good crowd showed up to spend the afternoon breaking ground.

ert A.M. Stern, who is known for his ability to blend the modern with the traditional.

Mark Panzica, project manager for Panzica Construction Company, said, "This is a great project for the community, and it fits very well with the rest of Lakewood's recent development. It is great being a part of it."

Reflecting on the diverse crowd that attended the event and the community's enthusiasm for the project, Ken Warren observed, "Lakewood Public Library is the convergence point for all generations of Lakewood. It was a grand celebration for all of us to be together on the corner of Arthur and Detroit, where it all began."

Lakewood Library Sponsors Science Fiction/Fantasy Book Club

By Chris Madak

If frantic page-turning and (mostly rhetorical) mud-slinging with the most notoriously opinionated fiction fans in the universe sounds like your cup of tea, the Lakewood Public Library would like to invite you to participate in our upcoming Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club. Following in the footsteps of recent genre-based readers' discussion groups (such as Kathy Kline's Booked For Murder) this forum will be moderated by our own Nick Kelly.

Over the course of the upcoming fall, the Club will confront and dissect three novels, beginning with William Gibson's classic, Neuromancer. First published in 1984--and subsequently the recipient of the Hugo Award, the Nebula Award, and the Philip K. Dick Memorial Award--Neuromancer was an early entry in the canon of cyberpunk fiction. It could be considered as well a seminal statement in the tradition of dystopian literature that includes well-known works such as George Orwell's 1984 and Aldous Huxley's Brave New World. As such, its appeal should extend beyond hardcore Sci-Fi cultists to patrons of New Media, contemporary cultural studies and classic English-language literature in general.

While the first title has already been selected, Nick plans to choose the second based upon feedback from prospective book club members. Members are welcome to email their recommendations to scifibookclub@lkwdpl.org. The Club is soliciting suggestions of one to three works of classic or modern science fiction or fantasy--in the range of 300-400 pages--readable in one month by the average enthusiast.

The Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club, which is open to all interested adult readers, will meet to discuss Neuromancer on Monday, September 25 at 7 pm, in the Lakewood Main Library Auditorium. The group will meet next on October 30, discussing its second pick; the third and final book will be explored on November 27, 2006.



Mary Louise Nixon takes a turn. She is the longest serving trustee on the board.



Next up was the longest serving Library employee, Bea Dalton.



Library Board Member Scott Kermode and LO's Stan Austin takes scoops.



Julie Warren and family take their turn while young Mr. Yates looks on.



Lakewood Municipal Court Judge Pat Carrol takes a turn while Ken and Suzanne Warren look on, and legal beagle and LO's Chef Geoff (Jeff Endress) looks on.

Photos by John Guscott and Steve Hoffert

Lakewood Hospital News

Art Healthy
And Hanging At
Lakewood Hospital

Rosalie Kastelic

Once again Lakewood Hospital has opened its Atrium to house the May Show for Lakewood Art League. In our 56 years this has always been our favorite time of year - almost a "Christmas in May" for the Artfolk of Lakewood Art League.

This year's showing of almost one hundred works of art is an exceptional one, and we invite everyone to take a moment to see the quality of this body of work.

Our reception is Sunday, May 7, 2006 from 2:00p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Atrium at Lakewood Hospital. You will be able to meet some of the artists. Awards will be given at this time in the categories deemed fit by this year's judges.

We will also present our annual scholarship awards of \$200.00 each to the two students of Lakewood High School who were chosen by their fine teachers to receive them. The criteria for these awards were the most "Improved" art student.

The Russ Swanson Memorial Award goes to Amber Smith and the Lakewood Art League Annual Award goes to Jessica Chinchar. Our congratulations to both of these fine students. We will be looking forward to great things from them in the years ahead. Please look for their Artwork in the show.

Give your eyes a treat from the everyday routine. All it costs is a few moments of your time. You'll thank us for it, and we thank Lakewood Hospital for this generous opportunity. Enjoy the show!

Photo by Kiti Hoffert



Presented by Donald Martens & Sons Ambulance Service, the 5th Annual Lakewood Hospital Ambulance Chase 5K Race/Walk and 1.5 Mile Walk took place on Sunday, May 7. Nearly 750 participates gathered at Lakewood Park and were treated to blue skies and virtually perfect weather conditions for an early morning walk or run. The event was a huge success, raising more than \$50,000 to benefit a variety of programs and services provided by Lakewood Hospital. Since its inception in 2002, the Ambulance Chase has now raised more than \$125,000 for Lakewood Hospital. A very special thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers, participants and community members whose gifts of time, talent and treasure contributed to the event's success.

Congratulations to the 5K race winners Peter Boyd, with a time of 15:49 and Jeanette Boyd, whose time was 19:17. This husband and wife came from Union City, Pennsylvania to participate in the event.

Mark your calendars- the 6th Annual Ambulance Chase will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2007!

May is Mental Health Month

By Fred Weller

Are you struggling with stress and tension? Anxiety or panic attacks? Depression or other emotional/behavioral disorders? Maybe you have a family member diagnosed with a mental illness and you need someone to talk to. May is Mental Health Month; you should know that in the Lakewood community there are several free services that can help you take care of your mental health.

Recovery Inc. provides an effective self-help method to reduce suffering and improve mental health. Recovery Inc. has 31 meetings in the greater Cleveland area. In Lakewood, Recovery Inc. meets every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 14502 Detroit Ave. For more information on this self-help group call 216-267-1674.

The National Alliance of the Mentally Ill offers a consumer and family



support group. This group is also free and offers resources, information and help to those affected by mental illness. The group meets at the Lakewood Hospital Community Center every 2nd and 4th Thursday. The starting time is 7 p.m. For more information on this group and other services call NAMI at 216-875-7776.

It's a privilege to have these free support groups available and open to the public right here in Lakewood. May is Mental Health Month, a good reminder to protect yourself as well as the mental health of those you love!

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Lakewood's Future

The Answer, My Friend, is Blowing in the Wind

By Don and Lynn Farris

On Saturday morning, April 29, Dr. Fletcher Miller, a NASA Scientist and Board Member of Green Energy Ohio, presented a talk on Community Wind Power and Manufacturing Potential in Ohio to a group of approximately 45 people at Lakewood Public Library. Dr. Miller was introduced by State Representative Michael Skindell, who briefly discussed his Renewable Energy Portfolio for the State of Ohio (See Lakewood Observer Vol. 2 Issue 9, May, 2 page 6). Among the attendees were Councilman Kevin Butler and Councilman Mike Dever.

Dr. Miller provided a little history of wind power first. It is interesting to note that Northern Ohio is one of the pioneer areas in providing municipal wind power. In 1888 Charles Brush erected the first wind turbine to generate electricity on Euclid Ave. In 1947, we used wind energy on the Lake Erie water intake crib to power it. In 1982, NASA Lewis developed the first municipal-level wind turbine, which generated 4 megawatts of electricity.

After NASA's initial success, political administrations changed and so did the interest in renewable energy in the United States. However, Europe was still interested. Denmark and Germany have taken the information generated from NASA and put it into production. Currently, Denmark generates 20% of their energy from Wind Power and has a goal of generating 50%. Germany generates 8% of their energy from the wind and the E.U. has a goal of gener-



Michael Skindell speaks to the crowd.

ating 20% of their energy from wind by 2020. Europe already has several offshore wind parks and major installations are planned in the next decade. This industry is growing world wide at a rate of 35% a year.

Why should we consider Wind Power in Ohio?

1). Changes in the United States have now made wind power more viable. The cost of wind power is dropping while the price of other energy sources has been increasing. According to the U.S. Department of Energy the cost of wind power is 5 cents per kilowatt hour while the cost of other power in Northeast Ohio ranges from 9 – 17 cents per kilowatt hour.

2). The sources of energy that we are currently using in Northeastern Ohio are not only costly but also harmful to our environment. Ohio ranks first or second in the nation in generating sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon dioxide, and mercury.

3). Ohio ranks second among all states in the potential to create manufacturing jobs associated with the wind industry, according to the Renewable Energy Policy Project done in September of 2004. We have the factories and the skilled labor force which could be put to work at good manufacturing jobs.

4). We have the existing infrastructure, extensive transmission network, operational facilities and headquarters

for three major investor-owned utilities.

Green Energy Ohio is currently monitoring sites all over Ohio to find where sufficient wind is available to use for municipal power. Lake Erie is one of those sites, and there are several good reasons to build a wind farm there:

1). Existing wind maps show that wind on Lake Erie off the coast is the best wind in Ohio.

2). Lake Erie has large shallow areas suitable for development. Off-shore turbines in Europe are proving cost-effective due to better winds and larger turbine sizes, up to 3 Megawatts.

3). There are no obstructions as there are on land to interfere with the turbine's operation.

4). Artificial reefs could be built around the wind farm for fish habitat.

5). The wind farm would also help with tourism. People travel to see these amazing giants operate.

Bowling Green State University has already installed four Vesta wind turbines, each generating 1.8 Megawatts of electricity, enough to power 1500 homes. Dr. Miller urged the audience members to visit Bowling Green's wind turbines.

The people attending were generally very impressed with Dr. Miller and stayed to ask many questions. Dr. Miller indicated that he was impressed likewise with the interest of the Lakewood citizens. To read more about Green Energy Ohio and what they are doing see their web site at <http://www.greenenergyohio.org>.

Update on Lakewood Park and Peninsula

By Savannah Farris

I was overwhelmed after my thesis in December to have the plan for Lakewood Park published in the Lakewood Observer. This allowed information about the project to reach 16,000 people! Fortunately I had included my e-mail address, which allowed me to start a dialogue about the project with many of you. I was able to hear what you like and respond to your questions.

The project has been displayed in the Observer office since December and many of you have also had the chance to review the entire project. One of the people that came to the Observer office to review the project was Councilman Butler. He then asked me to present the plan to City Council. February 21, 2006 I had the opportunity to share with City Council the plan for Lakewood Park and Peninsula.

I was quite impressed by the reaction of city council. They asked many good questions both during the presentation and in questions after the council meeting. The head of the company I work for is Mr. Richard Parker, a principal in Schmidt, Copeland, Parker, Stevens (SCPS), and he attended that meeting. SCPS is a planning, land-

scape architecture, architecture and interior architecture firm in Cleveland. Mr. Parker, who is LEED (sustainable design) certified, had studied land reclamation here in Cleveland and understood the problems that had occurred at the top of Martin Luther King Blvd. and what could be done to prevent them. He also studied land reclamation in Dubai, where they are doing incredible things. Mr. Parker has been very supportive and has mentored me in working on this project.

One of the first things we did was to approach a major developer. Mr. Parker, Councilman Butler and I attended the meeting and the developer was quite enthusiastic and had many suggestions as well as some questions for us as a city to answer. Do we want the peninsula to be primarily residential, mixed use or primarily restaurants and retail? To some degree that dictates the size of the peninsula. Residential requires less land than retail does. We want to get the community involved in what is desired and needed.

Through e-mail and conversations, I have found that the four areas of most interest are the peninsula itself, the amphitheatre, the wind farm/water intake/learning center, and the rearrangement of the parking to allow for



the farmer's market. The only concern I have heard expressed about the plan is the relocation of the Old Stone House. While I had originally thought that it made sense to group it in the central area in the park, where the learning centers were located instead of beside the skate park and baseball diamond, others have preferred the visibility that it has from Lake Avenue. We will certainly want more input from the Historical Society and the city regarding this as we move ahead.

There have been many excellent questions about wind energy, so I was thrilled that April 29 we were able to

schedule Dr. Fletcher Miller, a NASA scientist and member of Green Energy Ohio, to discuss Municipal Wind Power and Manufacturing Potential in Ohio at the Lakewood Public Library. Approximately 45 people attended and he presented information and answered many questions.

The next step we are planning to take is a feasibility study. We are working with foundations and state officials to secure money for such a project.

Please e-mail me at Sav2006@yahoo.com with your comments and questions or just to be put on our e-mail list.

Lakewood Developments

Photo by Julie Schabel



Krumreig Marina as it looks now.

continued from page 1

private attached garages, and six multi-level penthouses. The units range in size from 1,430 to 4,100 square feet and have oversized private terraces, 11-foot ceilings and views from each unit through floor-to-ceiling glass.

“We are very excited about this project,” Montlack said. “We believe Lakewood is an outstanding place to live, offering many amenities and outstanding city services.”

Lakewood Mayor Thomas George said he is “delighted the developers chose Lakewood for their project. Lakewood is a great place to live and their decision reflects that. One of Lakewood’s strength is that we offer a variety of housing to fit all price ranges. This new construction offers buyers yet another great option.”

Mayor George noted that the developers were able to acquire the property through negotiations with willing property owners. “There was no threat of eminent domain, nor use of tax abatement, nor blight designation.”

“We prefer when there is an amicable agreement between the developers and the property owners,” Mayor George said.

Council member Nickie Antonio (at large), who served on the Grow Lakewood Committee said, “This is a visionary project, that will showcase our window to the Rocky River, one of Lakewood’s unique resources. Our entire city will benefit from this distinctive new housing which will increase our competitive edge.”

Community response to the project has been enthusiastic. Michael Summers, of Grow Lakewood said, “The Foran project is a bold plan. It is in total alignment with The Grow Lakewood Strategy of invigorating, updating, and diversifying Lakewood’s housing stock. Its success will set the pace and direction for further bold housing initiatives.”

“LakewoodAlive is delighted to see yet another developer investing in our community with a project that builds on our geographic assets and provides an exciting housing alternative to resi-



Artist’s rendering of how it will look in three years.

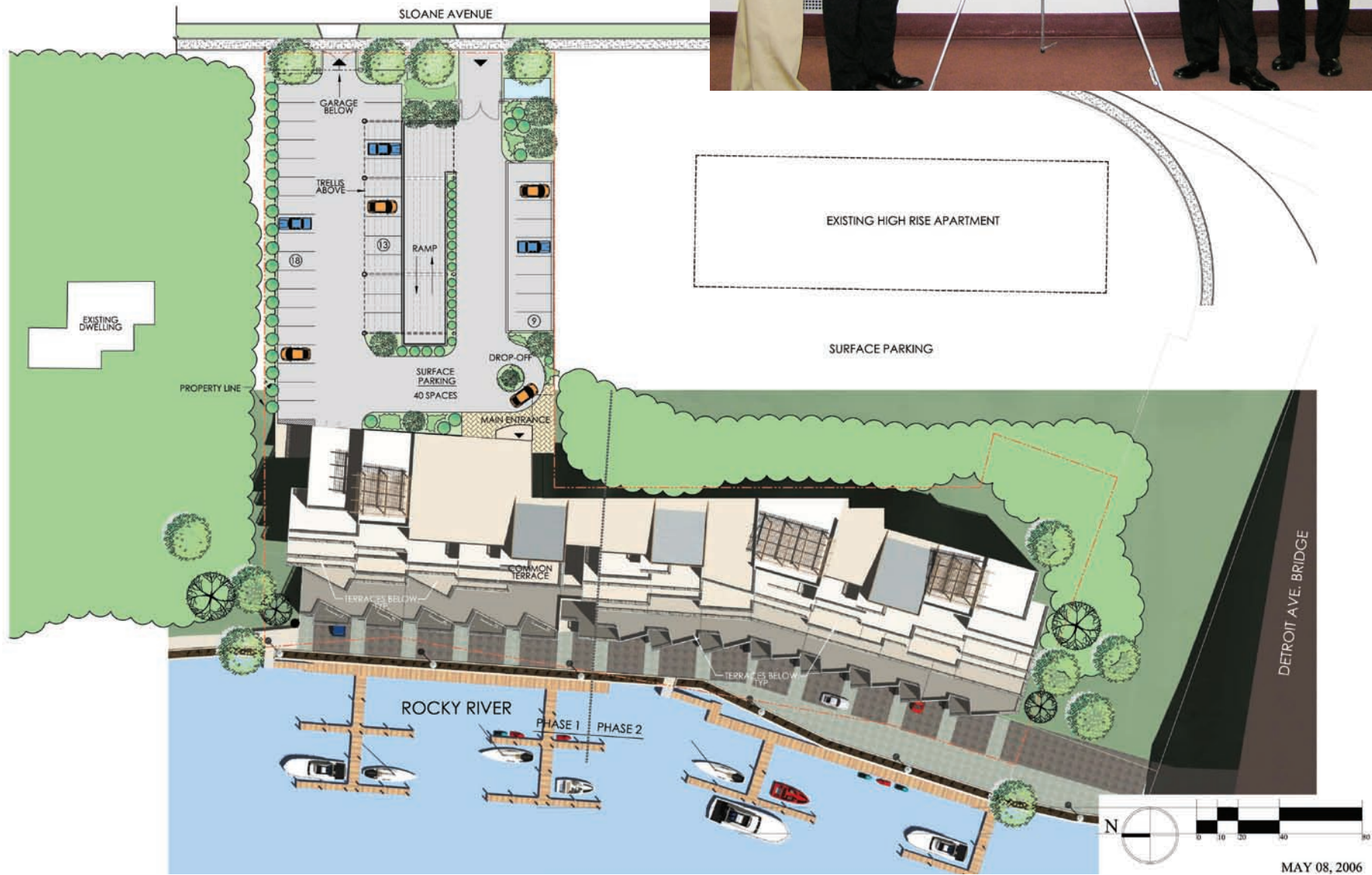
dents. Housing repeatedly appears at the top of the list of issues playing a critical role in Lakewood’s economic future.” notes Mary Anne Crampton, LakewoodAlive.

The Foran and Montlack families have longtime roots in Lakewood. Rick Foran’s grandfather, Frank Foran, was a cashier for the Cleveland Railway at the old streetcar trolley barns, not far from where the development will be located.

Rick’s father and Patrick’s grandfather, was a Lakewood fireman for 35 years. Rick Foran grew up in Lakewood and his son, Patrick, president of the Foran Group, still lives on Arthur Avenue.

Michael Montlack grew up on Lakeland Avenue. His father was an internist and surgeon at Lakewood Hospital for 50+ years and Michael’s wife, Carol, was the city’s public information officer in the 1980’s and 1990’s.

Left to right: Rick Foran, Patrick Foran, Michael Montlack, and George Zamecnik.



Lakewood Volunteers

Volunteers in Lakewood: Lakewood Christian Service Center

Text by Mike Scherer, Executive Director of Lakewood Christian Service Center

The Lakewood Christian Service Center fulfills its mission to serve our neighbors in need with the invaluable help of wonderful volunteers. Our volunteers inspire others through their actions in the community. They work side-by-side with the professional staff and are an essential ingredient in the mix of services the center provides to the Lakewood community. Volunteers perform meaningful service in reception, client interviews, program support, special projects, food packing and pantry stocking.

I am inspired by our volunteers every day. Not only are they our most valuable resource, but they are also some of the nicest people I have ever met. I am immensely grateful for all they do in the community.

Photo By Rhonda Loje



Staff of LCSC: John Visnauskas, Bill Pearson, Mike Scherer, Bart Topoly, Rini Gauntner, Jean Anne Finlin.

New York Life Volunteers

Mary Anne Varano

Volunteerism is a way of life at New York Life. Everyone is encouraged to volunteer, from the CEO to the newest employee. Volunteers get together outside of work to have fun and to give back to the community. Anyone with a cause that needs volunteers is welcome to encourage others to join their effort. The New York Life Foundation will donate funds to efforts that have a large number of employees doing volunteer hours. In 2005 the employees at the Service Center in Lakewood volunteered over 1500 hours.

Saturday, April 23rd was Family Community Service Day, and many New York Life employees came to Lakewood Park to give the Skate House a much-needed coat of paint. Sisters Stephanie Bunch and Debbie Latessa brought along family members to help with the project. Diane McChrystal, who heads up Volunteers for Life at the Service Center, made sure that volunteers had snacks and water when needed.

There are many other events throughout the year. Twelve volunteers, led by Judy Matyi, deliver hot meals to seniors at their Lakewood residences once a week. Teams of two volunteers work together each Tuesday, one driving and one delivering the meals to the resident's door. Employees deliver the meals during their lunch break. In addition to providing a nutritious meal to residents, volunteers are friendly visitors to someone who may not otherwise have a visitor and contacts to make sure they have air conditioning on hot summer days and heat on those cold winter days.

Photo By Rhonda Loje



Volunteers from New York Life that have volunteered to spruce up the skatehouse. Anne Varano, Stephanie Bunch, Debbie Latessa, Taylor Latessa, Dominic Latessa, Dan Fessler, Kelly Pamphilis, Diane McChrystal

Barbara Flanagan is in her fifth year leading a group of sixteen employees who take part in the Big Brothers Big Sisters School-Based Mentoring program at several Lakewood schools. Volunteer mentors meet with youths one-on-one during the school day for one hour each week, usually at lunchtime. Mentor and youth usually spend some time on schoolwork, but they also play games and read together. Chris Munshower, Nancy Odorizzi, Diane Anderson, Liz Murphy, Paul Buehner, Kathryn Worship, and Agnes Janossy are in their fifth year working with the youths.

New York Life's Mary Kresge and her husband joined in Lakewood's Adopt-a-Spot program in June 2005. They care for a garden bed behind the bus stop at the entrance to Lakewood Park.

This is the first year that Volun-

teers for Life has taken part in Ohio Reads, which matches volunteers with first, second and third grade students on a one-on-one basis to strengthen reading and writing skills. Betty Kish leads a group of 12 who are matched with students at McKinley Elementary School.

Deborah Norris and Diane Dugger meet with volunteers who knit and sew. They make one of a kind blankets for needy babies and people with can-



cer. Experienced knitters and sewers help others to learn the skills needed to create the blankets. Everyone has a fun time!

On June 16th many members of the New York Life Service Center will be at Lakewood Stadium for Relay for Life, the signature fund-raising event for the American Cancer Society. Kelly Pamphilis and Karen Jones are organizing this event for the Volunteers for Life. They hope to have someone from New York Life on the track at all times.

The now-traditional Frozen Chicken bowling will also be held at Lakewood High School in the wee hours of Saturday morning after the Relay For Life. Last year the Volunteers for Life raised over \$8,100. This year they hope to raise \$10,000.




Volunteers for Life, during the past year, has also been involved in Habitat for Humanity, fundraisers for back-to-school supplies and Thanksgiving Baskets, Canned Food Drive, Season of Giving Tree, Hurricane Katrina Basket Raffle, MS Walk, Pedal to the Point for MS and Blood Drives. Where there is need the volunteers from New York Life will find a way to help.

Mary Anne Varano
1326 Lakewood Avenue
Lakewood OH 44107



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Around Lakewood



Jay Foran (LakewoodAlive), Sandra C. Hull (Executive Director of Main Street Wooster, Inc.), Mary Anne Crampton (LakewoodAlive) and Joyce Barrett (Program Manager of Historic Preservation for Heritage Ohio, Inc., additionally she works closely with Downtown Revitalization Program.)



Kevin Butler, Ron Lucien of Lucien Reality, Paula Reed and Mayor Tom George



Michael Loje and Ed Schneider removing wood built-in's from the dining room of the house that was being torn down to make room for Rosewood. Donated by Tom Barrett they were offered at the Lakewood Historical Society Sale at the Nicholson House.



The crowd lined up early for the sale at the Nicholson House, that benefitted the Lakewood Historical Society.



Heather Rudge and Susan Ritter clean-up crew for the Nicholoson House.

Indy Horsepower At The Riviera



May 7th the Jim Beam Indy Car team showed up with their special two seater Indy Car and proceeded to give rides through Lakewood as part of a promotion at The Riviera that saw two lucky patrons win tickets to the Indy 500.

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Lakewood Activities

The LRST Tradition of Excellence Continues

By Kevin Harrod

The Lakewood Recreation Swim Team (LRST) has a strong tradition of producing some of the best swimmers in Northeast Ohio, and this past season that tradition continued. LRST swimmers not only excelled at the age group swimming level, but also at the high school and national level. LRST swimmers dropped over 2,810 seconds of time combined this past season for a total of almost 47 minutes.

Leading the way for LRST were seniors Chris Rouchard from St. Edward High School and Neil Anderson from Lakewood High School. Both swimmers qualified for the Ohio High School State Swimming Championships this past February in Canton, Ohio. Rouchard placed 5th in the 200 Yard Freestyle with a time of 1:42.65 and placed 9th in the 500 Yard Freestyle with a time of 4:39.41. He also swam on two of St. Ed's relays which scored points by placing in the top 16 swimmers in Ohio. In addition to his success at States, Rouchard is a two time Northeast Ohio High School District champion in the 500 Yard Freestyle, having won the title his Junior and Senior years. He is also a two time High School All-American. On the national swimming level, he is a 7-time USA Swimming Sectional qualifier and a

two time Junior National qualifier. He will attend the University of Maryland in the fall and will swim for the Terps.

Neil Anderson also qualified for States this past season in the 200 and 500 Yard Freestyles. He just missed making finals in the 200, but placed 11th in the 500 with a Lakewood High School record time of 4:42.37. That time is good enough to make All-American Consideration. Anderson is a 7-time Sectional qualifier and also holds Lakewood's school record in the 200 Yard Freestyle. He will swim for Wittenberg University in the fall. Also making it to States for the men was St. Edward senior Avery Scott, who swam on two top 16 relays. Scott is a two-time State qualifier.

Not to be outdone, LRST's lady swimmers had just as successful a season as the men. The talented group of underclassmen girls was led by Maura Anderson from Lakewood High School and Madeliene Kete from Magnificat High School. Anderson qualified for States for the first time in the 100 Yard Butterfly. She is also a 3-time Sectional qualifier. Kete swam on two relays which placed in the top 16. She qualified for Sectionals for the first time this past season, and was the Lake Erie Swimming (LESI) champion for the 13-14 age group in the 100 Yard Freestyle. Other LRST swimmers finding success were Kelsey Moran from Lakewood

High School who qualified for Sectionals in the 100 Yard Backstroke, her sister, Courtney Moran, who swam on three Sectional qualifying relays and just missed making States in the 500 Yard Freestyle. Both ladies are also 3-time Sectional qualifiers. Emma Paras made her first Sectional meet as a member of LRST's 800 Free Relay.

LRST's age group swimmers also achieved a high level of success this past season. The age groupers were led by Colleen Hutchinson who represented LRST as a member of the LESI Zone Team which competed at the University of Michigan back in August. She placed 8th in the 50 Meter Breaststroke. Numerous age group swimmers also made LESI's top ten list for this past season. Andy Peng placed 8th in the 11-12 400 Yard Individual Medley. Jack St.Marie placed 8th in the 13-14 1650 Yard Freestyle. Colleen Hutchinson placed 4th in the 10 & Under 100 Yard Breaststroke and 10th in the 50 Yard Breaststroke. Elizabeth Auckley placed 9th in the 10 & Under 50 Yard Butterfly. She also finished 4th in the 50 Yard Fly and 9th in the 100 Yard Fly at LESI Champs.

Other age group swimmers who scored points at LESI Champs include Daniel Parris who placed 7th in the 11-12 200 Yard Individual Medley, 9th in the 200 Yard Breast, and 10th in the 500 Yard Freestyle. Other age

group swimmers who qualified for LESI Champs for the first time include Kayla Eland, Grace and Maggie Harter, Ellen Hutchinson, Emma Kete, and Andy Peng. Several of LRST's youngest swimmers also had great success this season. Leading the way was Mason Beck who placed 5th in the 50 Yard Freestyle, 7th in the 100 Yard Freestyle, and 10th in the 100 Yard Individual Medley at the 8 & Under Championships. Beck was also one of a handful of swimmers aged 8 or younger to qualify for the LESI Junior Champs.

LRST is led by Head Coach Kevin Harrod, Head Age Group Coach Tom Stacy, and Developmental Coach Heidi Demaline. Harrod has been with the program since June 2001. He is a member of the American Swimming Coaches Association and is certified Level 3 by the American Swimming Coaches Association. He graduated from Cleveland State in 1997. Stacy grew up swimming for LRST under his dad, legendary coach Jim Stacy, and even helped coach while he was in high school. He will be graduating from Cleveland State University this spring. Demaline is a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College and came aboard in the Fall of 2004. She previously coached for summer league teams in Berea and also worked at the Baldwin-Wallace swim camps.

Kiwanis Corner



By Ryan Demro

The Rockport Lakewood Kiwanis Club is on a mission to recruit new members to its ranks. Club members have found the most effective weapon in their arsenal is FUN. Last weekend they continued their quest by holding two social activities that drew on the interest of their members, paintball and baseball. Rumor has it that this group also formed a kickball team that is going to be hard to beat. If you want

to find out more about membership, join the club on the stage at the Winking Lizard on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

The Rockport Club is also continuing its community involvement by raising money to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Its next fundraiser will be a pancake breakfast at the Lakewood I-HOP on June 3rd from 6:00 a.m. to noon. Stop by for all you can eat pancakes!



Rockport Kiwanians Nicole Langlois, Ryan Salo, Nick Eisenhut, Ryan Demro, and Ryan McKean enjoy some time in the woods playing paintball.

Lakewood Kiwanis Is Reactivating "Senior Citizen Of The Year" Award

After several years' absence, The Lakewood Kiwanis Club is reactivating the "Senior Citizen Of The Year" Award with the cooperation of the "Lakewood Observer". This Annual Award recognizes the volunteer activities and contributions by Lakewood's senior citizens. It is designed to express the community's appreciation to seniors who contribute to the community's welfare in a significant way.

Nominees must be 60 years or older, retired and in community groups. The winner will be honored at an upcoming Lakewood Kiwanis Club meeting and in the "Lakewood Observer" with his or her picture.

To nominate someone, fill out the accompanying ballot and attach a note explaining why your nominee deserves this award. Mail the ballot and note to :

Harold B. Mathiot, Secretary
Kiwanis Club of Lakewood, 2865 Wyndgate Ct. Westlake, OH 44145
The Deadline for nominations to be recieved is June 1st, 2006.

Lakewood Kiwanis Club-Lakewood Observer Senior Citizen Of The Year - 2006

Nominee _____
Address _____
Your Name _____ Date _____
Your Phone Number _____



Rockport Kiwanians Ryan Demro, Matt Bennett, Amy Garrett, and Nicole Langlois (not pictured) enjoy a night a night at Jacob's Field.

Lakewood Observations

The Pulse of the City:

A Submarine Story (or, The Power of Flowers)

By Gary Rice

At first glance, the above title may appear to have little to do with the pulse of this, or any other, city. Still, I assure you that this topic does indeed have a relation to all things Cleveland, and perhaps a few things Lakewood (at least in the fact that I, as a Lakewood-ite, was a wee part of the ill-fated plot soon to be set before you). It is, in this writer's opinion, simply one of those stories that has to be told.

Going back to those heady days early in 1995, when I was beginning to help the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with their vast guitar collection, I was approached by a guy who was working with the Submarine Cod Museum. The Cod is a WWII, battle-honored U.S. submarine, berthed close by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, here in Cleveland. At a tasty lunch on the open deck, on board the Hornblower's restaurant/barge next to the Cod, the Cod dude (whose name will mercifully rest in the dustbin of journalistic confidentiality) asked me about the possibility of the Cod Museum helping to celebrate the opening of the Rock Hall.

I'm not certain why this guy came

to me, although we had met at a party on board the Steamship William G. Mather Museum, where I've also volunteered many a banjo-laced sea chanty in the past. As some, let us say, creative ideas were being tossed around on the Mather's decks concerning the Rock Hall, let us simply say that one thing led to another, and the Hornblower's meeting came to be.

Now, over ice cold beverages and my steaming bowl of Hornblower's irresistible Conch soup, ideas began to emerge as to how the Cod might help celebrate the birth of the Rock Hall. Before long, the inevitable question was presented. Could the Cod become a yellow submarine?

It was a stroke of genius. The nameless participants at the luncheon immediately dove into the logistics of making the Cod yellow. But it was soon determined that even with a volunteer paint brigade, the time and expense of even a temporary yellow wash would be impossible to complete.

It was then offered that the conning tower (top part) of the submarine bore a superficial resemblance to the cartoon submarine in the Beatles' movie. What about yellow shrink wrap? The kind of heat-activated plas-

tic that they covered boats with during the winter storage months? Could that, in fact, be used to cover the Cod's conning tower?

Brilliant!

We could then cut four-foot purple "portholes" of similar material to stick on the sides of the shrunk-wrapped yellow conning tower. The sub's deck could then be filled with yellow potted marigolds to complete the picture.

Voila!

Well, as ideas turned into questions, calls were made, answers were found, and dreams began to wither and die on the vine. In the first place, boat-covering shrink-wrapping came in several colors at that time, but neither purple nor yellow could be found. Second, the price of marigolds that year alone made covering the deck an imaginary exercise only. Finally, although I was not privy to whatever discussions may or may not have been held among the Cod people about this, I did drop by the beautifully painted, Navy-Gray submarine on the opening day of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. When I

did, I managed to pick up a brochure for the Cod Museum.

It seems that 1995 was in fact the 50th anniversary of the Second World War's ending. I would just guess that it was within the realm of possibility that some ex-Navy vets may have objected to the ideas advanced above. You see, the Cod's response was shown, very succinctly, on the front page of that brochure. There was a dramatic picture of the Cod, slicing through the waters, along with the expression:

This Submarine Was Never Yellow!

Along with our own tremendous Lakewood Park facility, Cleveland's waterfront boasts the magnificent Cod Museum, along with the Rock Hall, the Science Center (with that fantastic Omnimax theater) and the Steamship Mather Museum, all within a few minutes' walk of each other. Parking's a snap now, with the new lots all open. This Summer, why not look into a visit to our great waterfront? If you hear the ringing of a banjo from atop Mather's decks, come aboard for a sing-a-long! (I would not however, expect to hear "Yellow Submarine.")

Lakewood Player To Go To Mount Union

By Michael De Matteis,
Sports Director

Andrew Sanford, a senior at Lakewood High School in Lakewood, Ohio, will continue his academic and athletic career at Mount Union College in the fall of 2006.

Sanford, a 6-4, 265-pound center and two-year letter winner, was a Lake Erie League First-Team selection in 2005 and a Second-Team pick in 2004. He was named Lakewood's Offensive Lineman of the Year in 2004 and in 2005. Last fall, he also earned Honorable-Mention All-Region honors. He plans on majoring

in business and/or communications at Mount Union.

The Purple Raiders of Mount Union, the defending Division III National Champions, have won eight collegiate National Titles in the past 13 years. No team in college football history has won as many championships playing within a playoff system or using the Associated Press format for determining national titles at the Division I level. The Raiders have the most wins and best winning percentage in college football since 1990 (201-10-1/.950). Mount Union, with its 2,200 students, is located in Alliance, Ohio (pop. 25,000).



bela  **dubby**

Tattoo Art Show

Artist's Reception Saturday
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Lakewood Music

Saying (and Singing) What They Mean: An Interview with Gabe and Tony of The Free Minds

By Bob Ignizio

To many these days, punk rock is little more than a fashion statement. That's not the case with Lakewood, Ohio's Free Minds. Despite the relative youth of the band members (they're all in high school or middle school), they take their music and their message seriously. Rather than follow in the footsteps of MTV-friendly pseudo-punks like Blink 182 or New Found Glory, the band draws inspiration from artists like Dead Kennedys, Anti Flag, The Clash, Black Flag, and Operation Ivy. The current line-up of the band (Gabe X – guitar and vocals, Tony Giusto – bass, and Garrett – drums) came together in January of this year. To find out more, I talked to Gabe and Tony. Here's what they had to say.

Lakewood Observer: How would you describe your sound, and who are the bands that were major influences?

Gabe: It's people like Jello Biafra, Joe Strummer and Kathleen Hanna that we look up to, not only as musicians but in the sense that their music reflects how society is.

Tony: Operation Ivy, Nirvana, and The Clash among other bands were major influences for Gabe and Garret. I'm a big Casualties and Bad Religion fan, and I also love Anti-Flag. Our sound is punk, politically charged punk. I guess there is no other way to put it.

Lakewood Observer: What impact, if any, has being based out of Lakewood had on the band? Do you think Lakewood is a good town for musicians and artists?

Gabe: I think Ohio has been forgotten about in the sense that nobody remembers a lot of great bands that came from our area, nor do people notice bands coming from Ohio. But I think that makes our own scene even stronger in a DIY sense.



Gabe and Tony of Free Minds rockin' out at the Hi-Fi.

Tony: Lakewood is excellent for our band simply because the people like music, and we're musicians, so do the math. The people here embrace our band and enjoy our tunes because we're kids, but also realize we know our facts and know what is going on around us. Fans like us simply because we're not afraid to say what we feel and we know what we strive for, and we don't lose focus on our goals.

Lakewood Observer: Some of your lyrics deal with socio/political themes. Where do you see yourselves fitting in the political spectrum? Why should people care what you think?

Gabe: People don't have to care what we think; they just have to listen to it because we feel we are telling some kind of truth. As John Lennon always said, "mean what you say, say what you mean and put a beat to it."

Tony: We're mostly left wings, but we all share a common idea. That is, we need change, and we need to be told the truth. We're trying to let people know

this isn't a democracy, it's pure tyranny. We all agree that unity is a major necessity, and we strive for that. I know that sounds kind of dry, but that's what we're all about.

Lakewood Observer: Right now the only stuff I've heard by you is what's on your Myspace page, which sounds like rehearsal stuff. Any plans to go into a studio or do some home recording on a 4 track or something?

Tony: The tracks we have are made with poor equipment, so naturally they are filled with static and feedback. We hope to get into the studio with one of my friend's parents and put together a 9 song CD.

Lakewood Observer: What do you think of the current state of "punk" and/or "alternative" music, both locally and in a broader sense?

Gabe: To be honest, punk has become cliché. So it excites me to see bands like Joy Division, PIL and Nirvana who took the ethics of punk and

put their own music to it. In a local sense the scene is growing stronger. I've seen some bands that I can honestly say are way better than some of the bands that started the punk movement.

Tony: Personally, I think Lakewood has a killer punk scene, and I can't wait to play more and more shows. The punk scene is becoming more stereotypical, and that isn't exactly good. But the people who say punk is dead are wrong, punk won't die out EVER. As long as the beliefs are there, punk music will be there.

Lakewood Observer: Anything I didn't ask about that you want to mention?

Tony: Just that we will be playing Lakewood shows all summer, places like Mahalls and such, so it's great to get support. We hope to have our CD out on sale by May, so look out for that. Anytime you want to talk to us, it's a pleasure. Thanks a lot.

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The Buck Stops Here

Who does a newspaper speak for?

When *The News of the World* was first shown in French movie theaters in 1940, it was placed between the first and second reels of the feature film. Audiences had not seen it before and assumed it was, merely, another reel of the feature. They would see Japanese soldiers in China, a drought in Africa, and German tanks and see them as part of Inspector Poirot’s investigation of a crime – Poirot must have gone to China following a clue.

If they had not seen a newsreel before, they had seen movies and had been trained by years of watching film to understand how to watch them. A moviegoer sees a gun in a hand, followed by a shot of horror on a face, then by a body on the floor and makes a connection – a story – between the three images. This is what, in effect, the French audience did with *The News of the World*, putting together a story out of unrelated events.

Newspapers are not unlike newsreels that used to screen in theaters. Articles, stories, columns and photographs are placed alongside one another in a newspaper with no apparent relation to one another. However, the reader of the paper does not connect one story to another, as French audiences did with the first newsreels. Does he assume that there is no connection between the stories and articles he reads? What if he put what he read

together as a story?
Certainly, this is what Melanie Griffith does in the film, *Working Girl*. While reading newspapers, she



makes connections between a wedding announcement, a comment in the entertainment section, and a notice in the business news that permit her to put together an offer for the company she works for to acquire another company that is interested in merger.

It is not how we read the newspaper, and, according to Walter Benjamin, how papers can be read. The format of the paper, Benjamin argues, provides information but prevents understanding. “Its intention,” Benjamin writes, “is...to isolate what happens from the realm in which it could affect the experience of the reader. The principles of journalistic information (freshness of the news, brevity, comprehensibil-

ity, and, above all, lack of connection between the individual news items) contribute as much to this as does the make-up of the pages and the paper’s

style.”
For the most part, we do not – or cannot – make connections between the city council report, a business notice about company development, and an article about an historic house that threatened with demolition. Occasionally, we see the relationship between stock market reports and an act by legislature or between a cartoon, particularly if its *Doonesbury*, and politics. Newspapers often recognize the

connection between the Trudeau cartoon and politics by placing it on their editorial pages.

Can a paper overcome its limitations as a multi-channel box which the reader reads, as if his attention were a remote control? I would argue that every paper tells a story. For a brief period, I reviewed books for *The Plain Dealer*. I began a comment about a book of black history in America by citing a number of facts about blacks in America. My editor told me to keep my opinions out of the review. I said those were facts, not opinion, but the facts I included were not the story *The Plain Dealer* wanted to tell and were deleted.

If history is, for the most part, a history of winners -- those who write history justify their own time – what history do newspapers tell? Who does a newspaper speak for? In 1839, a Parisian workers paper insisted that all articles in the paper be written by workers. In the offices of the paper, a register of misery was placed so that anyone who needed to could write his name. These names were included in the paper as witness, plea, signal.

“Grace Lutheran Church Shares the Good News of Jesus Christ with All People”

Second Evangelistic Crusade

Grace Lutheran Church, located at 13030 Madison Avenue in Lakewood, will be conducting its second evangelistic revival in as many years, under the theme “Come to the Waters. The crusade will be held June 14-16 from 7-9 p.m. in a tent on the front lawn of the church. All of Lakewood and surrounding community of northeastern Ohio is cordially invited to attend.

This year’s crusade will feature area Lutheran praise bands, individual soloists and instrumentalists. Pastor Hansell will offer the message on Wednesday and Friday evening. Rev. Jeff Johnson, Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Cleveland and Executive Director of Building Hope in the City will present the message on Thursday evening. An Ice Cream Social will be held each evening after the Crusade worship celebration, courtesy of the members of Pilgrim/St. Paul Lutheran Church of Lakewood. All are invited to “Come to the Waters” that offer cleansing, life, and new birth to all.

Lakewood Board of Education Votes Unanimously To Oppose the Proposed TEL Constitutional Amendment

The Lakewood Board of Education voted unanimously on a resolution opposing the proposed TEL Amendment – the Tax Expenditure Limitation Constitutional Amendment.

Sighting the tremendous damage the amendment would do to local communities, the Lakewood Board of Education opposes this change in the Constitution. A portion of the resolution reads:

“WHEREAS, such a proposal would reduce funding for education, health care, police, fire protection, libraries, economic development, and other vital services to citizens; and,

WHEREAS, such a proposal could undercut state constitutional provisions requiring state support of education; and,

WHEREAS, amending the constitution is a virtually irrevocable action and should only be undertaken when legislative remedies have proven enduringly inadequate; and,

WHEREAS, such constitutional tinkering brings great harm to local communities through continued reductions in state funding, erodes decision-making at the local level and degrades government’s ability to provide the basic services residents and businesses expect and deserve; and”

Lakewood School District joins with numerous local, regional and statewide government entities in opposing the Tel amendment including the City of Lakewood.

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Minding the Issues

Interest Groups and the “Common Good”

By Gordon Brumm

Columnist David Brooks recently chastised the Democratic Party for being unduly concerned with interest groups, such as civil rights and feminist organizations, instead of appealing to the “common good.” This was not one of Brooks’ better columns – for example, he tortured the word “multiculturalism” – but it brings up some interesting questions: What constitutes undue attention to interest groups? And why? And what is an interest group, anyway?

“Interest group” is usually used as a term of disapproval, referring to a group that pursues some distinctive purpose of its own. (In some cases, the interest pursued is construed as stemming from the identity of the group’s beneficiaries, in which case the group is known as an identity group, practicing identity politics.) Because such groups aim for a limited and self-seeking benefit instead of the overall good, they are considered undesirable; or at least it is considered undesirable to assign them a large portion of the political pie.

Most obviously, an interest group is one that pursues only the self-interests of its members. The National Association of Manufacturers and various trade organizations seem to be clear examples – or at least stereotypes – of interest groups in this sense. (However, as I bring out below, the line between a group acting for its own self-interest and acting for the benefit of society is a blurred one.)

You can hardly talk about interest groups of this sort without getting into discussions of lobbyists and campaign contributions. But for that very reason, they are not controversial; they are not the groups that Brooks is talking about. Everyone agrees that governmental decision-making should not be swayed by pressures from self-seeking organizations – that is to say, everyone agrees in principle, and everyone agrees until they have a chance to receive campaign contributions from their own favorite group.

In a more important sense, inter-

est groups are those that aim to benefit only a certain defined collection of persons, apart from or extending beyond the group’s membership. Examples include civil rights groups, feminist groups, gay-rights groups, and the National Rifle Association, to name some of the most prominent.

These groups are the controversial ones. But why? Why should interest groups automatically be singled out for disapproval? For example, are all civil rights groups undesirable?

Furthermore, there are opposing pairs of interest groups – e.g., pro-abortion rights vs. anti-abortion rights groups; anti-gun control (NRA) vs. pro-gun control. Generally, a person who opposes one of these groups is in favor of its opposite number. (I know of no one who disapproves of the groups on both sides of an issue simply because they are interest groups.) So how can we say that interests groups per se are undesirable?

Furthermore, a number of interest groups might claim – rightly or wrongly – that they are acting not only for the benefit of their own constituents, but rather to make the entire country better or more just. Environmental groups are an obvious example. And so is the National Rifle Association. It claims that it is upholding the Second Amendment, thus acting as a champion of justice and preventing the country from going down the slippery slope of constitutional dereliction or misinterpretation.

Indeed, in the broadest sense all of the interest groups I’m talking about can claim to be speaking out for principles, goals and policies that will make ours a better and more just country. They speak for a specific group, of course, because that group is the one that primarily benefits from the policies advocated; but society as a whole, it is claimed, will be the better for

putting these policies into effect. For example, a civil rights group speaks out for blacks or gays. In doing so, the group appeals to the principle of equality, and they claim that if the principle of equality is more faithfully followed, the country as a whole will be the better for it.

So interest groups are not generally trying to assert their own interests in opposition to the interests of the whole. Rather, it is claimed, they are appealing to the same principles that all citizens uphold, or to goals that benefit all.

Consider a historical example involving the principle of political equality (the principle that everyone should have an equal right to vote, etc.) In earlier centuries, only a small elite held political power, and the majority appealed to the principle of political equality so that they, the majority, could share equally in that power. In more recent times, the majority have held power, and so the shoe is on the other foot – it is minority groups that appeal to the principle of political equality in order to gain their fair share. In both cases, the same principle has been appealed to. The only difference is that in one case it is the majority that is aggrieved because they do not receive the benefits due them under the principle, while in the other case it is a minority group or groups.

Are the efforts of such a group justified? The answer depends on whether the policies it stands for are justified.

So if you are considering a certain policy, the question to ask is not whether an interest group is behind the policy, but rather whether the policy is based on principles and goals you deem desirable, and whether it will implement those principles or goals effectively.

But what of the common good (a.k.a. the public interest)? Shouldn’t our public policy always aim for the

common good, and can’t we define interest groups by contrast with the common good?

Well, the common good can be defined in two ways: a) The common good can mean the same as “the greater good,” that is, the greatest amount of good that can be achieved for all concerned; or b) The common good can be equated with what our country should be like, i.e. the principles it should be following and the goals it should be pursuing.

Let’s look at “common good” in the first sense, as aiming for the greatest good achievable. Consider this hypothetical example: It is decreed that in a certain city, every 1,000th person over 50 years of age, chosen at random, will be executed so that their organs may be harvested and given to others who are in need of them. The benefit will be great: For every individual executed, three or four or more lives will be saved – in many cases, younger lives – not to mention the gift of sight for those who receive donors’ eyes. This program will certainly achieve the common good.

Would we agree to such a program? Of course not. And why? Because we believe in certain principles, usually unstated, that prohibit the taking of innocent life in such a way. Again, just as in the case of interest groups, our judgement of legitimacy falls back on the principles we think should be followed.

Since we reject the implications of “common good” construed as the greater good, it must be the other sense of the term that we really believe in. In applauding the common good, we actually have in mind the principles we believe society should follow and the goals we believe it should pursue.

In short, whether we start by criticizing interest groups or by endorsing the common good, we find that our judgements are really based on beliefs about the principles and goals our society should be following. Talk about interest groups and the common good withers away under close examination.

The question to ask is not whether a given demand comes from an interest group, and not whether the “common good” will be served. Rather, the question to ask is what principles our country should follow and what goals it should pursue.

The concept of interest groups, then, is logically bankrupt, but it is politically productive. It allows both leaders and ordinary citizens to evade hard questions about principles and goals by interpreting such questions in terms of one group (the “interest group”) asserting an unfair advantage over the rest of society.

Likewise, thinking in terms of the “common good” is logically bankrupt. But such thinking abounds, because it allows for justification of almost any policy on the grounds that it achieves the “common good,” and that sounds fine as long as no one thinks closely on what it implies.

Da-4 his only food court is a refugee camp



Lakewood Gallery Watch

Gallery Watch

By Ruth A. Koenigsmark and Christine A. Kazimer



Natalie Roelle, owner of Voodoo Monkey Tattoo located on W.25th, with one of her works that is for sale at bela dubby for this month's show.

There was a lot to experience in the Lakewood art scene on Saturday, May 6th, so we decided to make a day of it! We started at the Wobblefoot Gallery's show, Celebrating Life. This Juried Art Show, which ran from noon till 4pm, was a celebration of the Gallery's 15th anniversary. Participating artists were: Nancy Womack, John Muscarra, Patrice Mueller Varzelle, Irene Sukle, Ruth Finley, Howard Hoehn, Gretchen L. Burmeister, Lyn Minnis, Jim Stracensky, Neal Jenne, Gerald J. Yustick, Robert Tubbesing, and Jim Messenheimer. Awards presented were First Place to Tim O'Connor, Second Place to Douglas Oldershaw, Third Place to Virginia Sonntag, and Fourth Place to Catherine Billingsley.

Local Girl's, Hat's Off to the Women in Your Life, fundraiser to benefit the Women's Community Foundation was next on our list. Over 30 talented artists created one of a kind hats or pieces of artwork using a hat as their inspiration. As usual, Linda Goik provided her guests with a nice selection of wine and hors d'oeuvres. The "Hats" auctioned off during the evening raised a nice sum of money with 100% of the proceeds going to WCF. Linda also donated 10% of the total sales from that evening to the foundation.

We ended our evening out at bela dubby, where we experienced the dual art show of Natalie Roelle, owner of Voodoo Monkey Tattoo Studio in Cleveland and Naomi Fuller, owner of Thrill Vulture Tattoo Studio out of Columbus. Natalie is a fine arts major from Kent State who started tattooing a year out of college. Natalie's style is inspired by traditional Japanese and American tattooing. Her work features bright colors and bold designs. Naomi, who studied at the Columbus College of Art & Design, is self-taught in the art of tattooing. Her work is also heavily influenced by the traditional Japanese and American tattoo art. This show was an opportunity to see both artists' work in another medium – on canvas, rather than on skin. To view their work online, visit www.voodoomonkey.org and www.thrillvulture.com.

As we have come to expect, the Lakewood art scene provided us with a memorable, interesting and artful day and evening to be experienced with old friends and offered a great opportunity to meet some new ones. Wish you had been there too..... and if you were and we missed you...see you next time (and bring a friend).

"Where the spirit does not work with the hand there is no art."
-Leonardo da Vinci

Gallery Events for May 16th through May 29th:

Beck Center For The Arts

17801 Detroit Avenue
216.521.2540

bela dubby

13221 Madison Avenue
216.221.4479
May's show features Natalie Roelle, owner of Voodoo Monkey Tattoo Studio in Cleveland & Naomi Fuller, owner of Thrill Vulture Tattoo Studio in Columbus.
Show runs through May.
Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10 am – 10 pm,
Friday and Saturday 10am-midnight.

Local Girl Gallery

16106 Detroit Avenue
216.228.1802
Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 12-5pm,
Friday and Saturday, 12-6pm.

Pop Shop Gallery and Studio

17020 Madison Avenue
216.227.8440
The Electric Lemonade Show will run until May 27th. This show will also lead in to the Pop Shop's one year anniversary show on June 3 rd.
Hours: Monday and Tuesday, 9:30-11pm, Thursday 4-11pm, every other Saturday and Sunday 1-6pm. The gallery is open other days depending on artists' schedules or by appointment.

Wobblefoot Gallery and Frame Studio

1662 Mars Avenue
216.226.2971
"Celebrating Life" Juried Art Show in celebration of Wobblefoot Gallery's 15th anniversary. Show runs from May 6 - June 3, 2006.
Hours: Tuesday – Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-4pm.

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

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Chef Geoff

Camp Cooking

By Jeff Endress

It seems that more and more people are enjoying the great outdoors, at least if you gauge interest on the sale of Goretex raingear and sport utility vehicles. But, more often than not, people who talk about “camping” are usually referring to driving that SUV to a campground, unloading a cooler full of food (and perhaps beverages) and putting on the Goretex raingear as shield against the drizzle they encounter going from cabin to car.

While renting a cabin or going to a campground are certainly acceptable forms of recreation, I tend to chafe when someone describes the activity as “camping.”

Perhaps I’m a bit more of a retentive purist, but when I think of “camping,” I think of leaving motorized transport at a trailhead, packing provisions in a backpack and heading down a trail or out in a canoe. Nighttime shelter is by way of a tent (or perhaps under a fly if the weather permits), and if you can’t find what you need in your backpack, you simply find a way to do without it. While the trail presents certain primitive elements and a sacrifice of creature comforts, that is precisely what makes the endeavor relaxing and regenerating. No TVs, no cell phones, no light pollution, only the quiet rhythm of the paddle stroking through a glass calm lake as the mist rises from the chill of early morning and the occasional warbling of a distant loon. There is nothing quite as relaxing after a long day’s paddle as a crisp swim in a backwoods lake. All the comforts of home, left behind, are indeed a small price to


Homemade Jerky

- 3 lbs. London Broil (Top round) Approx. 1 inch thick
- 1/2 cup soy
- 1/2 cup dry red wine
- 1 tsp. liquid smoke
- 1 tbsp. powdered garlic (NOT garlic salt)
- 2 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 tbsp coarsely ground black pepper

Trim the meat of all fat. Meat should be sliced in 1/2 inch thick slices. This will be easier if the meat is partially frozen. Combine all ingredients in a nonreactive bowl (glass). Add the meat slices, stir to combine making sure that the marinade covers the slices. Refrigerate 24 hours.

The jerky should be dried, not cooked. This is best done in an oven set at the lowest setting, with the door ajar (there are also various food dehydrators on the market, which do the job very well). Using toothpicks, or a skewer, string each strip at one end and allow to hang down from the oven rack. Use a jelly roll pan to catch drippings.

Dry for 24 hours, or until a uniform brown and stiff but pliable. The original 3 pounds will reduce in weight to 1/2 lb. Properly dried, jerky requires no refrigeration, but should be stored in a sealed container in a cool place.



pay for the quiet solitude. But not all comforts are abandoned. Being able to prepare and enjoy excellent food in the primitive environment only enhances the experience.

There are two elements that can serve as distinct hindrances in backwoods cooking. The first, and probably the most difficult issue, involves weight. Fresh food contains a huge amount of water, and water is heavy. The heavier your food, the heavier your pack, and consequently, the more strained your back is. This problem has found some solution in the use of dehydrated and freeze dried foods. In many instances, these “add water” meals can approach gourmet quality and are a far cry from

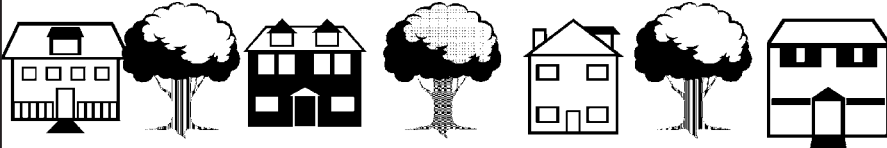
flavorless, cardboard textured concoctions to which the camper was limited fifteen years ago. The downside is cost, for one can pay a princely sum for lightweight food that’s worth eating. And despite our efforts, we’ve also not yet discovered a means to dehydrate bourbon.

The second limitation involves spoilage. Without refrigeration, what was once fresh will simply no longer be fresh, or edible, after several days on the trail. A cooler is not an option, given the combined weight of the food, ice and container. Given weight and spoilage issues, there are certain limitations on what food might be appropriately carried into the woods.

My preferred method of camping, and backwoods travel, is by canoe. While I have certainly done my share of backpacking, water travel provides, in my mind, distinct advantages over hiking. To begin with, finding or carrying water doesn’t present a problem, after all, you’re surrounded by it. If there is a concern over the safety of consuming the water, there are a myriad of purification devices, from filters to additives. And of course, let’s not forget the previously mentioned backwoods lake swim. And while travel by canoe can present some overland obstacles that require you to throw the pack on your back, the canoe over your head and portage to the next lake, hopefully those will not be the all day trek that backpacking is. Because the amount of time spent carrying gear can be minimized, weight can be a somewhat lesser issue. There’s also the added benefit of (maybe) catching a fat bass to supplement your menu.

Over the years, those with whom I camp (and you know who you are) have developed a system that reaches a reasonable compromise between fresh and freeze dried, allowing us to enjoy some memorable meals far from civilization. Typically for a five day canoe trip, hard frozen meat, wrapped in newspaper will stay fresh through the third day. So, without resorting to dehydrated foods, dinners could include a spicy chicken gumbo with brown rice. Or combined with grocery store dehydrated hash browns, there’s nothing quite as good as a London Broil (frozen in marinade) grilled on a campfire and enjoyed as the sun slips into the lake. Or smoked sausage (again frozen at home) from-scratch baked beans and hot fresh cornbread. There’s also a good many foods that travel perfectly well without refrigeration, including pita bread, homemade jerky, slab bacon, salami, hard cheeses as well as rice, couscous, dried fruit, oatmeal and honey. Of course, modern technology and gadgetry can be big helps, enabling a modern camper to actually bake brownies and pizzas over a backpacking stove.

As the fresh foods disappear, we tend to go more towards vegetarian, so that by the fourth night out, we may be preparing linguine with olive oil and fresh garlic. As we reach our homeward bound stretch, we’ve probably reached the point that the fresh foods are gone, and unless Steve has landed that fat bass, we’ll be eating freeze dried. Despite the miles of paddling and perhaps some rough portages, I don’t think that any of us has ever lost weight “camping”.



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