

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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

Volume 3, Issue 17, August 21, 2007

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Uncle Scratch's Gospel Revue, 265 Cars And 15,000+ People

Lakewood Car Kulture Show Rocks Out



The Fifth Annual Lakewood Car Kulture Show did not disappoint! A record crowd saw a record number of cars 275. Right - Lakewood's own Uncle Scratch's Gospel Revue pronounced the show "Devil Free Zone." Lakewood knows how to have fun!



photo by David Lay

Mike Summers Announces Candidacy For Ward Three Council Seat



I am Michael P. Summers, candidate for Lakewood City Council, Ward 3. I seek this position for the following reasons:

1) I believe that Lakewood is at a tipping point; that Lakewood's future, while positive, will not come about easily or naturally.

2) I believe Lakewood's greatest strength is the intellectual capital of its residents. It has many other strengths, but its human capital provides the catalyst for innovation, investment, cooperation and determination.

3) Lakewood City government should have three major areas of strategic focus:

a. Preserving and growing the quality of all of its housing stock

b. Achieving structural balance with expenses less than revenues- sufficient that the city creates a capacity for investment in its future- in addition to maintaining and improving its core services.

c. Lakewood can gain financial strength through focused economic development of commercial office job expansion (vs. industrial or retail development.)

I believe Lakewood City Council's role is to create focus, to create and foster alignment of public and private

resources toward a consensus-driven agenda that will ensure Lakewood tips in the direction that preserves and grows the quality of life for its citizens.

My qualifications include proven leadership in many different environments- both public and private:

Twenty-eight years as Owner and President of Summers Rubber Company- an industry leader in the distribution of engineered rubber products for durable goods manufacturers.

• Past President - Industry National Trade Association.

• Board of Directors - First Federal Savings and Loan of Lakewood.

• Member of the Lakewood School Board- two terms, 1996-2003.

• Chair of Ohio's Workforce Policy Board 1998-2002.

• Chairman, Grow Lakewood Strategic Initiative Committee, 2005-2006.

• Member of Lakewood Planning Commission, 1992-93.

• Co-Chair Cleveland Growth Association Jobs and Workforce Initiative, 1996-98.

• Current Board member of Lakewood Community Progress Inc. (LCPI).

• Leadership Cleveland Class of 2004.

• Westside Industrial Retention Network - founding Board member and past Chair.

I received my MBA from Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management, class of 1978. My wife Wendy and our 3 children have lived on Wilbert Avenue for over ten years.

related story on page 7

Lakewood Hospital And Lakewood School District Team Up To Fight Childhood Obesity

by Susan Griffiths & Tim Kanak

It is difficult enough being a kid these days, let alone one carrying the added burden of weight issues. Other kids are not always so forgiving of exterior issues. An area coalition has decided that enough is enough. Cleveland Clinic's Lakewood Hospital and the Lakewood City School District have joined forces to battle a growing problem in this nation: childhood obesity.

Recent reports have indicated that many area children struggle with their

weight. Fifteen percent of children ages six to nineteen are overweight, double what it was 20 years ago. The studies have also found that many are minorities and children from lower income families.

In 2006, approximately 450 fourth grade students at the eight Lakewood City School District's elementary schools were screened by school nurses and health care professionals from Lakewood Hospital. The purpose of this screening was to gather general information regarding the child's

health, particularly their Body Mass Index (BMI), which compares weight and height with children of the same age and sex – a calculation similar to a growth chart and blood pressure. A complete self-assessment was filled out by the students to determine nutrition and physical activity levels. "We believe many kids are at-risk for illness and chronic health problems because of their wellness status," says Jack Gustin, President of Lakewood Hospital.

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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

What Does The Plain Dealer Have Against Dogs And The Dog Park?

by Gordon Brumm

Regina Brett’s outrageous column in the Aug. 10 Plain Dealer, which comes out against Lakewood’s dog park and slanders the entire canine species, might merely be consigned to the annals of journalistic atrocities were it not for the fact that it provides ammunition for Rocky River’s legal aggression.

Suffice it to say that Brett’s column is ignorant, irresponsible, stupid (particularly but not exclusively in her attempts at humor) and slanderous. The expected result was that the Plain Dealer would have received a torrent of letters condemning the column and would have printed a few of the representative ones.

However, the only letter in the P.D. about the dog park called for its demise. It was written by one Carl M. McKenna of (surprise!) Rocky River.

McKenna’s letter does not mention Brett’s column, but there are surprising similarities. I will quote the entire letter except for the initial paragraph which mentions the lawsuit and the final paragraph which urges the dog park’s closing, and I will show corresponding passages from Brett’s column.

McKenna: “I’ve driven by this dog park on numerous occasions, and it is my impression that the park is not

about dogs. It’s about people. The park seems to be a meeting place for people to interact while their dogs roam freely.”

Brett: “I went to a dog park once. The owners were having all the fun, sipping lattes and tossing Frisbees to panting dogs. . . . A dog park is really a people park.”

McKenna: “Dogs do not know or care about romping in a park. Give a dog food, shelter and love, and that’s all that is required.”

Brett: “No, the dogs at the park either wanted to mate, fight or dig. They didn’t seem all that interested in each other.”

As to the why of this similarity, I can only surmise. Perhaps McKenna wanted to reinforce Brett’s attack, or perhaps it was a coincidence of prejudice.

For prejudice it is; neither McKenna nor Brett offer any evidence for their judgments, and they totally contradict the experience of dog owners. Both set themselves up as instant experts on the subject of canine satisfaction. McKenna claims to derive his categorical judgments merely from drive-by observations, apparently ignorant of the fact that the dog park is the only opportunity that Lakewood dogs, at least, have to run freely off-leash. Brett derives her opinions from a past



2007 Andrews Street Fair

27 families participated in this year’s Andrews Avenue Block Party, including five new families. 28 pizzas were donated for a communal dinner from 9 pizzeria’s. Many thanks to all our local businesses and people who kindly donated both food and prizes to this annual summer event!

visit to one dog park that was clearly different from Lakewood’s.

More important are two questions: First, why did the P.D. print McKenna’s letter at all? It adds nothing to the debate, but only parrots Brett’s absurdities. Second, why did the P.D. print no letters in support of the park? I can testify that at least one supportive letter was submitted, and there must have been others. And letters to the editor are intended largely as a means of presenting opposing viewpoints.

In short, if the P.D. printed only

one letter about the dog park, why was it McKenna’s trivial effort? The only answer I can see is that the Plain Dealer was glad to be Rocky River’s toady.

Registration For Youth Leagues Has Begun At The Lakewood YMCA

On August 6th, the Lakewood YMCA opened registration for their Youth Flag Football and Rippa Rugby Leagues.

The YMCA is offering two Fall Youth Leagues for children ages 3 to 14. Flag Football is for ages 3 to 14 and Rippa Rugby for ages 5 to 14. Flag football for ages 3-4 will be an instructional league. The 5-14 year-old league

will have one practice during the week and games on Saturdays. Rippa Rugby, a league for all age groups, will have a half-hour practice before their games on Saturdays.

Come in today and sign your son or daughter up for either one of these leagues so they can make it on a team. Both leagues start the week of September 10th. Look for information on our

YMCA Basketball League later this Fall. As with any YMCA program, scholarships are available.

For more information about any of the YMCA Youth Sports Leagues, contact Paul Rogerson at 216-521-8400 or e-mail progerson@clevelandymca.org, or stop by the Lakewood YMCA at 16915 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood.

The Lakewood Chamber’s 2007 Outstanding New Member Is Phil Kish, Of KIKS Office Partners

by Patty Ryan

Phil Kish joined the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce in 2005, the same year he launched his new company, KIKS Office Partners, an office products and furniture supply business.

Despite the time constraints related to opening a new business, Kish immediately became involved in the Chamber. He is frequently present at monthly meetings as well as networking, educational and fundraising events. He has served on committees for the Taste of Lakewood, the Reverse Raffle and was one of the Chairpersons

for the 2007 Lakewood Home Show.

“Phil Kish is the type of new member every organization hopes for,” states Kathy Berkshire, CEO and President of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce. “He attends meetings regularly, he volunteers, he brings prospective new members to events

and he promotes the Lakewood Chamber wherever he goes.”

In addition to his participation in the Lakewood Chamber, Kish is also involved in the Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary, YMCA Adventure Guides, several business networking groups and other area Chambers of Commerce.

Block Watch - Ward 3, South Of Madison

I would like to thank all of the citizens and business owners of Ward 3 (south of Madison) who attended our August 8th Block Watch meeting at Roosevelt School. Despite the heat, over 100 people attended the meeting from a variety of streets and most signed up to initiate a Block Watch Program on their street. You are to be congratulated on taking the first step towards being part of the solution to our neighborhood problems. *Susan Kelley, Neighbor*



THE

LAKWOOD

OBSERVER

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Lakewood News & Opinion

The LAKWOOD OBSERVER is published biweekly by Lakewood Observer, Inc., 14900 Detroit Avenue, Suite 309, Lakewood, OH 44107.

216.228.7223

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We're Opening New Doors for People with Diabetes.

Lakewood Hospital
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Endocrinologists

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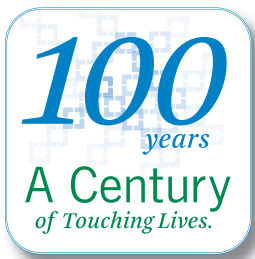
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 **Lakewood Hospital**
a Cleveland Clinic hospital

With the opening of the new Lakewood Hospital Diabetes Center, all you have to do is walk through one door to receive individualized treatment from a leading team of specialists. Our full-time endocrinologists, educators, and dietitians work closely together with you and your primary care physician to make the best possible decisions for your health, and to help you in the day-to-day management of your diabetes. Lakewood Hospital is the only hospital on the West Side to offer diabetes care this complete.

To make an appointment with one of our endocrinologists,
or for diabetes education, please call 216.529.5300.



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Lakewood Public Library

A Return To Albania

by John Guscott,
Ben Burdick and Luan Hajnaj

During the months of June and July, Lakewood Public Library Electronic Services staffer Luan Hajnaj returned to his homeland of Albania for the first time in 10 years. Luan’s family arrived in America in the late 1990s, during a wave of Albanian immigration to the region. Cleveland’s west side, and Lakewood in particular, is now home to one of the largest Albanian communities in the United States. Many of Lakewood’s Albanians come from Fier, a seaside city of roughly 60,000, which is located near the ancient Corinthian city of Apollonia, founded in 588 B.C. In November of last year, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and Fier Mayor Baftjar Zeqaj met in Cleveland to forge a “sister cities” partnership for cultural, economic and diplomatic exchange between the two cities.

As a young teenager, Luan was a regular in the library’s Technology Center. The staff quickly noticed his computer and interpersonal skills, so he was hired to work in the Technology Center in 2002. Luan has proved to be an indispensable asset to the library and Lakewood’s Albanian community for his language skills (he is fluent in Albanian, English and Italian) and eagerness to teach technology skills to others. Luan provided many Albanian patrons, some who spoke little or no English upon their arrival, with computer training and one-on-one assistance to library services. Luan currently works part-time at the Madison Branch Technology Center, and is a full-time student at John Carroll University.

To get a glimpse into what life is like in today’s Albania, Ben Burdick interviewed Luan on his return from his month-long trip back “home”.

Ben: You were away for a long time. What surprised you most about returning to Albania?

Luan: The thing that surprised me the most were the cities and their new architectures. It seemed as if Albania

was going through a rebuilding phase. City blocks with ranch style homes would be torn down and big apartment buildings were built in their place. In my eyes, this is becoming a huge problem. Because city space is so limited in Albania, building huge landscapes next to each other is a bad idea because it was starting to get really cramped.

Ben: What did you miss the most about Albania?

Luan: I missed my family the most. I still have many cousins left in Albania. They are mostly from my mother’s side of the family, though. I also missed the beaches of Albania. Man, oh man. Those beaches are great. Those beaches could rival or beat Jamaica, Hawaii, etc...I also missed my countrymen. It was definitely an interesting experience having a second culture shock hanging around with some of the people of Albania.

Ben: What did you miss the most about the USA?

Luan: EVERYTHING! By the end of the first week on my vacation, I was starting to feel home sick. It is truly amazing to see how I and others can take things for granted here. People in the U.S. do not worry everyday about having running water and electricity. But in Albania, that was an everyday thing. And having clean air to breath everyday is a luxury that Albania does not have. It reminded me of why I am so happy to be living in the USA.

Ben: How was the night life? What did you do for fun?

Luan: The night life in Albania is completely different from the one in the USA. In most cities in Albania the night life consisted of going for a walk in the main street(s) of the city. Then stopping at a favorite Restaurant/Bar/Coffee spot and having a beverage and relaxing and having conversations with friends. I would have to say that the Capital city of Albania (Tirana) is where the night life is most comparable to that in the USA.

Ben: What was the state of the press? (newspapers, tv news, et cetera) Any community journalism?

Luan: While there are many



Albanian television stations, a lot of the cable lineup is made up of Italian channels. This is probably the main reason why Albanian citizens are very good with the Italian language. Besides watching some TV once in a while, I really never read a newspaper. I was not really interested in the local agenda. In reality, I had become just a tourist in my own country who wanted nothing to do with politics or things of that nature.

Ben: Would you recommend a trip as a vacation for non-Albanians? What should they see?

Luan: I would definitely recommend Albania as a vacation spot. In fact, next time I go, I am taking my friends with me. The food is so cheap there. For example, coffee was just 50 cents. Half a pizza was just \$1. A sandwich was \$1. A burger was \$1. I almost ate every meal outside and I really only averaged about \$3 a day. Besides food being so cheap, another attraction point of Albania are the amazing beaches and scenery. What more can any traveler want than cheap stuff, amazing beaches and beautiful scenery?

Ben: How was the food?

Luan: The food was great. Since there is a lot of farming in Albania, the food is mostly always as fresh as it gets. Everybody cooks at home. But for the occasional outside meal, there is fast food too. And it seems that grilled corn on a cob is a national preference. And rightfully so. Let me tell you from experience that a grilled corn on a cob is delicious.

Ben: How “American” did you feel amongst your former countrymen?

Luan: I felt very American. My American ways and clothes really made me stand out. The Albanian people also made me feel like I was American because they treated me great. They were always asking me about my life in America and how America was. At first I found it great telling them about my life in America, but by the end of the trip I did not want to meet any more new people because I just became tired of them asking me the same things and me repeating everything over and over and over again.

Can Ya Tell Stories? Youth To Make A Difference At Lakewood Public Library!

by Tracie Drake

This October the Lakewood Public Library is offering youth a great opportunity to get involved in their community with the innovative new program Can Ya Tell Stories? Students in fifth through eighth grade will complete interactive workshops teaching them how to read to children, and then plan and present a story time to members of the Lakewood Early Childhood PTA and their children. After construction of the Main Library is complete, participants in the program will read to children after school at the library.

Can Ya Tell Stories is based on concepts of resiliency and youth development. According to resiliency expert Bonnie Bernard, resiliency focuses on the strengths of youth and helping youth recognize those strengths in themselves. A key aspect this program addresses is providing opportunities for meaningful participation. Participants will problem solve, make

decisions, plan, set goals and help others.

Youth development, which focuses on attachment, achievement, autonomy and altruism, is another key component of the program. Students will feel a sense of attachment to the children to whom they are reading and to the librarians with whom they are working. Youth who finish the workshops and present a story time will be recognized for their achievement with a certificate, reward and a sense of accomplishment. By learning and building on a skill, participants will experience autonomy and altruism as they give back to their community by working with children.

Workshops will be held each Tuesday evening in October from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Madison Branch of the Lakewood Public Library. There will be a special story time presentation on Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Madison Branch. Please call the library at (216) 226-8275 x140 for more details.

Library Events Calendar

FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS

Make the library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts for children. Our staff will provide materials and ideas for families wishing to continue reading and storytelling at home. The programs are free and there is no need to register in advance. Choose the day and time most convenient for you.

Upcoming Themes:

August 24, 25, 26	Read a Rainbow
August 31 September 1	Shape Up!

Day	Time
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 p.m.

In the Madison Branch auditorium The library will be closed on Sunday September 2 and Monday September 3 in observance of Labor Day.

Lakewood Public Library

Swimming And Walking The 2007 Gold Coast Volksmarch

by Kim Senft Paras



Walkers register for the walk.

Walkers from as far away as Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and Buffalo, New York came to Lakewood Saturday August 4 for the annual Lakewood volksmarch. In all, 75 people walked the non-competitive trail from Madison Park north to Edgewater Drive then back to the park via Nicholson and Waterbury. Most walkers hiked the 6.2 kilometer trail, but a shorter 3 kilometer path was mapped for those just beginning their volksmarch experience. In addition to walking, 14 swimmers took advantage of the 300 meter volksswim made available

at the Madison Park swimming pool through the Lakewood Adult Recreation Department.

Since 2003, Lakewood Public Library and the Valley Vagabonds, a local volksmarch club, have partnered to offer a volksmarch in conjunction with the Lakewood Arts Festival. The staff at the library works closely with the Lakewood Historical Society to enhance the trail directions with significant historical data associated with the streets, businesses and homes located along the route. Did you know that the city of Lakewood purchased the park property in 1917 from businessmen Frederick Zimmerman and John Hahn for \$40,222 establishing Madison Park? Or that the home at 1460 Waterbury Avenue, built in 1914, was the first home famed architect Clarence Mack built in Lakewood for his family?

The Friends of Lakewood Public Library supplied the A Award, a commemorative pin designed by local artist Lenny Peralta, free of charge to all participants. This year's pin captured the Gold Coast highrises and Lake Erie with a sailboat. Other walking incentives included a raffle for 10 pedometers contributed by Geiger's Clothing and Sports and discount coupons for food and beverage from the Crino Family's Bela Dubby coffee shop.

The Gold Coast Walk brings our

total number of walks to five including the Lakewood History Walk, the Clifton Trail Walk, the Birdtown Walk and the Emerald Canyon Walk. The directions for both the Lakewood History Walk and the Clifton Trail Walk can be obtained at the Main Library circulation desk or on the library's web page at www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com. The Valley Vagabonds sponsor these two walks as year-round trails through the American Volkssport Association (www.ava.org) and they are listed in their book, Starting Points: the AVA Guide to 1400 + Unique Trails in America. The Valley Vagabonds are one of over 350 walking clubs in the United States. There are as many as 1,000 clubs around the world. In Europe, this activity is particularly popular with families who make a day of it including a party and hearty meal at the finish .


Many of the out-of-towners completed the Gold Coast Walk, enjoyed a treat at bela dubby then headed to Main Library to walk one of the year-round events before taking in the Arts Festival. A walker from Beaverton, Ohio

reported he "never misses this walk. I enjoy learning the history of your town and seeing the art vendors at the festival." A walker from Bay Village, Jan Henderson, remarked on the difference between walking around a community versus driving. "You notice so many more architectural details, see exceptional garden designs and meet a lot of friendly people." In the August 2007 Valley Vagabond newsletter, President, Deva Simon, congratulated the library for "creating such a wonderful trail." She also thanked the Friends and especially Paul Dimmick "for generously providing the pins" and Geiger's "for once again furnishing us with the pedometers." She was also grateful to the Lakewood Recreation Department for "giving us the use of the facility and the chance to swim in their excellent facilities."

Next year on Saturday, August 2, we will repeat the Birdtown Walk which will begin at Madison Park. Mark your calendar. Better yet, get involved with the group now! Check their website at www.geocities.com/valleyvclv/ or contact the library at 216.226.8275 x102 for more information.

Dog Days Of Summer


Make it through the dog days of summer with these new picture books about our furry best friends.

**Lakewood Hospital**
a Cleveland Clinic hospital

100
years

A Century
of Touching Lives.

Welcome
Vikram Kumar, M.D.
Endocrinology



We are pleased to welcome Vikram Kumar, M.D. to the Lakewood Hospital medical staff. Dr. Kumar specializes in endocrinology care and will provide expert care to our patients with diabetes. He has completed his fellowship in diabetes, endocrinology and metabolism. He has a special medical interest in diabetes, oxidative stress, cardiovascular risk, thyroid disorders and osteoporosis.

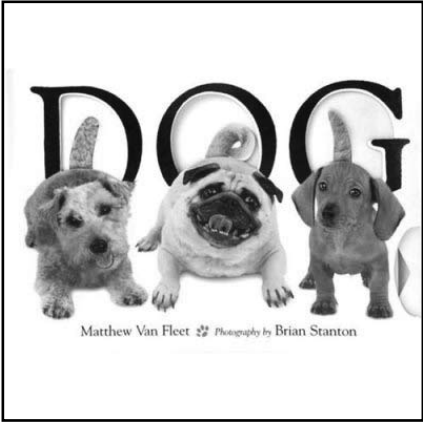
Dr. Kumar will play an integral role in better serving the needs of our patients with diabetes at our comprehensive Diabetes Center. The center is the first of its kind on Cleveland's west side and will focus on disease management, education, research and prevention as well as treatment of other endocrine disorders.

Dr. Kumar is welcoming new patients. His office is conveniently located in the Lakewood Hospital Diabetes Center, 14601 Detroit Avenue, Suite 540.
For appointments, please call 216.529.5300.

lakewoodhospital.org/diabetes

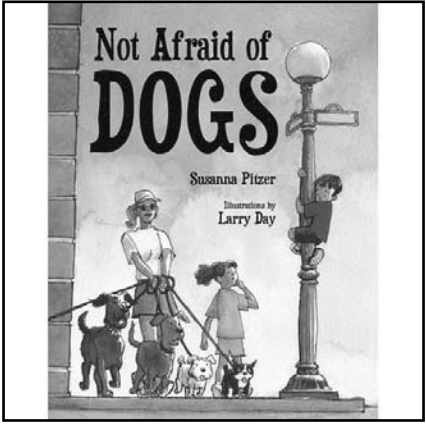
Your Life is Our Life's Work.

Dog by Matthew Van Fleet;
photography by Brian Stanton



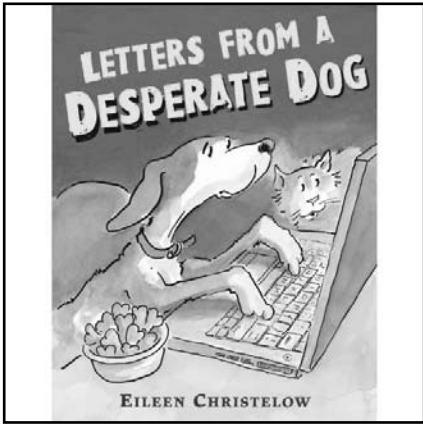
Learn about opposites and dogs through touch-and-feel pictures and pull-tabs that help some dogs wag their tails and shake their heads.

Not Afraid of Dogs by Susanna Pitzer;
illustrations by Larry Day



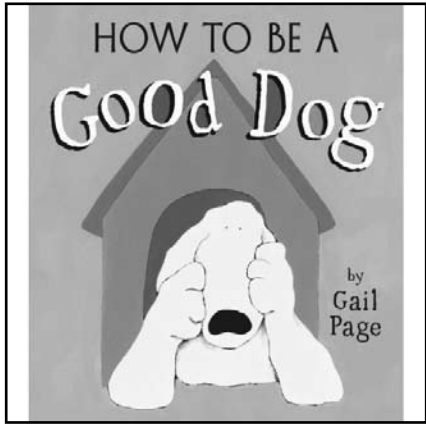
Daniel overcomes his fear of dogs and learns to love them when his aunt leaves her dog Bandit at his house while she goes on a trip.

Letters From a Desperate Dog
by Eileen Christelow



After feeling unappreciated and misunderstood by her human owner, Emma e-mails a canine advice columnist for help.

How to Be a Good Dog
by Gail Page



Cat misses Bobo the dog after Bobo was sent to his doghouse in the backyard because of bad behavior, so Cat teaches Bobo how to be good and do tricks.

Lakewood City News

Steve Davis' Fifteen Minute Run For City Council

Gold In The Effects Of Mike Summers On Others

by Ken Warren

When Ward Three Councilman Robert Seelie decided not to seek reelection, there was a flurry of open encouragement and public deliberation about prospective candidates on the Lakewood Observation Deck. One of the first names to surface was Steve Davis, who worked long and hard on the 2005 Charter Review Commission and City Charter. As a result, Davis could imagine himself in the role of Senator Robert Byrd at Lakewood City Council. "I could really see myself pulling out the Lakewood City Charter from my pocket at Council Meetings, much like Senator Byrd does when he pulls out the United States Constitution in the Senate chamber," Davis mused.

Davis received early encouragement in a July 11th post to the LO Deck from Ward Two candidate Dan Shields: "I hope Steve Davis decides to run! He is down to earth and unassuming, yet possesses a great intellect and is forceful and persuasive in his arguments. I served with Steve on the 2005 Charter Review Commission. He knows and understands the Charter, and has a great working knowledge of politics (and politicians) in Lakewood. He would be a great addition to Council, as he would remain a truly independent voice for what is best for the city." Thus encouraged to run, Davis obtained petitions and searched for signatures.

"I road my street bike, first to Judge Carroll's house," Davis quipped.

After obtaining signatures from the Judge and his wife Bonnie, Davis rode over to Mike Summers' house on Wilbert.

"When I stopped at Mike's house to see if he was interested in that position, or if he just might want to sign for me, he had his petitions in hand. I proudly became his first signer. That ended my campaign," explained Davis.

Summers holds an MBA from Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management. He has managed Summers Rubber Company, an industry leader in the distribution of engineered rubber products for durable goods manufacturers, for twenty eight years as owner and president. He has served two terms as a member of the Lakewood School Board, as chairman of the Grow Lakewood Strategic Initiative Committee. And there's much more on the resume.

In Summers, Davis acknowledged Lakewood's quintessential man of business and civic leadership, one with impeccable qualifications for the job. He believes he had little choice but to call it quits on Mike's doorstep.

"Mike's got the housing, economic development and fiscal homework done. He chaired Grow Lakewood. He runs an industrial company. He knows more about this stuff than any of us," says Davis.

While Summers has crafted a platform that addresses housing, common vision and focus, citizen involvement, fiscal solvency and discipline, public safety and economic development, Davis especially likes what he is saying about commercial development aimed at attracting small to midsize office workers.

"This is our best option because of our limited space and easy regional access," notes Summers, who wants Lakewood to create offices, parking and amenities that are attractive to companies and organizations. "This option has the highest tax contribution when compared to retail or industrial companies, as well as the least demands for city services."

"Mike just brings a lot to the table, and it's not just his experience," Davis believes.

In discussing City Council, Davis

suggests the lead in local political action all too often resembles a botched alchemical experiment. As Davis sees it, the mix of Lakewood political personalities can be refined through Summers to a gold standard of effective polity. "All too often personalities at City Council get stuck in petty bickering," says Davis. "Mike's character and wisdom will bring out the best in Deaver and Butler, too. He'll stop the bickering and get things done. He'll improve the total performance of City Council."

Childhood Obesity

continued from page 1...

"We were eager to assist the schools in determining the make-up of our students here locally and then work together to build a successful plan that would address the needs of these children now and in the future."

Results from the studies were sent home to parents with general guidelines and suggestions on whether a consultation with a doctor was recommended.

If the children did not have a doctor, a list of resources was provided that included Lakewood Hospital and North Coast Health Ministry. The school nurses were available to talk with parents if they have any questions or concerns. "As the Lakewood City School District continues to focus on improving student academic performance, it is very important to better understand all of the contributing factors to that issue," said David Estrop, PhD, Superintendent of the Lakewood City Schools. "With the help of Lakewood Hospital, this screening provided new information to parents about the relative general health of their fourth grade child."

The Lakewood City School District hired George Weiner, PhD, Director of Cleveland State University's Center for Health Equity, to analyze the results, thanks to funding through a grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation.

According to Weiner's analysis, nearly one quarter (98) of all students tested were overweight and another 55 were categorized as 'at risk.' Students who were overweight had significantly lower scores on eight areas in the proficiency tests. In other BMI studies, a direct relationship has been discovered between low family income and lower academic achievement, as measured by standardized tests. There is a relation-

ship among the variables of poverty, BMI scores, and academic achievement. Specifically, a child living in poverty was far more likely to have a high BMI score and low academic achievement scores.

As other issues to be addressed are identified and programs developed, Lakewood City Schools and Lakewood Hospital will continue to screen students and will add a new grade each year until all students are assessed annually. "With this new information, the Lakewood City School District, Lakewood Hospital and Lakewood Cares Coalition members are now in a better position to evaluate the effectiveness of our efforts, as well as plan individual and collaborative efforts to better address this growing epidemic now and in the future," said Dr. Estrop.

Continuing this collaboration, the next steps include the creation of an official plan by Lakewood Hospital, Lakewood City Schools and the Lakewood Cares Coalition. Lakewood Hospital is currently developing plans to provide nutritionists to talk with students regularly in the schools. In addition, Lakewood Hospital offers tailored programs and services

through the Teen Health Center. On September 13, Lakewood Hospital is bringing a national speaker, known as The Diabetic Chef, to the Ranger Catering students, who are a part of the West Shore Career-Technical Education District located at Lakewood High School. The talk will focus on the importance of healthy cooking. "Lakewood Hospital will continue to collaborate with the schools to develop innovative programs to help these at-risk youth," says Gustin. "There will be many opportunities to help these children and their families with various aspects of their lives from nutrition, to disease prevention, to mentoring and tutoring."

Founded in 1907, Lakewood Hospital, a Cleveland Clinic hospital, is a 400-bed acute care, community-oriented hospital, which offers 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 Cleveland Clinic and nine community hospitals.

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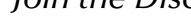
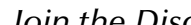
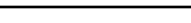
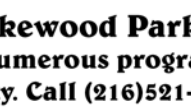
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Lakewood Schools

Absurdity Comes Home:

The Latest Standardized Testing Distortion

by Dr. Chuck Greanoff

Consider the absurdity of this headline: “Lakewood Students Perform Well!: Schools Failing”. What gives? How can our schools meet more standards than others (i.e., Fairview Park, Shaker Heights, Parma) and be ranked a category below them? The August 15 Plain Dealer does a good job of explaining this contradiction, as does the August 16 Sun Post. (Also, see a reprint of the Lakewood Observer article from last year examining the historical context and motivation behind Standardized Testing).

Have you had enough? Had enough of your community, your schools and even your child being “rated” on criteria that you had no part in formulating? Had enough of being smeared by a rating system rigged against schools in vibrant, diverse communities? Had enough of being told that your assessment of your child’s academic, emotional and social growth is irrelevant? The current system that purports to “rate” schools and districts is not just deeply flawed—it is a fraud. It gives the illusion of providing useful information when, in fact, it distorts reality. It tells you nothing about the value schools have to your child. Does anyone believe, for example, that the presence of larger numbers of first-generation Americans, which, because of an initial lack of English proficiency will collectively struggle on a paper and pencil test, means that your child is getting less of an education...or, that your child’s high score is somehow diminished? The state and federal government have convinced some to be worried about their child’s education even in the face of success! Unfortunately, the testing juggernaut, formulated for less than honorable reasons, is not likely to change anytime soon. The good news is that you do not have to buy into this model, but can reclaim your right to assess your schools by your standards. For instance, consider some of these criteria:

Does your teacher(s) seem engaged,
professional, caring and competent?

Does your school offer a variety

of opportunities to develop leadership and teamwork skills through participation in clubs, athletic programs, etc.?

Does your school offer a variety of enriching arts and music programs?

Is your school environment safe,
clean, nurturing?

Do teachers and staff seem to know your child as an individual - their strengths, weaknesses, personality?

Are there a rich array of curriculum choices to meet the needs of a variety of students, including vocational and Advanced Placement classes?

Do students have the opportunity to interact with economically, ethnically and racially diverse students, much like the world they will enter after high school?

Does school leadership seem committed to the social, emotional and academic welfare of your child?

Are class sizes generally appropriate?

Did your child do well or poorly on the State Test? If so, what does this mean?

You undoubtedly have your own criteria, which may or may not overlap significantly with these. The point is Lakewood must now reclaim it's natural right and responsibility to evaluate it's schools, to not allow itself to be judged by those with either a narrow view of what makes a good education, or by those who do not have our best interests at heart. Allowing others, including some with dastardly motives (i.e., a minority of unscrupulous real-estate agents who regularly bad-mouth Lakewood) to do so needlessly forfeits our inalienable right, and indeed our responsibility, to judge ourselves and to live by our own community standards.

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

the underlying motivations of NCLB.

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

A frontal, ideological assault on these institutions is fruitless, because most people have positive experiences with them and little passion for change. So, step one is to undermine public confidence in specific programs, and to begin eroding overall public confidence in the system. Recall the sudden “crisis” with Social Security, which would become insolvent in 35 years (yikes!) if nothing changed? The movement conservative solution—private accounts—was rejected by the public, who are less driven by ideology and more influenced by their own experiences, which are generally positive with respect to Social Security.

Public schools - quintessentially democratic and communal - are, then, the ultimate insult, and challenge, to the movement conservative. Step one, again, is to undermine confidence in public education in general. For this NCLB is a brilliantly crafted tactic. As Mr. Brum, and others, pointed out, NCLB sets up larger economically and ethnically diverse districts, like Lakewood, for failure. With 112 categories, the law of averages, if nothing else, virtually guarantees that Lakewood and other districts will come up short on at least one or two measures. Then, the entire school district and/or a particular school, not just isolated aspects, in a brazen example of intellectual dishonesty, can be designated as "Needs Improvement" and fed into the series of yearly mandates/punishments leading to the following: "An alternative governance or restructuring plan that may include converting to a charter school, replacing all/most of the staff, turning it over to a private management company, or any other

major restructuring of the school's governance arrangement that makes fundamental reforms." But, privatization and profiteering could not be the end game, could it?

You bet it is. (See the Charter Schools article). Movement ideologues of all stripes, be they conservative, communist, or any other, think strategically and are in the fight for the long haul. When they get too anxious or overt, as in Social Security, their plans get derailed. They are willing to accept seemingly contradictory policies/alliances in the short run that serve the long-term goals. Why else would movement conservatives, generally drawn from the right wing of the Republican Party, be willing to accept such a direct, heavy-handed federal involvement in local schools, typically anathema to conservatives?

Other aspects of NCLB also reveal seemingly nonsensical efforts to truly “leave no child behind”, and illuminate the real motivation—to malign public schools. Take this example – say your child, for whatever reason, does poorly in the standardized tests but is attending a school that has met the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) threshold. Your child is not given any special consideration under NCLB, even though he/she is struggling. On the other hand, say your child did extremely well on the tests, but their school did not meet the standard. That child, and all others in that school, in theory can transfer to another school in the district. Never mind that, realistically, loading another 150 students from a “failing” school into a “successful” one might hurt everyone. When a policy is driven by long-term ideological goals, the irrationality of the specific remedies and the plight of individual children are of little consequence.

Fortunately, Lakewood has a rich history of bi-partisan citizen support for its public schools. Most local Republicans are not movement conservatives, and have often been among the most vocal and generous supporters of our schools. It is imperative, however, that everyone who believes in the mission of public education, despite honest differences on curriculum, funding, testing, etc., understand the agenda that drives right-wing education policies, including NCLB. When we understand that for a movement conservative, the only thing more distressing than a failing public school is a successful one, the apparent contradictions of NCLB become clear.

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Secret Shopper

The Hockey Stop—A Solid Goal

Justine Cooper

At a recent Madison Avenue Merchants Association meeting, I spoke with new members Jason Levanduski and Tim Sullivan, owners of the Hockey Stop (15609 Madison Ave.).

When Sullivan asked why I never “secret shopped” at their establishment, I laughed and admitted that I had no interest in hockey and had never been in their store. Then I realized how I was limiting myself, businesses and readers to things that I love—antiques, clothing, art, jewelry and food. So I decided to expand my horizons and hopefully open some eyes to what others view as “treasures,” including hockey sticks, cool uniforms and a great assortment of skates.

A few days after meeting these young entrepreneurs, I visited their unique Hockey Stop and immediately felt welcome upon entering the cool air conditioning on a hot and humid day. While I have never needed hockey equipment for myself, what I found in this storefront was a familiar energy, similar to the stores I do frequent—a passion from the owners for something they love and want to bring to the community.

The Hockey Stop opened its doors on June 19, 2006, after Levanduski and Sullivan worked tirelessly on a three-year plan. In fact, they rented the building a year before they even opened their doors, completely gutting the place and designing it with their own personal style, which is quite tasteful I might add.

When I asked the owners how long they have played hockey, their eyes lit up as they said since the ages of 3 and 4. Both went to school in Lakewood, had hockey scholarships in college, traveled the world and came full circle to open the store in Lakewood and share their passion.

Why Lakewood? Sullivan said, “We wanted to come home.” The two considered various areas when deciding where to open their business—east side, west side and every suburb. They were soon driven back to Lakewood, a town they love, in hopes of offering something back to the community that has given them so much.

This dynamic duo brings in customers from all over Ohio and even as far as Chicago. In the short time I was there, the coach from St. Edward and

the coach from St. Ignatius crossed paths with friendly nods.

Both Levanduski and Sullivan coach hockey, and Sullivan also works full time as a teacher in a Catholic high school. Levanduski runs the shop until Sullivan finishes his first job and rushes to this one. Although, they admit, “This does not feel like a job. This is our passion. We never feel like we are working when we are here.”

They offer customers truly personalized service, which differs from larger chains. Questions about skates or equipment are answered solidly by

experienced players, who still open boxes containing new equipment the way kids open Christmas presents. The fact that they test out all of the products



guarantees that buyers will get what they paid for. That passion, knowledge and personal touch can never be franchised, which is why small businesses such as this

should be supported.

Another characteristic that sets this business apart is its computerized skate sharpener from Finland that is foolproof. It sharpens skates the same way each time without error. Hockey Stop is the only business in the area to

offer this tool. As I learned, the business involves part skate sharpening (imperative to all skaters), part retail and part outfitting schools and teams, including many local and out-of-town schools, as well as the youth at Winterhurst.

Lakewood is fortunate to have honest and fresh, innovative businesses such as this one. I went in wondering how I would write an article on a sport I knew little about, and left wondering how I could fit in everything I had learned. Before departing I asked Sullivan, “Why should a kid play hockey?” He answered with a matter-of-fact tone, “Because it is the greatest game in the world.”

When I went home, I registered my 5-year-old for skating lessons. Who knows, this could be the sport for my little lightning rod son. Somehow passion is contagious, and I can’t help but want to have connections with the businesses at the heart of this community.

For more information about the Hockey Stop, call (216) 221-7423.

Racism And Classism In My Town

by Sharon Kinsella

I have always liked the suburb in which I live. We’re right outside of Cleveland, Ohio. We have access to the beach, a huge park, and many small parks all over town. I live right by a marina on the Rocky River. I grew up here, moved back, and I want to stay.

I returned here when my two youngest children were pre-teens. They are very bright and engaged and I needed to get them into a school system that would stimulate them. My hometown fit the bill. Good schools, a diverse economic environment, and the beginnings of diversity that I thought would be handled well and of which we could be a part.

While seeming to be able to deal with gay and lesbian culture, for the most part, this community is incredibly disappointing in the attitudes of many of its citizens on racial and economic differences.

I continually hear people making unkind references to Section 8 and “thugs”. These people are blaming troubles in our town on people in Section 8 housing. In their minds, Section 8 recipients are non-white. Because of this, it is assumed that their ambitions, dreams, and goals are different from their own. These people are quite misinformed. Most of the Section 8 housing in our city underwrites housing for seniors and poor white families. But people equate the program with minorities, and have decided that these minorities are trouble makers and “thugs”.

Thugs. They haven’t got a clue. They think that any kid who wears jeans so low that they have to walk with one hand on their waistband to hold them up is a thug. I have offered to take them into Cleveland, to some of the really bad sections, to show them what real thugs look like, but none of them want to go.

These kids are just kids. Period. They have the same issues most kids have: boredom, hormones, egos, and insecurities they don’t yet have the skills to deal with. These “good citizens” who don’t like “thugs” have taken down all the basketball hoops in town. They have imposed a ridiculous curfew so that these kids are locked in their houses at night.

My friends and I have been discussing positive and proactive things, such as replacing the basketball hoops, building a rec center, creating an effective summer jobs program, mentoring some of the troubled ones, and really getting to know these kids. Inside they are no different than we were, they are simply reacting to a more hostile environment.

“Underclass” - I have actually heard people referred to this way in my town. If you ain’t middle class I guess you just ain’t no good.

This is breaking my heart.

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Lakewood Sports

Ranger Football Ready To Kick Off Season

by Mike Deneen

Summer is winding down, which in Lakewood means that football season is upon us. The Lakewood Rangers have been working very hard this off-season to improve on last year's 2-8 record. Fourth-year head coach Jim Slagle has been pleased with his team's efforts. "We've had really good numbers in the weightroom," says Slagle. Some players have added as much as 15 to 20 pounds of muscle. This year's squad has also added numbers. Compared to only 57 players in 2006, 74 have come out this year. The team has returned 16 lettermen and 14 starters, seven on each side of the ball.

THE OFFENSE
Scoring has been a major problem for the Rangers in recent years. Last season they failed to score in double digits in six of their ten games. To remedy this, the team is returning to the Slot I offense they ran during their play-off seasons in the 1990's. The offense will also feature angle blocking that is suited to the skills of the linemen and misdirection and faking to confuse the defense.

The offensive line, the heart of any unit, returns the most experience of any unit on the team. Players who are working to gain spots on the offensive line are seniors Matt Milovanovic, Billy

Snyder, Sam Moree, Dan Michaels, Ken Kinder and John Warrell. Juniors seeking starting positions are Jordan Williams, Anthony Perry, Justin Salo, Mahdi Daud and Brian Lupton. Sophomores Ayoub Hamidah and Tyler Sanford are also in the mix for playing time.

The offensive backfield features seniors Mike Harrington, Gahad Suleiman, Rob Trivett and Jon Ross. Underclassmen seeking playing time are juniors Devin Ross and Tony Sclementi, sophomores Dahgoud Hamidah, Nate Giffels and Joe Young. The quarterback corps includes junior Dan Shannon, who is joined by sophomore Seams Gowan, Steve Caja and Mike Shestina. Jim Guzey, Geortge Newbrough and Matt Corrigall comprise the receiving corps.

THE DEFENSE
Games are won and lost at the line of scrimmage. This makes the defensive line the key to the defense. The defensive line will include seniors John Warrell, Ken Kinder, Billy Snyder, Sam

Moree and Van Hernlund. Junior candidates are Mahdi Daud and Jordan Williams. Sophomores Ayoub Hamidah and Josh Barton are also vying for playing time.

The linebackers include senior Gahad Suleiman, Mitch Campbell and Andy Porach. Juniors Brian Lupton and Ervin Metaj are joined by sophomores Dahoud Hamidah and Nate Giffels in the competition for playing time.

The secondary features seniors Vinny Fox, George Newbrough, Caleb Robinson, Jim Guzey, Mike Harrington and Rob Trivett. Juniors Devin Ross, Duane Kalta and sophomores Kieran Nall, Mike Shestina and Joe Young are also in the mix.

THE SPECIAL TEAMS
The special teams will feature punters Jim Guzey and Brian Lupton. Taulant Bane and Ardjan Bako will handle the placekicking and kickoff duties. Long snapper candidates are senior Billy Snyder and sophomore Seamus Gowan. The kick return corps includes seniors Rob Trivett, Jon Ross, George Newbrough and Caleb Robinson. Junior Devin Ross and sophomores Kieran Nall and Joe Young are also working to return kicks.

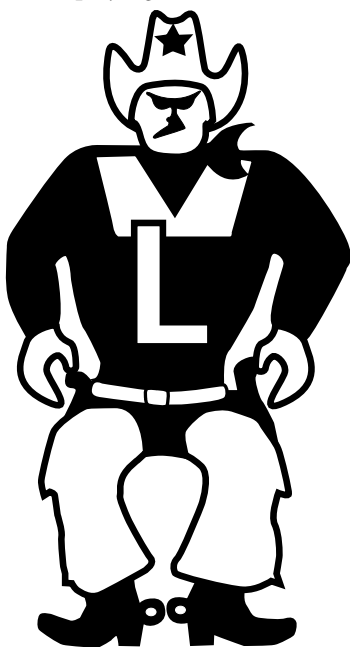
THE COACHES
Jim Slagle is back at the helm this year, his fourth season at LHS after fourteen years as an assistant coach. The Varsity Football staff will include veteran coaches Vince Curiale assuming the role of offensive coordinator, Russ Germaine for offensive line and Todd Whitlock for defensive line. New members of the staff are Mike Jaissle (receivers coach), Matt Mutschler (offensive line), Jacob Cole (defensive backs) and Jeremy Rizzo (linebackers). The Ranger Freshmen team will be coached by Head Coach Tedd Bruening, Brian Cole, Tom Deanovic, Tim Rinehart, Kirk Tashin and Chris Sin-

agra will.
THE INSPIRATION
Long-time assistant coach Jerry Gruss will be absent this season as he is battling cancer. However, his condition is always on the minds of the players and coaches. Gruss, who is also head coach of the LHS baseball program, is a beloved figure at the school. "He means a lot to a lot of these kids," says Slagle. "He's a father figure to them." Despite his weakened health, Gruss appeared for the team photo and attended a practice this summer. His presence touched the players and his fellow coaches, who will be playing hard for him all season.

THE NEW LEAGUE
After 70 years in the Lake Erie League, this year marks the school's first season in the Northeast Ohio Conference. The 18-team league is the largest in the state, and is divided into three six-team divisions. Unfortunately for the Rangers, their six-team division contains some of the strongest football programs in the state. All five of the other schools finished with winning records in 2006: Brunswick (10-0), Solon (7-3), Medina (7-3), Strongsville (6-4) and Elyria (6-4).

The new league presents interesting challenges for the coaching staff. After years of scouting familiar teams, there is an entirely new set of opponents. "It's all new stuff to look at," says Slagle. "There is no point of reference," However, the staff is looking forward to the challenge. "We want to put Lakewood football back on the map," says Slagle.

THE OUTLOOK
Can the Rangers get back to a winning record in 2007? We will find out quickly. The season opens with non-conference games against Berea, North Ridgeville and North Olmsted. Then there are two cross-division games against NEO conference members Parma and Garfield Heights. It is essential that Lakewood play well in these games, because the second half of the schedule is brutal. Three of the final five are road games, including back-to-back road games against perennial playoff teams Strongsville and Solon. Brunswick and Medina will visit Lakewood Stadium, and the season will end with a road game at Elyria.



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Lakewood Sports

High School Football: The Best Value In Town

It has been a tough year so far for sports fans. Every day in the media we hear about some sort of scandal. Dog fighting, steroids, game fixing....day after day it has been bad news. However, August is winding down, and now is your chance to regain faith in the athletic ideal. High school football season is back, and there is no better place in the country to see it than right here in Lakewood.

If you've never been to a game at Lakewood Stadium, you owe it to yourself to stop by this fall and catch some of the action. Not only is high school football a great attraction for sports fans, but it also makes an affordable and family-friendly evening out with the kids. The Stadium is annually ranked among the very best in the Cleveland area, and was improved this summer with the installation of FieldTurf, a cutting-edge surface that is used by dozens of college and professional teams.

Although the stadium is great, it is the show on the field that you'll really appreciate. The players are out there for passion, not profit. They hustle and scrap on every play, and fans are close enough to the action to feel the emotion. The caliber of play here in Ohio is second to none. In February 2007 over 130 Ohio high school players signed letters of intent to Division I-A college programs. These college programs include schools from top conferences like the Big 10, Big East and Atlantic Coast Conference. The 2006 NFL draft featured 13 players from Ohio, one of the highest outputs for any state in the country.

Lakewood Stadium will once again be home to two schools this fall. Lakewood High will host five games on Friday evenings this year. Their schedule, which begins with an August 24 game with Berea, features rivals from the new Northeast Ohio conference. St. Edward is scheduled to host some Saturday games, including a matchup with Cincinnati power Elder and the annual battle with St. Ignatius.

An evening of high school football means a lot more than just football. You also enjoy traditions such as the marching bands. These kids work very hard to entertain the crowd not only

during the game, but also during the halftime show. Cheerleaders, mascots and majorettes also contribute to the wonderful atmosphere. Perhaps the best part is that the participants aren't mere strangers, but kids from your own neighborhood.

Unlike a trip to a ball game downtown, an evening at Lakewood Stadium won't break your budget. The price for Lakewood Ranger tickets at the

gate (this includes students and non-Lakewood resident seniors) has been set by the league at \$6.00. Students can purchase pre-sale tickets for the football games in the Athletic Office during school hours for \$4.00. Lakewood residents 60 and over are free to all LHS Home Athletic Events. They must have a Lakewood Senior Citizen Pass. These passes are available in the Athletic Office during school hours. They will

also be available at the ticket booths. Just bring some ID which proves your age and that you live in Lakewood.

Lakewood High has introduced a new ticket plan for the 2007-2008 athletic year. Ten Game Passes, which are good for any sport, are available in the Athletic Office. An Adult 10 Game Pass is \$50.00 (a savings of \$10.00), and a student 10 Game Pass is \$30.00 (a savings of \$10.00). Call (216)529-4034.

Letter To The Editor: Thank You From Coach Jerry Gruss And Family

Many thanks to the wonderful people who put together the Jerry Gruss Baseball Marathon Tribute on Aug. 11. Words cannot say how grateful my family and I are to have such an honor.

Special thanks to Lakewood High School baseball player Eric Converse; Mike Callahan of Lakewood Recreation; LHS athletic director Robert Thayer; the Lakewood Board of Education; the LHS baseball coaching staff of Chris Lamphear, Tom Deanovic, Bruce Giberson, Jeff Lauren, Alex Cammock and Brent Martin; LHS baseball parents, the Henneberry, Labar and Converse families and the many wonderful sponsors in this community (including) Erie Design, Initially Yours Engraving, Silhouette School of Dance, Gieger's, Barry Buick, Cottage of Flowers, Madison Avenue Auto and Bernie Yun Kohlmyer Sports.

Special thanks also to Ivor Karabatkovic for his LHS Baseball Art Show held at Phoenix Coffee with the help of baseball team mom Stephanie Toole, who coordinated the event. With his photography, Ivor raised \$1400 toward a new scoreboard at the baseball field.

My family and I are proud to say we are from Lakewood as this community has rallied around us with meals, love, prayers and support. Hopefully with enough money raised, a new scoreboard will be purchased to match the state-of-the-art baseball complex.

Thank you for many wonderful memories. GO RANGERS!

Coach Jerry Gruss and Michelle,
Rob, Erin, Kelly, Emily and Coletta



Denise Henneberry puts a few finishing touches on gift baskets that were generously donated.

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Lakewood Car Kulture



The Fifth Annual Lakewood Car Kulture Show was a huge success! Last year we had 162 cars and around 10,000 people. This year it grew to 275 cars and well over 15,000 attendees.

Jerry and Ruthie Koenigsmark did a stellar job getting things in order, and the plans for 2008 have already begun.

The Car Kulture Show would like to thank Melissa Garrett, Tony Beno and Public Works, the Lakewood Police, Division of Streets, Health Department, The Lakewood Observer, Cox Communications, Jak Prints, The FreeTimes, CoolCleveland MAMA members, and all of the businesses on Madison Ave. for their help and support.

Thanks to all that came by, and shared another great day in Lakewood. See you in 2008.



The Mayor's Choice Winner: From left to right - Sh... Thomas George stand in front of John's perfect 1966...



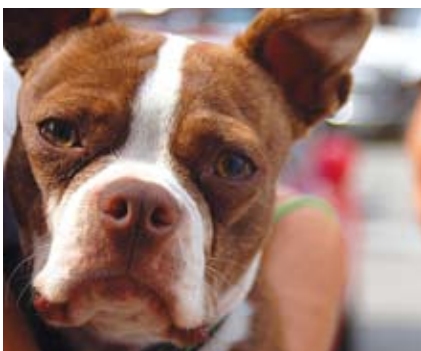
Aidan Cooper sporting a tattoo looking for his first car with sister Corinna and their friend Mackenzie Christophec.



Kevin Moore and Hadley Connors talk with some friends. Hadley has her beautiful photos on display at bela dubby, with Kevin's Tikis. Check it out!



The Gill family takin g it all in with the Giorgi family right behind them.



After the dog wash at Nature's Bin, all dogs came to the car show.



One of the best car painters in the city Jay Bird, working on a car.



The rarest vehicle at the show was brought by Pride of Cleveland Scooters. This 1961 Viceroy is one of two known to exist!



The crowd never stopped coming. The show opened at 11 a.m., by noon the show ran out of room for the second year in a row. 275 cars and over 15,000 people attended!

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...w founders Ruthie and Jerry Koenigsmark, Mrs Grabski with her sons Matt and John, and Mayor Mercury Comet.



Lisa Fasano, Gary Dickow and Jessica Roach strolling the Avenue.



People's Choice Winner: This 1959 Buick LeSabre owned by Barry Penfound.



Jim and Debbie Perko stand in front of their perfect Firebird.



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Chef Geoff

Feasting In The Great Outdoors

Jeff Endress

There is something to be said of getting away from your everyday existence; something to be said of taking a vacation from the daily grind. I've always enjoyed the prospect of being removed from the everyday trappings of society as we know it. No phone, no internet, no electricity. In comunicado for a week. And so it was, for an all too brief period, I once again found myself driving northward, past Toronto, past Barrie, beyond Parry, to an access point to the French River, just off highway 69. Claude's French River trading post is more a marina that services the scores of sportsmen that fish the French. Doubtless that the trading posts in "Last of the Mohicans" didn't sell or service Evinrude outboards. It is a journey I've made a number of times before, one that holds the promise of quiet, good company, exploration and great food.

Some may consider motoring upstream for an hour to a small red cabin with only a propane refrigerator as roughing it. Indeed, columnist Michael Heaton from the Cleveland Plain Dealer

Ken's Personal Boiled-In-A-Bag Omelet

This is best done in the fashion of a salad bar. Prepare favorite ingredients for omelets, in separate bowls: grated cheese, crumbled bacon, diced ham, minced onions, peppers...whatever you want.

Fill a large pan with water, bring to a rolling boil.

Each individual omelet requires a large (quart) zip-lock bag (labeled for its user). Break two eggs into the bag, seal it and mix well. Open the bag and add your choice of ingredients. Seal and mix to combine. Once everyone has created their omelet, make sure the bags are well sealed and place them in the boiling water. DO NOT reduce heat, cook for 13 minutes.

The omelet will slide out of the bag unto your plate. A neat way to feed a breakfast crowd!



had likened the trip to a cross between "Deliverance" and "Apocalypse Now," neither of which is an appropriate parallel. The fresh pine forest that engulfs the bays and islands of the French bears no resemblance to the hardwood forest canyon that provided the backdrop

for "Deliverance" and certainly the clear cool, deep waters of the French beyond being water, have no similarity to the muddy swamps of the Mekong depicted in "Apocalypse Now." I've done canoe trips that were roughing it and been places where nature could

deliver a cruel "wake up call." Compared to those, this was living in the lap of luxury. As the woods and the river were food for the spirit, the coolers in the bottoms of our rented boats contained more than ample sustenance for the body.

What was interesting, in an ironic way, was that our destination was the very same as Heaton's. But our most dicey experience was preparing the herbs and chilies for the "Mexican night" salsas and quesadillas. Running the rapids in a bathing suit and life jacket could only serve to enhance our appetites, both for the offerings of nature's own water park as well as the food to be enjoyed. While we could have relied on the fishing skills of the group for that sustenance, our preference was to catch and release, as we did with a good number of largemouth bass and pike. Better to enjoy that which we had brought with us and let them swim in those pristine waters for another day.

And so for a week, we swam, we paddled canoes, we hiked far-off trails, we fished. And we ate. Lord how we ate. The aforementioned "Mexican night" featured freshly made chips, guacamole, salsa and tequila with lime slices and grilled chicken quesadillas. There was some pretty fine blackened shrimp and a platter heaped high with racks of smoked baby backribs, slathered in spicy barbeque. Fresh salads, red beans and rice, grilled marinated pork tenderloin and freshly baked toll house cookies. Personal omelets boiled in a bag, BLTs, and grilled Ruebens. As one of our group commented, "We eat better up here than I do at home." And while I'm pretty sure Gary was referring to the meal of London broil and roasted potatoes we had just finished, having spent time just a few hours earlier watching as the mother osprey caught fish to feed her hatchling in the nest atop of the wind-bowed white pine, or watching the pair of beavers as they eyed us floating past, before disappearing with a slap of their tails, had provided similar fare for the soul.

With the only artificial light for miles being a propane-fueled flame in a small fixture over the dinner table, it gets very dark at that cabin. And then the stars come out. Stars the like of which you can only see away from the light pollution of civilization. So numerous that it would almost appear that the Milky Way is a cloud, with imagined movement, enveloping the Big Dipper. The peaceful silence is broken only by the soft lapping of the bay on the smooth rocks, the haunting call of a loon and the distant howl of a wolf. Spirits regenerated by the beauty of the surroundings, appetites sated by "the best dinner ever," the group adjourned to the cabin. There were cards to be played, conversation and discussion to be had. Oh, and there was buttered popcorn. More than enough to eat, both for the stomach and the spirit.

The Lakewood Diet

by Ruth A. Koenigsmark

South Beach, Atkins, The Zone, French Women Don't Get Fat, Weight Watchers, the Mediterranean Diet, I've tried them all throughout the years. All have their merits, and I continue to use tidbits from each in my pursuit of a healthy lifestyle, but for me right now it's less about what I am putting in my mouth and more about movement. And lately, dear friends, I'll be honest with you—I've been a real slug. So, in my car today as I thought about the 20 pounds or so I have packed on in the last 6 months, I decided to begin my very own diet trend called, you guessed it, the Lakewood Diet!!

Before I go any further, please understand that this is very much still in the test phase—a theory—though I believe it shows real promise, and through the weeks and months ahead I hope to show you the benefits of taking this journey with me. What is the Lakewood Diet, you wonder?

The Lakewood Diet is community based—our community can and will help you get into shape—whether physically or mentally. If you follow this diet and my journey to lose this lingering 20 pounds, you will come to find that we have a myriad of experts in the field of health and fitness living and working right here in Lakewood. You just have to get out and get moving (after you read my articles, of course).

Day One of the Lakewood Diet journey: Dance Church

In the serene, candle-lit room of the Sacred Arts Healing Center on Sunday morning, a dozen or so dancers made a winding, joyous procession across the floor. This Sunday morning ritual (Dance Church), facilitated by Roger Sams, serves to launch the day, but also to use dance as a way to engage with God, the divine, or other conceptions of the most sacred. Roger holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Bowling Green State University and

a Master of Arts from Case Western Reserve University. He has training in Gestalt theory and is a certified Trance Dance Ritual Facilitator. Besides being a Parent Choice Honor Medal winning storyteller, Roger travels throughout the US leading seminars in music and movement. Dance Church is multi-faith and broad in approach, choosing aspects from many spiritual paths.

The role of dance in religious life has been growing in significance. Many churches have "praise dance" or "liturgical dance" groups. Jewish "renewal" synagogues, which have blossomed in recent years, use communal dancing during many parts of their services. As Pauline, my guide, pointed out, many come to Dance Church with an "intention"—something they hope to gain from the experience. Thinking quickly and remembering the principles of *The Secret* (best-selling New Age self-help book by Rhonda Byrne), I said mine over and over...relax, enjoy (and lose weight). The class began with Roger reading Rumi to help with our focus, then some yoga inspired warm-ups, and then we danced, danced, and danced.

Did I mention that no formal dance education is required for Dance Church? It's about moving in any way you feel comfortable and taking a break from your mind. An hour and a half later, I left feeling very positive, relaxed, and energized, and would recommend it without reservation to anyone reading this article (and a few others I think could use it). Dance Church convenes each Sunday at Sacred Arts Studio, 13351 Madison Avenue, at 11:00am—a love offering of \$20 is appreciated from those attending. Any ideas for the Lakewood Diet should be forwarded to gallerywatchgals@yahoo.com. Every effort will be made to include it in our next column.



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Pulse Of The City

Educator's Music- A Lakewood Institution

I was crawling around, and over, musical instruments practically from the moment of my birth. Dad was a professional musician, as well as band and orchestra director. In addition, he was a piano technician, and bought and sold instruments back in our hometown in Pennsylvania. I'd often tag along while Dad and Mom went to some church or other to work on the church's instruments.

So you would have little doubt that about the time I started to walk and talk, I started to play musical instruments! Unfortunately, I had a breathing obstruction that prevented my success with wind instruments. That left strings and percussion.

Today, I wish I'd started on the violin earlier. There's an old time fiddlin' tradition on both sides of my gene pool. A few years ago, I finally attacked the fiddle, and that's coming along fine now.

Back then, I told Dad that I wanted to be a drummer. "Drums?!" he thundered. "Don't you want to play a melody?"

"How 'bout guitar?" I countered. "That's a COWBOY instrument!!" he replied.

So I play drums and guitar.

To Dad and Mom's credit, once the decisions were made, they supported my choices with lessons and fine instruments. I like to believe that

support paid off. This is where Educator's Music comes in.

I learned my drums and guitar from fine teachers at that Lakewood institution. Over the years, I've come to appreciate the great people there more and more. Recently, they found two vintage type leather handles to match two cases for me. That kind of customer service makes them a go-to location for all things musical.

Presently located at Wyandotte and Detroit Avenues, Educator's Music came into being in the early 1950's. The store was founded by John Stavash Sr. and his late wife, Eleanor. Over the years, the store grew and developed a comprehensive sheet music department

Gary Rice

serving band, orchestral, and choral directors. The store continues to support a repair facility, private lessons, and a comprehensive line of instruments from well-built student lines to those made for the discriminating professional musician.

A house behind the Detroit storefront houses their repair facility, lesson rooms, sheet music, and the family music museum; although presently, the design of that building is under revision.



John Stavash Jr. with some beautiful instruments.

his fascinating museum and shop. At that time, he was trying to perfect a child's plastic flute-type instrument. Although a master musician in his own right, having played all over the world, his interest in children being successful with their music came first in his heart.

The many instruments in the Stavash Collection reflect an eclectic mix of styles and periods. Each tells its own story in a sublime way. Though some, no doubt, have great pecuniary value, all are special. Native American flutes nestle close by Scottish drums and Civil War instruments. John Sr. is an excellent story teller and a compassionate caretaker of these beautiful and historical instruments.

As school opens once again, it is important to note that Educator's Music continues to be a modern and vibrant place of business. Band and orchestra rentals can easily be arranged. Some of the most up-to-the minute instruments are made available for the needs of a worldwide clientele of beginning, intermediate, and advanced musicians.

As the store's name indicates, education continues to be the central focus of activity throughout the establishment. Whether through lessons, sheet music supply, rentals, or instrument repair and service, Educator's Music is ready to meet the needs of Lakewood's musical community, as they help to mark the pulse of this city.

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Lakewood Stuff

Larchmania: The Birth Of A Block Watch Group

by Todd Shapiro

What started as a front porch chat among Larchmont Avenue neighbors fed up with speeding cars, vandalism, and rowdy bar patrons keeping residents awake well into the night has turned into Lakewood’s newest neighborhood watch group.

On August 6, a meeting organized by Larchmont Avenue resident Dan Zaleski at the Lakewood Christian Church attracted over two dozen Larchmont residents to hear a presentation from Lakewood police officers Patrick Fiorilli and David Vet on community block watch programs and to lay the groundwork for their own watch group.

Although he has only been a resident of Larchmont for two years, Zaleski has noticed an erosion of the quality of life he anticipated when purchasing his first house in Lakewood. “I envisioned Lakewood as a utopia,” Zaleski said. “I like the idea of Lakewood, the diversity of the people and quality of life.” Before Zaleski and his wife Laura moved to Lakewood they lived in Cleveland’s Kamm’s Corners neighborhood. “However, recently I have begun to see a downturn in the quality of life on my street,” Zaleski added. After distributing flyers along the street to gauge interest in a watch

group and in “Larchmania,” a day-long block party organized by the Zaleski’s, he was pleased at the response from his fellow Larchmont residents. “Most people had a positive reaction. They want to make their street and their city a better place.”

Zaleski also experienced some negative feedback from residents who question his personal motivations for starting a community watch group. However, he says he has no political aspirations or motives other than to ensure a safe environment for his wife and daughter. Another Larchmont resident who was part of the original group of eight was Patti Eisenhut. Eisenhut assisted Zaleski in distributing flyers and spoke out at the meeting about the noise and parking problems that come from many of the bars on Lakewood’s west end.

While Zaleski would like to see citizen foot patrols and neighbors looking out for one another, he sees another role for a Larchmont neighborhood group. “We need to get city council to take us seriously,” Dan said. “It’s foolish to think the only way to create change is at the ballot box. By showing up and speaking out at council meetings we can get our issues addressed.” Ward 1 councilman Kevin Butler attended the group’s organizational meeting equipped with crime stats for the street

and addressed the resident’s concerns in an impromptu 30 minute question-and-answer session.

The residents who spoke at the first meeting mostly complained about the problems that spill onto their street from the bars along Detroit Avenue. Complaints of public urination, trespassing, and excessive noise punctuated the question-and-answer session. Patrolman Vet reminded the group that the hard work of running

a block watch must come from the residents themselves. City Hall and the police department can provide assistance but the day-to-day administration of a block watch remains the duty of it’s members.

Zaleski said his message for his neighbors is simply, “positive change has to come from you.” He adds, “Lakewood is a fantastic place but we need to step up as a community to get things done.”

Appealing Shades of Green — But Savvy Investors Look Beyond Landscaping

by Michael Bentley

Clean energy and socially conscious investing have been on a tear lately, even allowing for equity market volatility. Last year Wal-Mart became the largest seller of organic milk, the world’s leading buyer of organic cotton, and its CEO says he wants the company’s Sam’s Club gas stations prepared to sell E85, the 85 percent ethanol/15 percent gasoline fuel that can reduce automobile carbon emissions. U.K.-based Tesco, the world’s third largest retailer, is spending more than \$200 million on environmental technologies designed to reduce its overall energy use by 50 percent—and it’s paying customers not to use new plastic bags.

With all the corporate heft behind clean energy and environmentally friendly business practices, is it finally time for the serious, socially responsible investor to take the plunge? The question arises because the past is littered with false starts, and the intriguing “green” landscape

contains an abundance of small, financially untested firms.

Nevertheless, investing in something many believe in—clean, renewable energy—has gained favor. In June the NEX Index, a truly global index that tracks 87 innovative technology and service companies on 24 stock exchanges in 21 countries, was up 78 percent since its debut in December 2005. If nothing else, this reflects the fact that as the European Union and countries around the world have seriously begun to pursue clean energy alternatives, firms involved in wind, solar, biofuels and similar projects have done well.

Analysts tend to agree on the positive potential of green investing, but remind investors that investing in alternative energy stocks involves risk, and profits or losses may occur. Going “green” is not a game. The focus is still on choosing solid investments that make sense.

If you have a query about green investing, or a specific question about a company or fund, please do not hesitate to contact your financial advisor.

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Lakewood Perspective

Defending The Student Athlete

I'm a big fan of college sports. And no, ever since my brother played football for Northwestern University, I haven't been much of an Ohio State fan. While I casually pull for many different schools and teams, as my friends will tell you, my two favorite are my alma matter, the University of Dayton, and whoever is playing Notre Dame. However, given the recent events at the University of South Carolina, I may just have to add one more team to my list of favorites.

But before you get ahead of yourself, I'm not talking about their football, basketball or even water polo team; I'm referring to the group of professors that make up the admissions team. The turning point for this decision came when two of head football coach Steve Spurrier's recruits were denied admissions to the school despite meeting the NCAA's minimum requirements.

Coach Spurrier was obviously upset, even threatening to leave the school when his contract is up. However, the admissions team stood firm in holding to their elevated standards as well as the schools prescribed criteria. This battle is far from over, but I've got to say I think there is so much more at stake here than just the future of two high school seniors.

Over the years, the words "student athlete" have steadily climbed the ranks of the top contradictory terms, currently sitting somewhere between "military intelligence" and "Congress-

sional Ethics Committee." For me personally, this issue started with an experience I had many years ago. At my college graduation ceremony all students were seated in specific sections, separated by degree, major and minor and lined up in alphabetical order by last name. Shortly after the procession, I looked to my right and low and behold, just a few seats down sat one of the members of our Division I basketball team.

My problem with this was a simple one. Despite graduating with a very specific degree, which required long hours spent inside many different "hands-on" classrooms and technical labs, regardless of the fact that classes for this degree path had only a few participants and were only offered in specific semesters, I had never once, over the course of my four year education, so much as even seen this student on campus. Yet here sat a man who held a degree that tells the outside world that he completed the very same tasks as the rest of our class.

The point isn't that the player couldn't have completed the course work on his own, using specially-established tutors and instructors. The point is that at that moment it became painfully clear to me that even at the University of Dayton, there are athletes and there are students and each has their own completely separate school.

Bret Callentine

Now, you can call me naive if you want, but until that moment I was still under the impression that colleges and universities everywhere still maintained the idealistic restrictions of maintaining academics above athletics. Truth be told, my faith began to waver in the years leading up to college as I watched my brothers' football teams continue to struggle in the Big 10, arguably due in part to their dramatically higher academic standards. Face it, how often do the other Division I schools lose players because they choose early graduation rather than play out their final year of scholarship eligibility?

I realize that colleges and universities make millions, if not billions of dollars through these sports programs. I realize athletics can often open up opportunities for individuals who might not get into college on their academic background. However, I believe schools have a responsibility to all those who are admitted. Like it or not, the value of a diploma is intrinsically tied to the public reputation of the school. And the first line of defense for that reputation lies entirely in the hands of the admissions team. Granting special allowances to admit individual athletes may bring the school glory on the field, but pushing through unqualified applicants damages the honor and respect

fought for by every other student who played by the rules, worked hard and paid their dues.

Essentially, by bending the rules for these athletes, not only do you teach them that they are above the rules, but that the university places more value on their productivity on the field than their development in the classroom.

Spurrier can complain all he wants, but this is a moment where the ethics of the entire educational process was being challenged, and I'm glad to see the professors stood firm. Further, I'm disappointed in any coach who would choose to criticize rather than herald this event as an example of the hard work and level of excellence required of athletes who wish to play on his team. After all, you can't stress the importance of hard work on the field if you discount the need for hard work off of it.

In the weeks to come there will, no doubt, be further discussion of the problems facing the student athlete. In my opinion, if the NCAA wants to solve this issue once and for all, the answer is very simple: eliminate recruiting all together. A coach shouldn't be making promises as to the educational future of a student. And admission shouldn't depend on athletic ability any more than it should be determined by ethnic heritage.

If you want to return dignity and honor to the term "Student Athlete" then find athletes among your students, not students among your athletes.



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Minding The Issues

On The Natural Law Theory

Gordon Brumm

Natural Law Theory is a theory of morality -- prescribing what is morally right and wrong -- that connects with many of today's social controversies. Directly or by implication, it has been used to justify the condemnation of abortion, contraception, euthanasia and homosexuality.

The theory has a long history, beginning with ancient Greek and Roman philosophy (Aristotle and the Stoics) and involving the Roman Catholic Church (St. Thomas being the chief proponent) as well as other Christian churches.

Along the way, it has spawned numerous variations and elaborations. For example, St. Thomas adapted it to fit in with Christian theology. What I will present here is the basic and distinctive theory.

But Natural Law Theory is not to be confused with 1) "laws of nature" (e.g. the law of gravity), applying to physical phenomena, not morality, or 2) "natural rights" (e.g. Locke's life, liberty and property), though in this latter case there is some similarity to Natural Law Theory.

Natural Law Theory is often applied by extension to the nature of law. It is claimed that law -- i.e. man-made ("posited") law -- should embody and enforce morality, which is determined by nature. Laws which violate moral principle are "unjust laws" and need not, indeed should not, be obeyed.

What the theory is:

Natural Law Theory holds that morality is based on nature, specifically human nature, in this way: It premises that all things, or at least all living things, have by their nature a set of purposes, or ends, or goals, or inclinations. (The philosophical word for this is "teleology.") Among the purposes of human beings are staying alive, procreation, and truth-seeking.

It is through reason that we understand these purposes, and our understanding is gained by observing the working, or functioning, of living things. (E.g., we see a horse grow from birth into full maturity as a splendid runner.)

Anything that deviates from this

natural purpose or hinders its achievement is a perversion, and morally wrong. Morality, then, is perfection of our nature, and immorality is perversion, a corruption of our true purpose. (More specifically, rightness and wrongness consist of right and wrong intentions, since proper goal-seeking defines rightness and wrongness, and our goals are determined by what we intend.)

Thus abortion, contraception and homosexuality are all morally wrong, according to Natural Law Theory, because they hinder (or at least deviate from) the goal of procreation.

Euthanasia and suicide are wrong because they hinder the goal of maintaining life. (The Natural Law Theory is related to the "culture of life," which I discussed in a previous issue.)

Also, lying is wrong because it hinders the quest for true knowledge.

Natural law is attractive because

It is merely a means of imposing dogma under the guise of reason.

it declares morality to consist of principles which are objectively true (since they reflect the nature of things). And since moral principles are objectively true, they are universal in scope (applying to every human being) and absolute (not contingent on particular circumstances). Furthermore, they are discernable by reason, and therefore can be known by every person.

And what it is not

Given this description of Natural Law Theory, we can see how it contrasts with other prominent theories and escapes their shortcomings:

1) Divine Command Theory. This is the view that morality is based on God's commands, i.e., the good is good because God commands it. This theory has at least two shortcomings, compared with Natural Law Theory: a) We know right from wrong with more certainty than we know that God exists and what God commands; therefore our understanding of right and wrong cannot come from God. b) If morality depends

on God's commands, then moral principles cannot be incumbent on those who have not been educated in God's ways.

2) Consequentialism -- the view that the rightness or wrongness of an act is determined by its consequences. The best-known consequentialist theory is utilitarianism, which holds that the right act is that which produces the most good (i.e., the most happiness, or however good is defined) for all concerned. This view would allow for the oppression of the few in order to gain the greater good of the many.

3) Conventionalism or subjectivism -- the view that rightness or wrongness is determined by the conventions of society (including the mandates of authority), or on the feelings of the people performing the acts in question. In other words, morality is a matter of taste. Thus, if everyone agrees about moral principles, it can only be because everyone has the same moral

feelings -- a tenuous proposition.

Keep these rivals of Natural Law Theory in mind, for I will argue that Natural Law Theory cannot really separate itself from them.

Why the theory fails

The essential core of Natural Law Theory is the assumption that there is a certain set of purposes built into organisms, notably human beings, and that we can apprehend this set of purposes by observing the functioning of the organism (that is to say, the way it operates).

And given that the organism (a human being, for example) has a certain purpose, any other purpose that is contrary to it is morally wrong.

But when it comes to organisms that make choices, such as human beings, we must ask: Why is there just one right purpose?

Consider what is probably the most clear-cut set of examples, those involving sexuality. The Theory says that procreation is the only proper purpose of the sex organs. But sex organs can

clearly have other purposes -- mutual pleasure; strengthening of a romantic union (recognized by some theorists as the "unitive function," about which more later); or even domination and harm, as in rape (which is clearly immoral, of course, but for reasons entirely separate from Natural Law).

Why is it not perfectly permissible (laying aside other considerations, of course, as in the case of rape) for an individual to choose the purpose his or her sex organs are put to?

Or consider the examples of euthanasia or suicide. These are unnatural and immoral, according to Natural Law Theory, because they allegedly contradict the inclination, or goal, of the human organism to stay alive. Is there such an inclination? Well, there is no one mechanism that continuously functions to keep an individual alive. Rather, there are a number of systems -- heart, lungs, etc. -- that together maintain life. That is to say, they function to maintain life until they don't -- until the individual dies.

So functioning to remain alive is not an intrinsic, necessary characteristic of the human organism; staying alive depends on a number of circumstances -- sufficient food, oxygen, water, etc. -- and many crucial circumstances depend on the choices of the individual. (We choose to eat, to drink, etc.) In short, the individual remains alive because he or she chooses to be alive. And if it is permissible for the individual to choose to remain alive, why is it not permissible for the individual to choose not to remain alive? Why is it not permissible for an individual to choose in favor of cessation of pain -- or even in favor of allowing grandchildren to inherit his or her estate instead of seeing it dwindle away in medical bills?

(Natural Law Theory tries to deal with these questions by putting forth the Doctrine of Double Effect, which simply put, lays down rules by which, wrong results are permissible for the sake of a greater good. But that is irrelevant because I am arguing that suicide or euthanasia isn't wrong in the first place.)

In general, why is just one purpose privileged over all others -- chosen as

continued of next page...

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Minding The Issues

Natural Law Theory continued from previous page...

the only proper purpose -- no matter what the individual chooses? On what basis does the Natural Law Theory distinguish proper from improper purposes? (Remember: We cannot point to human functioning as the distinguishing criterion, because that functioning can serve any of the purposes in question.)

The Natural Law theorist (using the example of sexuality) might reply: Procreation is the only proper purpose because God commands it. But in that case, we are appealing to Divine Command Theory, not Natural Law.

Or the theorist might reply: Procreation is the only proper purpose because it results in greater good. In that case we are appealing to a utilitarian (consequentialist) theory, not Natural Law.

Or the theorist might say that procreation is the only proper purpose because authority, or social convention, or the feelings of the people require it. In that case we are appealing to a conventionalist or subjectivist theory, not Natural Law.

Or we might appeal to some other specific moral theory (e.g., Kantian). In that case, we are clearly not appealing to Natural Law.

In short, in order to make its essential distinction between proper and improper purposes, Natural Law Theory must appeal to some other theory as the basis for judgments of right and wrong. But in making that move, it dissolves into that other theory. Considered by itself, without becoming merely an adjunct to some other set of

standards, Natural Law Theory cannot be justified.

It is merely a means of imposing dogma under the guise of reason.

Some embarrassing examples

Following on these criticisms, I present a couple of examples, or counterexamples, which are probably obvious, followed by a couple that may be more obscure.

VIRGINITY/CELIBACY AND HOMOSEXUALITY: Homosexuality, as I mentioned, is condemned because it doesn't serve the purpose of procreation. But neither does virginity/celibacy, and that way of life is not condemned. Of course, the Church praises nuns and priests because they have given up their sexuality in favor of their vocation. But what about those who remain virginal without taking on a churchly vocation? Natural Law theorists don't judge them to be immoral, yet Natural Law Theory cannot make any significant distinction between their behavior and that of homosexuals.

(Aquinas justified virginity by saying that the goal of procreation pertains to humankind as a whole, not to each individual, and therefore not every person must procreate. But if this excuses virginity, then it must excuse homosexuality also. Again, Natural Law Theory can justify its distinctions only by appeal to some other theory or standard -- in this case the bigotry of the public or the authorities.)

SEX IN MARRIAGE PAST THE AGE OF PROCREATION: If the proper purpose of sex is procreation, then sex

cannot fulfill this purpose, even for a married couple, when one or the other or both are past the age of procreation. But Natural Law theorists do not venture to condemn such couples.

In attempting to escape this inconsistency, theorists appeal to the unitive function of sex, that is, strengthening the union between husband and wife. But this won't do, for at least two reasons. First, why -- again -- should we select marital unity as the proper purpose instead of pure mutual pleasure, for example? Second, if sex is for the purpose of unifying a relationship, homosexuality can serve that purpose just as well as heterosexuality.

So far I have been assuming that humans as well as other organisms have one way of functioning, which is the natural way; the question has been whether this way of functioning has only one proper purpose. But what if the way of functioning is itself unnatural? I have two examples in mind.

BASEBALL PITCHERS: When I throw a baseball, I must be content to use the abilities that nature has given me. The ball travels slowly -- very slowly by professional standards -- in a gently descending arc that is thoroughly predictable. Not so with baseball pitchers. Their pitches travel at an incredible speed while curving, sinking and sliding in ways that fool even the best of batters. Such results do not come naturally. Pitchers must learn and practice intensely to make their arms and wrists perform the motions that impart requisite spins to the ball, or whatever pitchers do to

fool the batter. So much are their arms stressed, in fact, that the pitching arm of one pitcher at the end of his career was said to be two inches longer than the other. Pitching, in other words, is an unnatural act.

OPERA SINGERS: Much the same holds for opera singing, as well as other forms of singing at the highest level. Opera singers cannot be content to function with the abilities that nature provided. They must fashion those abilities -- twist them, even -- through intensive training that involves breathing exercises and the like. The result is a way of functioning quite different from that of the untrained. Opera singing is an unnatural act.

Are we to say, then, that baseball pitchers and opera singers are immoral by virtue of the unnatural acts they perform?

What kind of beings are we?

Even more basic than questions of right and wrong is the question of what we are as human beings. I submit that we are essentially conscious beings whose most basic function is to choose. (And if you want to say that consciousness is seated in an immortal soul, that's all right too.)

As I have tried to show above, Natural Law Theory rejects human choice. It sees humans as machines traveling along a predetermined course, with consciousness merely riding along to insure that the human machine stays on track.

In short, the Natural Law Theory is not only unjustified in its moral pronouncements, but it also presents a false view of human being.

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Letters To The Editor

Lakewood Income Tax Collections By The Numbers

by Jennifer Pae, City of Lakewood
Director of Finance, and Patricia
Chittock, City of Lakewood Income
Tax Administrator

William George presented an extremely skewed analysis comparing the City of Lakewood's income tax collections to the City of Parma's in his August 7, 2007 Lakewood Observer opinion article, "Don't Raise Taxes, Just Collect Them." You have heard of making an apples-to-oranges comparison; well, Mr. George compared apples-to-cannon balls.

An apples-to-apples comparison begins with an examination of General Fund revenues for year ended December 31, 2005. This information is found in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports (CAFRs) for both municipalities, and anyone can access these reports at the Auditor of State's website. Lakewood also posts its CAFR on the Division of Finance's webpage.

The General Fund accounts for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. This is the fund that supports the majority of a city's operations, like Police, Fire and Refuse. Par-

ma's General Fund revenue for 2005 was \$40.724 million, compared to Lakewood's \$35.301 million. Of that amount, income taxes supported 65% of Parma's General Fund, whereas 48% supported Lakewood's.

The City of Parma also levies a portion of its income taxes to fund capital improvements, which Lakewood does not. Therefore, in 2005, the City of Parma collected \$33.803 million in income taxes versus Lakewood's \$17.139 million.

Nothing frightens a community more than the possibility of a major employer leaving the City, and Mr. George neglected to examine the impact of withholding taxes on a community. The City of Parma is home to a General Motors plant, Parmatown Mall, and many other industries and businesses that Lakewood does not have, nor will have due to our dense, primarily residential community. If General Motors shut down its plant in Parma, the city could experience nearly a 12%, or \$4.0 million, decrease in their income tax collections. Since the City of Lakewood's income taxes depend on its residential base, it is more stable, and less susceptible to economic downturns.

In Mr. George's article, he poses the question, "So why does Lakewood collect so much less in income tax?" The difference in collections is due to Parma's large industrial base, since employees working in Parma pay employment tax to the City of Parma. For this reason Lakewood and Parma income tax collections cannot and should not be compared. Consider the following:

2005 Income Tax Collections

Lakewood:

Individual: \$9,507,763

Net Profit: \$592,659

Withholding: \$7,038,931

Total: \$17,139,352

Parma:

Individual: \$10,783,689

Net Profit: \$1,742,223

Withholding: \$21,277,956

Total: \$33,803,868

If one were to use a per capita comparison on individual income tax collections, Lakewood collects approximately \$170 per resident versus Parma's \$127 per resident. That is a lot more apples-to-apples, and it demonstrates

that Lakewood is effectively collecting its income taxes when compared to Parma. However, Mr. George also stated in his article he was interested in how Lakewood taxpayers are identified, and that he "called the income tax department and was told there is no 'effective' way to identify these individuals at the present time." He is correct that there is not one effective way the City of Lakewood identifies taxpayers, but several ways, including: An annual comparison of the Lakewood taxpayer database to the State of Ohio Income Taxpayer database; failure-to-file notices that go out to taxpayers that filed their State income tax forms but did not file Lakewood's forms; and utilization of new software showing every possible location address in the City, as well as rental property tracking capabilities, that allow for the mailing of occupancy letters. Therefore, if a known address does not file, a failure-to-file letter is sent. There are mandatory filing requirements for all residents regardless of status such as retiree or student. The city also does data sharing and cross-checking with the Lakewood Division of Water customer database and the Division of Building and Housing, including contract registration. Data is shared with other communities, especially the City of Cleveland. The city does comparisons with AT&T's new resident phone listings. There are also anonymous tips from other residents and, of course, employer reconciliations and audits. These are just some of the ways the city of Lakewood identifies taxpayers.

Finally, Mr. George neglected to consider taxpayers who file jointly. He states that from the 2000 Census, there are 33,000 residents in the workforce. In a typical year the City receives approximately 26,000 current-year tax returns, and of those annual tax returns, the City has 6,200 active joint accounts.

The bottom line is growth in income tax collections, which the City of Lakewood is experiencing. In 2003, the City collected \$16.585 million, compared to \$17.139 million in 2005, or a 4% increase. The City of Parma is not experiencing growth. In 2003, Parma collected \$34.383 million, compared to \$33.803 million in 2005, or a 2% decrease.

Despite Lakewood's recent growth in income tax revenues, a potential increase in income tax rates for the City of Lakewood would be related to projected General Fund expenditures exceeding anticipated revenues, a declining General Fund balance, and to ensure future financial flexibility.

Mr. George, if you are going to "analyze the fiscal responsibility of the City of Lakewood," please ensure you understand what you are comparing before making broad conclusions. The Division of Finance and the Division of Income Tax are more than happy to help anyone with their analyses, and we can be reached at (216) 529-6092 or (216) 529-6622.

Time Is Of The Essence...

by Ryan Demro
Mayoral Candidate

Public parks are a core service for any city. There is an expectation among most citizens of our nation that, no matter where they move, there will be a public park around the corner. Taking a son, daughter, niece, nephew, or grandchild to a park is an American pastime. We all have memories of being pushed on the swing or going down the slide.

It is unfortunate that a number of Lakewood residents feel they don't have the opportunity to share these memories with their children. All too often I am hearing the familiar refrain about our parks being in a condition that is not fit for the suburb with such high property taxes. You don't need to be a recreation expert to see the graffiti,

the broken equipment, or the missing swings. You don't have to be from the local beautification committee to notice the litter or the unsanitary restrooms. My question is, "Why does it have to be this way?"

Well, the answer is it doesn't. There is no reason for thugs to be over-running our parks, there is no reason for messy bathrooms or broken equipment, there is no reason for a lack of mulch or tennis courts covered in weeds, and removing basketball courts from the city is simply a weak excuse for a crime policy. We can do better and we will do better.

I envision a recreation system that looks very different from the status quo. I see a system of a few major parks throughout the city that offer a multitude of recreational options. I see parks

that are well maintained, well-patrolled, and heavily used. Parks people enjoy, not parks that we have to make excuses for when visiting teams arrive to compete. Parks that we can take our friends and relatives to without them asking, "Why is it you still live in Lakewood?"

The current mayor can't offer you reasons, he can only offer excuses. He will tell you that city council cut his budget, or he will tell you that myself and others are out to get him, in this he is misleading you. He will tell you that we are having tough times, and he might be right. Mediocre public officials always use "tough times" as an excuse to ignore doing the hard work it takes to find solutions without raising taxes. The real story is that he has appointed some unqualified individuals to administer the city. He has spread the capital budget so thin that every park gets a piece, but none of them get enough to make a quantifiable difference to residents. Lakewood is at the tipping point. We have no more time for excuses, only for data-based management and rapid results.

Change is upon us. We can either embrace what has come and the inevitable decline that will result or we can seek a new path. It is time to elect a mayor with an ability to lead, based on a strong and progressive vision, with a record of results. It is time for us to stop wondering why it has to be this way. We already know why, we already know who is in charge. So I ask you, "Are we better off now than we were four years ago?" We might have a mayor who is "nicer," but is he better?

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Lakewood Arts & Entertainment

Lakewood Concert Calendar

by Bob Ignizio

beladubby (13321 Madison Ave.)
Saturday, August 25th it's *Harley Poe*, an Indiana band that sounds like the The Violent Femmes playing Misfits covers. Also on the bill are *Derica*, Cleveland's own cross-dressing, guitar slinging, singing sensation; Brooklyn, NY folkie *Cuomo*; and Lakewood's own *Acoustic Tuma*. Admission is free. This all-ages show starts at 9 pm.

The Hi Fi Concert Club (11729 Detroit Ave.)
Friday, August 24th it's *Pretty Boy Floyd* with *The Crash Street Kids*, *Readymade Breakup*, and *Hero Pattern*. *Pretty Boy Floyd* were late-comers to the eighties hair metal party, releasing their debut album, "Leather Boyz With Electric Toyz", in 1989. The band broke up in 1991, but since 1995 has been back together in one form or another, with vocalist Steve Summers being the only constant. The current line-up includes original guitarist Aerial Styles and other past members. This 18 and over show starts at 9 pm.

Now That's Class (11213 Detroit Ave., Cleveland)
Monday, August 27th it's *Parmaniacs Schnauzer* with *Betty Sue Aside* (from MD), *Doktor Bitch*, *Flash Attacks*, and *Be My Doppleganger*. If you like noisy, crazy, grindy insanity, this is the show for you. Start time for this 18 and over show is listed as 9pm.

Monday, September 3rd it's *Pink Reason*, *Little Claw*, *The Homo Stupids*, and *The Pages*. Start time for this 18 and over show is listed as 9pm.

The Phantasy Concert Club (11802 Detroit Ave.)
Saturday, August 25th is *Schwaz Fest*, featuring *The Infamous Mr. White*, *Oliver Bean*, *The Minimum Requirements*, *30 Short Songs About People I Barely Know*, *Junkist*, and *Vintage*

Manifest. The Infamous Mr. White (or Tim W. for short) have been Cleveland's self-proclaimed "source of uninhibited guy-and-girl driven alternative rock" since 2002. They'll be releasing their debut full-length CD, "Not Another Explosion", tonight. Admission is \$9 for ages 16-20, \$6 for 21 and over. Doors open at 7:30 pm and the music starts at 8pm.

Saturday, September 1st is *Rosella with Audible Thread*, *Ohio Sky*, and *Locomotive Thundercock*. *Rosella* blend hip hop, country, metal, and straight forward rock to produce a well-crafted melodic modern rock that wouldn't be out of place on mainstream radio. Admission is \$9 for ages 18 to 20, \$6

for 21 and over. Doors open at 8:30 pm; show starts at 9:30 pm.

The Spitfire (1539 W. 117th Street)

Friday, August 24th it's the *Living Wrecks*, raw punky rock & roll from Maryland. Fans of Nashville Pussy, Supersuckers, and the like should dig this. This is a free show for ages 21 and over only.

The Winchester Tavern (12112 Madison Ave.)

Saturday, August 25th it's *Von Frickle* with *The League of Proper Musicians*. *Von Frickle* play instrumental prog rock while wearing space alien costumes. What more do you need to know, really?

This is an all-ages show and admission is \$7. The show starts at 9 pm.

Friday, August 31st it's *Susan Weber* and *Monet's Orbit*. *Susan* and her band have been garnering lots of critical attention with their live shows, including winning "Best Female Singer/Songwriter" from the Free Times in 2006. Michael Galluci of Scene Magazine described *Susan* thusly: "A heartland version of Patti Smith, *Weber* injects Midwest muscle into her songs." And with a CD scheduled for release in September, things are just getting started for this artist. This all-ages show starts at 9 pm and admission is \$5.

Beck Center Announces Placement Auditions For Children's Choirs

by Fran Storch

Beck Center for the Arts announces placement auditions for our Children's Performing and Chamber Choirs. Singers ages nine and up with unchanged voices are welcome. Auditions are scheduled throughout the months of August and September by appointment. Choirs rehearse on Tuesday evenings beginning in September. For more information or to schedule a placement audition, call the Beck Center Music Department directly at 216-228-2800.

Beck Center Children's Choirs begin their 18th season this fall. In addition to their regular concert schedule, they have performed with the Cleveland Pops Orchestra, Apollo's Fire and at Cleveland Indians baseball games. The Children's Choir program offers students the opportunity to develop healthy vocal techniques, music reading and listening skills, and a sense of pride and self-confidence.

The choir program was founded in 1990 at the Koch School of Music in Rocky River. Koch later became Riverside Academy of Music, and in August 2001, Riverside merged with Beck Center in Lakewood. In addition to the Performing and Chamber Choirs, Beck Center also offers two non-auditioned choirs. Primary Music Makers for ages 5 to 6, and an Intermediate Choir for ages 7 to 8. These choirs rehearse on Mondays. To enroll in these choirs, please call the Beck Center Music Department.

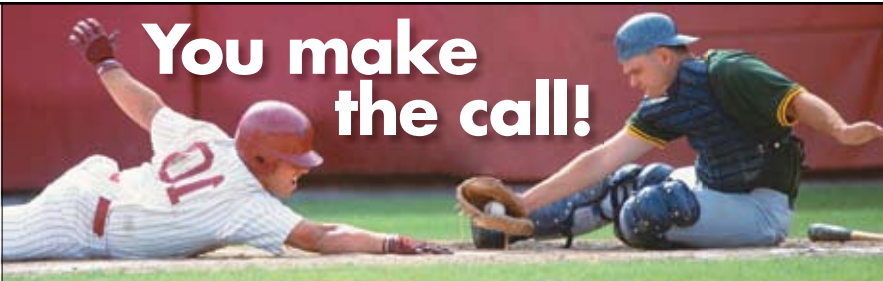
Beck Center for the Arts offers professional theatrical productions on two stages along with comprehensive curriculum-based arts education in Creative Arts Therapies, dance, music, theater, and visual arts, as well as gallery exhibits featuring local and regional artists.

Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Convenient on-site parking is available. For more information, call (216) 521-2540 or visit us online at www.beckcenter.org.

Gallery Watch by Ruth A. Koenigsmark

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(see adjacent article on this page)
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Piece of the Garden (Sculptures). Saturday August 25th, 6-9 pm Anthony Bocchicchio is a Master Plumber and longtime resident artist who developed his metal-crafting skills through indus-

trial application. Although they would enhance anyone's garden, his pieces are definitely not your "garden variety" sculptures. Save the Date, Sunday, September 16th to take a pic w/ your pooch--\$25 sitting fee w/8x10 photo by photographer extraordinaire Frank Miller, III. Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 12pm-5pm and Friday-Saturday 12pm-6pm
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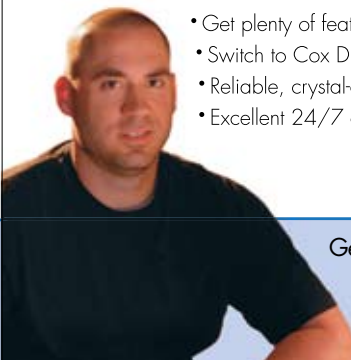
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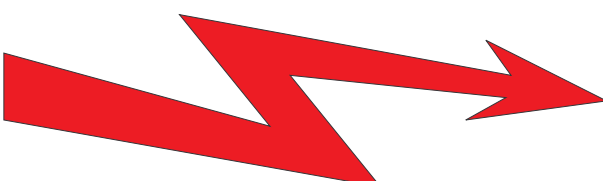
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