

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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

Volume 3, Issue 12, June 12, 2007

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## Lakewood Kids Come Out To Meet The Trucks!

by Patricia Neligan Barley



Officer Fischer of the Lakewood Police shows off his new Harley-Davidson motorcycle.



The crowds came in to see the city vehicles and enjoy a beautiful day at Lakewood park.

If you were at Lakewood Park on Saturday, June 2nd, you may have first thought there was some sort of emergency situation there. A fleet of city vehicles crowded the park, including fire trucks, police cruisers, an ambulance, even a SWAT bomb squad truck. But this was no crisis. It was Meet The Trucks, a community awareness and safety event presented by the City of

Lakewood and the Lakewood Early Childhood PTA (LECPTA). Meet The Trucks is only two years old and has met with huge success. It is run by an army of volunteers willing to give their time so the children of our city can learn about our community, learn about safety and just have a good time! There was a Bounce House, face painting and even a Hoola-Hoop con-

test. Children were lined up to sit on a police motorcycle, climb into the Bomb Squads truck and blow the horn on the fire truck. My husband and I had a great day with our 20-month-old toddler. Not only is this a great lesson in Social Studies but a wonderful look behind the scenes of how our city functions. It let's children know there are more jobs out there besides being

an actor or basketball player. I love the positive reinforcement this opportunity gave to our children. It was so nice to be able to talk to the civil servants who run our city and help keep it safe. It made me feel a real sense of community. Everyone was friendly and helpful and willing to answer all of the kids many questions. Jenny Real, a member of Lakewood Early Childhood PTA, started this event last year after seeing a similar event in Rocky River called "Touch a Truck." Real thought if Rocky River can do it, so can we. LECPTA boasts over 280 members and is very involved in the community, collecting canned goods for the Lakewood Christian Service Center at Meet The Trucks. My family and I became members of LECPTA last fall in order to meet more people in the

continued on page 15...

## Shields Announces Candidacy In Ward 2 Council Race



Daniel E. Shields, longtime Lakewood resident, is proud to announce his candidacy for the Ward 2 council seat. The Westwood Avenue resident has lived in the city for over 12 years, is raising his family here, and is currently renovating a century home along with his wife, Kathryn.

When asked why he decided to run, Shields said that he "believes the people of Lakewood need an experienced candidate with strong credentials to step in and provide common sense leadership." He is prepared to work with all members of Council and the Mayor.

"I have worked with many community organizations both in Lakewood and throughout northeast Ohio, and I have the right temperament and attitude to focus on positive, real solutions, and address the concerns of Lakewood residents.

Shields would focus his energy on providing responsive city services, economic development, and maintaining a solid housing stock.

Shields has been practicing law for over twenty years, where his focus has been on representing the interests of families and children, civil rights law, and business and civic development. He states that his skills and experience could be useful as a councilman in virtually every area of need required by the City."

He knows that the next representative on Council will need to hit the ground running. "Probably the most important aspect of serving is the opportunity to work with the other six members for the benefit of all citizens of Lakewood." He believes that he is the best candidate because he has a long history of working with many community organizations.

Shields currently sits on the Board of Trustees with the Lakewood -United

Methodist Church; has served on the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Canal Corridor and on the Board of Trustees of Lakewood Youth Soccer. He is also a longtime member of Rotary International. "When you sit on Council, you are working with a group of people to pass needed legislation and safeguard city finances. I have demonstrated repeatedly that I can work with different groups of people in order to achieve positive results."

As a result of his community involvement, Shields was chosen to sit on the 2005 Charter Review Committee, which meets every ten years to update the "constitution" of Lakewood, the Lakewood City Charter. "That experience will be particularly beneficial as a councilman, as council operates pursuant to the rules contained in the Charter."

This is Dan's third run for City Council. "I'm hoping that the third time's a charm," Shields says. "I have had a tremendous amount of support in the community, and I hope to build upon that foundation to run a successful campaign for Ward 2 council seat and be an effective representative for Lakewood's residents."

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# Events & Notices

The Lakewood Observer is pleased to publish Notices on a first-come first-serve basis. Please be patient with us as we have a limited amount of free space available for these items. All notices must be submitted through the Member Center at [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)

## Join BikeLakewood For “Tour De Wings” This Saturday, June 16th

If you would like to take the Jaycees Wing Crawl in all its saucy glory, this Saturday, June 16th, just bring your bicycle, an appetite, and maybe a little thirst. That’s basically it.

You may not be fit to ride the Tour de France, but there is no question about your fitness for Tour de Wings - a BikeLakewood-led, scheduled tour of Lakewood’s finest wing joints.

Travel Lakewood under human power, at an easy pace. No smoky motors. Stop here and there with friends to get better acquainted with at least 15 different wing recipes. There’s no better way to spend a Saturday!

Consider: You will not have to go searching for a parking space. You will not have to pump a gallon of gas into your car for all those start-ups and

little quarter mile jaunts from joint to joint. You will not pollute the air.

Bonus: You will burn off some of those wings and the sauce in which they are slathered while you’re making your way to the next stop. You will meet friendly cyclists. And many wing joints do, as it happens, serve beer.

The route is online at [www.bikelakewood.org/wingroute](http://www.bikelakewood.org/wingroute). Lakewood’s own

Mike Gill and Tim Liston will lead the group. You can ride with us from start to finish or join us along the way.

Show your support for Lakewood and all of us who ride our bikes here. We need you. By the way, BikeLakewood is also a sponsor of this event. Proceeds go to Lakewood youth programs. Tickets are \$12 (discounted) for BikeLakewood members and \$15 for non-members and entitle you to one basket (three wings) for each of two flavors at each establishment. And we’re making it easy to order tickets. Simply RSVP at [tourdewings@bikelakewood.org](mailto:tourdewings@bikelakewood.org). We’ll arrange to deliver your tickets (probably by bike) right away.

And by the way, if it’s raining when the ride commences, we’ll simply meet at the first stop (Crazy Rita’s at 11:30 AM), and take Lolly the Trolley like many others. But we’re sure that won’t be necessary.

So please join us. Show your support for BikeLakewood, and we guarantee you’ll have a great time!

## Local Merchants Rise And Shine As Lakewood Students Graduate

by Edward Nolan

The fifth grade class at Harrison Elementary School received overwhelming support from local merchants as they graduated June 5th. Several merchants contributed to the celebration that took place at St. Gregory’s. Even though many of the students started as far back as pre-kindergarten at the old Harrison School, they didn’t let having to move temporarily for the rebuilding of Harrison School stand in their way of learning.

Harrison Elementary School would like to thank the following businesses and individuals who generously donated money and items for the reception, or gave their time and talents in planning and preparing this wonderful graduation and reception.

Thanks to Dairy Queen for the ice cream, Subway on Madison for the cookies, Geppetto’s for the two sheet pizza’s, Angelo’s pizza for the wings, Domino’s for the bread sticks, Giant Eagle for the \$25 donation used to purchase juice boxes, Einstein’s for the bagels for the parents, YMCA for



The basketball on display in the new school

the one day family passes, Hollywood Video for the free kids movie rental, and to Geiger’s Sporting Goods for the basketball that was signed by the 5th grade class and is on display in the new Harrison Elementary School. More thanks to Mahalls for the free bowling passes, Burger King for their continued money and food voucher donations, Elmwood Bakery for the graduation cake, Chipotle for the burrito vouchers,

the U.S. Army for the accessories, and to Mary Madigan for the cash donation for drinks, cups, and plates. Also thank-you Timothy Laskey, CPA, for the cash donation used for graduation caps, autograph books, pens and pencils. Special thanks go out to Mrs. Gibson for her efforts in obtaining the cake, Mr. and Mrs. Nolan for thier coordination of the event, and Mr. and Mrs. Sponsler for the t-shirts.

## CCLAS Fundraiser A Success

by Mike Deneen

Lakewood’s Memorial Day weekend got off to a grand start with the third annual “Hair of the Dog” Happy

Hour and Silent Auction to benefit the Lakewood Animal Shelter. The event was held at Swingo’s on the Lake on Thursday, May 24. Over \$2,500 was raised by the Citizens’ Committee for a Lakewood Animal Shelter (CCLAS) the volunteer organization that supports the shelter. The event featured live music from renowned local artist Kristine Jackson, who entertained

the crowd. Among those in attendance were Council members Nickie Antonio and Kevin Butler. CCLAS would like to thank the following volunteers for making the event possible: Catherine Butler, Amanda Blakesmith, Donna Blakesmith, Marianne Cahill, Rod and Jen Deselits, Lisa Ellis, Anita Gillberg, Dot Gillberg and Ann Stockdale. For more information on CCLAS or the Lakewood Animal Shelter, go to [www.cclas.org](http://www.cclas.org)

## Bottle Rocket Show

On June 30th the Pop Shop Gallery will host its Bottle Rocket Show. This show will highlight contemporary works by local artists that go out with a bang. Even though a bottle rocket is not the biggest of the fireworks, we can always recognize it as it POPS in the air. The artists in this show reflect the same path that a bottle rocket has. They will

impress viewers with their works, and will still be heard and respected by everyone.

The show is free and open to the public. The event will start at 6pm and end at 9pm. An after party will be held at Mullens, located next to the gallery, following the reception. This show will run from June 30th through Aug 3rd.

**Minding the Issues**  
Gordon Brumm is letting the issues mind themselves while he attends to other matters.

### The “Rock” Is On A “Roll”

The Rock of Lakewood, a new non-denominational church, has rolled to a new location. We are now meeting at the former Pentecost Lutheran church located on the corner of Madison and Clarence Avenues, just west of Madison Park. Our service begins at 10:00 AM on Sunday. We are contemporary in worship, creative in preaching, and conservative in doctrine; offering child care for all children twelve years old and younger. All are invited to join us! For more information please check us out at [www.rock-of-lakewood.org](http://www.rock-of-lakewood.org).



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Lakewood News & Opinion

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City Council

# Council Unanimously Approves New Curfew Law

by Suzanne Metelko

On Monday, June 4, Lakewood City Council took an important step to safeguard city streets, by strengthening the curfew law. Council unanimously passed the revisions as sponsored by Councilman Demro, Ward 2, Councilwoman Madigan, Ward 4 and Councilman Butler, Ward 1. Current law requires children less than fifteen years of age to be off the street by 11:00 pm, and sixteen and seventeen year olds by 12:30 a.m. The new law

requires children fourteen and under to be in by 9:30 p.m., fifteen year olds by 10:00 p.m., and sixteen and seventeen year olds by 11:00 p.m. The new law corresponds to recent changes made by the city of Cleveland. Councilman Butler remarked, "Ryan did the heavy lifting on this. The police indicated a real need and anytime they say it's going to help our city, we need to give all the tools they require. It is in line with Cleveland's new curfew law, and will blur the line between Cleveland and Lakewood in a good way. It

was smart to do this at the same time as Cleveland." Councilwoman Madigan believes, "the curfew law just makes sense for all of Lakewood but especially the east end. It dovetails nicely with Cleveland and that provides consistency for our youth." Councilman Demro expressed his thanks to both

Madigan and Butler and added, "I am proud to provide real leadership on this issue. I appreciate the cooperation, suggestions, and support of the Lakewood Police and co-sponsors Councilpersons Mary Louise Madigan and Kevin Butler as we once again teamed up to deliver real results for the citizens of Lakewood."

## Letter To The Editor

Dear Readers of the Observer: When our president, George W. Bush, ordered our air force to drop bombs on innocent children, men & women in northern Iraq, it was the most cowardly, utterly inhuman, most brutal act in the history of our earth. If we, as Americans going into history, do not show our disapproval of this act, we share in its guilt. President George W. Bush should be impeached for this horrible act and made to stand trial for the act he has authorized, unless

by some quirk circumstance this turns out to be a horrible mistake. Failing to do this, we are telling the rest of the world we are sharing in the guilt that president George W. Bush stowed upon us. I cannot face my God and stand for approving this act. We as a nation could be disbarred from the peace-loving nations of the world. I would like our children to grow up in a nation in which they can be proud.

Sincerely yours,  
S. Alton Yarian



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Lakewood Public Library

Lakewood Public Library Is An Active Member Of The Community

by Jennifer Raynor

Lakewood Public Library is an important participant in the Lakewood community. The library contributes to the economic vitality of the city, provides a hub for community activity and involvement, and promotes life-long learning for residents young and old.

A study conducted by an Ohio-based research firm found that for every dollar spent by a public library, the quantifiable return to the community was \$3.81. The study further reported that libraries added significant value for the community that cannot be assigned a dollar value – things like improved economic prospects and an enhanced quality of life.

“The library’s selection as the west-end anchor of the Main Street economic development program is a testament to its important economic contribution to the city,” Jay Foran, interim president of LakewoodAlive.

In its current size of 53,000 square feet, the library loaned and transmitted more than 57 million items to patrons in 2005, hosted 1,076 meetings and provided over 3,000 activities for children. Later this summer the library will debut a 40,000 square foot addition.

“There will be substantial increases in space for children’s services, technology, public seating, and, of course, books,” said Kenneth Warren, director of Lakewood Public Library. “The

addition also features a grand reading room, quiet space, and an auditorium and multi-purpose rooms to support additional library programming and community meetings.”

Warren said the library will be open seven days a week for a total of 80 hours, making it among the most accessible public libraries in the world.

The addition has space for public art, both inside and outside the library. Earlier this year, renowned artist Richard Haas was commissioned to paint two murals for the Grand Reading Room. Additionally, a committee of Lakewood residents has spent the past several months planning a gala that will celebrate the opening of the addition and raise money to fund public art at the library.

Shannon Strachan, Gala Chairperson, reports, “The response to the ‘Be the First to See the Best’ gala has been wonderful – the Lakewood com-

munity has rallied to support our efforts to raise funds for public art at the library.”

The public support of Lakewood Public Library is key to its success. In fact, in the library was again awarded a number one ranking by the 2006 Hen-  
nen’s American Public Library Ratings for a library of its size.

“We’re proud the library is an active member of the community,” concluded Warren. “With more space and better capabilities, we’ll be able to grow our economic contribution and provide additional resources, learning tools and support for the Lakewood community.”

*The “Be the First to See the Best” gala is on Saturday, June 23 at 7 pm. For more information, visit [www.bethefirsttoseethebest.com](http://www.bethefirsttoseethebest.com) or call the library at 216-226-8275. Tickets are \$100 per person and sponsorships are still available.*

Library Events Calendar

On Your Mark, Get Set, ReadCrafts and activities for children kindergarten through eighth grade.Stop in for a variety of cool summer programs. There is no need to register; however for groups of ten or more, please call 216.228.7428 in advance.Six week summer season:

Monday, June 11- Thursday, July 19		
Day	Time	Activity
Monday	4:00 p.m.	Gold Medal Crafts
Tuesday	4:00 p.m	Get into the Game
Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Score with Books
Thursday	4:00 p.m.	Gold Medal Crafts

All programs in the Madison Branch

**Friday June 15, Saturday June 16 & Sunday June 17**

Family Weekend Wonders

Make the library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts for children. This weekend “Let’s Take a Trip.” Choose the day and time most convenient for you. No registration necessary.

Friday	10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.
Sunday	2:00 p.m. in the Madison Branch auditorium

**Saturday, June 16**

Writer’s Workshop - New Location - New Time

Renew your creative energy and get positive feedback from fellow writers. Whether you’re a seasoned pro or just have a hankering to write, everyone is welcome to join this workshop. 3:00 P.M. in the Madison Branch Meeting Room

LAKESWOOD LIBRARY GALA RSVP

Join us for an extravagant evening of hors d’oeuvres, cocktails, a silent auction, live music and dancing as you get the first look at the newly-renovated library, designed by renowned architect A.M. Stern. All proceeds from the gala will support public art Both in and around the new library.

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☐ **AUTHOR \$2,500** 10 VIP tickets with valet parking; gala publicity and gala signage; half-page advertisement in commemorative event program. (\$1,950 tax deductible)

☐ **LIBRARIAN \$1,500** 10 VIP tickets with valet parking; quarter-page advertisement in commemorative event program. (\$950 tax deductible)

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# Lakewood Public Library

## Madison Branch Upgrades Technology Services

by John Guscott

**Selecting the Location**

The challenge of maintaining an accessible technology platform during the final phase renovation at Main Library, where the Technology Center will double in size, is a formidable one. During its years of operation, the Technology Center at Main Library was an increasingly busy room, serving over 250,000 individuals last year. Patrons would often line up at the door at 9 a.m., and on Sundays during the school year, lines that trailed past the Reference Desk down to the stairs was a common sight.

In order to provide a space for technology services during Phase III of the library building project, the period of time in which Main Library will be totally renovated, library staff decided to upgrade the existing computer facility at the Madison Branch library, located at 13229 Madison Avenue. In addition to providing a computer center to the public during the construction interim, the library wanted to commit a large capital investment in technology in order to provide high quality technology services to the populations on the southern and eastern portions of the city of Lakewood, since many residents living there do not have access to personal computers or subscribe to high-speed Internet services. The demands of today's workplace require reliable access to technology services. Many employers now require online applications, even for entry level jobs and nearly every higher education institution expects their students to be connected and online.

"In the age of the Internet, access to computer technology and support from a knowledgeable technical staff are critical to quality public library service. Lakewood Public Library has always led the way with public access and technical support," says library director Kenneth Warren.

Among the reasons the Madison Branch location was selected for the new computer center was because of its convenience of access to Lakewood residents. It is located within walking distance to the many homes and apart-

ments in the Bird Town and Madison Village neighborhoods. Travel by public transportation is easy, as the Madison Branch is a stop located along the Cleveland RTA Route #25, as well as the RTA's Lakewood Circular. Parking in the rear of the building is limited, but there is plenty of free parking on the street and a large, free city parking lot located just to the east of the library.

**Expanding the Computer Center**  
The Dennis G. Fedor Computer

Because of the Main Library construction and renovation, many library services are being moved to the Madison Branch. Please take note of the following:

**Book Holds:** All books placed on hold through the library's computer system, by telephone or in-person request will be held at the Madison Branch library's front desk until July 11.

**Book Drop Off:** There will be no book drop at the Main Library from June 12 through July 9. All materials need to be returned to the Madison Branch.

**Children's and Youth Services Programming:** all Story Times and Family Weekend Wonders will be held at the Madison Branch auditorium beginning June 11.

**Writers' Workshop:** Our popular writers' workshop, hosted by Michelle Todd, will be temporarily re-located to the Madison Branch meeting room on the following dates:

**Lakewood Volksmarch:** The Madison Branch will serve as the starting point for the Lakewood Gold Coast Walk volksmarch. This all-ages event will be held August 4, with a start time beginning at 9 a.m. See <http://www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/volksmarch> for more details.

**Madison Branch Reading Room:** Now that the computers have been moved out to the new room, the magazine rack has been relocated to the old computer center room, and comfortable chairs and tables have been added. Outlets for laptops are provided conveniently on the wall.

**Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.**  
**Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.**  
**13229 Madison - 216-228-7428**

Center at Madison Branch opened for business on December 1, 1996. Funding for the Computer Center came from the Lakewood Public Library Foundation, one of the organizations' first sponsored projects. At that time, 8 computers stations were jammed into a room roughly 16' X 8.5". Anyone familiar with the room will recall maneuvering around in its limited space. Still, the room proved very popular, with over 11,700 visits in 1997. In 2000, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation granted the Computer Center eight new PCs, an applications server and software. In late 2005 and early 2006, library technician Roy Pitchford developed plans to upgrade the room with several practical and functional upgrades, including installing flat panel monitors. By this time, the Computer Center was an often-used facility, used frequently by residents in the Bird Town and Madison Park communities. Over 32,000 people used the Computer Center in 2006.

In early 2007, in preparation for the closing of half of the second floor at the Main Library, plans were drawn up to move the computer lab out of the small room to a larger room located in the northwest part of the Madison Branch library (the room housing the fiction and non-fiction adult collection). The library contracted with the Doan Pyramid construction company to install new electrical boxes, conduit and outlets, while RJ Data Cabling pro-

vided the network wiring. On April 11, the new Madison Branch Technology Center opened for business. For the first few weeks, the exiting computer equipment from the Gates Foundation was moved to the new room. A few weeks later, on April 23, the Technology Center at Main Library closed, and ten computers from the Technology Center Learning Lab were transferred to the Madison Branch. Meanwhile, Electronic Services technicians were busy building the brand new public access PCs. In early May, the new computers, described below, made their debut. The older equipment was donated to the Lakewood Christian Service Center, in order to fill their needs for their computer lab on Marlowe Avenue, which provides computer access to needy families and individuals.

"Now, the Madison Branch Technology Center, with 30 PCs, is the largest Technology Center on the West Side, bigger than Westlake, Rocky River and Fairview Park," says Warren.

**Services Available**

Each patron workstation at the new Madison Library Technology Center is equipped with a Shuttle XPC computer, 17" Acer LCD monitors, mouse and keyboard. The computers are equipped with front panel ports for USB devices, allowing for easy support of removable flash media, floppy or hard disk drives, digital cameras, mp3 players and video game systems. The library also has a supply of external floppy disk drives on hand for those patrons who still wish to use the 3.5" floppy diskettes. The computers are also equipped with DVD players, which allow the playing of audio CDs, DVDs, and data CDs and DVDs (to respect copyright laws, the library's DVD players cannot burn CDs). Speaker jacks are also located on the front panel, but patrons must provide their own headphones. Each bank of ten computers is networked to a high-speed laser printer, the HP 4250, which boasts print speeds of up to 43 sheets a minute. Unlike many other libraries' computer centers, printing is free (limited to 20 pages a day). Software selections include several applications from the Microsoft Office suite, including Publisher, Word, Excel and Access, the full Open Office suite; Firefox and photo editing software; web browsing with Internet Explorer and Firefox; JAWS software for sight-impaired patrons on Station #30; Scanner. Patrons can still sign up by phone by calling 216-226-8275 ext 127 or in-person (phoning ahead is recommended).

The Madison Branch also sports two wireless networks for mobile Internet users. The first network provides ultra-fast connectivity within the library. The other network, called the Madison Park Wireless Network, is broadcast from a special omni-directional antenna affixed to the roof of the library and broadcasts a Wi-Fi cloud of approximately 500' radius. Those with laptops can enjoy free Wi-Fi access while enjoying the idyllic Madison Park environment.

Many patrons who used either the Main Library's Technology Center or the Madison Branch's Dennis G. Fedor Computer Center will recognize the familiar faces of staff members that worked at either library's computer lab. Other Technology Center staff has remained at the Main Library, switching their duties to working at the Reference Desk. Patrons are still getting used to all the changes, but so far most feedback has been positive. On gentleman said every thing was "perfect," while another said we had the nicest looking library tech center he'd ever seen!

The increased traffic to Madison Branch is helping grow traditional circulation too. "May's circulation figure at the Madison Branch is up 18%", says Deputy Director Kim Senft Paras. Many other library services have been moved to or expanded to Madison Branch, making it a very dynamic, busy place this summer!

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# Lakewood Public Library

## Summertime And The Reading Is Easier

by Andrew Harant

School’s out for the summer. All across the country, students are relaxing, playing sports, working summer jobs, and vacationing with their families. With summer comes summer reading assignments, required reading that students must complete before they begin school in the fall at their new grade level.

Many school districts nationwide assign or strongly encourage students to read over the summer. Lakewood is no different. Lakewood City Schools (LCS) does this annually for students entering grades six through twelve. Ss. Cyril and Methodius assigns reading for students entering grades six through eight. St. Edward High School has assignments for the entire school, as does Lakewood Catholic Academy.

In the past, Lakewood’s public middle schools each created their own assignments. During the past few summers, Horace Mann required each student to read three books from an extensive list of fiction and non-fiction titles, and Harding provided individualized assignments for each student based on that student’s reading and comprehension levels. Last summer, Emerson began to assign summer reading for its students, requiring them to read two books from an extensive list similar to Horace Mann’s. To assess summer reading assignments in the fall, students were given several options, including journaling, taking tests, creating magazines and participating in book discussion groups held at Lakewood Public Library.

This summer, with the three middle schools merging into two new buildings (Harding and Garfield,) the reading assignments have also merged into the same assignment for all middle school students under the direction of Christine Foote, Middle School Language Arts Instructional Coach for LCS. This summer’s assignment follows the model of allowing students to select titles from an extensive list, however, instead of reading three books as Horace Mann did or even two books as Emerson did, all rising sixth, seventh and eighth graders will have to read just one book over the summer.

According to Foote, the rationale behind this decision was to create a baseline among the middle schools to achieve a joint summer reading assignment and to model the reading assignments students will eventually receive in high school. Currently, incoming freshman to Lakewood High School are being required to read one book and watch one movie over the summer with honors students reading an additional book.

“Why are we dumbing down Lakewood?” asks Kenneth Warren, director of Lakewood Public Library. “A summer reading list is a critical marker in a community’s assessment of its expectations for student behavior and intelligence. Lakewood must be

a city with high expectations for students. A city demonstrates that fact by the reading lists of its public schools.”

Reading, and enjoying reading, over the summer months is crucial to the education and literacy development of students. Studies show that the more children enjoy reading, and read independently, the more educational success children will have, regardless of their socio-economic status. Simply reading helps develop literacy skills, such as vocabulary, writing style, spelling, and the ability to understand and produce complex grammatical structures.

Another goal of summer reading assignments is to limit “summer learning loss,” the term given to a drop in skills that occurs when school is out. By not reading over the summer, students may actually lose up to one month of their abilities gained during the previous school year. This loss puts students at a disadvantage, as they need to waste additional time at the beginning of each year to bring themselves back to their previous level. In comparison to children that do read over the summer, this creates a learning gap that may never be eliminated. In fact, the gap continues to grow until the gap between reading students and non-reading students can be measured in years of reading ability.

On the flip side, the Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins

University found that middle school students who read four or five books over the summer months experienced gains in reading achievement comparable to attending summer school.

By decreasing the assignment from three books to one book over the summer, LCS is actually doing a disservice to its middle school students. Granted many students will read for pleasure outside of the required reading, many more will not, widening the already present learning gap.

However, at least LCS middle schools have an assignment. Several area schools, such as Strongsville, Beachwood and Westlake, don’t have summer reading assignments for their middle school students. Parma has an assignment on par with LCS, requiring seventh and eighth graders to read just one book, however, their sixth graders must read three.

Other area schools are requiring more from their middle school students. Solon requires its eighth graders to read one fiction and one non-fiction book. Rocky River requires its seventh and eight graders to read two books, Brecksville-Broadview Heights requires all students to read two books. University School requires all students to read three books. Hathaway Brown requires four books for its eighth grade and six books for sixth and seventh grades.

Even in Lakewood, other schools require more. Ss. Cyril and Metho-

dus requires two books to be read by each sixth, seventh and eighth grader. Lakewood Catholic Academy, whose 2007 assignment was unavailable by deadline, required each seventh and eighth grader to read two books last year.

Nationally, middle schools that have their assignments posted on the Web seem to have an average of three books for middle school students. The highest assignment was five books at Boston Latin Academy, and the lowest was one book in Fairfax County, VA, near Washington DC.

Foote said that she would like Lakewood’s program to grow in the future from this first year of consolidation. Educational studies support asking and expecting more from our middle school students.

Warren said that he “would go as far as to say that high expectations for individual students to read demanding and inspiring texts during the summer months is a protection factor against delinquency.”

All summer reading lists for schools in Lakewood are currently available at Lakewood Public Library and on the library’s Web site ([www.lkwdpl.org](http://www.lkwdpl.org)). Also, the library has copies available for the titles on these lists. In July and August, the library will once again work with LCS middle schools to offer book discussions as part of their summer reading assignment.

*Max’s Words* by Kate Banks; pictures by Boris Kulikov

Max’s brothers collect stamps and coins, but Max finds that his collection of words is truly valuable.

*The Boy Who Loved Words* by Roni Schotter; pictures by Giselle Potter

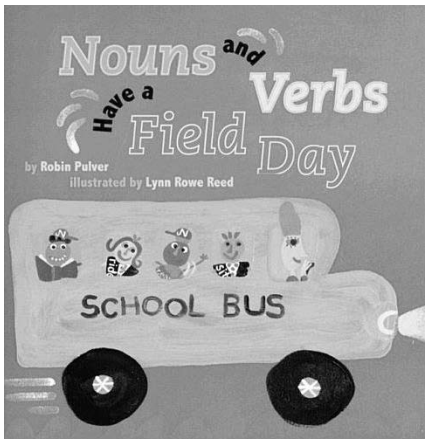
Though Selig helps his neighbors by spreading the words he has collected, he isn’t happy until he befriends Melody who spreads music.

## Wordy Picture Books



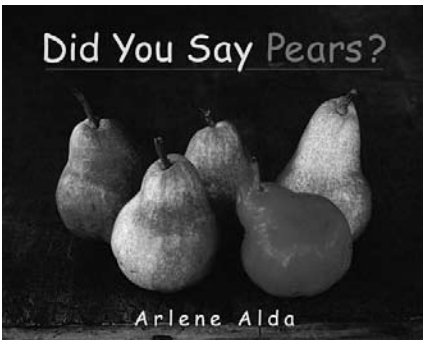
by Andrew Harant

In these new picture books, words do not just tell the stories, they are the stories. All of these are available at Lakewood Public Library.



*Nouns and Verbs Have a Field Day* by Robin Pulver; illustrated by Lynn Rowe Reed

When Mr. Wright’s class has a field day instead of searching for nouns and verbs, the parts of speech decide to hold their own field day and learn the meaning of teamwork (and sentence construction.)



*Did You Say Pears?* by Arlene Alda

Award-winning author and photographer, Arlene Alda, presents a fun, readable journey through photographs and homonyms.



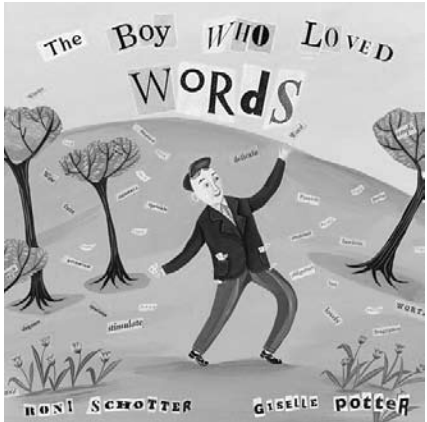
*Mom and Dad are Palindromes* by Mark Shulman; illustrated by Adam McCauley

When Bob learns about palindromes, he finds that he can’t escape the overabundance of them that he finds in his life.



*Max’s Words* by Kate Banks; pictures by Boris Kulikov

Max’s brothers collect stamps and coins, but Max finds that his collection of words is truly valuable.



*The Boy Who Loved Words* by Roni Schotter; pictures by Giselle Potter

Though Selig helps his neighbors by spreading the words he has collected, he isn’t happy until he befriends Melody who spreads music.



# Lakewood City News

## Judgement Day

by Suzanne Metelko

When Rick Naumann got out of bed this morning, he knew he wasn't going to have a good day but he probably didn't think it was going to be this bad. The good news is that Mr. Naumann avoided jail time, the bad news is he won't be going home anytime soon.

Naumann who lives in Rocky River, owns four large apartment buildings in Lakewood, buildings that at one time were beautiful and well maintained – not so now. He also owns a single family colonial in Lakewood, one in Parma and one in Rocky River. He lives in the one in Rocky River. According to Cuyahoga County Auditor Frank Russo's website, none of the properties owned by Naumann is pristine, but the Rocky River house is the best of the lot. Also interesting is that Naumann has avoided property taxes to the tune of over \$130,000. When Naumann stopped paying Dominion East Ohio they turned off his gas. Actually, they didn't turn off his gas but they did turn off the gas in the buildings he owns. So really Dominion turned off his tenants' gas. Rick still had heat and hot water in Rocky River - a point that was not lost on Judge Patrick Carroll. In his admonishment of Naumann, the Judge reminded the defendant that there was two feet of snow on Easter, he spoke of tenants who couldn't wash their hands, take a hot shower, heat their homes or even make a cup of tea. At the end of the day, Naumann's tenants were deprived of the basic comforts of their home. "I could sentence you to a year and a half of jail time and thousands of dollars in fines; it would put money in the city coffers but it wouldn't help your tenants or your neighbors, it wouldn't fix this problem." Judge Carroll sentenced Naumann to five years supervised probation and then with a twist he further imposed that Naumann must continue to wear the ankle bracelet and live in his Lakewood buildings until "every violation, in every unit, of every building you own is fixed" to the satisfaction of the court and for a minimum of thirty days. His tenants will pay all their rent to the Lakewood Municipal Court until this matter is settled.

Judge Carroll also announced to the building department representatives and assistant Law Director Tom Corrigan that there was a new policy in the Lakewood Municipal Court. The court will no longer look at just the items that have been previously negotiated by those departments. The court wants to know about all the violations. "This stops now and it stops here."

However the question remains - if these tenants were without heat and water in March, why was the Judge just finding out about it in May? According to Ed Fitzgerald, Project Administrator and acting Building Commissioner for the City of Lakewood, the fault was in the process. Step one in the prior process was for building inspectors to cite the owner and give notice with time to comply. The next step was a prosecutor's hearing with the City of Lakewood's Law Department. The Law Department determines whether to extend the time for compliance or take it to the Judge. When asked about the Judge's new policy, Fitzgerald commented, "The judge is an advocate for housing and building and we're glad to have his help." Law Director Brian Corrigan and Assistant Law Director Tom Corrigan were out of the office and not available for comment.

As for the \$130,000 in past due property taxes, a call to County Auditor Frank Russo's office referred the matter to County Treasurer Jim Rokasis's office. "It's their job to collect the taxes." Robin Thomas, administrator for Treasurer Rokasis, explained that while it might appear



Landlord Richard Naumann on the far right stands with his lawyer Ashwin Chandra in front of the Judge.

that Naumann is two years in arrears, he is actually only about six months on some and perhaps a little longer on some others. However, Mr. Naumann's payment history is sketchy and his third strike is upon him. If payment isn't received, those buildings will be in foreclosure.

Which leads to another question – if properties are dilapidated and in

arrears, can the city pursue them? Is this a development opportunity? What is the city's policy? Planning Director Tom Jordon was out of the office and unavailable for comment.

Friday afternoons in the summer are tough times to try and reach people; except of course for Rick Naumann. All you have to do is ask the Judge – he knows exactly where he is.

## Lakewood Rocky River Establishes New Sunrise Rotary Club

by Larry Falhaber



Rotary District 6630 Governor, Jay Dzurilla, (Left), And Past District 6630 Governor, Jack Young (Right) Look On As Lakewood/rocky River Rotary Club President, Jim Lechko, Presents The New Sunrise Club President, Gordon Geiger, With The Official Club Bell.

Nearly 80 Rotarians and guests were on hand to witness the new Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club receive its Charter from Rotary International. It was a beautiful evening at the Cleveland Yacht Club, and the food and fellowship were outstanding. Representatives of 11 Rotary Clubs from the North East Ohio Rotary District 6630 were represented. There

were six past District Governors in attendance, plus the current District Governor, the Governor Elect and his successor. The Master of Ceremonies duties were handled very well by Lakewood/Rocky River Monday Noon Club Past President, and Assistant District Governor, Bill Gaydos. There were remarks by current District Governor, Jay Dzurilla from the Strongsville Rotary Club; immediate Past DG, Jack Young, Conneaut Rotary; and the incoming DG, Bob Prevette, the Nordonia Hills Rotary Club. The key note speaker was Past DG, Mike Johns from the Hillcrest Club. On July 1, Mike will join the Board of Directors of Rotary International. The seventeen-member Board represents the 1.2 million Rotary members in 170 coun-

tries around the world. Only 11 other Rotarians from this district have held this position since 1912. Mike gave an inspirational speech on the need for cooperative projects with developing nations; particularly in areas without clean drinking water.

The new Lakewood/Rocky River Sunrise Rotary Club meets Wednesday mornings at 7:15 a.m. at the Umerley Center at Rocky River Memorial Hall, behind Rocky River City Hall at Hilliard and W. 210th. The Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary meets noon on Monday at the same location.

There are 22 charter members of the Sunrise Club, representing health care, education, financial services, law, real estate, printing, dentistry, home modernization, and retailing.

The officers are: Gordon Geiger, President Marty Harris, Vice President Lee Larson, Secretary Tim Hill, Treasurer Dave Schiska, Sergeant at Arms Other Directors are: Patti Boesken, Tom Giffels, Todd Kiick.

Kathy Berkshire is the Noon Club Representative on the Sunrise Board. Bill Pinter, of the noon Club received a Distinguished Service plaque for his work over the last year to organize the new club, and submit all the necessary forms to Rotary International to facilitate the awarding of a Charter to the new Club.

The new Sunrise Club is already planning International Rotary projects including hosting an exchange student from Brazil, and raising money to support the Rotary Shelter-Box project, which provides low cost temporary emergency housing in case of a disaster.



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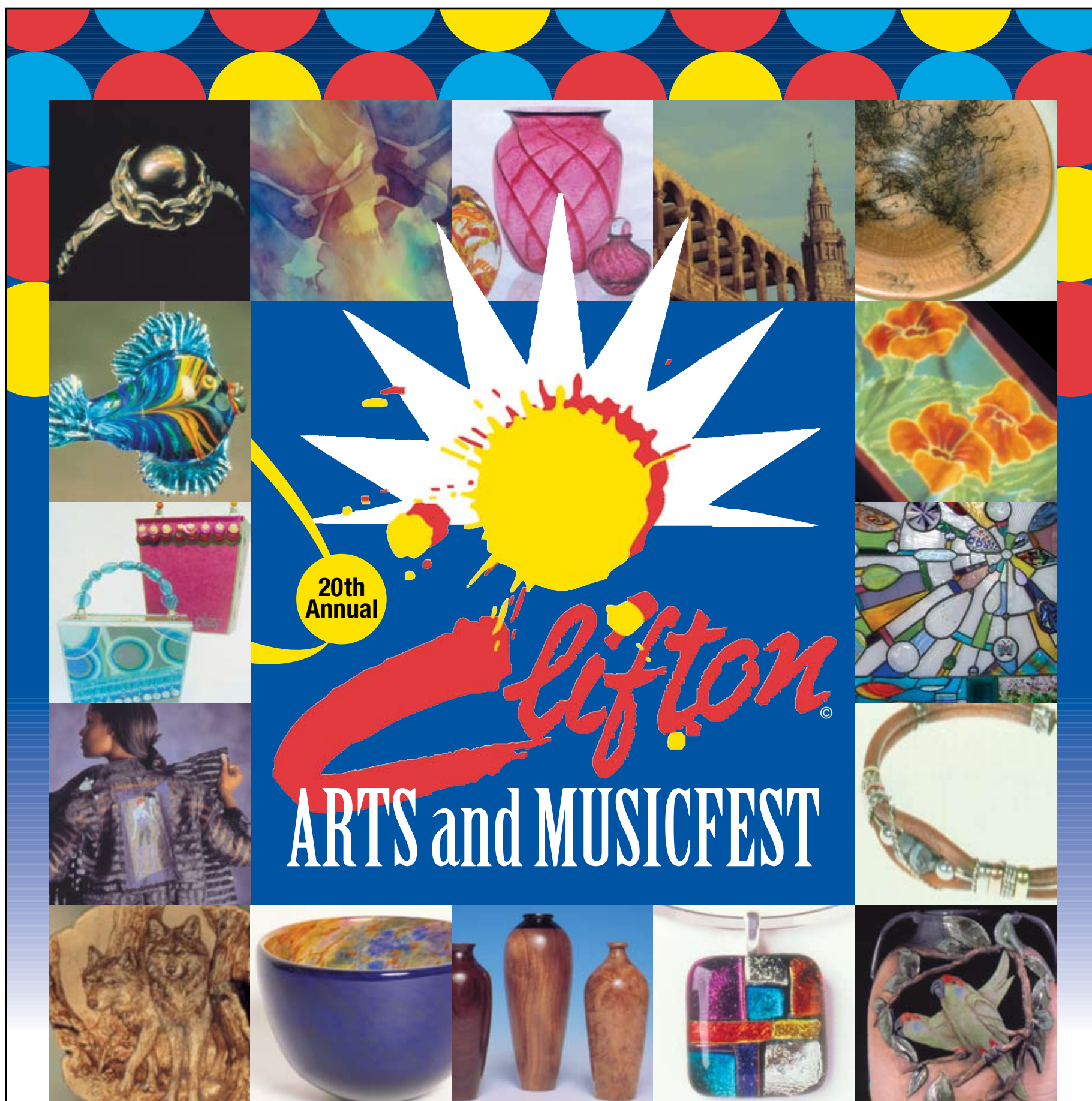
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# Lakewood Schools

## Well-Traveled And Talented, LHS Choirs Stay Loyal To “Home”

by Lauren Fraley

Under the vigilant and dynamic direction of Dr. Lisa Hanson, the Lakewood High School choirs proved themselves musically accomplished once again with concerts on May 17th and 20th. The first, an annual spring concert, featured students from the five LHS choirs, plus the Vive L’Four barbershop quartet. Each ensemble sang with precision and musicality and five promising underclassmen soloists in Concert Choir and Freshman Choir were also featured individually.

Among the diverse repertoire performed by all five choirs was the performance of two movements of John Rutter’s Requiem, a large musical feat undertaken by the Symphonic Mixed Choir to perform for their trip to New York (mentioned in a previous issue of the Lakewood Observer). After performing at Carnegie Hall and achieving so much in this very full year, it is an honor and a delight that

the now nationally-recognized choir ended its season by sharing its musical accomplishments with the Lakewood community. The only disappointment of the evening’s performance was that every seat in the Lakewood Civic Auditorium was not filled.

Four days after this spring concert was the equally entertaining and musically rich performance of the Chamber Choir and Vive L’Four in the more intimate setting of the LHS Tryout Theatre. In addition to choral literature and barbershop music, eight seniors from the 18-member ensemble prepared solo pieces and duets. Some were classical in nature, while others chose from the genres of Broadway or vocal jazz. Regardless of genre, each piece enhanced the concert, letting the many talented voices of the ensemble have a moment to shine individually and in its own style.

In their senior biographies for the program, five members of the choir mentioned plans to pursue music in

their futures, from performance to education to composition. The Chamber Choir also featured junior soprano soloists Katharine Bussert and Charlotte Petrie, who will no doubt serve as two of the ensemble’s leaders next year, as they fill the shoes of the active class of ‘07. It is no doubt largely because of

Lakewood’s undying support of the arts that these aspiring musicians are able to pursue their dreams.

Lauren Fraley, an LHS Choir alumna, attends BGSU where she is earning a degree in Theatre/Performance Studies with a support field in Music and minor in Arts Management.

## 2007 Donnelly Scholarship Winners



Here are the names of this years Donnelly Fund scholarship recipients: Ivor Karabatkovic, Paul Woidke, Courtney Moran, Aledandra Krueger, Bridget Walsh, Angela Marquis, Bridget McMahan

## Correction From Previous Issue

Volume 3, Issue 11, May 29, 2007  
left off from page 6, article entitled:  
‘Lakewood Alumni Foundation Awards  
\$63,500 in College Scholarships to LHS Seniors’

Class of 1972 Scholarship: Bridget McMahan, Miami University - Education

## Re-Minding The Issues

While Gordon Brumm is off minding other issues this editon. He did call to remind me to ask all of you to please think logically this week.

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Lakewood Schools

End of School, Beginning of Appreciation

by Justine Cooper

While running around these past two weeks for end-of-school activities for three children, I have had no time to shop or write mad reviews on my latest shopping experience. I do, however, think this is the perfect opportunity to talk about two other experiences I have had this year in Lakewood, experiences with two of the schools.

The first program I am thrilled to bring attention to is the Project 1, 2, 3 Program through the city of Lakewood. This is a PreKindergarten Program with certified teachers and small class sizes, located in neighborhood elementary schools. I first learned about this program two summers ago from a neighbor and had not known that the enrollment was open to all. This program is a five-day-a-week program for 2 ½ hours, like kindergarten. The price is \$150 a month for tuition, but because it is a grant-funded program, a sliding scale is offered to lower-income families with payments ranging from nothing up to \$150. Thus all four-year-olds in the city of Lakewood can benefit from one of the best-run preschools I have seen!

Last year my daughter attended the Roosevelt site with instructors Marilyn Dewees and Naomi Farmer. The patience of these educators and the calming love in the room was more than I could hope for as my daughter's entry into public schools. The room was divided into stations of play, books, jobs for each child, crafts, and more, and the smaller class size gave the assurance that each child would receive the attention they needed.

This past year, although we moved into another Lakewood school area, we enrolled our four-year-old son back at Roosevelt because Mrs. Dewees and Mrs. Farmer made such an incredible impression on all of us. Even he enjoyed the visit to his sister's classroom. I informed the teachers that my son would probably only average three days a week because five seemed too much for his hyper little self. Naturally, he proved me wrong and had zero absences! Every day, including weekends and holidays, he would wake up and ask, "Is there school today?"

He was very disappointed when there wasn't. That said it all to me.

Project 1, 2, 3 uses "the Ohio Department of Education Connections Curriculum that allows both parent and child to prepare for kindergarten and ease the transition from home to school." Enrollment is now underway for fall; for more information call 216-529-4256.

The other school experience I feel honored to share was our first and last year at Franklin Elementary. What made my daughter's kindergarten experience so magical was the combination of the caring and dedicated staff - principal Nancy Ross and staff Pam Williams, Tony Zigman, Patty Hayes and her teacher Mrs. Schrader - and the passionate and tireless efforts of the core PTA. This PTA put on several events throughout the year, performing fundraising and providing truly entertaining

events for all the families of Franklin.

I am embarrassed that I was so busy I did not do more to help with these events. Some nights at the end of a long week, I felt like just getting my kids to some events was the last of my energy. Yet every event had one common denominator: the same core group of parents showing up early and setting up, working the event, and cleaning up after all families after the event. In addition, this same group of parents showed up for every PTA meeting, regardless of how busy or tired they were, and showed up for several meetings fighting to help keep Franklin open. This core group included: Cindy Caskey, Cheryl and Jeff Nekl, Iselin Dimacchia, Josie Majcher, Lisa Bellino, Marty Lowell, Roseanne Ladue, Laurie Young, Karen Bosworth, Diana Blanton, Tricia Madden and Cher Guitling.

Ironically, these parents are now split up across new boundaries and their children will be going to several different schools. I can only hope that they can each bring their passion and love to other parents and start or join new PTA's at each school. I know that because of their tireless efforts I will make an effort to do more at my children's next school. At an appreciation luncheon, Principal Nancy Ross announced that because of the dedication she witnessed from this core group, she had made the decision to take a year's leave and be part of her kindergarten son's education in that same way. I was so moved by the love of every teacher at Franklin, every office staff, and every PTA member, that the one year I was honored to experience at Franklin Elementary will stay in my heart forever.

2007 Kiwanis Scholarship Winners



by J. Timothy Mohr

At a recent meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Lakewood, 6 graduating seniors of Lakewood area high schools were introduced as recipients of the 2007 four year college academic scholarships presented by the club's scholarship foundation. The recipients as pictured include: (in the top row, left to right) – Pat Horning (St. Edward High School), who will be attending Eastern Michigan University; Linda Knab (Lakewood High School), who will be a student at Miami Uni-

versity of Ohio; (first row & left to right) – Emma Sleva (Lakewood High School), who will attend Case Western Reserve University; Bridget McMahan (Lakewood High School), who is planning to attend Miami University of

Ohio; Alexandra Krueger (Lakewood High School) who will attend Northwestern University; and Jacob Pizzo, (Lakewood High School) who is heading for Georgia Tech University. The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood Scholarship Foundation presents six college scholarship awards of \$2500 annually for each of four years of undergraduate study to graduating seniors who are residents of the City of Lakewood and are citizens of the United States. This year's winners were selected out of more than 30 eligible applicants. The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood through its foundation has been awarding college scholarship awards to worthy Lakewood youth since 1954 and this year's winners raise the total number of scholarships awarded to 215 with a cumulative value of over \$1 million dollars.

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# Lakewood Perspective

## Com • mence • ment [kuh-mens-muhnt] (noun) : the start or beginning

With high school graduation ceremonies right around the corner, I offer my sincere congratulations to the class of 2007. Although I don't want to take anything away from your impending celebration, I feel obligated to offer a few pieces of advice. With high school behind you, you might think that it's time to relax, but guess again. The second that diploma hits your hands you are officially on the clock and in the driver's seat.

While you were in high school, much of the decision-making process concerning life choices was out of your control, but now it's time to step up to

the plate. Even if your plan includes living with your parents for a little while longer, the onus is completely on you. A high school diploma represents the virtual key to your own life and, whether you're ready or not, it's time to put the top down and take it out for a spin.

If you're headed off to college, you may think that you're set for the next four to six years, but just because the course is set doesn't mean that the road is not still full of responsibility. Ask a college graduate and he or she will tell

Bret Callentine

you. A degree is important, but even more critical is what you do with your time outside of classes. That piece of paper you receive from most institutions will do little to separate you from the thousands of other applicants once you hit the job market. Employers owe you nothing and a diploma alone will not impress them. When push comes to shove, if you wish to succeed, you must set yourself apart by going above and beyond that which is required.

Don't wait until later, start racking up experience now. Most campuses offer a multitude of student employment opportunities, the benefits of which can be much more than just a little extra spending cash. If not a paying position, look at the possibilities of internships or volunteer work. Anything that gets you legitimate, working knowledge will pay off tenfold once you enter the real world.

But, while you should seek out the positives, you must also be wary of the negatives. Professional golfers have a saying: "You can't win a tournament on the first day, but you can certainly lose it." Similarly, when you're out on your own, one good decision won't earn you that degree, but one bad decision can easily lose it and so much more. If you made it through high school unscathed, congratulations, but I'm here to tell you, no matter what your circumstances, it's officially time to cast aside the "it can't happen to me" attitude.

Knowing nothing of where you're headed and what your intentions are, I can tell you with certainty that over the next few years: your strength will be tested, your motivation will be challenged, and your heart will face struggles you've never known. Presented with these upcoming decisions, your goal should be to stay true to the person you are and the person you wish to become.

To this end, the best thing you can do is to find good friends. Associate yourself with people who have similar goals, the ability and desire to attain them, and the willingness to hold each

other accountable. Life is much easier and infinitely more rewarding as a team sport.

For those of you not going on to college, it's time to hit the ground running. But, don't just find a job, do your best to start a career. Keep in mind that we are no longer in a day and age where you can work the same job for 30 years, grab the gold watch, and retire. Regardless of your educational background, you will be expected to continue to learn, grow, and develop your skills. You cannot advance by merely standing still. Once you have a job, the only way to stay on the payroll will be to continue to do it better, faster, or cheaper than the next person.

So, either way, continued education is a necessity. Seek out those that can teach and take every opportunity to listen and learn. Expanding your wealth of knowledge, as it turns out, is the best way to increase your knowledge of wealth.

That's all from me; it's up to you now. Enjoy your freedom and take pleasure in the unique experiences of your life's travels. However, don't for one second let me hear you complaining. Sure, some of you will have to work harder than others and some will face unequal challenges, but, as you've suspected all along, life is not fair. You will most definitely face obstacles in your path. But, it isn't about how many times you get knocked down in life - it's how many times you get back up again.

Don't ever get caught up comparing your path to that of the next person. When overcome, an obstacle can be it's own reward. The point is: stop your whining - there will always be someone better off and someone worse off than you. If you spend all of your time focusing on what separates you from the former, you disparage the blessings that protect you from holding the position of the latter.

There you have it. Congratulations class of 2007, you've completed the first stage of what will be a lifetime of learning. Take a deep breath. Enjoy the accomplishment of the day. Now, get to work.

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	4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.	Skills Practice/All Ages
Thursday	2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	All Ages
	8:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.	Adults Only (Organ Music)
Friday	2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	All Ages
	8:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.	All Ages
Saturday	10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.	All Ages
	2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	All Ages
Sunday	2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	All Ages
	7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.	All Ages

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## Lakewood Sports

# A Bitter Ending To A Great Season For The Rangers

by Ivor Karabatkovic

The Rangers came off a tough loss against Euclid to face the Midpark Meteors in the District Semifinals on May 15t. The Rangers, who beat Midpark by a score of 5-1 earlier in the season, lost the semifinals game 12-4 as walks and inconsistent hitting hurt their chances of beating the Meteors a second time.

John Ross made the final out of the season, putting the final touch on a great season by the 2007 Lakewood Rangers. The Rangers finished with a 22-7 record, four more wins than last year's team. It was a season of great improvement. Senior Tim Labar was solid all season, going 5-1, pitching 50 innings and striking out 72 batters. Junior Robert Trivett broke the stolen base record, and seniors Taylor Kraus and Zach Toole were four hits away from setting a new record for most hits in a season.

The Junior Varsity squad made huge strides under the direction of head coach Chris Lamphear. The JV squad won 16 games. Both their defense and offense were solid. The future looks great for Lakewood Ranger Baseball.

Lakewood Baseball is a family of players, parents and coaches. There are three volunteer coaches, Coach Deanovic, Coach Lauren and Coach Giberson, that devote their free time



The Graduating Class of 2007. from left to right: Taylor Kraus, George Wright, Tim Labar, Zach Toole, Adam Hrdlicka, Eric Thomas, Rob Pecl, Alex Botsch, Eric Converse and Paul Barney.

into making the baseball teams as good as they can. In the past two years, the Rangers have won a total of 40 games, which is quite an accomplishment in the tough Lake Erie League.

Congratulations to seniors Tim Labar and Taylor Kraus. Tim received All-State honors in the state of Ohio for his efforts on the field. He will be pitching in two games in Columbus

this June. Taylor Kraus and Tim Labar will be starting in the Greater Cleveland All-Star game held at Jacobs Field later next month. This dynamic duo has worked well together since travel baseball in middle school, where they spent spring, summer, fall and winter working together and playing competitive baseball in leagues around Cleveland. 2007 was a great season and

the graduating class of 2007 will always be remembered for their efforts. A bitter loss to the Meteors cannot overshadow the great season this team had, and how much fun players, parents and staff had participating in games and events at Lakewood Stadium. Good Luck to the class of 2007 in all their future endeavors on and off the field.

## What It Takes To Be A Lifeguard

by Pat Resor

I have a red suit and a whistle. There is water in the pool and I have my sun screen so I am ready to be a lifeguard!

If this is all that it takes, many of us should be gearing up for a summer job as a lifeguard. Actually, being a lifeguard requires a lot more than just sitting in the sun getting a great tan. All lifeguards are required to have course work and a certification through Ellis, Y Guard or the American Red Cross. These are the major providers of water safety materials in our area.

I am the most familiar with the American Red Cross Lifeguard certification course which requires 31 ½ hours to complete. In this class, the student learns to use a backboard, how to rescue multiple victims, and how to complete a submerged deep water spine injury rescue. The class also includes instruction for CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), first aid, and the use of an AED (automated external defibrillators). During the class, situations with water skills are simulated. Students take four written exams which cover all of the skills learned during the class. Currently, through the Lakewood Community Recreation and Education Department, all the Lakewood pool summer guards are being trained on the updated Red Cross materials.

When the course is finished and a job secured, the training does not end. There are in-service trainings for each facility – Foster Pool, Madison Pool

and the Lakewood High School natatorium. During these in-services, skills are reviewed and the EAP (Emergency Action Plan) for the individual pool is studied.

A lifeguard needs to be responsible, reliable, dependable, professional, alert and physically capable of doing the job. A lifeguard must be a team player. There can be some intense moments on a shift as a guard, and response times need to be immediate. A lifeguard is just that – a person guarding lives. And yes, swimming is required.



## LRST Rocks The Blocks in 2007

by Kevin Harrod

As the school year winds down, and with the warm weather of summer already here, it is time for a recap of LRST's winter season and also time to look forward to the summer season. After successfully hosting the 2007 Jim Scullion Meet at Lakewood High School in the beginning of February, LRST went into its championship season on a roll. This success carried over to all age groups; starting with LRST's high school swimmers. Eight LRST swimmers represented their respective high schools at the Ohio High School State Championships. Two weeks later, led by outstanding performances from Elizabeth Auckley, Marlee Berlan, Kayla Eland, Colleen and Ellen Hutchinson, Andy and Lisa Peng, Megan Splain, and Jack St. Marie, LRST placed 8th at the LESI Gold Championships. During the

final week of March, LRST swimmer and Magnificat sophomore Madeleine Kete traveled to Orlando to compete in the 2007 spring Junior National Championships.

Looking ahead to the summer season, LRST will be focusing on the 2007 Central Zone Meet, which will be held in Cleveland and is being hosted by Lake Erie Swimming. The competition will take place from August 3-6 of this year at Cleveland State's Robert F. Busbey Natatorium. LESI last hosted this meet twenty years ago. Over 800 swim-

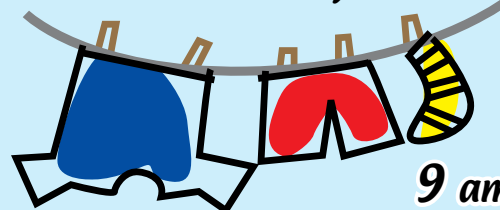
mers from across seven states are expected to attend. In March, LRST Head Coach Kevin Harrod was named head coach for LESI's 13 and Over Zone team.

For more information on the Zone meet, visit [lakeeriewimming.com](http://lakeeriewimming.com) and click on the Rock The Blocks link.

For more information on LRST, visit [Lakewoodrecreation.com](http://Lakewoodrecreation.com) and click on the aquatics link. Once there, you will find information on the practice schedule, as well as other team information. You may also contact the Recreation Department at 216-529-4081.

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Lakewood Observer

# Catering to Your Every Need

It seems that with the coming of the summer season there is a huge increase in events for which one may consider the services of a caterer. Graduations, weddings, confirmations and the parties celebrating these social events can severely tax a normal household kitchen. It is always important for such special events the food be commensurate with the celebration, a special time requires special food and drink. It is at times like these that the hosts of these parties may look to the services of a caterer. The many facets of catering services go beyond food preparation; they can also include every aspect required to make the event a success, from table and chair rental to linens, glassware and servers. Opting to work with a caterer has the added benefit of allowing the host to actually enjoy the event without having to rush off to the kitchen to check on the tray of lasagna or scurry to the local mini mart to obtain more ice.

There are any numbers of caterers who can provide everything from basic box lunches to fancy feasts. Some caterers confine their services to specific halls and party centers while others are willing to take on the challenge of providing a banquet in surroundings which are not designed for food preparation or services. That can present a particular problem and requires a knowledgeable and seasoned veteran.

As the Lakewood Public Library planned its gala "Be the First to See the Best" to be held on June 23rd, it became clear that this once in a lifetime event required very special handling. The organizers realized that an event celebrating one of the country's finest libraries needed to have food commensurate with that institution and despite my ongoing pleas for a demo kitchen to be included in the construction project, alas there would be no cooking facilities available. The Gala Committee examined the options available and turned to a caterer whose impeccable reputation for organizing such events in the most improbable places is legend.

Many may remember Sammy's in the flats. During the 80s Sammy's was the place to be, as after work patrons

would line up six deep at the raw bar. It was a restaurant which can take significant credit for the re-birth of fine dining in Cleveland and one of which I have many fine memories. Alas Sammy's has been closed since the turn of the millennium, but fortunately its excellence still survives in its catering; both in-house at such places as the Metropolitan (old Mid Day Club), as well as the restaurant at Severance Hall. It was with no small amount of excitement that I greeted the invitation of the Library Gala

Committee to attend a tasting at Sammy's headquarters in the flats of the planned menu for the June 23rd event hosted by Sammy's Denise Fugo.

As I was escorted into what used to be the dining room of Sammy's, it seemed as if nothing had really changed. The view was still spectacular and the space looked just as it had when my wife and I celebrated our anniversary there. Indeed, it was almost as if you listened closely enough, you could still hear the sweet jazz of Hank Geer wafting about the rafters. Except for special events and banquets, Sammy's is no longer open as a restaurant; although interestingly enough, their reputation continues because not a week goes by that they do not receive a phone call trying to set up a dinner reservation. We discussed the Library Gala, as the server brought out plate after plate of items to sample and Denise made it very clear that, "the customers will remember the food they ate". Good coordination is the key "make it memorable serving world class food and beverage" and, indeed, what the

guests at the Gala for the opening for this world class library will experience is, undoubtedly world class food.

Grilled pork tenderloin topped with Granny Smith Apples and currants en croute combined the classic tastes of apple and pork contrasted with Sammy's version of boardwalk fries, a paper cones filled with delicate pomme frites with a malt aoli. Tortilla crepes topped with a dab of fresh guacamole and sweet crab presented a study in textures while the succulent shrimp balls with a spicy sherry sauce woke up the palate. It was difficult to choose a favorite from among the offerings, but if forced to choose I think that the Vietnamese vegetable spring roll, crispy fried in rice paper with a honey soy sauce or the mini grilled chicken focaccia with roasted red and yellow peppers in a parmesan spread would top the list. There was no shortage of sweets on display with such favorites as the double fudge brownies and classic lemon squares, mini pistachio mousse horns, strawberries dipped in chocolate and the grasshopper parfait.

The presentation of the food we sampled was spectacular. Some items on the menu had previously been decided including some standards such as fresh vegetable crudites, domestic cheese, penne pasta and a variety of assorted focaccia pizzas. Clearly, the food offerings would be remembered by those who attend the gala. As we discussed the logistics of holding such an event in this magnificent new space and went over a variety of details from tables, chairs and linens, Denise and her coordinator, Kelly Stenger were absolutely unfazed when I asked her how they could possibly deal with serving such a varied and creative menu without any kitchen access in a space which is designed for books and not diners. She smiled with a slight shrug and said "Sammy's is here to make it all happen in unique locations". My tastings of the Library Gala's catered event left no doubt in my mind that this would, in fact, be a happening. In much the same way as the food at the Sammy's Restaurant made it the place to go and be seen, clearly, that will be duplicated with the Library's Gala event on June 23rd.

Jeff Endress



Sammy's Vietnamese Spring Rolls and Shrimp balls.



Chicken focaccia and pork loin with apples



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# Spilled Ink

## Lakewood Kids Come Out To Meet The Trucks! continued from page 1...



Mayor, Investigator Fiorilli, S.W.A.T., Isaac & Ronan Barley

community and get involved in all that Lakewood has to offer. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in early childhood activities for children ages 0-6, typically parents, grandparents or other caregivers. Member benefits include our monthly newsletter, The Scoop, packed with activities for your family; playgroups; children's parties; tours of local sites of interest; family outings; and adult socials. You can go to [www.lkwdpl.org/ECPTA/](http://www.lkwdpl.org/ECPTA/) for more information on the organization.

Last year's Meet The Trucks event drew crowds of about 1,000; this year it is estimated that about 1500 were in attendance. In addition to showcasing our city's trucks there were also many opportunities to make sure you and your family are safe. The City of Lakewood Department of Human Services/Health organized events to promote safety and prevent childhood injury. The Cleveland Clinic demonstrated dialing 911 in an emergency. The Lakewood Recreation Department



Left- Tim Stark, Division Manager of Winterhurst, with Jarrod Prager, Zamboni Driver

let the children play in safety town and there was a Car Seat Fit Stop located in the skating park of Lakewood Park to have car seats checked to insure they are installed correctly. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources brought a boat that children could jump aboard, walk around on-deck and blow the horn! Officer Larry Rieck said the Division of Watercraft works closely with the Coast Guard, helping with search and rescue and ensuring public safety on our waters. Investigator Patrick Fiorilli runs the S.W.A.T. team, a division of the Lakewood Police. They were generous enough to bring several

vehicles our little residents could climb into and explore. In addition to a police cruiser, the police also had a motorcycle on display and one of the 10 mountain bikes the city deploys. There was also the aforementioned Bomb Squad truck and a bulletproof S.W.A.T. tank truck that is garaged in Lakewood but shared with six other Westside suburbs. The Women's Pavilion had refreshments including pizza, popcorn, cookies and water, all free and provided by the LECPTA! The bagels were donated by Einstein Brothers and the bread by the Breadsmith. A big thank-you to the more than 50 volunteers who helped make this event possible!

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## Pulse Of The City

*Those Among Us...*

### Donald Santa-Emma And The Lakewood Hometown Band

Gary Rice

The azure sky turned to royal blue, streaked with orange and crimson, in the western heavens over Lakewood Park. Friends and family stretched out on their lawn chairs and on the wooden benches in front of the Lakewood Hometown Bandstand.

On that bandstand, conductor Donald Santa-Emma raised his baton, and once again, brought forth magical music to cheer and comfort us all. This scenario has fortunately transpired throughout many years of Sunday nights in Lakewood.

The Lakewood Hometown Band will celebrate forty years of this entertainment at their performance at Lakewood Park on June 24th, at 7:00 pm. Born as a collaborative effort between the City of Lakewood and the Music Performance Trust Fund, members of the American Federation of Musicians enjoy the rich tradition of bringing the best in band music to our city.

Donald Santa-Emma has been the Music Coordinator and frequent conductor of the group for many years. Don is quick to point out that the musicians are top-notch professionals, many of whom appear at Blossom Music Center, as well as other reputa-



Donald Santa-Emma welcomes you to a world of music!

ble venues around town. This degree of professionalism contributes to the incredibly high quality of the band's performances.

Don is a past president of the Cleveland Federation of Musicians, Local 4 of the American Federation of Musicians, and is currently serving as Vice-President and President Emeritus for that group. Music education has

long been an important part of Don's life. An Ohio State graduate, he has served as Director of Fine Arts Education for the Cleveland Public Schools, where he supervised over two hundred teachers.

Additionally, Don is the recipient of many awards and citations, including the Distinguished Service Award in Music Education from The

Ohio State University and the Distinguished Service Award from the Ohio Music Education Association. Don has also been inducted into the Ohio State Fair Hall of Fame, as well as the Hall of Fame for his high school alma mater, West Tech. He has been honored as well as a Martha Holden Jennings Teacher-Leader, and holds a Master Teacher Citation from the Cleveland Public Schools.

Of particular interest to Don is the fact that he is the director of the All-Ohio State Fair Band - a select band of two hundred of Ohio's finest high school musicians. This group performs at the annual Ohio State Fair in Columbus. Don continues to serve as the band's Director, after thirty-four years of dedicated service to this unique organization.

Helping children to experience the joy of music and cultivating their confidence through on-stage performances continue to be keystones of this man's life.

Don is particularly delighted to see excellent music programs continue in the Lakewood Public Schools.

Hopefully, we will be able to enjoy beautiful music from Don, and the Lakewood Hometown Band, for many years to come.

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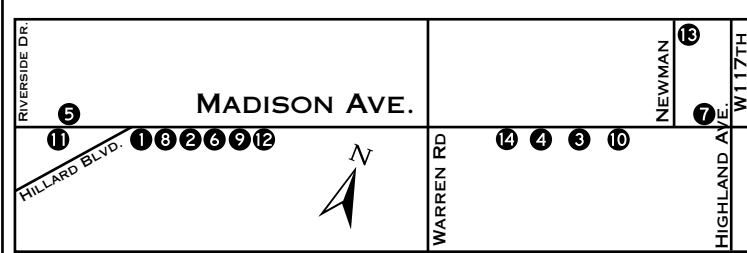
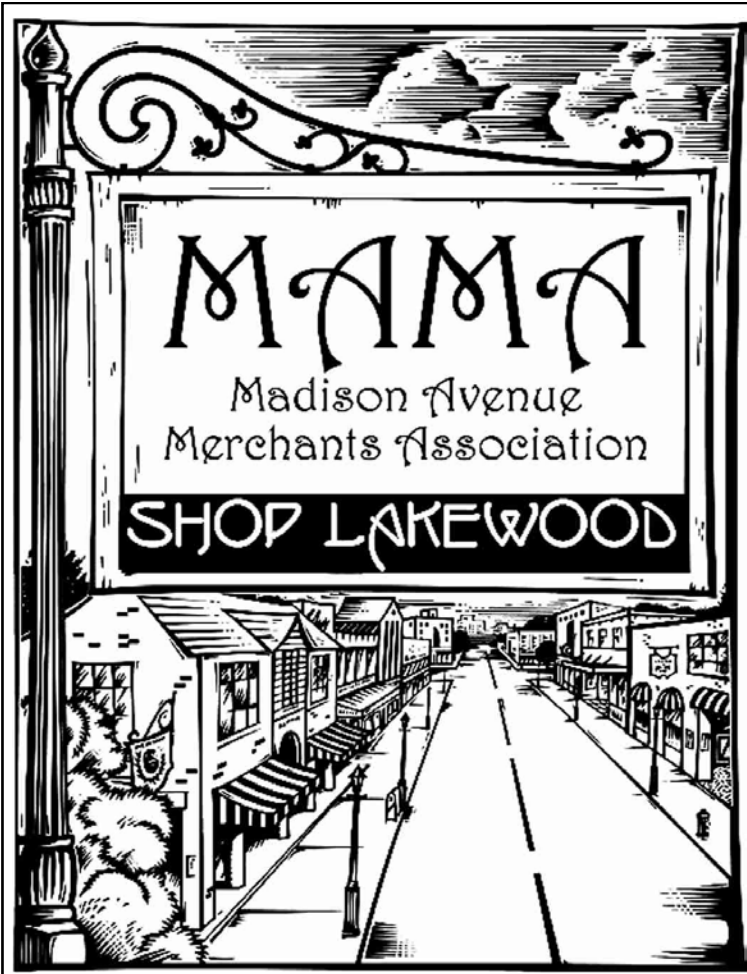
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# Lakewood Business News



**KICK OFF SUMMER SHOPPING FUN WITH MAMA'S MADISON AVENUE SUMMER WALK!**  
Shop in Lakewood's Premiere Retail District Madison Ave. Saturday June 16th and get special incentives prizes, discounts and a chance to win \$150!  
Stop in at one of the stores listed below and pick up an entry blank. Then get the signatures of 8 out of 13 store owners and you will be entered into a drawing to win \$150 or \$50\*!  
Winners will be announced in the next Lakewood Observer. Saturday June 16th, 11:00am - 5:00pm \* Shopping Spree at any Lakewood Business.

- 1 Goddess Blessed

15729 Madison Ave.  
drawing for a \$20 gas card, special Tarot readings for \$10 and \$20
- 2 Class Act

15649 Madison Ave.  
Five artists art show, refreshments, win a dinner at Maria's Italian Restaurant valued at \$50.
- 3 The Coffee Pot

12415 Madison Ave.  
free cup of coffee
- 4 bela dubby

13321 Madison Ave.  
\$1 off any coffee drink or beer  
enter raffle for \$10 gift certificate.
- 5 Lakewood Hardware

16608 Madison Ave.  
drawing for \$50 Gift Certificate
- 6 Silhouette Dance & Fine Arts

13321 Madison Ave./15641 Madison Ave.  
drawing for 1 month of dance classes  
a \$45 value, plus clothing worth \$15.
- 7 Joe's Deli

11750 Madison Ave.  
free coffee.
- 8 Fuzion Martial Arts Center

12501 Madison Ave.  
chance to win a one month class.
- 9 The Beer Engine

16621 Madison Ave.  
\$1.00 off Buckeye Beer.
- 10 Lakewood Furnishings

12409 Madison Ave.  
5% off everything in store.
- 11 Cuttin' Loose Hair Salon

16621 Madison Ave.  
drawing for cut and style.
- 12 Carabel Hair Salon

15309 Madison Ave.  
free tattoos for kids.
- 13 Omega Cuts

11833 Franklin Blvd.  
chance to win one of five haircuts for kids to give their fathers.
- 14 Star Spectrum

14203 Madison Ave.  
sale and astrologer available.

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## Tips for Exterior House Painting

by Jeannie Votypka

Is the outside of your home starting to peel or look run down? It's probably time for paint! Usually a home needs to be painted every six to eight years due to weathering and water damage. Before you decide to paint, make sure you ask yourself the following four questions:

**Does my home need prep work?** Has any siding, window sill, hand railing or window or door trim started to rot? If you don't want to make the repairs yourself, your painting company should be able to give you a quote for the repairs. Does your home look

dirty and grimy? Try power washing before painting. Paint adheres much better to a clean, smooth surface than a dirty, bumpy one.

**Do I want to change the color of my home?** Doing so can give your home a completely new appearance. You need to make sure the colors you choose complement the other colors your home already has. Make sure the color you choose blends well with your roof, foundation, driveway and landscaping.

**Hand brush or spray?** Spraying is a quicker, easier technique but some homes benefit from being hand brushed. These include older homes

with wood siding and homes that haven't been painted in a long time. Painting by hand provides a thicker coat and penetrates deeper into the wood. Keep in mind that hand brushing will cost more because it is more labor intensive.

**Which company should I choose?** There are many choices when it comes to painting companies in our area. Many people choose the cheapest quote and are disappointed with the results. Take into consideration the quality of a painting company before hiring them. Make sure the company is insured and ask for references.

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# Lakewood Arts & Music

## Arts Districts May Come To Lakewood

by Bill Grulich

In the '70s, West 6th Street in Cleveland's Historic Warehouse District was home to aging companies and the area was declining. Home to the homeless, these buildings were constructed during Cleveland's industrial revolution (1870-1920).

Urban pioneers set out to find a home in the District's Bradley Building, including former Lakewood resident and artist Kathy Webber. The building owners looked the other way when Webber and other artists set up a bed and bathroom in their building. For a couple hundred dollars a month, these pioneers could live and work in a 1,500-3,000 square foot apartment. The building had large windows and was perfect for studios. Unfortunately, Cleveland bureaucrats thought otherwise and evicted the origi-



nal artists. Fast-forward to the Warehouse District today—it commands monthly rents of \$800-\$3,000. The Warehouse District is teeming with activity.

Webber moved to the Cleveland neighborhood of Tremont, which is

very similar to Lakewood's Birdtown area. Tremont is in the midst of an economic boom as a result of the artist migration. An array of restaurants, galleries and new homes has followed.

Birdtown is concentrated on the

south side of Madison Ave. between the eastern edge of Madison Park and Magee Ave. The company now known as Graftech, located just east of Birdtown, built homes in the area at the turn of the 20th century. Birdtown will soon become a historic district thanks to the City of Lakewood's Planning and Development Department, Lakewood Historical Society, Councilwoman Mary Lousie Madigan and longtime residents Marge Stopiak, Rose Slavik and Helen Pohorence.

Arts district advocates Bill and Harriet Gould, who run ArtSpace Cleveland, started the arts district concept in Cleveland. I introduced the Goulds to Lakewood Planning and Development Director Tom Jordan and council members Madigan, Kevin Butler and Nickie Antonio to generate interest in the creation of an arts district in the Birdtown area. The Goulds, who have an architectural company and are artists, were actively involved in creating the Historic Warehouse District Development Corporation.

At various meetings, Bill Gould told the council members, "Arts districts have the potential to be an economic development tool for aging cities like Cleveland and the inner ring suburbs like Lakewood." Madigan expressed, "Arts districts are a natural progression for Birdtown. It used to be a self-contained community." Antonio also commented, "It is a good idea and a necessary direction for the city."

The Goulds were instrumental in helping Cleveland Councilman Joe Cimperman craft legislation that permits artists to live/work in old warehouses. Lakewood has the potential to create similar legislation that would relax its current codes, allowing artists to live/work in the city. Under the direction of Jordon, the Lakewood Planning Commission is working on the future arts district zoning code and council will vote on that code. The mayor would then sign off on the legislation. Mayor Tom Georgesaid, "It's clear that the arts have a huge financial return on the dollar. The creation of one or more arts districts is in line with the mission and vision of the people of the City of Lakewood."

Birdtown, with its unique village architecture and the abutting old Lake Erie Screw Building, now called the Lake Erie Building, makes a strong case for creating the arts district legislation. The Lake Erie Building is owned by Omni Lakewood and while it has outlived its usefulness for manufacturing, it is ideal for artist studios.

The City of Lakewood and Omni are cosponsoring "Art at the Screw Factory," an open house for artists taking place in the Lake Erie Building. The open house is on Thursday, June 21, from 4-7 p.m. The building is located at 13000 Athens Ave. behind Madison Park. Screw Factory artist Phyllis Fanin said, "We are looking forward to showing off the works of artists in our building and we're hopeful we can attract other artists to Birdtown and the rest Lakewood." Who knows, maybe Kathy Webber will even return to Lakewood!

Bill Grulich is Vice Chair of the Planning Commission.

### Jazzed Up:

## An Interview with Tenor Saxophonist Ernie Krivda

by Bob Ignizio



Ernie Krivda will be performing at the Lakewood Public Library Gala on the 23rd.

World renowned tenor saxophone player (and Lakewood resident) Ernie Krivda is now in his fifth decade as a professional musician, but he shows no signs of slowing down. He regularly plays gigs as the leader of several small jazz ensembles and the 19-piece Fat Tuesday Big Band. Throughout his long and varied career, Ernie has done everything from backing up Motown artists like The Four Tops and The Supremes to touring with Quincy Jones' band. He's also managed to have a prolific career as a band leader in his own right, leading quintets, quartets, trios, and the Fat Tuesday Big Band. His work is routinely given high marks by jazz critics, who have called him "a major talent" and "one of the most important saxophonists of the decade". Ernie will be bringing his jazz quintet to the Lakewood Public Library on Saturday June 23rd for its fundraising gala. I recently had the chance to speak with Ernie about this upcoming performance as well as other aspects of his career.

**Lakewood Observer:** Tell me a little about the show you'll be performing at the Lakewood Public Library. What can people expect?

**Ernie Krivda:** I'm going to be

performing with my quintet, which is made up of Bob Fraser on guitar. He's a great, renowned guitarist, one of the most versatile in the country. He happens to also live in Lakewood. Peter Dominguez is on bass, and he's a professor of bass at Oberlin Conservatory. Not only is he a great jazz bass player, but he's a great orchestral bass player as well. On drums I have Ron Godale, who recorded with me as far back as 1980. And I'll have Erin Kufel on vocals, she's a great young talent. We'll be playing a mix of standards from the great American songbook, and some originals as well that I have written.

**LO:** You also recently did a performance with the Lakewood Project.

**EK:** They're absolutely wonderful. A string quartet from the Lakewood Project played a piece that I wrote for jazz tenor sax and a string quartet. And we performed that at the last Lakewood Project concert.

**LO:** How is the audience for jazz in Northeast Ohio?

**EK:** I think that they haven't been given a lot of jazz choices recently. But it seems that when they are given choices, they are there and they support it, and they like it. I don't know why the promoters don't agree with me, but they

don't offer as much. But there actually is a jazz audience that's hungry for more of it, and I hear that from them.

**LO:** In addition to your jazz quintet, you also have the Fat Tuesday Big Band. Do you prefer one to the other, or are they both equally fun?

**EK:** The Fat Tuesday Big Band is a 19 piece band, and it's a very, very swinging big band. I've recorded a number of times with that group, and I enjoy that very much. Each band I play in is fun in different ways. Besides the big band I have a trio I play with, bass and drums. That's enjoyable as well, once again for different reasons. I do a lot of different things because I like the differences and the challenges of each project. And I feel like I'm better for having done the different things.

**LO:** What's the role of improvisation in your music?

**EK:** If you're playing with a big band, much less of it is improvised, and what is improvised has to fit very specific situations because you have an arrangement. Whatever improvising is done has to fit. When there's a smaller group, the ability to set the direction is there. That's not necessarily true when you have an arrangement. So it's a different kind of improvisation, but they're equally challenging.

**LO:** Do you have a new album in the works?

**EK:** The trio that I mentioned is going to New York to record in June. So sometime at the end of 2007, most likely the beginning of 2008 I'll have another CD out. Actually the plans are to record 2 CDs for CIMP Records, who I've recorded for many times. It will be mostly my original compositions.

**LO:** Anything else you want to add?

**EK:** I just wanted to say I think it's absolutely wonderful that the library is going to have a performance space. Having played a number of times in the basement, I think it's high time. It's going to be great. It'll give a whole new perspective to the arts in Lakewood, and most certainly the library.



# Lakewood People

## Profile Of Michael Pomerantz

by Mark Moran

The number now as I write this is 3475. Or perhaps by the time you read it, it will be 3500 or 3525. It goes up on average approximately one or two digits a day since the count began on March 19, 2003, a totemic figure whose meaning almost anyone knows at a glance. You can track it in the newspapers or on any number of websites, or you can ignore it if you will as one more piece of bad news in a welter of dismal tidings. You may also have seen the figure hand-painted on the back of a white Ford van cruising the streets of Lakewood, a mobile reminder of the human cost of what is shaping up to be a vast misadventure. Or else—depending on your point of view—an irritating statement of partisanship at a time that calls for loyalty.

Lakewood resident Michael Pomerantz has gotten both reactions and everything in between to the count of American dead in Iraq he keeps on the back of his van. On the daily rounds from his home on Summit Avenue to the Metroparks where he walks his dog in the morning, or traveling outside of Lakewood to the art fairs where he shows his painting, the body count attracts attention. He has been hugged by little old ladies, interviewed by Channel Three television news and confronted bitterly in the parking lot of Home Depot on 117th Street. "I've gotten a lot of middle fingers," Michael said. "The first one was from a North Olmstead police officer."

As the tally has climbed and the situation in Iraq has deteriorated responses to the sign on his van have grown generally more favorable. Michael Pomerantz does not think of himself as an activist; neither does he think of himself as "anti-war," having supported American ventures in the first Iraqi war, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia and Afghanistan. But he has opposed the current Iraq venture from the beginning and started displaying the sign three years ago. "As I was watching the numbers reach 500 then 700 and 800, I thought, that's a lot of people," he said. "We lost 150 in the first Iraqi war and many people thought it would be the same amount. So I thought, what would be the best way to draw attention to that? Rather than an angry sign with a blatantly political message, I thought, let's just put the number out there. When I first started displaying the sign people didn't want to give me the thumbs up because it was like applauding the deaths," he told me. "Now it's clear I'm only pointing out one of the many facts indicating what a terrible mistake this war is. I might just as easily have put up the figure of \$500 billion." He was asked if it would it not be hugely irresponsible to leave now, abandoning the Iraqis and the Kurds to the parties of jihad and possibly granting Al Queda a stronghold in an oil rich country. "It would take us probably 18 months to extract ourselves in any case," Pomerantz answers. "What

we need is a plan—to consolidate our forces, turn over the occupation to friendly forces and get out. When you make a mistake you fix it, and if you can't fix it you at least stop making the same mistake. Military experts say the one thing Iraqis really hate is outsiders, and that the first thing they would do if we pulled out is throw out the rest of the outsiders—the five percent of the insurgents who are actually Al Queda from surrounding countries. The Sunni and Shia would battle it out and come to a truce—which is the way belligerents everywhere share an invented country," he said. "It might get worse, it might not. But we need to preserve our army to protect us."

The most striking response Pomerantz says he has received—and a common one—is from supporters of the war who seem to imply the figure is a trivial one, that the country lost that many lives in a month or so during Korea or Vietnam; that death is a cost of any war, and that this one is no different; that many more people die in traffic accidents every year. It is not a sentiment shared by people who have seen the war first hand, at least among those few who have identified themselves to Pomerantz. "The only two Iraqi war veterans I have talked to about the sign have been wholeheartedly in favor of it," he says. "They were there, and it seems like no one notices. These guys make very little money, are risking everything and they are away from home for a record amount of time." My own sense is that even those—especially those—who (like me) believe the original mission was valid and who are ambivalent about the consequences of our early departure, yet who remain comfortably at home, ought to miss no chance to remember that men and women in their teens and twenties are dying, and some are coming home without limbs. Regarding the costs of this war, both human and financial, it is the Bush Administration that has reaped a measure of public cynicism for the combination of naiveté and incompetence it seems to have displayed regarding what it would take to win this war—in resources and "boots on the ground"—a war that was fought, in Thomas Friedman's words,



photo by David Lay

Michael Pomerantz with his van.

with "just enough troops to lose." "If you take the administration's argument that this is the biggest battle of our lives, why did we go over there with fewer soldiers than we used just to liberate the little country of Kuwait?" Pomerantz asks. "Something like 12 million people fought in World War II, what are we doing trying to take over Iraq with a couple thousand troops?"

By opting to frighten the country into war on the basis of intelligence that was less than perfect, rather than persuade it on moral grounds that were and are still valid, the President ensured that when things began to go awry (and the vaunted weapons of mass destruction did not materialize) he would have no credibility left to ask the public to tolerate a bloody war. Add to that the many other disgraces—Abu Graib (for which no one in the Bush Administration was asked to resign), the torture of detainees, the squandering or embezzlement of some 8 billion dollars in aid to Iraq (again with no oversight or accountability), the appointment of inexperienced 20-year olds to oversee the rebuilding of the country (as documented in Peter Galbraith's "The End of Iraq") some of whom had nothing more to recommend them than Republican or conservative credentials—all these have compromised the support of people who want to believe that a stable, open democracy in the Mid-

dle East is the long-term solution to Islamic terrorism.



Michael Pomerantz does not strike me as a stridently political type. He is a painter of landscapes and residential homes, and when he hands me his business card the small reproduction of his work on the card immediately suggests Edward Hopper, about whom Pomerantz wrote his master's thesis. This makes sense—with its porched houses and old brick storefronts, Lakewood might have appealed to Hopper's eye. Pomerantz appears to have both a sense of humor and of the irony of history. He predicts that Bush will not pull out of Iraq (I agree with him there) and that the Republicans will be routed in the next election (not so sure about that) and that eventually American forces will leave.

"And in ten years the revisionists will come back and say it was people like Michael Pomerantz who lost the war," he says. "I've gotten that reaction—because of you we are losing the war. I don't know how that is exactly, but that's what they say."

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Lakewood Observer

# ... As You Would Have Done Unto You

by Ronald Ciancutti

In the 1989 movie “Field of Dreams,” elderly Dr. Archibald “Moonlight” Graham is asked what he would wish for if given the opportunity to wish again. He says: “You know we just don’t recognize the most significant moments of our lives while they’re happening. Back then I thought (when he played in the Major Leagues for only one day but never got up to bat), well, there’ll be other days. I didn’t realize that that was to be the only day.”

Through the magic of the field of dreams, his youth is restored and he is a rookie again until the doctor services of his adulthood are needed and pull him off the field. After saving the little girl’s life, “Moonlight” Graham walks off the field for the last time knowing he cannot switch back from doctor to ball player and has again spent only one day in the majors, although this time he did get to bat. Shoeless Joe Jackson knows his pain and how hard it is for him to leave. “Hey rookie!” he yells. “Moonlight” stops to look at him and Jackson continues, “You were good.” Graham smiles, looks to heaven and nods, and then slowly disappears into the corn.

I started my first job with the Park District in 1985. I was young, eager, and had a lot to prove. The friends I made of my age group have mostly moved on, having taken other opportunities early in their career cycles. I’m more of a “stick-arounder.” I’ve told you in previous essays that my dad worked for Ford Motor for 42 years, his father for Alcoa Steel for 33 years, and my mom’s dad was an ice/coal/milk man for more than 25 years until those trades surrendered to automation. He then spent the next 35 years cutting hair. Even decades after he became a barber, men would call the

shop for an appointment and still ask for “Pat the Milkman.” I remember he loved that: being remembered for what he once did as well as for what he did at the time.

Since I decided to stay the course while many of my contemporaries moved on, the friends that I made were mostly a generation older than me. That fact has put me in a unique position. I get to be the guy that stands on the dock, waving goodbye while one ship after another sails out to sea. Since most of these folks were halfway through their careers when I arrived it is only fitting that I am “left behind” when they go. That’s the price I pay for not jumping around in my career: watching trusted, loyal friends move on with their lives.

As people depart, we always seem to say the same things. “Oh, I’m sure you’ll be back to visit” or “Now we can get together for some fun instead of just work.” But you know what? Most of the time that stuff never happens. It may be nice to say and even comforting for both of you, sort of lessening the impact of the severance. But times change, people move on, priorities shift and suddenly, the best intentions lose pace with the current needs of the day.

Some of these retired folks have wandered back into the office over the years. They may be passing through, stopping into one of the administration cubicles to complete some paperwork or something but they all seem to have a common denominator. And that is simply a look in their eyes that is searching. They appear to have some unsettled business and in its simplest form, I read it like this: “Did I once matter? Did the work I did over all those years stand for something? Was it all for a reason or was I just marking time, marching in place?”

As I grew more accustomed to this retirement cycle, I found myself anticipating their emotions and always tried to offer a supportive comment. Something like, “hey have you met the guy that replaced you? He’s a pretty good guy, knows he’s got big shoes to fill but he’s trying to maintain all the success you had.” This little sidebar always brought a smile and it was even more sincere because it was usually true. Any new person that replaces a seasoned veteran has big shoes to fill so mentioning it to the newly departed is not gossip or rumor spreading, it is simply an acknowledgement of a fact. And it makes people feel good.

Once when I was visiting my wife’s (Cindy’s) 92-year-old grandmother in the nursing home, I found her in the cafeteria surrounded by a few of her “inmates” laughing and talking about old times. I breezed in, kissed her and sat there among the group, clearly an outsider. As I had only been passing through for a quick visit, I gave my excuse to leave in a rushed paragraph: “Well Gram I just wanted to stop by and see how you are. I have to get back to the office, wrap up an appointment, and then pick Sam up from school to get him to soccer practice. Then after we’ll hook up with Cindy and grab dinner before we meet the rest of the kids at the beach. I tell you this life is crazy.”

I looked around the table and felt such guilt. The envious looks from the senior crowd spoke volumes. They were saying, “What I would give for your problems, kid.” These long retired people would finish this meal and then wander down the hall to their beds, watch some TV and hope that they woke up in the morning, maybe hope they didn’t in some cases. And here I was beefing about the “drain and strain” of life. I learned a lot that day.

In line with that day I developed this very philosophy and like most of my conclusions, it is just a restatement of the obvious. Every human being on earth needs to know he once mattered, whether that person is retiring, moving on to another job, or watching a child leave home and go to college

or get married or simply move out. If that newly severed person gets to hear that their contribution to the past makes tomorrow better for just one person, then their whole life has meaning and their departure from the previously active life is easier, richer and fuller.

So take the time. Give up the moment and speak the extra words that make someone’s day. It takes so little to make such a difference. After that day at the nursing home I went and bought one of those multi-window frames at the drug store and put a picture of each of Grandma’s great grandchildren in it. I brought it to the home and talked with her about each kid and reminded her how she used to read to Nicco when he was a toddler. How she helped this and that daughter of mine with the problems of growing up. How kind she had been to all the kids and how generous she had been through the years. We laughed about the stack of five-dollar bills she kept in her drawer just to give the kids. She laughed and cried and it was an endearing moment I’ll never forget. The frame sat next to her bedside for the rest of her days and many was the time I would walk in and find her awake in bed with her head cocked to the side, just staring at the pictures, eyes wet with emotion and memory.

Another good friend retired last week. One that had been there during the problems of the previous administration and one that had seen us through to the current and successful administration. As she left building following the plaque presentation that marked those years I called to her. “I remember what you did,” I said. I looked to her husband as she embraced me. “She was the safe harbor for a lot of us when things were really getting challenging,” I told him. He smiled his appreciation, his throat tight. She looked deep into my eyes and both of us choked back the emotion and went on our way, ten seconds of my life handing both of us a lifetime of properly honored memories.

Be generous with your heart my friends. It’s so easy and it feels so right. And the love that it harvests is really the only thing any of us wants.

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Lakewood Health And Wellness

Lakewood Hospital Re-Verified As A Level II Trauma Center.

by Aimee Smith

Lakewood Hospital has demonstrated its commitment to providing the highest quality trauma care and has been re-verified as a Level II trauma center by the State of Ohio. This highly regarded achievement recognizes the dedication to providing optimal care for injured patients.

Under the Level II certification, Lakewood Hospital provides 24-hour immediate coverage by a team of professionals that includes general surgeons as well as specially trained nurses and specialists in orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, anesthesiology, emergency

medicine, radiology and critical care. Level II trauma centers are capable of providing initial definitive trauma care, regardless of severity of injury.

Lakewood and Fairview Hospitals, both Cleveland Clinic hospitals, are the only West Side community hospitals with Level II verification; providing more advanced and comprehensive emergency care services for West side residents.

“Lakewood Hospital has always provided paramount care and it’s an honor to be recognized as a Level II trauma center,” said Jack Gustin, President of Lakewood Hospital. “Meeting the criteria is not an easy task and we

are grateful to all the staff who work vigorously to successfully care for our trauma patients.”

The American College of Surgeons establishes the criteria for trauma center recognition and is based on critical factors such as clinical capabilities, response time and overall patient care. “Lakewood Hospital’s trauma team has proven to be the best and the staff is dedicated to providing prompt, comprehensive and compassionate care,” said S.Craig Pearse, M.D., Chief of Trauma at Lakewood Hospital.

Lakewood Hospital consistently strives to improve quality of service to patients. This requires not only an ongoing examination of the community’s health requirements, but also a “self examination” of the hospital’s capacity to deliver high quality care. It was through this process that Lakewood

Hospital voluntarily met the criteria that assure trauma care capability and institutional performance for Level II verification. Lakewood Hospital’s Emergency Room was expanded in 2002 and now provides for over 39,000 patient visits every year.

Lakewood Hospital is a 400-bed acute care hospital that has served the diverse health care needs of the City of Lakewood and Cleveland’s Westshore communities since 1907. Offering a wide range of health services and education programs for women, men and children, each year Lakewood Hospital provides high-quality and innovative patient care for more than 130,000 patients. In 1997, Lakewood Hospital became part of the Cleveland Clinic health system, a partnership between the Cleveland Clinic and nine community hospitals.



HOT TOPICS ON THE DECK

Thread Title	Started By	Count	Date
Taste of Lakewood	Justine Cooper	350	Mon Jun 11, 2007
Gay Pride Week?	Ryan Salo	5320	Mon Jun 11, 2007
Scared? Read This!	Jim O'Bryan	795	Mon Jun 11, 2007
Ahead at Lightspeed	Jim O'Bryan	10594	Mon Jun 11, 2007
New Curfew Law	Ryan Patrick Demro	1187	Mon Jun 11, 2007
Shopping Cart Plague	DougHuntingdon	3155	Mon Jun 11, 2007
Time For a Police Levy?	Bill Call	1328	Sun Jun 10, 2007
Madigan's "Anti-Slob"	Brian Pedaci	195	Sun Jun 10, 2007
Advice on a bike	Bryan Schwegler	474	Sat Jun 09, 2007

http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum

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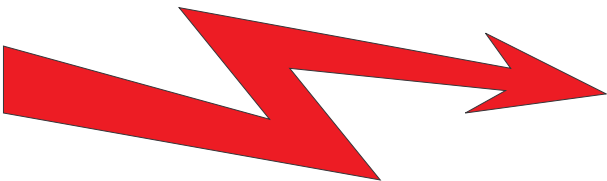
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## The Buck Stops Here

# Ideas Are Like Checks

Robert Buckeye

Ideas are like checks, the poet Ezra Pound notes. How good they are is dependent on how much you have in your account. We may make deposits in various ways. Experience, first of all. What we experience day after day after day tells us the world, and about ourselves. A particular experience that stays, that does not go away, may tell us more. Loss is a good teacher; love a more subtle one.

We learn from others. We listen to them, note the example of their lives, see those as guides, whether we want to or not, who send us down the roads we go down. The lover, parent, master, friend, pupil, even the one who turns on us, betrays us. We go to books for understanding; to music for the rhythm of our rhythm; to art for confirmation. (Writers write books, Walter Benjamin notes, "because they are dissatisfied with the books which they could buy but do not like.")

Some events are so crucial that they become talismanic. They remain with us forever, drive us to do what we do, generate worlds. In Orson Welles's film, *Citizen Kane*, Kane remains obsessed by his childhood sled, Rosebud, to the extent that it becomes an explanation of his life, even if he does not understand it. The memory of a pastry he had in childhood (*a madeleine*) opens a world Marcel Proust chooses to seek, not escape. Dolls become family and friends in Dare Wright's lonely world. "What form do you suppose a life would take," Ben-



Ezra Pound

jamin asks, "that was determined at a decisive moment precisely by the street song last on everyone's lips."

In Patti Smith's most recent album, *Twelve*, Smith sings songs of other musicians on an album for the first time; musicians and groups like Jimi Hendrix, The Rolling Stones, Jefferson Airplane and Bob Dylan, among others, who have taught her, driven and inspired her, but which she had not felt ready, yet, to do until now. There have been writers behind the columns I write for *The Observer*, who over years I have banked and can write checks on when I need them. They serve not only what I write but also explain why I do. Like Patti Smith, it is time for me to bring them forth.

Walter Benjamin. First of all. There is rarely a day I do not read him. A single sentence of his can be a book. The everyday can be impenetrable he notes, but adds the impenetrable can be everyday. He walks that line, and what for others may be a boundary is for me a threshold.

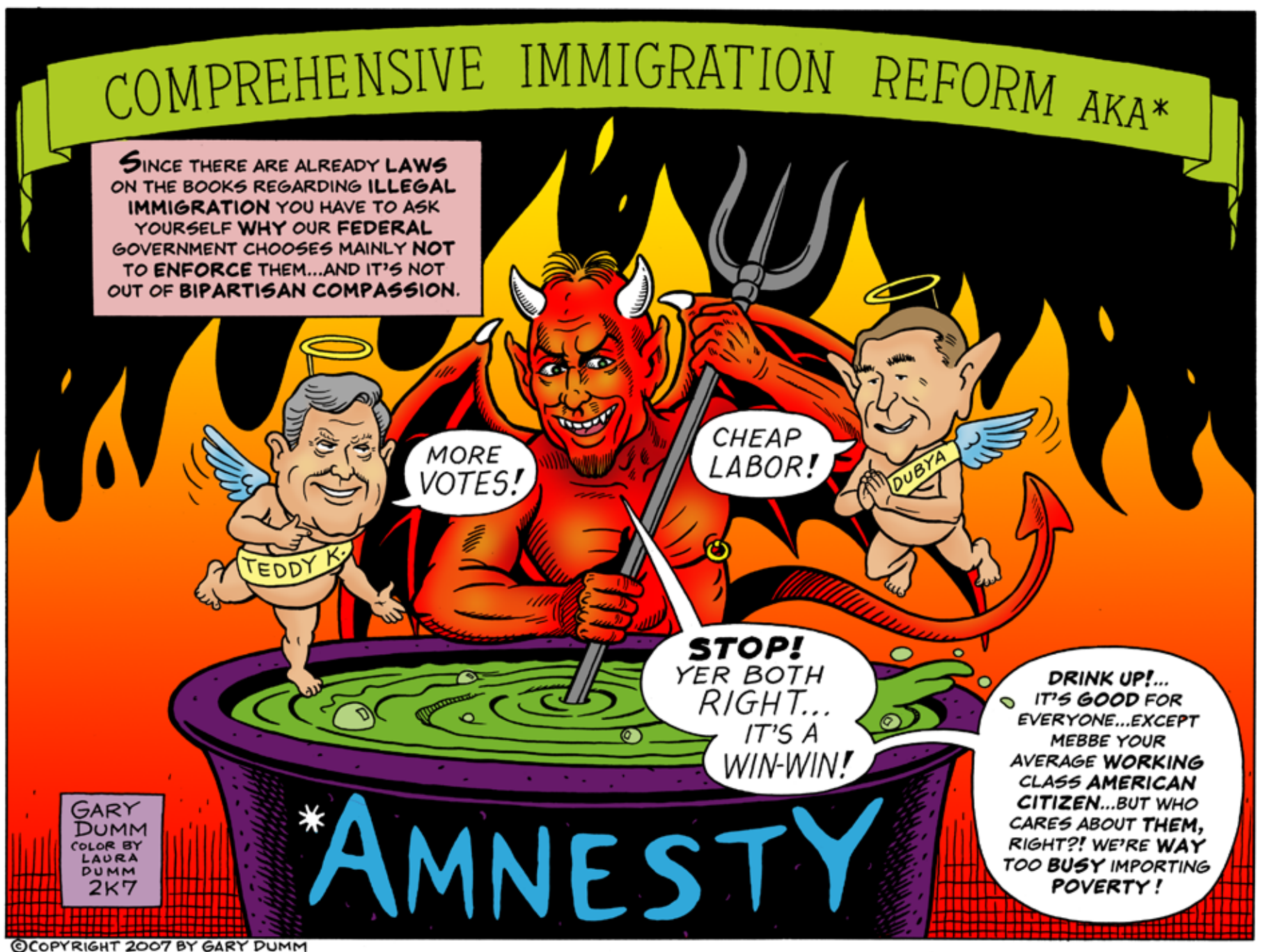
T. J. Clark. An art historian. He takes paintings off walls, and shows how paintings come out of life and returns them there, and, in particular, demonstrates how class is a shaping force in art as in everything else. What we do not speak of because of its "deep elusiveness" – the term is Clark's – has shaped and shapes my life. You carry class like a chip on your shoulder one

friend complains. I did not put it there. Clark is one (among others) who shows me how it got there.

Greil Marcus. A rock critic, who writes about Gnosticism, Dada, Jonathan Edwards, alien matter. He explains why my teenage passion for Chuck Berry, and later ones for Jimi Hendrix and The Clash have as much to say about life as Ralph Waldo Emerson. ("Walt Whitman and Bessie Smith," novelist and activist Meridel Le Sueur notes, "made the best American Jelly Roll. Emerson didn't like either one of them.") With Marcus there is not the division between high and low culture that divides us, just culture.

Marguerite Duras. A master of the silences in our lives, and what screams come from them. "My books come from this house," Duras writes. "From this light, and from the garden. It has taken me twenty years to write what I just said." We cannot run faster than we can walk and cannot walk slow enough to stop, stay.

Charles Olson. A fire source. He blasted graduate school out of my system. It was a matter of how seriously one lived, and Olson did not waste time. His classes at Black Mountain College in North Carolina often lasted eight, nine hours, continued until there was nothing more to say; and then began again when there was something more. At the end of his life in Gloucester, Mass., he wrote on walls when he ran out of paper. Olson brought Ken Warren and me together, and through a circuitous route to *The Lakewood Observer*.





# Lakewood Real Estate

## Noting Our Neighborhood Older Homes Have Common Inspection Issues

by Kathy Lewis

Lakewoodites love the character of older homes—charm, spaciousness, and the quality workmanship of these beautiful properties. Along with these wonderful traits, early 1900-construction issues can



be concerns in home inspections. Most home buyers today choose to make a purchase contingent upon a general home inspection. The inspector evaluates the property's condition inside and out. Most inspectors understand what is typical for older houses and educate the buyer about what to expect and how to alleviate concerns. Electrical needs are continually changing. Many older homes need electrical updating to keep up with the demands of a household that uses many kitchen appliances, computer equipment, and the latest in entertainment devices. Most houses have had some updating done, but even a house with an updated breaker panel may not be up to current safety standards. And, smaller electrical problems should be corrected due to the safety

issue of correct electrical wiring. Most Lakewood homes were built with hollow clay block foundations, which are typically not water-tight. Almost all Lakewood home inspections uncover some moisture in the basement walls.

Easy ways that may reduce moisture include proper exterior grading around the foundation, use of a dehumidifier, and regular gutter and downspout maintenance. Water-proofing is not always necessary. In 1978, more than a trace amount of lead content in paint was made illegal. Many Lakewood homes have lead paint. The EPA pamphlet, "Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home," educates homeowners on how to reduce the risk of this potential hazard. When buying or selling a home in an older community, it's helpful to understand what to expect as typical for the age of the structure. As houses age, they can do so gracefully with education about the updates to be done to enjoy good health, safety, and the character of beautifully constructed homes.

## Realty Reality: Questions From Our Observer Readers

by Maggie Fraley

People frequently ask what home improvement has the largest return. Even in a sluggish real estate market, the 2006 Cost vs. Value report states kitchen remodeling projects recoup 80.4% of the average \$54,200 spent on major kitchen projects and 85.2% of the average \$17,928 spent on smaller projects. Whether one

"guts to the studs" or not, consulting a realtor or stager will identify the best areas on which to focus. Perhaps installing new flooring, lighting, counters or cabinets, either refaced or new, is long overdue. Even repainting in contemporary neutral colors can quickly provide fresh impact. And (for free) clean, clean, clean to make that updated kitchen sparkle to attract a buyer for your home.

## Lakewood Voters Reject Annexation

by Val Mechenbier

The growth of Cleveland during the 19th and early 20th century was largely due to annexation of neighboring land. Ohio City was absorbed in 1854; Brooklyn joined Cleveland in 1890, West Cleveland in 1894,

and West Park in 1922. Lakewood voters rejected annexation efforts to join the nation's sixth largest city in 1910 and 1922, and also opposed a 1918 county consolidation measure that would have brought a number of communities under one government.

Lakewood Real Estate Information (According to Multiple Listing Service) by Andy Tabor		
May	2006	2007
Residential Closed	44	24
Residential Pending (Under Contract)	Unavailable	31
Multi-Family Closed	8	7
Multi-Family Pending (Under Contract)	Unavailable	5

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