

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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

Volume 4, Issue 1, January 8, 2008

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## Standing Room Only Crowd Sees Mayor Edward FitzGerald Sworn In Promises That Lakewood Will Prevail



photo by Ivor Karabakovic

Mayor Edward FitzGerald speaks from the heart to the standing room only crowd at his inauguration. Sitting from left to right are: Councilman from Ward 1 Kevin Butler, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, Councilwoman from Ward 4 Mary Louis Madigan, emcee for the inauguration, and former Lakewood Councilman Joe Gibbons, and Councilman from Ward 2 Tom Bullock.

First I want to thank the students from Lakewood High School her performed “America the Beautiful.” That was just wonderful, and I would suggest to Superintendent Estrop, who is in attendance here, that he extend your winter break by one week.

Father Phil, Senator Brown, my fellow citizens of Lakewood and distinguished guests.

The motto of the State of Ohio is “With God, All things are Possible.” And I believe that, because how else could you explain an Irish Catholic being inaugurated in a Masonic Temple?

I first heard Senator Brown speak when I was a student at Ohio State in 1990, and I thought he should run for president then, and I still do. But since the Iowa caucuses have now occurred, I hope you all encourage whomever receives the presidential nomination to make Sherrod Brown the next vice President of the United States.

Senator Brown is not the most important person here today, my mother turned 80 years old on Christ-

mas Day, and she is here with us today. My mom grew up without much money in the middle of the Great Depression, and still raised eight children with my dad. She’s a special person, and I’m lucky to have her here today. Some people ask her why she had so many children, but if she had stopped at four, or five, or even six children, I wouldn’t

*There are always political risks associated with innovation and change, but those are risks I am willing to take. After all, what in the world is the point of being in political office if you’re not willing to take risks to help our city?*

be here today, since I arrived at number seven. So I thank her for that as well.

The FitzGerald family has a long history with the City of Lakewood, going back more than 75 years. Working as the Mayor of Lakewood is my opportunity to be of service to the city of my family’s past and our future.

It is natural for every mayor to believe that he or she faces the greatest challenges in our history, but all objec-

### Mayor Edward FitzGerald’s Inaugural Address January 5th - 6th, 2008

tive evidence now points to the fact this is a particularly crucial turning point for not just our city, but our region.

I’m sure many of you have read recently about how we are facing a fiscal crisis. Even before I took office, I called the state auditor’s office in, and we are being forced to consider spending cuts. Not because we want to, or because we asked for this situation, but because the day of reckoning is here, whether we like it or not.

Lakewood is not the only city struggling with a familiar litany of obstacles. All across Ohio, and all across America, hundreds of cities are struggling with stagnant tax revenues, foreclosed properties, rising crime, and aging infrastructure. Some of these communities will fail. Some of these communities will barely keep their heads above water. And some of these communities will find a way to prevail. In the next four years, it is the duty of

everyone in this room, from those on this stage, to those in the back of the hall, to find a way to ensure Lakewood will be one those cities which not only survives, but prevails.

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# Events & Notices

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

## First Federal Of Lakewood And City Of Lakewood Unveil Converted Duplex

by Christina Capadona

Dec. 27, 2007 – First Federal of Lakewood and the City of Lakewood officially unveiled the newly completed, converted home at 2227 Bunts Rd., at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 11. Gary Fix, First Federal president, CEO and managing officer, and Tom Jordan, Lakewood director of planning and development, addressed project partners, First Federal executives, city officials, local realtors and Lakewood community members at the ceremony.

The approximately 2,200 square-foot dwelling was transformed from a duplex into a single-family home through a project that began in mid-May of this year. The project is a combined effort between First Federal, the City and independent architect Paul Beegan. Prudential Lucien Realty is handling the property sale.

“We have called Lakewood home since 1935, and it was an easy decision

to lead this project and give something back to the community,” said Gary Fix, First Federal president, CEO and managing officer. “It is our hope that the success of this project will encourage more renovations and bring more owner-occupied homes to the city.”

Fix added, “Projects like this do not happen by accident and we recognize the many groups who partnered with us to make this great project a reality.”

“Lakewood is a City of beautiful historic homes and we have always been proud of the diversity of our housing options,” said Tom Jordan, director of planning and development for the City of Lakewood. “We hope this unit serves as a model architecturally and as a business model for others to explore the conversion of this type of housing.”

Exterior renovations to the home include: new windows, siding and roof, removal of the top-floor porch



FFL president, CEO and managing officer Gary Fix (left) and City of Lakewood director of planning and development Tom Jordan (right) in newly renovated Bunts Road home.

to create a single-family home front, a backyard deck, landscaping and garage construction. Interior renovations include: air conditioning, second-floor laundry room, master bedroom with a new bathroom and a walk-in closet. The property is marked for sale at \$189,000.

First Federal of Lakewood, with 12 locations in Northeast Ohio, has total

assets exceeding \$1 billion. Founded in 1935, First Federal of Lakewood is a community savings and loan institution with a deep-rooted tradition of financial strength, stability and integrity. Visit [www.FFL.net](http://www.FFL.net) for additional information.

## Lost...

by Mazie Adams

Despite the best efforts of the Lakewood Historical Society and many others, the Mathew Hall House was demolished on December 27, 2007. Built in 1870, the Hall House was one of the last remaining links to the early settler history of our community.

For many months, the Lakewood Historical Society spent countless hours working with members of City Council, the City Administration, Hall family descendents and the current owner to devise a plan to move the house to a safer location. A site was identified and estimates for moving and restoration were gathered. The Society’s fundraising efforts and many generous donations to the Lakewood Preservation Fund (established in 2007) raised more than half the cost of moving the house, but time ran out. By the time the Society learned that a demolition permit had been requested and issued on December 27th, the Hall House was already gone.

While the Mathew Hall House could not be saved, the Lakewood



Historical Society is committed to continuing its preservation efforts before the next important Lakewood landmark is threatened. Although the Lakewood Preservation Fund was established with the intention of using it to save the Hall House, the overall purpose of the Fund is to support preservation efforts in Lakewood. (For more information on the Lakewood Preservation Fund or to donate please go to [www.lakewoodhistory.org](http://www.lakewoodhistory.org).) We are grateful for the many contributions from those interested in

maintaining our heritage, and we will continue to grow the Fund. Through the Lakewood Preservation Fund we will educate the community on preservation issues, identify and protect threatened structures, and support the preservation legislation currently being reviewed by City Council. During the past year, hundreds of Lakewood citizens expressed their concerns for the Mathew Hall house and for the architectural heritage of our community.

We must work to retain and preserve the architectural character of our community. The cumulative effect of all the buildings lost to unsympathetic new construction and parking lots over the years is staggering! We must change the attitude that gives demolition precedence over preservation.


With the help of improved local legislation, preservation and economic development can work together to maintain Lakewood’s unique attributes in a beautiful, viable and healthy community. We will keep you apprised of the status of the legislation as it goes before City Council. Please join our

## Pet Pastries Gives Your Pets Something To Howl For!

Corrie Hanton

Pet Pastries has joined the Lakewood community and has kicked off this month with new and exciting gourmet pet pastries. They’re an all natural and healthy alternative to store bought products. Each month a new flavor will be added to the menu and taste testers are welcome

to give their barking opinions. The current menu features 10 different items with a howling favorite of the PB Bites (peanut butter bites). Even the humans can enjoy these tasty treats as long as they share with their companions! Eat up - the healthy way! To place an order, simply call 216.647.1911 and we’ll deliver them right to your dog house!



THE

LAKEWOOD

OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for  
Lakewood News & Opinion

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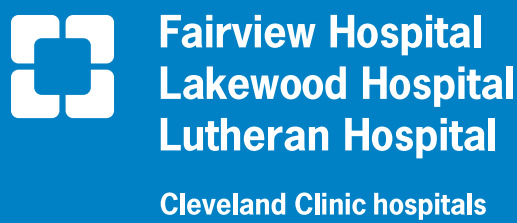
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# Straight from the Heart

## Win Incredible Prizes!

# Grand Prize \$100,000

Winners to be drawn at the Straight from the Heart Gala on February 16, 2008 and need not be present to win.

All proceeds to benefit the cardiovascular programs at Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran Hospitals.

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 2nd Prize..... 24 month lease on 2007 Corvette arranged by Ganley Chevrolet*                | 14th Prize ... Diamond Necklace and Earrings arranged by Rivchun Jewelers        | 26th Prize ... Weekend Getaway for two to New York City               |
| 3rd Prize ..... 24 month lease on S-Jaguar arranged by Westside Automotive Group*           | 15th Prize ... 7-day cruise for two to Alaska                                    | 27th Prize ... \$1,500 Cash Prize                                     |
| 4th Prize ..... 24 month lease on LR2 Landrover arranged by Westside Automotive*            | 16th Prize ... 7-day cruise for two to the Carribean                             | 28th Prize ... \$1,500 Cash Prize                                     |
| 5th Prize ..... \$10,000 Cash Prize   | 17th Prize ... 7-day trip for four to Walt Disney World                          | 29th Prize ... 3-night trip for two to Las Vegas                      |
| 6th Prize ..... Honda Personal Watercraft arranged by Honda of Avon*                        | 18th Prize ... Diamond and Sapphire Tennis Bracelet arranged by Rivchun Jewelers | 30th Prize ... \$1,500 Cash Prize                                     |
| 7th Prize ..... \$10,000 Cash Prize   | 19th Prize ... \$2,500 Cash Prize  | 31st Prize ... \$1,500 Cash Prize                                     |
| 8th Prize ..... Harley-Davidson Sportster Motorcycle arranged by Lake Erie Harley-Davidson* | 20th Prize ... 7-day trip for two to California Wine Country                     | 32nd Prize .. Weekend Getaway for two to Chicago                      |
| 9th Prize ..... \$5,000 Cash Prize  | 21st Prize ... Plasma HD TV arranged by Audio Craft                              | 33rd Prize ... \$1,000 Cash Prize                                     |
| 10th Prize ... 7-day trip for two to Hawaii   | 22nd Prize .. 3-night trip for two to Cancun                                     | 34th Prize ... \$1,000 Cash Prize                                     |
| 11th Prize ... \$5,000 Landscape Package donated by Monteleone Landscaping                  | 23rd Prize ... \$2,000 Cash Prize  | 35th Prize ... \$1,000 Cash Prize                                     |
| 12th Prize ... 7-day trip for two to Atlantis Bahamas                                       | 24th Prize ... \$2,000 Cash Prize  | 36th Prize ... \$1,000 Travel Voucher provided by Independence Travel |
| 13th Prize ... 7-day trip for two to Punta Cana (all inclusive)                             | 25th Prize ... \$2,000 Shopping Spree donated by Basista Furniture               | 37th Prize ... \$1,000 Cash Prize                                     |
|   |  | 38th Prize ... \$1,000 Cash Prize                                     |
|   |  | 39th Prize ... \$1,000 Cash Prize                                     |
|   |  | 40th Prize ... \$1,000 Cash Prize                                     |

\*Cash options available for 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 at 75% of prize value.  
All trip arrangements sponsored by Independence Travel.



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or visit [www.fairviewhospital.org](http://www.fairviewhospital.org), [www.lakewoodhospital.org](http://www.lakewoodhospital.org) or [www.lutheranhospital.org](http://www.lutheranhospital.org)

Lakewood City News

# LO Advisory Board Elects Two New Members

The Advisory Board is pleased to announce the addition of two new esteemed members, Lauren Rich Fine and Steven M. Ott.

Lauren Rich Fine is currently Practitioner in Residence, Kent State University College of Communications & Information. Ms. Fine, CFA, was, until recently, a Managing Director at Merrill Lynch in Equity Research. A 19-year veteran, she covered the publishing, information, advertising and online industries. She was a ranked member of the Institutional Investor All-American Research Team for 14 years holding the number one position for 11 years. Lauren has an MBA from the Stern School of Management (NYU) and a BA in Psychology/Economics from Tufts University. Ms. Fine is married and has five teenage children/stepchildren.

Lauren also serves on the Boards of Brand Muscle, the Cleveland Film Society, the Cleveland Jewish News (Executive Committee), the Chautauqua Foundation, In Counsel with Women (Executive Committee), Laurel School, and Urban Community School, a not-for-profit school for low income families in Cleveland. She is on the Advisory Boards of Dix & Eaton, a public relations firm in Cleveland, and the Poynter Institute, a school for journalists in St. Petersburg and on the marketing committee at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

With Ott & Associates, Steven M. Ott concentrates in several areas of law in Ohio and California, including Internet law, general business and corporate law,



Lauren Rich Fine

and real estate. Mr. Ott also represents businesses and community associations as general counsel. His practice includes



Steven M. Ott

counseling and advising clients as well as prosecuting and defending claims and lawsuits in all the above areas of law.

Steve is licensed to practice law in the States of Ohio and California, Federal District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. He is a member of the Cuyahoga County Bar Association, Ohio Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He has served as a speaker in numerous seminars.

Steve is a graduate of Lakewood High School (1973), Ohio Wesleyan (1977), and Cleveland Marshall College of Law (1980). He and his wife, Kathy, both moved to Lakewood in the 1960s and have been here ever since. They have two children. Steve is the Two Rivers District Chairman with Boy Scouts and is currently serving as Chairman for Lakewood Community Progress Inc.'s Organization Committee.

We are honored to have two such eminently qualified experts on board.

## Lakewood City Council, Mayor Offer Resolution To Honor Geiger's 75th Anniversary

At the final City Council meeting of the year, the Lakewood City Council and Lakewood Mayor, Thomas George, combined to present a special resolution to congratulate and honor Geiger's for "...75 years of civic involvement in our community and for Geiger's dedication to the ideals of the city of Lakewood and its citizens. The City of

Lakewood wishes to express its gratitude to the Geiger family."

Citing Geiger's founding in 1932 by the current owners' grandfather, Mayor George pointed out Geiger's generosity in countless hours of volunteer time, primarily in youth and adult athletics over the years. Referring to Geiger's as a "Lakewood Institution," he also mentioned Geiger's support for the Lakewood Arts Festival, the Beck Center, the Lakewood Historical Society, the Lakewood Christian Service Center and the Lakewood YMCA. "They have also supported thousands of Lakewood kids – senior high school, junior high and elementary throughout the last three quarters of a century. We're happy they call Lakewood home."

Accepting the resolution on behalf of Geiger's, company president W. Charles Geiger III thanked both the Mayor and Council stating he and his family were pleased and proud to have

three generations of Geigers working in and for the city of Lakewood. "We've enjoyed being in Lakewood for a long time," said Geiger, "and give back to our community whenever we can." Geiger is President-elect of the Lakewood Board of Education, a trustee of the Lakewood Hospital Foundation and past chairman of the Lakewood Planning Commission. Other members of the Geiger family serve Lakewood Kiwanis, Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary, Lakewood Community Progress, Inc. and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce.

Geiger's Clothing and Sports, in the center of Lakewood, offers men's tailored clothing, men's and women's active and resort wear, snow sports clothing, ski and snowboard equipment and accessories, and sporting goods. Geiger's has three other locations in Chagrin Falls and Rocky River and can be found on the internet at [www.shopgeigers.com](http://www.shopgeigers.com).

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l to r. Lakewood Councilperson Nickie Antonio; Geiger's owner W. Charles "Chas" Geiger, III; Mayor Edward FitzGerald; Mayor Thomas George

# Lakewood Public Library

## Lakewood Public Library Foundation To Honor Winners Of Photography Contest

The Lakewood Public Library Foundation is pleased to invite you to a reception honoring the winners of the Lakewood Public Library Photography Contest. The reception will be held at the Main Library 15425 Detroit Avenue on Sunday, January 20th from 2 to 4pm.

“The Lakewood Public Library Foundation sponsored the contest; open to all residents of Lakewood, asking photographers to bring in pictures of anything in Lakewood. We were thrilled when we saw the talent and creativity of our residents. The winning photographs showcase Lakewood’s beautiful architecture, stunning nature and our residents’ artistic talent. Our plan was to pick 20 photos for the gallery at the new Robert A.M. Stern designed library. Our judges were so impressed by

the submissions that they picked 34 photographs, from 23 artists, to be displayed at the library”, explained Nancy Seibert, Chair of the Art Selection Committee and Vice President of the Board of Trustees.

“The winning photographs, in color and black & white, were taken primarily in the past year, but one winning photo was from the early 1970’s. I hope all residents of Lakewood will stop by the new library to see the photos and check out a book while they are there,” Mrs. Seibert added.

The winners being honored are: Corinne Baker, Mary Breiner, Laura Clementz, Martha Clifffel, Tate Davidson, Nathalie Dibo, Felicia Erhardt, Phyllis Kohring Fannin, Peter Garver, Joseph Gregg, Ivor Karabatkovic, Rhonda Loje, Christian Lynn, Terry Mahon, Emily Ott, Dana

Paul, Missy Richardson, Brent Seabrook, Carl Staub, Kristen Tellaisha, Erin Weber, Holly Whisman, and Stephanie Yencer.

Each of the winning photographs was awarded \$200 from the Foundation.



One of the winning photos, this one by Ivor Karabatkovic.

### Correction: The Lakewood Public Library and Grant Elementary Make Difference

Dan Slife  
Editor in Chief

In error, the article entitled, “The Lakewood Public Library and Grant Elementary Make a Difference”, which ran in Volume 3, Issue 25, was missing some critical information.

Firstly, the article was co-authored by Tracie Drake and Audrey Sumser, both of whom were heavily involved in the project. Secondly, the Lakewood Congregational Church, which participates in the Interfaith Hospitality Network, was not mentioned in the original article.

The editor apologizes for this oversight. We strive to ensure that credit is properly given for all works submitted, from individuals to institutions. While this particular error was the mistake of this editor, please be sure to include specific notes with your member center submissions, if so required. We will do our best to follow these instructions, when reasonable.

Please contact [city.editor@lakewoodobserver.com](mailto:city.editor@lakewoodobserver.com) with any questions.

### Shell Out Your Shillings, Fork Over Your Francs!

by Andrew Harant

Lakewood Public Library needs coins from around the globe to create a unique map of the world in the new Children’s & Youth Services Department. Coins will represent the country/continents from which they originate.

If you’ve ever traveled to, lived in, were born in, or found a coin from another country, we would love your donation. We especially need coins

from Russia, Asia and Africa, but will happily accept any, even ones from Antarctica.

Children of any age, including adults and seniors, are welcome to participate. Please bring your coins to Lakewood Public Library’s Children’s and Youth Services Department from now through Sunday, January 20. If you could tell us where the coin is from, we would really appreciate it.

### Lakewood Public Library Events Calendar

**Sunday With the Friends New Main Library Auditorium 2:00 p.m. January 13** What’s Hot and What’s Not in Lakewood Steve Fitzgerald is back to share his Lakewoodite insights and make predictions about who and what will be hot in 2008. Unafraid of a little competition, the man from Lakewood Buzz encourages the audience to come prepared with their own forecasts.

**Business Book Talk with Tim Zahn and Friends**With the 2008 Summer Olympic Games coming to Beijing, it’s time to explore the megatrends radiating out of China. This month the group will discuss China, Inc.: How the Rise of the Next Superpower Challenges America and the World by Ted Fishman. Thursday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the new Main Library Auditorium

**Lakewood Public Cinema Saboteur (1942)** Directed by Alfred Hitchcock, PG -Accused of sabotaging a vital airplane factory in the desperate early days of World War II, the unlikely Robert Cummings chases the real saboteur across the country, uncovering traitors and patriots along the way. See America and its people through the eyes of the newly-emigrated Hitchcock in this overlooked gem.Saturday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the new Main Library Auditorium

**Lakewood Photo Contest Award Reception**The Lakewood Public Library Foundation and the Lakewood Public Library Art Committee cordially invite the public to a reception for the photo contest winners.Sunday, January 20 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the South Gallery

#### Friends of Lakewood Public Library Book Sale

Saturday February 9 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Omni 13000 Athens Avenue

**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:

January 11, 12, 13 A Hair Affair  
January 18, 19, 29 Snowy Day

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	2:00 p.m.
In the Madison Branch auditorium	

**Homework ER:** for students in kindergarten through eighth gradeTuesday, September 4, 2007 – Thursday, May 22, 2008 Need a little extra help with your homework or just want a cool place to work? We transform part of the library into the Homework ER with helpers and a cart full of resources. Homework ER will be closed for school holidays and vacations. No need to register. Monday-Thursday, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Madison Branch

**Four O’clock Club:** for students in kindergarten through eighth gradeTuesday, September 4, 2007 – Friday, May 23, 2008 Join the Club! Come for a different activity each weekday. No need to register.

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY
Monday	4:00 p.m.	Make-It-Take-It (craft day)
Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Marvelous Mysteries (surprise day)
Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Twist, Shout, Act It Out
Thursday	4:00 p.m.	Games Galore (game to play or make)
Friday	4:00 p.m.	Make-It-Take-It (craft day) At the Madison Branch

## Lakewood Hospital News

# Nadim Mubarak, M.D. Appointed New Medical Director, Cardiac Services At Lakewood Hospital.

(December 19 2007) – Lakewood Hospital is pleased to announce the appointment of Nadim Mubarak, M.D., as the new medical director of Cardiac Services. Dr. Mubarak oversees clinical functions related to Lakewood Hospital's Heart Center.

"Heart disease is exceedingly prevalent in our communities and it is vital that we are prepared to treat the most serious heart patients," said Jack Gustin, president of Lakewood Hospital. "Dr. Mubarak is an excellent cardiologist and will play a critical role in our heart center; we are extremely pleased to have him on board as we continually enhance our cardiac services."

Dr. Mubarak is board-certified in cardiovascular medicine, interventional cardiology and endovascular

medicine. He specializes in the non-surgical treatment (angioplasty / stenting) of blocked arteries in the heart, carotid arteries, renal arteries as well as the arteries of the legs. In addition to numerous publications, Dr. Mubarak authored a book, "Carotid Artery Stenting", which is used by interventional cardiologists worldwide. Carotid Artery Stenting, or CAS, is a non-surgical procedure that opens blocked carotid arteries, preventing life-threatening strokes. Dr. Mubarak was a member of the research team at the University of Alabama that developed and refined the techniques of CAS.

Lakewood Hospital's Heart Center offers state-of-the-art catheterization technologies to provide patients with the latest minimally

invasive techniques to treat coronary and carotid artery disease. Additionally, Lakewood Hospital recently completed its \$2.65 million Coronary Care Unit renovation to include the most modern technological and comfort upgrades. "Lakewood Hospital has made tremendous advancements in its heart program and I look forward to contributing to the future of cardiac care at Lakewood," said Dr. Mubarak.

Dr. Mubarak earned his medical degree from the University of Vienna Medical School in Austria. He completed a residency in internal medicine and fellowships in cardiology, interventional cardiology, interventional neuroradiology and endovascular therapy at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



Nadim Mubarak, M.D.

wide range of health services and education programs for women, men and children. Each year, Lakewood Hospital provides high-quality and innovative patient care for more than 130,000 patients. In 1997, Lakewood Hospital became part of the Cleveland Clinic Health System, a partnership between the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and nine community hospitals.

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# Lakewood Schools & Sports

## School Board Member Markling Promises To Keep the Promises

As the newest member of the Lakewood City School District Board of Education, I am indeed honored by the trust bestowed upon me by the Citizens of Lakewood. I was elected on the promise that I will work to improve academic excellence, school safety, and leadership throughout the Lakewood City Schools. I will keep that promise without excuse or reservation.

I promise to promote academic excellence by demanding that all initiatives relate to improving academic excellence among all students. And the time is now for the Lakewood City Schools to: (1) immediately move toward “projects,” “partnerships,” “studies,” and “collaborations” that are directly related to obtaining an excellent rating on state accountability standards; (2) support quality teaching and learning within the financial constraints of the District; (3) highlight Lakewood Recreation Department opportunities to all students, especially elementary and middle school students, through face-to-face orientation opportunities; (4) highlight the academic excellence currently taking place in the Lakewood City Schools by taking advantage of the media outlets we currently have; (5) highlight the academic excellence currently taking place in the Lakewood City Schools by recognizing both students and parents for their academic accomplishments on a classroom, building, and district-wide level; and (6) consider implementation of All Day Kindergarten throughout the Lakewood City Schools.

I promise to promote school safety by demanding that all initiatives relate to improving school safety for all students. And the time is now for the

Lakewood City Schools to: (1) ensure that all school safety recommendations of both the High School Student Conduct and School Climate Committee and the Middle School Student Conduct and School Climate Committee continue to be implemented fully; (2) support all legal discipline decisions of the Administration; (3) support School Board Member Linda Beebe’s campaign promise to consider school uniforms; (4) ensure that the Lakewood City Schools continue to educate students on the importance of student civility and respect for authority; (5) ensure that the Lakewood City Schools continue to support DARE and School Resource Officer programming; and (6) ensure that the Lakewood City Schools work cooperatively with the Lakewood Police Department to protect the safety of staff and students.

I promise to promote leadership that inspires trust among all key stake-

holders. And the time is now for the Lakewood City Schools to: (1) hold both the Superintendent and Treasurer responsible for managing the schools in accordance with the Board’s policies; (2) build public support and understanding of public education through community involvement and feedback, as well as the unedited airing of all public meetings; (3) strengthen the relationship between the Lakewood Early Childhood PTA and the Lakewood City Schools; (4) ensure that all contracts consider maximizing the use of Lakewood residents in accordance with the law and in the best interest of the Lakewood City Schools; (5) ensure that all phases of the Building Projects maximize the use of trade union-shops in the best interest of the Lakewood City Schools; (6) ensure that meetings are always conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Laws; (7) ensure that public records

are always maintained and provided in accordance with the Ohio Sunshine Laws including sharing board meeting material with the public during school board meetings; (8) ensure full compliance with the Ohio Ethics Laws; and (9) ensure that the Board is effectively utilizing legal counsel in the best interest of the Board and the Lakewood City Schools.

Fortunately there will be much assistance in keeping the promises. The Lakewood City Schools has dedicated parents and excellent teachers and staff members, as well as seasoned school board members and administrators. Most importantly, the Lakewood City Schools has the support of the Citizens of Lakewood.

It’s Lakewood’s Time! – So let’s get to work at keeping the promise of improving academic excellence, school safety, and leadership throughout the Lakewood City Schools.

## Ranger Wrestling 2007- An Update

by Todd Shapiro

While the rest of the world was focused on Christmas cards, bowl games and dodging snowflakes, the Lakewood Rangers wrestling team was keeping busy winning trophies and racking up victories against some of the regions top competitors.

Lakewood opened up the season at the 28th Annual Knight of Columbus Tournament at Avon Lake High School. The Rangers finished fourth in the 12-team events with 195 points, just two points behind third place Avon Lake. Chagrin Falls Kenston was the tournament champion with 245.5 points.

A pair of Rangers brought home individual championship from the Knight of Columbus Tournament. Senior Pat Duffy was the champion at 135 pounds and Junior Peti Tapolyai was victorious in the 145 pound weight class. Lakewood had 12 wrestlers place in the tournament including three freshman Yousef Abdel-Salem (112), Mick Wooley (171), and Nick Ramsey (130) who were getting their first taste of varsity competition.

Lakewood returned home from the Battle of Waterloo Pool Tournament on December 15 believing they had won the 17 team event. However, the major winter storm that hit eastern Ohio forced the final matches to be wrestled

out of order. So when the final scores were compiled the following Monday, the Rangers finished second with 272.5 points. East Liverpool won the event with 275 points. The Rangers and the East Liverpool Potters each had three individual champions in a field that included traditional wrestling powers Uniontown Lake and Toledo St. John’s. Duffy (135) won his second event of the season. Abdel-Salem (112) and sophomore Dahoud Hamidah (152) also won individual championships.

The dual meet portion of the schedule opened on December 20 when Lakewood hosted Brunswick and Avon Lake. Despite the familiar surroundings the Rangers struggled in the dual meets losing to Brunswick, 45-19, and to Avon Lake, 39-26. Against the Brunswick Blue Devils, Lakewood scored on pins by Duffy (135) and junior Tony Scilimenti (140), on a major decision by senior Gahad Suleiman (215), and on a decision by Christian Cerda-Smith (119). The highlights of the Avon Lake match were pins by Suleiman at 1 minute 25 seconds of the first period and by Nick Ramsey (130) with 22 seconds remaining in the second period.

The Rangers rounded out the 2007 portion of their schedule with a sixth place finish in the 15 team Lorain Southview Classic. Lakewood finished with 151 points, just a half-point behind fifth place Avon Lake. Lisbon Beaver Local High School took home the team title with 254.5 points. Duffy (135) sealed his third individual championship of the season with a first period pin of Southview’s Jimmy Gyorfi.

The remainder of the schedule has the Rangers visiting Parma on Thursday for a dual meet before returning home on January 17 for a tri-meet with Medina and Maple Heights. Later in the month of January, Lakewood will also take part in the Midpark and Willard tournaments.

## A New Year For Lakewood Girl’s Basketball

by Todd Shapiro

The New Year’s resolution of the Lakewood girl’s basketball team was to cut down on turnovers in the second half of the season. The Rangers did just that in their first game of the New Year, committing just 22 turnovers, down from a season average of 25. But they could not convert that into points on the scoreboard and fell to the Magnificat Blue Streaks 50-38 in a non-league home game last Thursday.

Playing without injured leading scorer Nicole Niemi, Lakewood jumped out to a 13-6 first period lead. Rachel Niemi, Nicole’s older sister,

scored four of her team’s 10 points in the first period.

Magnificat called a time out with 2:28 remaining in the first period and turned on the defense. By the time the Blue Streaks allowed another point. They had turned that early deficit into a 23-13 lead. Lakewood went over ten minutes without a field goal until Niemi scored on a lay-up with six seconds remaining in the first half.

Early in the third period freshman Martha Nagbe scored to cut the Magnificat lead to four, 25-21. Magnificat quickly answered back with a pair of 3-point field goals from Meredith McConville and Kristen DuBroy to extend the lead to

30-21. The Blue Streaks dominated the remainder of the game extending their lead to 48-30 midway through the fourth period. Rangers’ junior guard Jamie Wright nailed back-to-back 3-pointers late in the game to cut the lead to 12. Wright finished the game with nine points and three assists.

“Overall I have been pleased this season,” Rangers coach Nicole Anderson said. “On defense we have only been allowing 45 points a game. We have been battling hard all season. Last year we played our best basketball in the second half of the season, I think we can do that again.”


Lakewood finished the first half of the ’07-’08 season with a 4-6 record. Last year the Rangers started 1-9 before going on to win seven of their final 12 games.

The Rangers will play of non-league home games against North Royalton on January 12 and Lorain Admiral King on January 16 before beginning the second half of the Northern Ohio Conference schedule on January 23 at home against Brush.

### Wannabe Blonde Contest!

Open to ladies who mess up the towels and sinks to do their own haircolor, or who have never been blonde.  
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*\*Those Under the years 18 of age will need parent's permission.*



# Lakewood Observer

## FitzGerald Inauguration...

continued from page 1...

Lakewood is going to prevail because we have some resources which few other communities do. We have an abundance of talent in our community, in every field of endeavor. When we are looking for expertise in business, in technology, in the arts, in education, in government, we have only to look to ourselves.

Part of my job as mayor will be to tap into this tremendous reserve of talent which exists in Lakewood. Since the election, dozens of residents have volunteered their - time and talent to work on solutions to our problems. This process of citizen involvement has already produced results. We have set up working groups regarding all the major issues we are struggling with. And Lakewood residents are studying the problems, researching different strategies, and evaluating the best practices of other communities.

This is hardly the first time we have studied our problems. The difference is, I won't be waiting months or years before we begin to implement reform. In the first 100 days, we will be implementing reforms in every single city hall department, and the phrase: "that's the way it's always been done" will have no place in Lakewood City Hall.

And the reform won't stop at the first 100 days. Throughout the next four years, our working groups will continue to research more effective strategies and evaluate our departments. Because, some of our reforms will succeed, but inevitably some will fail. There are always political risks associated with innovation and change, but those are risks I am willing to take. After all, what in the world is the point of being in political office if you're not willing to take risks to help our city?

In 3 years, Lakewood will celebrate 100 years as an incorporated city. The century mark is an important milestone, at which we can take stock of our strengths and weaknesses. I have a few simple goals which I want Lakewood to have achieved on our 100th birthday.

*I'd like to share them with you:*  
I want our residents to be confident that our community is safe, and I want that confidence to be based on

standards of public safety, not public relations.

I want our city finances to be secure and sound.

I want our recreational programs to match the high expectations we have for our children.

I want a local government that is known for high ethical standards, efficiency, and technological innovation.

I want a housing strategy that encourages investment but will not tolerate neglect.

And I want Lakewood to embrace our artistic and cultural assets, and uplift the civic soul of our city.

I don't expect perfection, and I know you don't either. But I do believe that we will put ourselves on the road to being a community which finally taps into the tremendous talent we have, and that we will begin to make steady progress in all of these areas, and many more which I haven't even mentioned.

My campaign succeeded because it came to represent something larger than myself. My administration will succeed if it becomes a vehicle for you, your family, your friends, your neighbors, to participate fully in this 100 year old enterprise we call Lakewood.

We all need to be ambassadors of our city, to tell the story of why Lakewood should be a destination for families.

But not everyone believes we will succeed. We all interact with people who have given up on our city, and who now prefer to live in communities in surrounding counties.

Let me tell you what I tell some of those people. I say, I know your community has some things that we do not. But we have so many things that you can never have.

You don't have our historic homes, you don't have our lakefront, you don't have our riverfront, you don't have our Beck Center, you don't have our library system, you don't have our public schools, you don't have our private schools, you don't have our business community and our workforce, you don't have our churches and faith communities, you don't have our cultural diversity, you don't have our proximity to downtown and the



From left to right; Former councilman, and emcee for the event Joe Gibbons, Ward 2 Councilman Tom Bullock, Ward 4 Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan, Ward 1 Councilman Kevin Butler, and Mayor Edward FitzGerald.



Mayor Edward FitzGerald, with family enjoys a moment with US Senator Sherrod Brown during the ceremony.

Metroparks.  
And you don't have our civic pride, because we're a real community, not some developer's imitation of a real community.  
I feel sorry for some of those folks, I really do. Because they're underestimating us. They're underestimating our talent, they're underestimating our resolve, they're underestimating our energy and our character.  
They don't know our history, what we've faced before and overcome. They don't know the true story of Lakewood.  
The story of Lakewood has been recounted in at least two books in the 20th century, but those histories are incomplete. When I was a kid, I used to read a lot of history. And sometimes when I would read one of my favorite history books, I would hope that somehow, maybe the ending would be different, something more to my liking. And even though I knew it was really impossible, sometimes I just couldn't help hoping for a different ending. But that was just a lost cause, and I couldn't change a thing, because those books had already been written, and those lives had already been led.  
But our lives have not been led, and the story of our city has not been completed, and now it is our turn to write our next chapter any way we want, as we would like it to be, and as we would like to pass on to our children.  
In the next four years, we're going to add a chapter to the story of Lakewood. I want to invite you to write that chapter with me. And let's make it a chapter worth reading.  
*Thank you very much.*



From left to right; Jack, Katie, Emma and Nate Kelley speak with the Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce's Patty Ryan. Nate is the new Planning Director for Lakewood.

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# Lakewood Observer Year In Review

## Saleet Lane Gets Approved



The warm and friendly staff of The Place To Be. Sarah, 2nd from right passed away this year after decades of warm friendly service to all. Sarah you are missed.

## The SWAT Pigeon



photo by Dave Skoljak



Dinner Is Served.



photo by Debra O'Bryan

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

## Uncle Scratch's Gospel Revival At Car Show



photo by David Lay

The amazing Uncle Scratch's Gospel Revival, not to be missed. Ever!



At the Art Festival - The Dimacchia family with Councilman, Mayoral hopeful Ryan Patrick Demro about the the Medical Mart taxes.



Carolers at Light Up Lakewood



Carolyn Seelbach, Eileen Garven, Chuck Garven M.D.(medical director of Lakewood Medical Associates Rockport, MainStreet's Mary Anne Crampton and her husband Byron at Lakewood Hospital's Birthday Gala.

# Lakewood Observer Year In Review

## LHS Choir Plays Carnegie Hall



The Purple and Gold stands out on stage at Carnegie Hall

## L.E.A.F. Community Growing For You



Members of LEAF's Urban Farmers take a break from their hard work on the Plover Community Gardens as a train passes in the background. LEAF is one of the most exciting groups to form in Lakewood. A thanks and a tip of the hat to L.E.A.F.



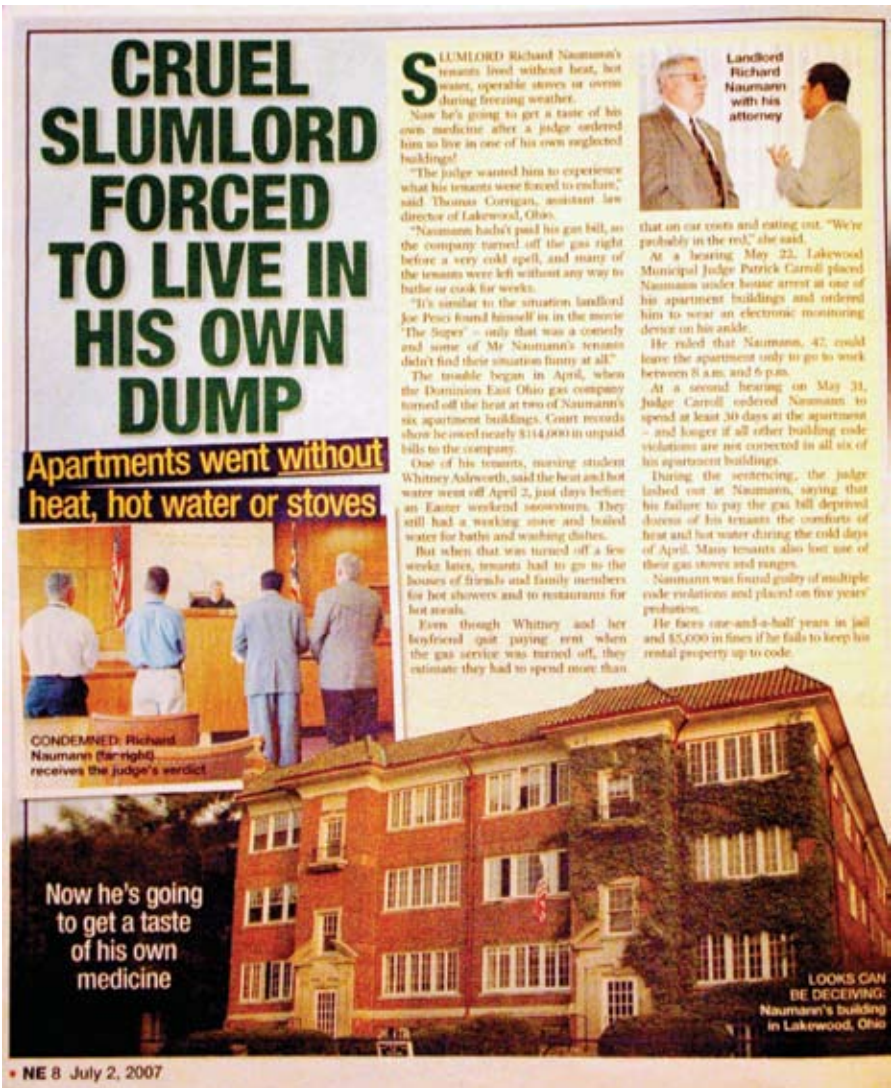
Sam Phillips meets with world renowned UFO Expert Aaron Clark at Phoenix Coffee.

## Local UFO Draws National Attention



Sarah Scott takes a break from dancing at the Kiwanis Christmas Show

## Lakewood Observer Appears In National Enquirer



The National Enquirer picked up our story and photos on Judge Pat Carroll's unique sentencing of Slumlord Naumann.



John O'Neil dances with his daughter Clair at Lakewood Hospital's Starry Night Party of the year!.



Library Gala saw a nice crowd having a night of fun in the new library.

# Lakewood Observer Year In Review

## Lakewood Observer Sponsors SWAT Weekend



Lakewood Patrol Officer Ted Morely, talks with Stan Austin in front of the armored car.



Michael Carroll son of Lakewood Municipal Judge Pat Carroll wins the SWAT 5 K.



Varsity runner Makorobondo Salukombo (#706) leads during the Walsh Jesuit Tomahawk Run.



Lakewood Ranger's Helmet with a PF for coach Pat Fahey who passed away this year.

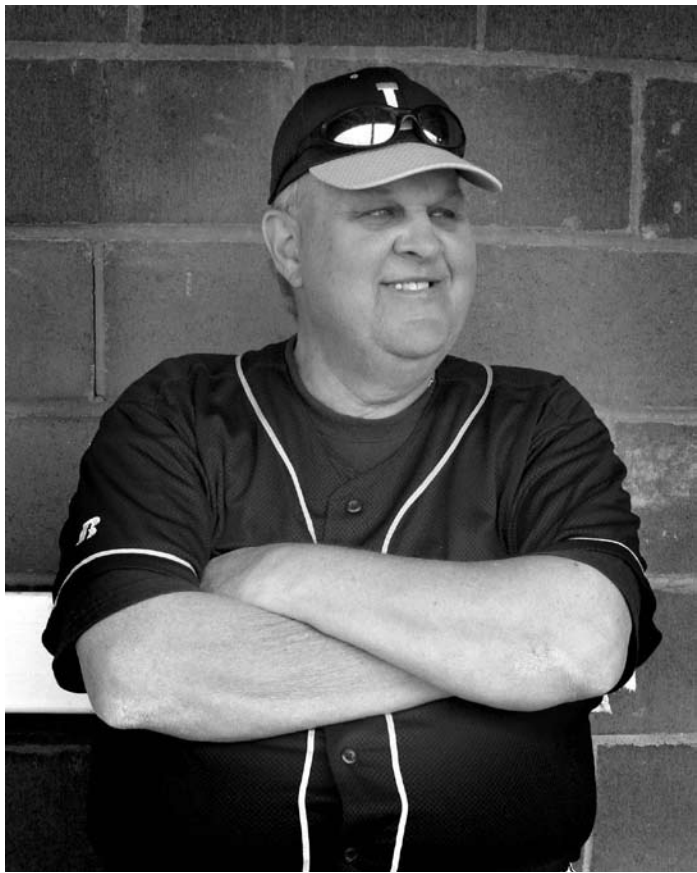
## Goodbye Party At Franklin



Parents, teachers, helpers and students say goodbye to Franklin School.



St. Ed's fans ham it up for an ESPN Cameraman, during the Campbell Hall Game.



The Rangers also lost coach Jerry Gruss.

Lakewood Business News

Lakewood Chamber Looks Back Over 2007 And Is Moving Forward In 2008

by Patty Ryan

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is always a busy place and the past year truly reflected our mission to promote Lakewood businesses in a positive light to the community. From networking opportunities and public forums to special promotional events: here are some of the highlights. We brought back the Lakewood Home Show after a 15 year hiatus.

The second weekend of March, 100 local home improvement and other related businesses came together at Lakewood High School to promote themselves to the community. The 5th Annual Taste of Lakewood once again SOLD OUT. The “Taste” highlights our restaurants and the wide spectrum of great food available in Lakewood. The event was held at the beautiful Clifton Club, on June 10th.

It was an election year in Lakewood and the Chamber of Commerce hosted two political forums for the community. The first was a political happy hour at the Winking Lizard. The Mayoral candidates answered questions related to economic development and business. The second was our annual Election Luncheon and was an opportunity to hear from the Mayoral, City Council and School Board candidates on business related issues.

Did you see the all the windows painted for Halloween as you drove down the west end of Detroit this year? This year’s West End Halloween Window Painting Contest doubled in size from the previous year! The contest is hosted by the Chamber and the Beck Center and invites school-aged children in Lakewood to paint a store front window along the west end of Detroit in a public art contest. Windows spread from the bridge down to the library. We hope someday the kids will paint all the way down Detroit Avenue to the border of Cleveland, and then paint right back up Madison Avenue to the border of Rocky River!

Light Up Lakewood was a great community event and the Chamber of Commerce contributed by hosting an essay contest for the fourth graders in Lakewood. We asked them to answer the question, “Why I Love Lakewood”. Their essays were so positive and their community pride was so sincere, it was contagious. Congratulations to Jared Pustai the winning writer who helped flip the switch to light up downtown Lakewood in the lighting ceremony!

Things won’t slow down in 2008 as we look to move forward...literally! The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce will be moving to a new location in spring of 2008. The Chamber purchased the building at 16017 Detroit Avenue and is in the process of renovating the space into our new offices. Here are some other things we look forward to in the new year.



Clockwise from above:  
Halloween window painters in front of their window; 2007 Taste of Lakewood at the Clifton Club; 2007 Lakewood Home Show in the Lakewood High School Auditorium.



We look forward to working with Mayor Fitzgerald and his staff as advocates for business and economic development. The Lakewood Home Show will be at Harding Middle School on March 8 and 9. Come out and see over 100 local companies addressing all your home improvement needs. It’s

also a great opportunity to check out one of Lakewood’s beautiful new middle schools.

The Taste of Lakewood will be June 1 at the Clifton Club and we are looking forward to another sell out crowd, great food and fun. We have more events in the planning stages and will

continue to provide the services and benefits that the business community has come to expect. For more information on the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, check out the website at [www.lakewoodchamber.org](http://www.lakewoodchamber.org) or call us at 216-226-2900. Have a happy and prosperous new year.

Déjà Vu

by Marc Mannheimer

I walked into Déjà Vu, an eclectic shopping boutique at 14411 Detroit Avenue, a few weeks before Christmas. Since my mother’s birthday is the day after the holiday, I considered it great fortune to happen upon this wonderful little shop, owned by Colleen Mahon, and I wrote about the experience later that day: Fables, finds, and (thematically) askew artwork – the Virgin Mary, in regalia of dress and design, surrounded by an embroidered, glittery background.

To the right of her, an old photo, embedded in the same piece, a photo of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo. Does the artist think the couple divine? Well, the juxtaposition is pleasing, to me anyway. This framed work, in a storefront, is joined by other Mother Mary and religious icons, jewelry, books, art.

The name of the shop, above the doorway, is Déjà Vu. I bet the owner is a woman, a romantic at heart, and a spiritual woman; and you better believe this lady has style. I enter, into a world of icons, antiques and painting prints. I notice almost immediately an

art book, resting on an antique chair. I know the painter of the print on the cover, but I can’t place his name.

I pick up the hefty art-reference-keepsake; it covers Henri Matisse’s career. My Mom loves Matisse. I find the owner, a fiftyish lady, dressed rather fashionably, and tell her I’d been worrying over a gift for Mom’s birthday; I just walked in, and there it was.

“Huh,” she wonders, “Isn’t that funny.” All of \$12, and I am sure Mom will love it. It pays to look, but not to worry; for whatever a soul needs is just an adventure away.

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Chef Geoff

Doggone Good

When we think of comfort foods, the one “all-American” dish that comes to mind is meatloaf. Every blue plate special in any small-town diner features meatloaf, gravy and mashed potatoes (and more times than not, canned green beans). Ralphie’s mom in A Christmas Story seemed to produce meatloaf on a nightly basis for dinner, along with that red cabbage that Ralphie “just loved”. Sauced with some brown gravy, it extends the food budget, sticks to the ribs, and evokes Americana as surely as apple pie. But just as apple pie is not truly an American invention, neither is meatloaf. Like so many other “national dishes”, meatloaf is a conglomerate of the cultures and cuisines that make up the good ol’ U S of A.

Loaves of meat, not terribly different from what we know as our all-American meatloaf, are a part of many different cuisines. Middle Eastern dishes include kibbie and kafta, both a type of meatloaf. The French have been serving terrines and pâtes since well before Columbus set foot in the New World. This French meatloaf was merely a means of taking some less desirable cuts and through grinding and a combination of spices, creating a loaf of meat which, when sliced, served with cornichones, crusty bread, and grainy mustard, became a gourmet delight. So even though we think of meatloaf as an

Jeff Endress

Doggone Good Meatloaf

Serves 6

- 1 lb. lean ground beef (preferably coarse ground round)
- 1/4 lb lean ground pork
- 1/4 lb. lean ground veal
- 1/3 cup finely minced onions
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 tsp. rosemary, rubbed
- 1 tsp. basil
- 2/3 cup rolled oats
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. pepper

Place all ingredients in a large bowl. Mix and knead until well-combined and even in consistency. Shape free form (à la football) on a shallow baking dish (covered) or place in greased bread loaf pan. Cook 50 minutes in a pre-heated 350° oven. Allow to rest 5 minutes before slicing. Serve with mushroom or onion gravy, whipped potatoes and sauteed green beans. A glass of Merlot takes it from everyday to special.

American dish (and perhaps it is, in its present configuration), the actual genesis, like so many other American dishes, is certainly not American.

I must admit that while meatloaf is now something that frequently finds its way to my family’s table, especially during the cold dark months of the winter, this was not always the case. In fact, it was one of those dishes to which I had a great aversion. But as in so many other things, the manner in which the recipe, preparation and cooking are handled

can be the difference between aversion and mouth-watering expectation.

Many decades ago, when my parents found it necessary to escape three somewhat rowdy male children for some adult alone time, we would find ourselves under the care of a kindly widow who, while not being our aunt, nevertheless was christened Aunt Winnie. During those times when my parents had escaped to azure seas and sandy beaches in Bermuda or adventures in snow skiing in the Canadian Laurentians, we would come under the watchful eye and care of Aunt Winnie. She assured that we were up for school, that food was on the table for dinner, that curfews were enforced, and that the house was still standing upon my parents’ return. As she pointed out to us often, “You have to get up pretty early to fool Aunt Winnie”.

Unfortunately, Aunt Winnie was not an accomplished cook, which brings us to that aversion to meatloaf. Typically, Aunt Winnie’s meatloaf was topped with several strips of bacon and a dollop or two of ketchup. When the blended meat, eggs and breadcrumbs were placed in a glass pan and baked at 375° for an hour or so, the net result was much like watching a cork bob on the surface of a pond. Only in this case, the cork was the dried-out loaf of meat and the pond waters were the

tallow in which it floated; bobbing up and down in a sea of liquefied animal fat. It was not appetizing. In addition to the inevitable hamburger stroganoff, as my parents were enjoying the theatre in New York and dining at a spectacular restaurant, we could rest assured that we would be treated to Aunt Winnie’s meatloaf (usually with a side of lumpy mashed potatoes). It really was not a dish that I looked forward to consuming, and so more times than not, I would secretly pass it to our Great Pyrenees whose culinary development was clearly lacking. This gave rise to one of the great ironies of Aunt Winnie’s culinary efforts that stays with me even to this day. Having been caught passing my meatloaf to the dog, I was instructed, “Don’t feed that to the dog. It’s much too greasy. Now eat your meatloaf”. Somehow I was never able to rationalize in my own mind how a dish that was too greasy for the dog was fit for human consumption, but nevertheless that was the expectation.

It took me many years to get over the vision of that desiccated meat bobbing in a sea of tallow and to realize that, in fact, when properly prepared, that non-all American dish can be a comfort food staple. There are many variations but ideally I like a mixture of several ground lean meats, moistened with egg, spiced with rosemary and onion, and bound with either bread crumbs or oatmeal. The mixture can be formed into a loaf and baked in a loaf pan, or done free-form on a shallow baking dish. In either case, I’ve never found the results floating in a sea of tallow, nor have I ever had concerns that this meatloaf was too greasy for my Newf. Not that this issue arises, because more often than not, there are no leftovers. This recipe is also a wonderful time saver. Multiple loafs can be made in advance and frozen, ready for the oven with no prep time so that a good comfort food meal can be made even when there are time constraints or no desire to cook. And, with a tip of my hat to Aunt Winnie, here’s the doggone good meatloaf recipe that finally removed that old vision of food I was expected to eat, although it was (admittedly) not fit for a dog.

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Conservation Corner

The Second R (Reuse!)

Heather Ramsey

In the waste reduction hierarchy, reducing the products we use and the amount of trash we create is the most important priority, followed by reuse. Reusing items saves resources that would otherwise be used to make a new item, dispose of the item, or recycle it. There are several ways one can think of reuse--lengthening the useful life of an item, using an item again for the same or a new purpose, or redistributing materials from those who no longer need them to those who can still find them useful. The latter could

mean donating your old belongings to a school or charity like Goodwill or the Salvation Army, or it could mean buying used goods for yourself. In 1997, the EPA calculated that more than 8 million tons of textiles ended up in the trash (and it is likely that this number is even higher today)! Much of these tons upon tons of clothing items could have had longer life spans if consumers had considered it a priority--old t-shirts can be used as cleaning cloths, damaged clothes can often be mended, and many donation

sites exist for still-wearable but no longer desired items. For example, Nike accepts used athletic shoes (of any brand) to be made into athletic surfaces (from basketball courts to soccer fields). Details of this program can be found at <http://www.letmeplay.com/reuseashoe>. Also, Planet Aid has many donation boxes across Lakewood for clothes and shoes that are donated or sold to help people in developing countries. Aside from textiles, many other products are welcomed as donations, including office supplies, electronics, art materials, magazines, medical supplies, extra food items, furniture, and household items. There are many ways to allow

others to reuse your old goods, from the usual routes like Goodwill to websites such as craigslist and the Freecycle Network. Freecycle (<http://www.freecycle.org>) seeks to create a worldwide gifting movement by creating local networks with local moderators. In fact, a Freecycle group for Lakewood already exists. People post both items they are willing to give as well as items they'd like to get, and then receive responses from other members online. You can join the Lakewood group by going to <http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/LakewoodOhioFreecycle>. If you're not quite ready to just give away all of your unneeded items, you can also sell them on a site like eBay, find a community where you can trade goods, such as swapstyle.com, or have a garage sale.

Lakewood Realty News

Is There A "Silver Lining" To Lakewood Foreclo-

by Andy Tabor

2007 brought with it a year filled with articles and updates about the prevalence of foreclosures in the Greater Cleveland area. In this very negative atmosphere, it's worth tak-

ing a look at the positive side of this situation. Instead of leaving a property vacant for years as in the past, many lenders are opting for a quick sale. While the initial low sale price of some of these properties may bring concern to other

homeowners on the street, there can be an upside. Properties that have been on the market for an extended time because they are in need of extensive repairs, are being purchased by investors and rehabbers for low enough prices that they can do a quality rehab--replacing roofs, windows, furnaces, kitchens and baths. Many are also upgrading plumbing and electrical in order to make the properties more attractive for resale. For example, one of these properties is a 2-family home on Bunts that is being converted into a spacious single family home. Once the rehab is completed and marketed with a realistic asking price, these properties are successfully selling and moving quickly on the market. This is truly a win-win situation. The new homeowner gets an updated home at a reasonable price; the investor makes a profit; the other homeowners on the street are no longer looking at an eyesore. In addition, the City of Lakewood has been improved and another tax-paying resident added. This cycle may truly be the silver lining in today's housing market.

Consider borrowing, renting, or sharing items that you only need occasionally, like tools and ladders, party supplies, and electronic equipment (projectors or sound systems, for example). Whenever you do buy a product, consider the long run--buy the furniture, luggage, toys, tires, and anything else that is most built to last. Also consider products that are made to be reused, such as cloth napkins, refillable pens and pencils, food containers, razors with replaceable blades, and batteries. This may cost more at first, but will pay off when you don't have to replace these items later. Also, when shopping, take reusable cloth bags rather than add to that ever-larger plastic bag collection (or reuse the plastic bags once you get them). If you frequently find yourself getting a bottle of water from the fridge, think about switching to a reusable mug filled from a filtered pitcher or using a filter on your faucet--in 2006, 38 billion water bottles ended up in landfills across the country and will take more than 700 years to decompose. Switching to a filter, like a lot of other reuse suggestions, may sound expensive initially, but will definitely pay off, for you and for the earth.

Realty Reality: Questions From Our Readers

by Maggie Fraley

I am frequently asked questions about the many foreclosures in Northeast Ohio. In this issue I've asked Khash Saghafi, president of Cardinal Banc & Mortgage Corporation, and regular instructor of free seminars on Real Estate loan topics to answer two common questions: Q. What happens to the money paid by the new purchaser? A. Monies will be distributed in order of priority. First priority will be real estate taxes. If monies are available after taxes monies will go to the first mortgage then the second mortgage, third mortgage etc., etc. The next

money will go to any lien holders or attaching creditors. This process will continue until all liens and encumbrances on the property are paid. If by some chance there is still money left over it goes to the former home owner. Q: How long does the foreclosure process take? A: In Ohio all foreclosures are handled through the courts, usually taking six months, more or less. In Ohio, the typical timeline is 7 months. It depends upon a few items, how fast the lender acts, how backed up the courts are, the specific state laws and whether the homeowner is attempting to arrange an acceptable payment plan with their lender.

Lakewood Streets Honor Fruit Growers

by Val Mechanbier

Andrews, French, and Virginia Avenues are connected - not only by Andrews Lane - but by the relationships between the French and Andrews families. Collins French, the son of one of Lakewood's earliest settlers, married Rosetta Saxton in 1832. They had no children of their own, but adopted Rosetta's niece Virginia, who had lost her mother when she was only nine

months old. "Jennie" French grew up and married Edwin Andrews, who then became a partner in his father-in-law's fruit farm which extended from Detroit Avenue to Lake Erie, between Andrews and Lakeland Avenues. Edwin and his four sons became experts in growing berries, grapes, apples, pears, and plums. The Andrews home was located next to the Masonic Temple until it was torn down to create space for retail development.

Calling for Nominations!

September 7 seems a long way off, but planning starts in January for the Lakewood Historical Society's biennial "Come Home To Lakewood" house tour. We want you to be a part of the selection process! Tell us the address of a house you've always dreamed of seeing inside, and we'll try to make your dream come true. We'll contact the owner of every house nominated to ask if they're interested in participating. We'll visit those possibilities, and from them select the residences most appropriate for a fascinating tour. To nominate your favorite house, you can e-mail the address to lakewoodhistory@bge.net, call the Lakewood Historical Society at 216-221-7343 or complete the form below and mail to the Society at 14710 Lake Avenue.

Address Nominated\_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Name (if known)\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name (optional)\_\_\_\_\_

With your help, this will be the best tour ever. We will round up our candidates over the next three weeks, so don't delay, nominate today!



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# Lakewood Perspective

## The Sure Thing

Bret Callentine

So, I was at Thistledown race-track with a few friends last year, and we were sitting outside on the benches just off the rail. As the horses rounded the final turn and headed for the wire, the crowd started to pour out with enthusiasm. As the first horse crossed the line, screams of joy were peppered within the jeers of overwhelming disappointment from the masses, as most of us looked down at our now worthless wagering tickets. Curiously, one such victorious yell came from the person sitting immediately to my right. "Sweet! I had the #10 horse!"

My confusion turned to a little resentment, as this declaration came from my friend, a friend with whom I had just spent the previous 10 minutes crunching the numbers in the racing form, postulating every possible winning combination for the race. Voicing my concern, I asked, "We talked about the #3 horse, the #6 horse, and even the #2 and #7, how did you come up with the #10? And more importantly, don't you think you could have at least men-

tioned it to me?" While he still swears that he gave me the tip on the #10, I'm positive that I would have taken advantage of the information if I would have had the chance. Regardless of how it happened, once again, I'm a day late and dollar short.

The reason I bring up this story is how often we have said to ourselves, "If only I'd known", or "Why can't I catch a break?" How many times have you heard stories about someone making a fortune on a long-shot bet or a hot stock tip and wished that something like that would happen to you? Well today is your lucky day. Because I've got the mother of all hot tips and it's practically fool proof. So without any further ado, here's what you need to know: Invest in Lakewood.

I'm here to say I have seen the future and it is incredibly bright. And I'm not even sure that those who already have a share of this winning ticket realize it.

In my humble opinion, Lakewood

is as close to a "sure thing" as you can get right now. Yes, there are still hurdles that need to be overcome. The city's budget may be a concern, and some service issues need to be ironed out, but on the whole I think we're poised to make great gains in the near future.

While everyone is in great despair over the housing market, I see something positive. Lakewood's greatest strength has always been its consistency. When the housing market was soaring out of control, Lakewood was seen as lagging behind, but mark my words, no one will mock us for lagging behind the national trend now.

You see, owning a home in Lakewood is like owning blue chip stocks. We might miss out on a boom here or there, but on the whole it's our ability to sustain value through the bust years that makes us the better choice. Owning a house in a new, upstart community is fine as long as demand outpaces supply, but as soon as

it's cheaper to build a new house rather than buying an identical one three doors down, your property won't be worth the pasture it's built on. Living in Lakewood pays dividends that, over time, will far outpace any perceived short-term gains.

As gas prices continue to increase, I'm guessing more and more people will begin to question the benefits of living an extra 20 or 30 miles outside the city. Living in a suburb where you're required to drive to the store, or the bank, or anywhere for that matter, can double or even triple the amount you pay in fuel. Filling up my car just once more a month equates to an additional expense of nearly \$500 per year. And that's if gas prices stay where they are.

Owning lots of land is nice, but what happens when a community has to repave roads and repair aging infrastructure with sometimes half as many tax payers per acre of responsibility? It costs the same to plow a mile of snow covered road in Lakewood as it does in Avon, but the difference is that having twice (and sometimes three times) as many people living upon that mile helps diffuse the overall cost per person.

Lakewood living is essentially cheaper on almost all fronts, a trait that in a lagging market will be essential to sustaining a strong retail base, which helps anchor a community's economy, which in turn promotes continued growth and prosperity. It's a cycle that has never been fashionable yet has always been reliable.

Eventually, and I'm guessing it will be very soon, people will begin to adjust their housing and community priorities. The desire for sprawling land and lavish homes with vaulted ceilings and winding drives will eventually give in to the need for more easily sustainable, yet similarly dignified responsibilities. And once the tide begins to shift back to the inner-ring suburbs, just where do you think the hot properties will be?

I went to the meetings that showed the Detroit Streetscape study; I saw new roads, new schools, and new housing. I see a healthy balance of future potential and current prosperity. I see a city that already has what most newer communities will soon desire--a solid foundation.

Getting back to the track analogy, I have a friend who's been good council at the window over the years. He often tells me that while it's fun to bet on the long shots, most of the time you're better off consistently pocketing the small returns, or as he calls it, "betting on the grass to grow."

For now, some people will continue to flock to the new, the trendy, and the randomly popular. But as for me, I'm sitting back, kicking my feet up on my front porch, waving to my neighbors, all the while knowing that my horse is about to come in. And when it does, don't say you never knew.

## Primary Problems

by Todd Shapiro

In the time it takes to read this story, the 2008 primary process will be completed. No, actually it won't happen quite that fast, but with Iowa moving their caucuses up to January 3 and more than half of the nation's states holding their primaries prior to Valentine's Day, this will be both the earliest and shortest primary season in American history. And where is Ohio's role in this process? With a March 4 primary date, Ohio will be reduced to affirming the results that have been decided by the voters in New Hampshire, South Carolina, and the 24 other states that will hold primaries or caucuses on February 5. If you are in one of the early primary states, and you have had presidential candidates and Fox News pollsters at your church suppers for the past 12 months, this may seem like a great system. But if you live in Ohio or any of the other states that have, in fact, been disenfranchised by the current primary system, you wonder if this system is fatally flawed.

How did we get to a system where some of our smallest states choose our Presidents? It hasn't always been this way. In fact, prior to 1972, most states did not have primaries or caucuses at all. Instead, each state's party leaders and elected officials chose the delegates to the party's nominating conventions themselves, with little or no input from the rank and file party members. In the era when smoke-filled rooms took the place of the ballot box, political conventions were free-wheeling affairs where the actual business of choosing candidates took place. In 1924 the Democrats gathered in New York City's Madison Square Garden to choose their nomi-

nee. After 10 days and 103 ballots, the delegates chose former congressman and U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain John W. Davis of West Virginia. Davis was the ultimate compromise candidate who had garnered just 2.8 percent of the votes in the first round of balloting. In the November election Davis won just 12 of 48 states. The 11 former Confederate states, that had been solidly Democratic since Reconstruction, and Oklahoma.

The turmoil surrounding the 1968 electoral campaign led to reforms in the nominating process. After President Lyndon Johnson stunned the nation by announcing that he would not run for re-election, the Democratic nomination was up for grabs. Minnesota Senator Eugene McCarthy won 11 of the 15 primaries that were contested on the Democratic side and Robert Kennedy won the California primary just hours before being gunned down by an assassin. But Vice-President Hubert Humphrey won the nomination at the Party's contentious and violent convention in Chicago. Humphrey did not win or even campaign in any primary elections and did not announce his intention to run for President until March of 1968.

After the 1968 elections, the Democratic National Committee appointed South Dakota Senator George McGovern to chair a committee to change the rules for selecting presidential candidates. By 1972 the Democratic National Committee mandated that all states hold primaries or caucuses to select delegates. Because many states enacted the Democrats' reforms into law, the Republican Party followed suit, and by 1980 three-quarters of both party's delegates were chosen in open primaries.

The reforms of the nominat-

ing process have made the process more open, but with Iowa and New Hampshire always having the first choice to narrow down the field, has it made the process fairer? According to the 2000 Census, African-Americans made up 12.3 percent of the U.S. population. In Iowa, just 2.1 percent of the population is African-American. In New Hampshire, the number shrinks to .7 percent. While Hispanics are 12.5 percent of the population overall, they are just 2.8 and 1.7 percent of these states' populations.

Jimmy Carter's meteoric rise in 1976 from peanut farmer, to one-term Georgia governor, to 39th President was fueled by early successes in Iowa and New Hampshire, thus cementing both states' place in presidential politics. Although New Hampshire had hosted the "first-in-the-nation primary" since 1952, the attention Carter's victory brought to the Granite State compelled state lawmakers to mandate New Hampshire's place on the electoral calendar, passing an act requiring New Hampshire to hold their primary seven days before any other state votes.

So while Ohio was pivotal to the 2004 Presidential Election, don't expect to see candidates knocking on your door or holding babies at the local union hall anytime soon. If recent history is any indicator, both the Democrats and Republicans will have decided on their 2008 nominees weeks before Ohio's voters cast their ballots. The nominating process may be more transparent than it was prior to 1968, but unless you live in one of the chosen "early" states, you have traded the smoke filled rooms of campaigns past for the corn fields of Iowa and the town halls of New Hampshire.

Pulse Of The City

# The End of the Trail...An Opinionated Commentary

Well, it came down. What's that they say? Out with the old, and in with...what, exactly?

In the last week of 2007, one of the last original buildings on Lakewood's Detroit "Plank Road" was, itself, turned into splinters of planks. The 1848 Plank Road extended from present-day Rocky River into Cleveland. It was made of logs cut nearby, and was a toll road for commerce in those pre-concrete days of muddy trails.

The Matthew Hall house, finished by 1870, is gone. In fact, Matthew Hall was the superintendent of the Plank Road. He and his family lived there for a number of years prior to constructing a beautiful brick residence just east, where the ball field at Edwards and Detroit now exists. In fact, that particular residence later became Lakewood's original YMCA before it, too, was gone.

A number of Lakewood streets were named for Hall relatives, who owned several residences and quite a bit of land in Lakewood. One Arthur Hall, who provided the name for Arthur Avenue, loved books. Through this influence, a successful campaign began to start up the Lakewood Library.

It is so ironic to me that Lakewood residents wanting to change the least little thing on their own properties these days may have to jump through heaven-knows-how-many-hoops to do so, while in the blink of an eye, a truly historic structure like the Hall House gets crushed into kindling wood.

I've been in that house many times. The staggering history that the place witnessed along Detroit's old plank road must have been profound. Certainly, returning Civil War veter-

Gary Rice



The Hall House vanishes on old "Plank Road"

ans, in the dead of night, must have passed by its doors. Its tiny rooms must have been cold and scary, as the winter winds howled across the lake, hitting the home's rear fascia boards. Dangers from highwaymen and the occasional beasts of the forest certainly existed, and the home protected its occupants well.

Now it's gone, and in the blink of an eye...

In Europe, there are many thousand-year-old structures giving perspective to time, place, and heritage. Not so in our hemisphere. America's oldest buildings seldom surpass a couple hundred years of age. We did not have serfs to build great castles for those of power and privilege; only the raw materials of the fields and forests existed to build the "little castles" of free men and women in a free land. When we were truly free, that is (or should I write "that was"?).

the pioneer cemetery formerly in downtown Lakewood, the site will remain only in our memories. Maybe someone will put up a bronze marker for it someday.

Yeah, right. Even if they did put one up, markers only "say," anyway. They don't "show."

The last time I was in the Hall House, it was an antique shop. Ironically, while there, I purchased a really old framed shadowbox painting of James Earl Fraser's "End of the Trail," depicting a Native American on horseback... exhausted and bending over... spear thrust towards Mother Earth...

End of the trail, yeah...

With our present-day hydro-carbon-fed "horses," and our here-today, gone-tomorrow regard for heritage (again, in my opinion), I think it a good possibility that we may be getting there faster than we realize.

In-depth details of Lakewood's history may be found in Dan Chabek's Lakewood Lore, along with Jim and Susan Borchert's Lakewood, The First Hundred Years and Margaret Manor Butler's several books about Lakewood, including Romance in Lakewood Streets. Butler was founder of the Lakewood Historical Society.

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## Lakewood Cares

# Local Artist Beautifies Church

by Gerald Largent

Lakewood artist Torry Tustan has reproduced two classic Orthodox icons (holy Christian images) that now adorn St. Nicholas Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 2101 Quail St. (off of Madison) in Lakewood, OH where she is a member. The new icons were blessed at St. Nicholas on Sunday, December 9, 2007 prior at the 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy. The icons were painted to celebrate the 90th year of St. Nicholas' existence in the Birdtown area of Lakewood for the beautification of the church and for the glory of God.

The icons depict St. Thekla, the Church's first woman martyr and Sts. Boris and Hlib, the First Martyrs and Saints of Ukraine. St. Nicholas was founded and established by Orthodox Christians of Ukrainian descent in 1916.

St. Thekla is commemorated by the Orthodox Church on September 24, and in addition to being called the First-Woman-Martyr, she is also called an Equal-to-the-Apostles, a title reserved to only fourteen saints on the Orthodox Church calendar. The term is a special title given to some canonized saints in Orthodox Christianity bestowed as a recognition of these saints' outstanding service in the spreading and assertion of Christianity, comparable to that of the original apostles. She was the extraordinarily beautiful daughter of rich and illustrious parents. After hearing the preaching of the Holy Apostle Paul, she devoted all her life to preaching the Gospel. The Providence of God preserved the holy martyr unharmed through various torments throughout her earthly life. When she was a ninety-year-old woman, pagan sorcerers became incensed at her for treating the sick for free and sent their followers to defile her. When they came near her, she cried out for help to Christ the Savior. A rock split open and hid her. In this way she offered up her soul to the Lord around the year 100 A.D. The First Woman Martyr Thekla is invoked during the tonsure of women into monasticism.

The Orthodox Church honors St.'s



Torry Tustan's Mural at St. Nicolas

Boris and Hlib on July 24. They were the sons of St. Vladimir, the Great-Prince of Rus' (modern day Ukraine), who made Christianity the official religion of his country in 988 A.D. After his death, the eldest son, Sviatopolk, planned to

kill his other brothers in order to seize power. When the assassins sent by Sviatopolk to kill Boris arrived they found him chanting psalms and praying before an icon of Christ in anticipation of his brother's vengeance. He asked the

Lord to strengthen him for the suffering he was about to endure and also prayed that God not count this sin against his brother. Then he lay down upon his couch, and the assassins stabbed him with their lances. When St. Hlib learned that his father, St. Vladimir had died and that his brother Boris had been killed by Sviatopolk, he wept for his father and brother. While Hlib was on his way to Kiev after being summoned by Sviatopolk, he was assassinated. The martyr's body was thrown onto the shore between two trees. Later, he was buried beside St Boris in the church of St Basil.

St.'s Boris and Hlib received their crowns of martyrdom in 1015 A.D. They became known not simply as martyrs, but as Passion-Bearers, since they did not resist evil with violence. They imitated the suffering of Christ in their deaths. They were like lambs led to the slaughter who did not raise their hands against their assassins.

## Saint Clement Roman Catholic Church: Musical Arts Series Inaugural Recital

by Jeffrey Moellman

Pianists Andrea McAlister and Heidi Began, violist Scot Buzza and mezzo-soprano Fenlon Lamb will present a free recital of works by Brahms, Debussy, Dvorák, Gershwin and Joplin.

The recital will take place 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008, at Saint Clement Roman Catholic Church, 2022 Lincoln Ave. (at Madison Ave.) in Lakewood.

This recital is open to the public and FREE OF CHARGE, with a free-will offering being accepted at the conclusion of the program. Families with children are welcome, and a reception will follow with an opportunity for audience members to meet and greet the artists. For more information, call 216.226.5116, send e-mail to [music@saint-clement.net](mailto:music@saint-clement.net), or visit [www.saint-clement.net](http://www.saint-clement.net).

Scot Buzza has had an international performing career over the past two decades that includes solo appearances with orchestras in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy,

Japan, The Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and Venezuela. In 1987 he was appointed principal violist of the Tokyo Philharmonic, and in 1990 he became soloist-principal violist of the Chamber Orchestra of Barcelona, Spain. As a chamber musician Mr. Buzza has performed world wide, and his recitals have been broadcast on Radio France, PBS, Radio Amsterdam, Tokyo NHK and Radio Catalunya (Spain). In the United States he has performed regularly with both the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

Mezzo-soprano Fenlon Lamb consistently garners critical acclaim for her "dynamic, rich vocal sound" and "polished acting abilities." For example, her role debut of Rosina (Barbiere di Siviglia) with Sacramento Opera received critical rave: "...every inch the saucy rebel [who] navigated the highly ornamented passages with creamy ease." The Baltimore Sun applauded her Agrippina: "In the title role, Fenlon Lamb revealed a bright, flexible voice, ever-brilliant phrasing and theatrical flourish."

This season Ms. Lamb will make her Seattle Opera debut and returns to Sacramento Opera. Previous engagements have included a concert tour in Asia and appearances with the Mississippi and Granite State Opera companies, Opera Vivente, Opera Grand Rapids and Opera Cleveland, Lyric Opera Cleveland, the Cleveland Orchestra, Apollo's Fire, as well as the Hartford, Toledo, Akron, Loyola, Santa Cruz Symphony Orchestras.

Andrea McAlister is Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. She previously taught at Capital University, Ohio Wesleyan University and the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music where she also received her Doctorate of Musical Arts in Piano Performance and Pedagogy. As a performer, Dr. McAlister has appeared in festivals and recitals throughout the United States and Canada, including performances at the Aspen Music Festival, the Rome Festival, and, locally, the Cleveland Chamber Symphony and Opera Cleveland on Tour.

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## Lakewood Arts & Entertainment

# Beck Center For The Arts Teen Theater Presents The Laramie Project: January 18-27, 2008

by Fran Storch

Lakewood, OH – Beck Center for the Arts Teen Theater presents *The Laramie Project*, a deeply moving play by Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project, in the intimate Studio Theater, January 18 through 27, 2008. *The Laramie Project* is a poignant drama about bigotry and tolerance, fear and courage, hate and hope. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Audience members are invited to participate in talk-back discussions with a panel of area experts after each Sunday matinee. For tickets, call the Beck Center Box Office at 216-521-2540.

On October 7, 1998, Matthew Shepard, a young gay college student from Laramie, Wyoming, was tied to a fence on the outskirts of town, brutally beaten and left to die. After his murder, members of the Tectonic Theater Project, a New York-based theater company, traveled to Laramie to interview residents and chronicle the town's loss of innocence. *The Laramie Project* is not a retelling of the crime story but the town's reaction to it.

Directed by Dan Kilbane, *The Laramie Project* is based on resident interviews, the company members' own journal entries and published news reports. "Two of my goals working with this remarkable group of young actors, is for the audience to realize that bigotry and hatred are issues that we continue to battle everyday. And with this younger generation of performers, I hope to convey that there is still hope that we are going in the right direction as a community," remarked Kilbane. "Also, I am honored to return to the Beck Center where I was once a part of the teen theater program myself." A cast of 14 young actors portray more than sixty characters – from rural ranchers to university professors – in a series of short scenes in three acts.

Cast members for *The Laramie Project* are students from the Beck Center's Theater Education program.

They have participated in core theater classes at Beck Center. In these classes, students explore basic acting skills through improvisation and theater games. They study method acting, as well as develop singing and acting techniques. In addition, they have had introduction to theater appreciation and basic theater terminology.

Tickets for *The Laramie Project* are \$12 for adults and \$10 for children (12 and under). Discounts are available for groups of 13 or more. To reserve tickets, call the Beck Center Box Office at 216-521-2540. Convenient, free on-site parking is available. Beck Center for the Arts is located at 17801 Detroit



Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland.

*The Laramie Project* is sponsored by Cox Communications, Music Is Elementary and the Ohio Arts Council. Programming at the Beck Center is made possible through the generous support of The Cleveland Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, The John P. Murphy Foundation, The Kulas Foundation, The Eva L. & Joseph M. Bruening Foundation, The Abington

Foundation, and the Thomas H. White Foundation. The Beck Center also gratefully acknowledges the citizens of Cuyahoga County for their support through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

Beck Center for the Arts is a comprehensive arts organization which offers professional theater productions on two stages, arts education classes in dance, music, theater, and visual arts, and art exhibits featuring local and regional artists.

## Pleased To Hear This Tenant

by Edward McCartney

Some noisy tenants have lived above me for years. A few months ago a young couple moved in next to me. They made some noise initially, which cost me some sleep, which I do not like to lose. They apologized, considerably. In their zeal to move in and be settled, I was a bit unsettled.

But I was pleased to lose some sleep during the night initially considering the benefit that I heard during the day: opera singing. I wasn't sure where it came from. It sounded like one of my new neighbors. I talked with the husband about it. He said that his wife was studying singing. I expressed my pleasure to hear it.

I was invited to hear her recital at the new Mixon Hall of the Cleveland Institute of Music on Friday, November 30, 2007 at 7:30 p. m. Because I arrived early, during a time when I was inside alone, I heard nothing. There was silence. No sound entered from without.

Some times when I hear my neighbour practising, she is not flawless. But I understand that the voice is that way when one is warming up. I was expecting her singing to be okay; but I was not

expecting it to be enough to write an article about it.

Shortly after 7:30 p. m. soprano Jamie Tennant walked out onto the wooden stage floor of Mixon Hall, with Cara Chowning, who played the piano admirably. Jamie was attired in a striking black and white floor length dress. What followed was a manifestation of Doctor Mary Schiller's teaching.

Jamie sang selections in Italian, French, German, and English by Donizetti, Chausson, Strauss and Copland. Mezzo-soprano Barbara Castonguay joined her for one piece.

I had a desire to hear some quality singing. Jamie did not displease. In the auditorium she turned up the volume. Her voice had to have easily reached the top of the high ceiling of Mixon Hall. It was a pleasure to hear music and sing-

ing without electronic amplification. She sang better than I expected; and sang from memory. I heard few flaws, or none. Additionally she was facially expressive.

While enjoying the recital, I was looking at Mixon Hall from my seat. Although it is modern, it is not ugly. Behind the performers is a double glass wall. Through it I could see a bit of a trees during the night's performance. I was able to see the lights of an aircraft flying through the air. Looking down onto the stage was a pretty woman filling the hall with a voice that is lovelier.

It wasn't bad for her first Master of Music recital. She was given a curtain call, even though there was no curtain, and a standing ovation.

That is one Tennant that I would pay to hear.



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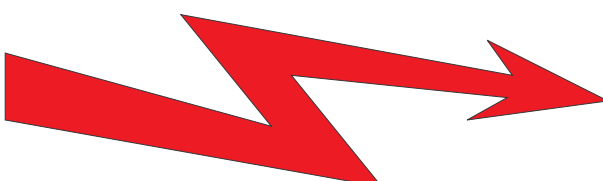
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