

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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

Volume 4, Issue 2, January 22, 2008

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From left to right: Isaac Karel (grade 2) “Monopconnect” one of top 50 superior ratings \$50 savings bond, Abe Dalisky (grade 2) “Teacher Tac” winner of K-2 category \$500 college savings certificate, Zachary Dudzik (grade 3) “Light-up Marshmallow Grip” winner of grade 3 category \$500 college savings certificate, Lauren Klann (grade 3) “Carsick Cleanup”, Saige Rook (grade 2) “American Chopsticks” overall winner at Invention Convention in grade K-12 category \$2500 college savings certificate, Kent Adams (grade 3) “Great Screen Cleaner” one of top 50 superior ratings \$50 savings bond, Reilly Gorby (grade 3) “Corner Christmas Tree”, Stephen Zanghi (grade 3) “Kid’s Leaf Pusher” one of 50 top superior ratings \$50 savings bond, Lindy Warren (grade 2) “Bedtime Butler”, Evan Suttell (grade 3) “EZ Planter”,* not pictured: Casey Chanter (grade 2) “Ripping Off Pajamas”.

Lincoln Elementary Students Bring Home Top Inventor Awards From Invention Convention

by Chris Karel

On Saturday, January 12, over 140 of the Cleveland Area’s best student inventors showcased their creations at The Second Annual Cleveland Regional Invention Convention, held at The Great Lakes Science Center. Participants were pre-selected from over 250 schools from districts in Cuyahoga, Lorain and Medina Counties to take part in this year’s competition. Six Lakewood students from Lincoln Elementary brought home awards, including the Grand Prize.

The Grand Prize Award, a \$2,500 college scholarship, went to second grader Saige Rook, for her invention of American Chopsticks. She solved the everyday problem of getting food on a fork or spoon without using your fingers. Abe Dalisky earned the 1st place award for 2nd Graders, a \$500 college scholarship, for his invention called the Teacher Tac, a new way to post notes without poking holes in the note. Zachary Dudzik earned the 1st place award for 3rd Graders, a \$500 college scholarship, for his invention called the Light-up Marshmallow Grip, a pencil grip that lights up when you squeeze it. Three students earned Superior Inventor Awards and \$50 US Savings Bonds: Kent Adams for his Great Screen Cleaner, which allows you to vacuum up dust but not Legos, Stephen Zanghi for his Kidz Leaf Pusher, which enables kids to help push leaves, and Isaac Karel for Monopconnect, a game board that enables kids to play more than one property-trading game at a time by adding a new twist to the old favorite.

Just Think Inc. is the non-profit group behind the event. They estimate that over one million Ohio kids have participated in The Invention Convention during the last ten years. These kids have won over \$300,000 worth of scholarships and prizes. Now in its second year in the Cleveland area, local students came to display their creativity and problem-solving skills in strange and fascinating ways.

With a science-fair like atmosphere complete with tri-fold boards and models, the students, ranging from kindergarten to 8th grade, stood and answered questions. Hundreds of northeastern Ohioans checked out the

inventions. The Convention differs from traditional science fairs in that the goal is for students to find a problem that they face everyday and work through a process to a solution.

A surprise came at the end of the Convention for second grader Isaac Karel. A man approached him and offered to buy his game. After a bit of discussion and haggling, Isaac sold his prototype of Monopconnect. “It made me feel amazed that somebody bought it,” said Isaac, when asked about the best part of the Convention.

The six students were guided by their teacher, Mrs. Marshall, who teaches the 2/3 class at Lincoln. She brought the

idea to her class and prepared eleven of them for the Regional Invention Convention. The young inventors had to complete an inventor’s journal and polish a model of their invention. Each participant was then subject to two interviews by judges, unaided by their parents, who had to watch from outside the room and lip-read the answers. The end result far exceeds the awards received on Saturday, though. The students truly gained real world experience in problem-solving and creativity that will stay with them forever.

You can learn more about the Invention Convention at www.just-think-inc.com

Observer Party At Mahall’s Lanes



A true kumbayah moment- from left to right: Steve Eisel, Ryan Demro, Ryan Salo, Sharon Kinsella, Ryan Costa, and dl Meckes. In the doorway is LO’s new “Society Child” Jennifer Scott with Mark “Shane” Phillips. More photos online!

See more photos on page 3...

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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

Homeless Awareness Sleep Out In Its Fourth Year

by Lynn Boland

The boxes that will soon be clustered in front of Lakewood Congregational Church (LCC) aren't belated Christmas presents – but they do represent a gift to Cleveland area homeless shelters.

For the fourth straight year, youth from LCC are participating in the annual Homeless Awareness Youth Sleep Out sponsored by the United Church of Christ congregation located at the corner of West Clifton and Detroit. The youth will sleep in cardboard boxes the night of January 26 – no matter what the weather – to call attention to the plight of people who are homeless in Cleveland and cities across the nation.

“This year, our kids will be joined in sister events by youth at two other Lakewood congregations – St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Pilgrim St. Paul Lutheran Church. We'll also be joined by representatives of Covering Cleveland [www.coveringcleveland.org] – a

non-profit group that provides blankets and other goods to those who are homeless,” said LCC Youth Ministries team member Jim Boland. “The message sent by our youth to remember and help people who are homeless is spreading and we are thrilled that others are joining their efforts to raise money and awareness.”

Donations from passersby and church members will be used to benefit area homeless shelters and to help with costs for LCC's youth mission trip this summer. The church is also accepting donations of gently-worn winter clothing including coats, hats, gloves, scarves and heavy shoes or boots which will be donated to area shelters. Back packs and duffle bags are also items suggested by representatives of Covering Cleveland and those who work with people who are homeless.

Each year, this fund and awareness-raising event has brought in donations of approximately \$2,000.

But the youth involved in this annual event want to do more.

Russell Bartels, a 14-year-old participating in the sleepout for the third straight year, said “I just wish we could get so many people to make donations and join in the sleepout that we could really end homelessness. I hate to think of people freezing in this weather and of families being separated at the shelters.”

Even with sleeping bags and layered clothing, the youth from these churches are in for a cold night. But the difference between them and those who are truly homeless is not lost on them. While many of the youth who have participated in the sleepouts say that they look forward to going home to their beds, a hot shower and a good meal, they also realize that those things are not an option for people who are truly homeless. That realization may be what brings these young people back to the church steps for the sleepout each year.

Donations will be accepted at the

sleepout on Saturday, January 26th beginning at 6:00 p.m. through Sunday, January 27th until noon. Those interested can also make contributions at the church.

For more information on the sleepout or to make a donation, call Lynn Boland at 216.228.2284. Visit the church website at www.lcc-church.org to find out more about LCC and the United Church of Christ.

Correction: Pleased to Hear This Tennant

The above mentioned story, “Pleased to Hear this Tennant”, which ran in LO volume 4, issue 1 included several grammatical mistakes which were not the fault of the author. Most importantly, the title contained a misspelling of the main subject's last name. The proper spelling is “Tennant”. On behalf of the editorial staff, I apologize for this oversight. Best Regards,

Dan Slife, Editor in Chief

National Wildlife Federation Volunteers To Assist Public In Making Their Backyard A Wildlife Habitat

by Amy Roskilly

Cleveland, OH – The National Wildlife Federation has recently awarded 13 adult volunteers the status of Habitat Stewards. These dedicated volunteers have worked through 25 hours of training in the Habitat Stewards program and are ready to serve as mentors in their communities, working to help residents in their communities transform their schools, worksites and backyards into wildlife habitats.

The Habitat Stewards training,

locally hosted by the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, covers subjects such as birds, landscaping for wildlife, going native in the garden, water features, the current status of wildlife habitat in our country, and even touches on site planning and habitat design. The Stewards learn about the intricacies of plant and animal relationships, and how they can share their knowledge with others.

Habitat Stewards is a branch of the National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat Program. The program, designed to connect people

and wildlife, provides a means by which individuals can take personal action in transforming their own yards into a wildlife habitat. If you are interested in learning more about wildlife habitats, please go to www.nwf.org/backyard, or for information about local volunteers and volunteer opportunities, contact the NWF volunteer team at volunteer-match@nwf.org, 1-800-247-7387 x6177 or contact Albin Weiler at albinweiler@hotmail.com. National Wildlife Federation works to inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. www.nwf.org

Lovin' Lakewood!

by Mary Anne Crampton

Celebrate your love of Lakewood by buying the sweeties in your life a Lakewood Gift Certificate for Valentine's Day!

Lakewood Gift Certificates are avail-

able in denominations of \$5, \$10 and \$20, and can be purchased at Phoenix Coffee at 15106 Detroit or Geiger's Clothing and Sports at 14710 Detroit Avenue.

Keep the Lakewood love growing: over \$4600 certificates were sold in the six week holiday season, surpassing our initial goal of \$3000 by more than 50%!

Residents benefit from income, jobs and tax receipts by supporting local businesses first. Local businesses

also preserve the economically diverse climate of our community while enhancing the quality of our neighborhoods. Finally, shopping locally protects the environment when people take shorter trips to the store, or leave their cars at home entirely and go by foot (or bike!) through our very walkable city!

Lakewood gift certificates are redeemable at over 185 Lakewood merchants. A complete list can be viewed at lakewoodalive.com.

St. Peter's Hosts Sinfully Good Chocolate Fair

by Kathy Martin

Chocolate! Chocolate! And more chocolate! St. Peter's Episcopal Church is holding its first annual Chocolate Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday Feb. 2.

All decked out for Valentine's Day, there will be a chocolate fountain with marshmallows for dipping, and enough hot cocoa and other confections to put

a smile on even Willie Wonka's face. Chefs will delight in a bake-off. Kids and adults will enjoy making Valentine's crafts both for themselves and to donate to a local senior center.

The event is free and open to all. The church is located at West Clifton and Detroit Ave. For more information, call the church office at 216.226.1772 or visit the Web site at www.stpeterslakewood.org.



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Lakewood Community Recreation & Education Commission

by Gina Bodamer

Dear Commission Members and Community Members,

You are invited to attend the Lakewood Community Recreation and Education Commission meeting that is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, January 29, 2008. The will take place at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Auditorium. Contact Gina M. Bodamer for a copy of the meeting agenda. We look forward to seeing you on January 29, 2008. 1456 Warren Rd., Lakewood, Ohio 44107, www.lakewoodrecreation.com

Lakewood Events

Rozi's Hosts 3rd Annual Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Benefit

It's late and I am trying to come up with an awesome article to submit that will move people into caring about Congenital Heart Defects as much as I do. Wine helps, but for the most part I've got nothing. I am looking for my inner Erin Brockovich, or at least a more conservatively dressed, PTA Erin Brockovich that will make me fight with everything I have to get the message across, "CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE IS THE NUMBER ONE BIRTHDEFECT IN THE WORLD!!!!!"

It is true. Many people don't know about this because the literature is not available. Recently, I referred to the bible for pregnant women, What to Expect When You're Expecting. There was not one single mention of congenital heart defects in the entire book. There was certainly not a peep of it in the many classes we took at the Fairview Wellness Center. It's enough to make you want to pull your hair out. Despite the preparation, and already having a two year old at home, we had no idea this could happen to our family and were completely blindsided when our daughter Jordan was diagnosed.

My husband and I have been working at raising awareness for three years now. We even founded the Jordan's Family Foundation to help raise money for research. However, I must admit that with each year that passes, my frustration level has increased into a quiet outrage. Last year, after our last fundraiser we enjoyed a nice lunch with staff members of the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital. (All proceeds go to research being done by Dr. Brian Duncan.) They were telling us about the promising research they were doing. I was really impressed and proud that we could help but that meeting brought to light two amazingly sad facts. One, despite the rate of occurrence, very little money is spent on research of congenital heart disease. When I asked the head of cardiology why this is, he thought that it was due to the simple fact that children cannot vote, therefore they have no say. In the year of presidential elections, remember it doesn't matter what tax bracket you're in, what political party you belong to, or how you feel about the War in Iraq, you are just as susceptible to having a child with a congenital heart defect as anyone else.

The second disturbing fact that was revealed to us in this meeting, was that it is not cost-efficient enough for every newborn child to be screened for a congenital heart defect. I look at Jordan, with her chubby cheeks and beautiful blue eyes, and can't help but think that somewhere in a stuffy cubi-

cle, deep in the bellows of a hospital sits an office worker that has figured out exactly how much her health is worth. Listed below are a few facts regarding Congenital Heart Defects that may just shed some light on how inefficient it is not to screen every newborn.

It is estimated that 1 in 125 babies are born with a congenital heart defects.

Nearly twice as many children die from congenital heart disease in the United States each year as die from all forms of childhood cancers combined. Over 91,000 life years are lost each year in the US due to congenital heart disease.

Approximately 35,000 babies are born with congenital birth defects per year.

Less than 1% of money spent on medical research is spent on the research of congenital heart defects despite the rate of occurrence.

It is not always detected at birth. In fact, some children can be diagnosed years later.

Undiagnosed CHD's and Childhood Onset Heart Disease cause many cases of Sudden Cardiac Death in young athletes.

Newborns and teen-aged athletes are not routinely screened for Congenital Heart Defects.

Recently, we received a donation from a friend of ours. This was the first year she had donated. We found out that her five-year-old son was just diagnosed with a congenital heart defect.

He had been complaining of chest pain for quite some time and he is fortunate to have it diagnosed even at the age of five. The earlier it is detected, the better the outcome. A simple listen by a pediatric cardiologist or an echocardiogram when he was a newborn would have revealed the defect much sooner. During the World Cup playoffs, an athletic, vibrant young man passed away due to an undiagnosed congenital heart defect. Can you put a price tag on his life? I'm sure it would not have been very cost-efficient, but he would be alive. I look at it like this, co-pay \$20, prescription of Captopril to regulate Jordan's heart rate \$98.37 every 8 weeks, knowing about her heart defect so she can get the best possible care.... priceless.

Please join us on Thursday, February 7th at Rozi's Wine House for our third annual Jordan's Family Foundation wine tasting. The event starts at 6:00 p.m. and the cost is \$25 per person. All proceeds from the event will go to the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital. The vineyard being featured is Napa Valley's St. Supery and executive chef from Lolita's, Matt Harlan, will be cooking a delicious menu. It is a fun way to raise awareness and money for congenital heart defect research.

Kara Goeller
Vice-President
Jordan's Family Foundation
jordansfamilyfoundation@yahoo.com
216-221-0147

Observer Party At Mahall's Lanes



Nothing like a bowling party to get the crowds out on a cold winter day!



Mark "Shane" Phillips kicks off the music, later accompanied by Observer Gary Rice. Inset: Gary's Observer-inspired Banjo.




At the end of the party yet another end of the world moment. Councilman for Ward 2, Tom Bullock, shares a laugh with past Ward 2 Councilman, Ryan Patrick Demro, and Lakewood Observer Editor Dan Slife. Sitting with Tom is his "special lady friend Shannon Rogers.

Benefit For Cheryl Neki


Cheryl Nekl , A local Lakewood mother of three, active PTA member, and employee of Taft Elementary has been struck by cancer and and recently had a brain tumor removed.

Next Friday, January 25th at the Irish Heritage Club, Briscoe Room, 726 Avon Beldon Rd., Avon from 6-11 there will be a Spaghetti Dinner, with a DJ, Chinese Raffle, 50-50 Raffle, and Cash Bar.

Come and support Cheryl Nekl and her family and aid with the mounting medical bills. Very family friendly so bring the kids!
For \$30 a couple or \$40 per family



Tickets can be purchased at:
Local Girl Gallery 216-228-1802
16106 Detroit, Lakewood
Cindy Caskey 216-221-1562 Lakewood
Lisa Rambo 440-668-9597 Avon
Karen Zingale 216-789-0870 Lakewood
Linda Turk 216-221-6125 Lakewood



Lakewood City Council

Michael Dever Takes Charge

At 7:30 PM January 7, 2008 Mike Dever (at large) called the council meeting to order. By virtue of being the longest serving member of council the job fell to him to open the meeting. After the roll call, pledge to the flag, and moment of silence Dever then called for nominations for the post of President of Council.

Kevin Butler (ward one) nominated Dever for the position. Mary Louise Madigan (ward four) seconded the motion. That motion passed unanimously.

The new president then moved that Madigan be named Vice President of Council. Tom Bullock (ward two) seconded the motion. It, too, passed unanimously.

Then it was down to business. Council passed resolutions accepting the appointments of Nora Hurley as Law Director and Nathan Kelly as Director of Planning and Development.

As part of a new council with new leadership, Dever wants to “take a fresh look at Council Rules of Procedure. Although Council procedures default into Roberts Rules of Order when no other rules have been established, those that have been set down by separate ordinance have not been changed in over 30 years. Also, some questionable rules continue simply because past practices prevail.” stated Dever in his letter to council.

As a side note, many times in my reporting position for the Lakewood Observer, people will approach me with questions on Council procedure or offer ideas for changes in custom. This might be the opportunity for interested people to post their ideas on Council operations on the Observation Deck in order to help President Dever and the rest of Council reevaluate procedures.

Finally, there is a vacancy on council occasioned by the election of Ed FitzGerald as Mayor. He was mid term in his council term and had to resign the seat to assume the Mayor’s position.

Council Clerk Mary Hagan has received applications from nine people who would like to be appointed to the slot.

Paul R. Beegan is an architect who most recently drew up the plans for the conversion of a double to single home

on Bunts Road that was featured in the last issue.

Timothy H. Carroll last ran for the at large seats two years ago. He is active in the Lakewood Republican Club.

Stephen Davis has most recently served on the Charter Review Commission and is active with the Lakewood Library.

Diane Hope Helbig just finished her first attempt for the Ward three seat

in an active and energetic campaign. Stephen F. Hoffert has been a regular monitor of civic activities and just retired from Lakewood having worked in a supervisory capacity at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Ruth A. Koenigsmark is a name familiar to Observer readers from her many columns and community wide activities, including working with the Office on Aging.

Edward Michael McCartney has been a regular attendee at council meetings and uses the audience comment session to offer views on the relationship between religion and government as it applies to council.

Brian E. Powers is a member of the Planning Commission and a Democratic precinct committeeperson.

Daniel E. Shields fast off a hotly contested race for the Ward 2 seat has also applied. The Lakewood attorney has also served on the Charter Review Commission.

Stan Austin
City Council Reporter

Budget Hearings Have Begun

by Steve Hoffert

On Saturday, January 14, the City held one of many public meetings to discuss the 2008 budget. Saturday’s meeting pertained to internal service funds and capital expenditures. Internal funds are transfers between departments that pay for such things as health care insurance; capital improvement funds are those used to buy equipment that exceed a certain dollar amount.

Present for the meeting were Council President Dever, Vice President Madigan, and Councilmen Summers, Butler, and Bullock. Mayor Fitzgerald and his administration’s representatives, such as Finance Director Jennifer Pae, were there to explain the complex and sometimes confusing process of budgeting. The audience consisted of a large contingency of city employees, but very few Lakewood citizens.

The atmosphere seemed cordial, but somber. Mayor FitzGerald explained the financial strain the city is under and his administration’s plans that will be implemented to get expenditures under control. He also emphasized that change will occur rapidly and efficiently, such that a single change will right the City’s financial course, rather than a series of smaller changes over an extended period of time.

The discussion then migrated to health care benefits and what can be

done to control the City’s spiraling health care costs. Many options were brought to the table which, if implemented, could potentially save the city over ten percent. It became evident that a combination of health care plan changes and a series of little cuts could be transformed into large cost savings.

The administration faces a challenge with the bargaining units who have already settled contracts ending in 2009. Adjustments in benefits for these employees would be contingent upon the contracts being reopened, whereas non-bargaining unit employees, who number roughly 48, can have their benefits adjusted by ordinance changes.

The conversation then proceeded to outline the City’s debt and credit outlook. Lakewood currently has a bond rating well within the top third of communities in Cuyahoga County. The Mayor asked if the former administration’s promise of an income tax increase may have artificially boosted Lakewood’s credit rating, and the bond consultant agreed that it may have had some effect.

The complex formula to determine how much money any municipality may borrow and the difference between bonds and notes were briefly discussed. The City is anticipated to have a General Obligation (GO) credit limit of \$14 million. This number is affected by the tax pressure imposed by all government agencies in the county, and with

the anticipation of Cuyahoga County borrowing \$150 million in the second quarter of 2008, Lakewood’s credit limit would shrink to \$11 million. This is still an improvement over last year.

The ability to borrow translates into machinery being purchased and projects, such as road improvements, being done. The administration has wisely decided to lease some capital equipment for those with a useful life of under 5 years. This allows the city to pay off the equipment when it is being used instead of financing for 20 years something that will be in the scrap heap in 10.

Road rating procedures, types of resurfacing, and currently scheduled projects were also discussed. External funding for the resurfacing of Bunts, sadly, did not come through. The city’s portion of these funds has been redistributed to do other needed road projects within the city.

Other capital projects of interest were computer software and hardware to make the City’s operations more efficient. New personnel management systems by Kronos would ease the administrative load on individual departments so that more actual work could be done.

The issue of capital improvement with money from the \$2 million levy for wastewater plant improvements was discussed. Nearly half of this money is to be used for other projects, such as streets, after passage of issue 14 in 2005. Conspicuously missing from many of the capital budget projections were future expenditures beyond this year.

As the City tightens its belt, the residents will be called upon to make decisions about the quality of life in our city. The general population would be well advised to attend some of these meetings to gain a better understanding of the difficult task of distributing funds for city operations.

The administration and council seem to be working well together toward a difficult but needed solution to Lakewood’s potential financial crisis. This cooperation may be just what is needed to steer clear of the financial iceberg that lies just off of Lakewood’s bow.



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Lakewood Public Library

Change In Lakewood Public Library’s Coin Collection

by Andrew Harant

In the last issue of the Lakewood Observer, there was an article asking for donations for foreign coins. We’ve bought more time. Lakewood Public Library’s Children’s and Youth Services Department has extended the deadline to Thursday, February 14. Thank you to everyone who has donated coins already, but we still need more.

In case you missed last issue’s article, it is reprinted here, with the new deadline:

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 Thursday, February 14. If you could tell us where the coin is from, we would really appreciate it.

Obituaries

Ralph “Pete” McGrew

Husband of the late June, Father of Bonnie Rakes and Laurie Young (George), Grandfather of Damian Stiles, Carrie Graham (Lawrence), Kassie Stiles, Katie, Jenny, and Nate Young, Great-grandfather of Logan Edward Stiles, Marine Veteran of Iwo Jima WWII, and Past President of Lakewood Kiwanis Club.

Pete was also known for owning Dairy Isle on Madison in the 60s which featured a 40’ ice cream cone.

Pete was the friendly face Lakewoodites could always count on for a smile and some joking. A Marine veteran that hand been shot on Iwo Jima Pete started the Coffee Pot Warriors. A group of Veterans that stopped at The Coffee Pot Restaurant every Saturday for good food and conversation. Pete would always ask any new Veteran in town to stop by where he was always willing to but them their first

Nancy McMahon

By Colin McMahon and Kathleen McMahon

Nancy McMahon (nee Anna Marie Curran), who raised eight hellion children as a saintly mother and molded thousands of restless minds as a Job-like teacher, died of cancer Jan. 14 at Ennis Court in Lakewood.

She was 76. Nancy was a child of Irish immigrants, a devout Roman Catholic and a grandmother out of a storybook. She went back to college in the 1970s and graduated at the age of 47 from Cleveland State University.

For 25 years at CSU and Notre Dame College, she was a patient and engaging English instructor who helped poor writers improve and good

writers excel.

The same warmth and generosity that Nancy showed with her students she showered on her family; Mickey, husband of 57 years. Her sister, Peggy Kowalczyk. er children, Brian (Mary), Colleen, Kevin, Michael (Lisa), Kathleen (Chris), Barry (Julie), Colin (Amanda) and Bonnie Filice (Michael); and 13 grandchildren, mom was a guiding light, a tower of strength and support, affection incarnate. She was the manifestation of unconditional love.

And God knows, her children tested that love more than anyone ever deserved.

An online memorial with photos can be found at:
<http://nancymcmahon.legacy.com/lmw/Homepage.aspx>

Lakewood Public Library Events Calendar

Sunday With the Friends New Main Library Auditorium 2:00 p.m. February 10 Love is in the Air! As in “Sunday in the Park,” Karen and Christopher Ellicott present an elegant afternoon of romantic songs and melodies with guitar, clarinet and voice performed by two classically trained musicians.

Lakewood Public Cinema Virgin Suicides (1999), Directed by Sofia Coppola, Rated R, A group of boys become obsessed with the five beautiful sisters who live down the street, hidden away by overprotective parents. Small glimpses into their shrouded lives only deepen the mystery as the Lisbon girls slip away in this haunting elegy for love unknown.Saturday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the new Main Library Auditorium

Casablanca (1942), Directed by Michael Curtiz, ALL AGES, Everybody comes to Rick’s – Nazis, pickpockets and even old lovers. Humphrey Bogart plays a former freedom fighter who thought he left both love and America behind, drowning his sorrows in a gin joint. But then Ingrid Bergman comes back into his life on the arm of her hero husband. This film is required viewing for anyone who ever thought they had a handle on love, and for those struggling under the burden of a broken heart. Saturday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the new Main Library Auditorium

Friends of Lakewood Public Library Book Sale Saturday February 9 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Omni 13000 Athens Avenue. This sale will include bargain books at \$3.00 per bag and all books including the “better” books at ½ price.

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 25, 26, 27 Frankly Franklin
February 1, 2, 3 Wake Up, Groundhog!


| *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 grade, Tuesday, September 4, 2007 – Friday, May 23, 2008 Join the Club! Come for a different activity each weekday. No need to register.

| DAY | TIME | ACTIVITY (At the Madison Branch) |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 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) |



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Lakewood Observer

Letter To The Editor

Cliffs Condo Project: Withered On The Vine?

The Cliffs condo project on Sloane Ave. seems to have withered on the vine.

I don't understand why the LO has been cheerleading this project, as well as every politician, and every "Up With Lakewood" Group. The Foran Group's performance has been abysmal at best. I urge you all to reexamine your blind support.

Every day a lot of western Lakewoodites including myself have to drive past this eyesore. As people cross the bridges eastbound into Lakewood, is this any way to say welcome to Lakewood? Rocky River's Foran Group has brought real "blight" to the West End.

These guys have shown their commitment to Lakewood the following ways:

- * Chose Rocky River for their offices.
- * Rented a crummy fence to secure the site. The wind blew it over last week.
- * Threw piles of trash out the back and let it sit for over a year until the boarded-up houses were finally demoed.
- * Cut and cleared over an acre of forest to sell the the logs, destabilizing an already fragile shale cliff.

For over three years, it almost seems as if they wanted the site to look as bad as possible.

Recently the Sun paper had an article with the latest list of excuses. You could read in between the lines why this project will never be built. Foran blamed his financial shortcomings on "the holidays" and his snow-bird investors. Give me a break. And the fact that the success of phase 1 will dictate phase 2 is an admission that they don't have the money or equity to pull it off.

The units are advertised as "luxury" condos from \$350K - \$1 million. How much would you pay for a concrete box of 1,250-square feet? As far as I can tell from the drawings, you would only have windows on the front of the front rooms. And, it is not a lake view. It's under a busy bridge, with the view of a river, a beat up railroad bridge and a big building across. The plans I saw showed surface parking at the Slone elevation and at river level. Would you spend half a million to park outdoors in a very weather-exposed open lot?

Then there is the current climate of the economy, housing and lending. I don't see much of a demand for this type of unit. Would a bank even lend that kind of money for that kind of dwelling in a pending development?

I've seen discussions in the Plain Dealer and online that they are several years behind on their property taxes. Is this true? If so, why are they allowed to slide?

Before the City cuts them any TIF checks (our money), they should scrutinize the developers. Apparently, the last administration was very impressed by Power-point presentations and Photoshop renderings.

I urge the new mayor and council stay on top of this and hold the developers accountable for the upkeep and appearance of the property while it remains dormant. It's an eyesore and a black eye for Lakewood and its residents.

Sincerely,
W. Davis
Lakewood

Response From Editor In Chief...

Of course, many are still unaware that the Lakewood Observer is a citizen-based journalism project. All articles are written and submitted by self-directed volunteers.

As an institution, the LO holds no particular view, ideological or otherwise. The content which is printed here in the Lakewood Observer is submitted by volunteer writers who make all decisions concerning content and perspective independently. Again, they are self-directed agents.

If it is the case that only one side

of a particular story seems to appear in the Lakewood Observer it is the fault of none but the party possessing a differing view that such dissenting stories are not written and submitted.

We welcome and encourage all perspectives in the Lakewood Observer. If you think that a particular perspective is lacking, it is your duty as a mindful citizen committed to truthful representation of local issues to produce information that will fill that gap.

Regards,
Dan Slife, Editor in Chief

Smart As A Pundit: A Trivia Game

by Peter Sackett


As we enter the fourth and final year of the 2008 presidential election race, please try the little quiz below. Are you smart enough to be among the pundits, commentators, so-called news networks, and other experts who have been making a lot of money, talking way too much, and getting very little right?

1. Name the last sitting US Senator to get elected president.
2. Name the last sitting US president to decline running for a term of office.
3. Name the first Romney to run for president and his poll numbers during his candidacy.
4. What is Mitt Romney's real first name?
5. Who lost by a bigger margin: Goldwater in 1964 or McGovern in 1968?
6. The Washington Post says this President had the lowest poll numbers ever for a sitting president.
7. Bill Clinton's approval rating one week after the Monica story broke, according to the W. Post.
8. Name the 1972 Republican congressman from Ohio who ran for president in the primaries against Nixon.
9. Running as a third party candidate, this man garnered the third-most

non-Republican votes during the primaries of 1972. [This is amazing.]

10. Who was the person who challenged President Ford in the 1976 primary season, all the way to the convention hall?
11. In 1980, this future President won the Iowa caucus vote.
12. In 1984, Reagan became only the second president to win 49 states. Who did it first?
13. This current Republican candidate ran for president in 1988. He got .47% of the total vote in November.
14. In 1988, this guy won 18.9 per cent of the total vote and ZERO electoral votes.
15. This guy had a 54% disapproval rating half way through his term.
16. In 2000, this candidate lost his 'home' state and, thus, the election.
17. This sitting president had a 90% approval rating 20 months before he lost his re-election bid.
18. Finally, a little controversy! What do you think: Did Bush wear a secret earpiece during the debates? Was Rove giving him the answers? Remember, this is the president who said, "We need an energy bill that encourages consumption."


Answers on page 16...



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Lakewood Schools

Board Member Commits

by Linda Beebe

I appreciate the confidence and support of the voters of Lakewood in re-electing me to the Lakewood Board of Education. It has been a great honor to have served on this board for 24 years. It has been personally rewarding and intellectually challenging. I have learned much – about roofing materials, teaching reading, bonds and ratings, special education and school law, computers and new technologies. I hope that the experience I have

brought to the board – as a former teacher, attorney, parent, and involved community member – has served both the district and the community well.

At the start of what will probably be my final term on the board, I want to make some commitments:

To the citizens of Lakewood: I am committed to continuing to provide this community with stellar schools, schools that provide a broad education to a diverse population of students and families with wide needs and broad expectations; from AP English and a

superb music and fine arts program, to a state of the art vocational school, to up-to-date teaching techniques for children for whom English is a second language, to new techniques for teaching children who, for whatever reason, find academic success more difficult to achieve.

I will explore alternatives to ensure the safety as well as academic success of all our students – from emergency reaction plans, to uniforms, to tutors, parent resource coordinators, and teacher instructional coaches.

I promise to do a better job personally in communicating with my constituents about the efforts being made to help children achieve their greatest potential and about their concerns about the schools. We have been working this past year to improve the capacity of our school web site and to more energetically get the story out to the community about our accomplishments and our challenges.

There is much to be done in the district to address the issues being raised by the No Child Left Behind Act and proficiency tests. I intend to explain not just why there are problems with the external testing system and why our scores are what they are, but most importantly what we are doing about it. The professional staff of this district are making a concerted effort to improve their ability to teach children for whom traditional teaching methods don't work, and the community deserves to know what those efforts are.

I promise to maintain fiscal responsibility and encourage the efforts of the district to join consortia, to control health insurance costs, and since the bottom line of any school district is the classroom teacher and the skill he or she brings to resolving the individual issues of each child, to provide our children with the best, most qualified teaching staff possible.

As Chair of the Buildings and Sites Committee, I will continue to work with our construction managers and district oversight committee to keep the on-going construction program on budget and completed in a timely manner. Soon, I will invite the community to participate in the planning of Phase Three of the School Facilities plan.

To the staff of the Lakewood City Schools: I believe you are well trained, hard-working and well-intentioned. I am committed to supporting your efforts to better the work we do as a district. I promise to listen and seek information and not jump to conclusions. I will take time to visit schools, attend meetings, and learn about the

continued on page 9...

Lakewood Lutheran School Offers Opportunity For \$2,000 Scholarship At Jan. 27 Open House

by Luanne Bole-Becker

Most Northeast Ohioans speak with pride about the "Emerald Necklace"—the beautiful network of public parks that surround the city of Cleveland and benefit all who live nearby. Perhaps it's time to start trumpeting another network that surrounds Northeast Ohio and also provides significant benefits to the community—the Lutheran Schools of Northeast Ohio!

There are thirteen Lutheran elementary schools and two Lutheran secondary schools within Cuyahoga, Medina, and Summit counties—all dedicated to help shape students into Christ-centered, well-educated, and productive citizens and disciples. Families of many different faiths attend Lutheran schools. Together, it's a partnership that serves a vast range of communities.

Lakewood Lutheran School, 1419 Lakeland Ave. (corner of Detroit, Arthur, and Lakeland—across from Taco Bell and the main library) serves communities centered around Lakewood.

On Sunday, January 27, 2008, all fifteen Lutheran schools within the tri-county area—including Lakewood Lutheran—will open their doors to prospective families from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. They will also offer a chance to receive a \$2,000 scholarship, usable in grades K-12 at any of the participating schools for the 2008-2009 school year.



Lakewood Lutheran School welcomes prospective students and families at an open house Sunday, Jan. 27, from 1-4 pm. Participants can apply for one of two \$2,000 scholarships offered to new students at all the Lutheran Schools in Northeast Ohio. (Official application forms and rules are posted at www.Jesus4Students.com.) Lakewood Lutheran School, 1419 Lakeland—across from Taco Bell—serves the Lakewood community.

Scholarships will be awarded to two new students (i.e., those not currently attending a Lutheran school within the area) chosen from the valid applications received. Official scholarship rules and application forms are available on the website in January and at all schools during the open house.

For more information about the scholarship, visit the schools' website at www.Jesus4Students.com or call 1-888-7-EQUIP-U. For more information about Lakewood Lutheran

School and the exceptional Christian education that it offers to students in grades Pre-K through grade 12, go to www.lakewoodlutheran.com. With the open house on January 27 and this new scholarship opportunity, there's no better time to learn more about a Lutheran school near you!



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Lakewood Student Receives Gold Key For Scholastic Art Show Entry

Staff Writer

Jennifer Lynne Farkas was a recipient of the Gold Key Award and pin at the 28th Annual Cuyahoga County Regional Scholastic Art Exhibition presented by the Cleveland Institute of Art on Sunday, January 13th. She is a 17 year old junior at Lakewood High School. Her drawing,

"evening House", will be sent to the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers in New York City for judging.

Jennifer is the daughter of Steve and Marcia Farkas of Hathaway Avenue, and she plans to pursue a career as an art teacher. Mrs. Sandy Norris is her art instructor at Lakewood High School.

Lakewood Schools

Lakewood Youth Master Plan Committee Receives the Ohio Department of Education Asset Builder Award

by Chris Karel

On Wednesday, December 12, 2007, the Lakewood Youth Master Plan Committee received the Ohio Department of Education Asset Builder Award of Recognition at the annual Ohio Prevention Education Conference. Dottie Buckon and I accepted the award on behalf of the Lakewood YMP Committee. The Safe and Drug-Free Schools program established the Asset Builder Award to recognize outstanding people who represent Ohio's greatest resources in creating and sustaining prevention and intervention efforts.

Based on the work of the Search Institute, there are 40 developmental assets comprised of positive experiences and personal qualities that young people need to grow up healthy, caring and responsible. "We have learned that success is established on the foundation of relationships. Put simply, at the heart of prevention are people who have dedicated themselves to making a difference. They proceed selflessly, with purpose and intent, because they know by their own experience that the greatest impact on a young person's life is the involvement of caring adult role models," said Krista Allison, Associate Director of the Office for Safety, Health and Nutrition, Ohio Department of Education.

The award represents the hard work and time that hundreds of Lakewood citizens devoted to a Youth Master Plan initiated in the fall of 2005. The draft plan, due out in January, will detail the community's issues and strategies discussed by community members involved in the planning process. It contains goals in four areas:

education, recreation, families and health & safety. Part of the draft plan details a method for implementation.

At the core of the Plan implementation is a recommendation to form a Lakewood Youth Commission. The Commission will consist of eight youth and eight adults, a chair and two ex-officio members, one from the City and one from the Schools. The group is seeking applications for at-large members now, and will begin working by the end of January. Go to: <http://www.lakewoodymp.com> for more information or to download an application.

The website contains documents and articles related to the project as well. In Youth Master Planning: Building an Infrastructure to Help Young People Succeed, Michael Karpman states, "Youth master planning processes offer many benefits to cities, including a better alignment of resources to reduce duplication of services and eliminate service gaps; coordination of city, school and community efforts to improve outcomes for youth; cost savings; and opportunities for citizen input and youth participation." A primary task of the Youth Commission will be to evaluate the Youth Master Plan Report and determine which of the goals are immediately actionable.

Once established, the Commission will fulfill its mission by acting as an ongoing planning and advocacy body, and serving as a champion for youth and youth involvement in city and community planning processes. The Commission shall act as a liaison between youth serving organizations, local businesses, local government, schools and the community for the purpose of collaborative resolution of



First Lady, Francis Strickland with Chris Karel at Ohio Department of Education Awards Ceremony

community needs and issues. Earning the Asset Builder Award from the Ohio Department of Education is an example of the City's great potential and the positive course set by the Youth Master Plan.

If you attended a community meeting, offered input via e-mail or phone, or were one of more than 800 youth who provided input during our survey—thank you! You earned the Asset Builder Award for Lakewood.

School Board Member Commits continued from page 8...

problems you face on a daily basis. However, I will not micro manage the district; we pay capable administrators to do that job. I will provide to you feedback from the community and make policy decisions that support your major purpose – teaching children. I will keep my personal agenda out front so you know what biases I bring to the issues we face, but I will not allow that agenda to get in the way of my responsibility as a board member to the greater needs of the district.

I will have high expectations and expect you to insist on the best – from yourself, your students and from each other.

To my fellow Board members: Lakewood has been blessed with hard-working caring school board members. I have the greatest respect for the commitment and breath of knowledge you bring. I have enjoyed the process by which this board solves problems and works together with respect – for each other, for the professionals in the district, and for the community.

I commit myself to working with you and the administration of this district to achieve consensus on the major issues facing us in the coming year: safety and security issues, improved communications, fulfilling the requirements of our state mandated improvement plan, and planning for the implementation of Phase Three of the Facilities Plan.

We may disagree; we have always had times when we disagreed, but if we fail to hammer out a plan of action on to which we can all be committed, we divert our energy from the task at hand. Lakewood Schools are historical proof that a board of education that listens to each other, respects each other, and works together enhances the reputation of a district and of a community.

Lakewood schools are great schools. They are in the forefront in seeking new ways to meet the individual needs of students. We have some great things going for us; we face some great challenges. I commit myself to making sure that we meet those challenges.

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Chef Geoff

Supermarket Snobs

Jeff Endress

While initially, readers of this column may think that I have lost my mind in confusing my normal culinary ramblings with candidates, caucuses, and political primaries, please bear with me. Sometimes the genesis of a discussion on food is not where one would expect.

Recently, one of the candidates for the presidential nomination, Mike Huckabee, indicated that in his college days he would fry up wild game, specifically, squirrel, in his dorm room popcorn popper. Almost universally, the comment was greeted with a global “euhhh”; it was not so much the perception that the furry little critters were being boiled alive in oil, but rather a reaction to anyone actually eating one. I concluded that the adverse reaction stemmed from what was being prepared, as no one ever had a similar reaction to the idea of a college student preparing a spaghetti dinner in a popcorn popper (as a note to younger readers, we are talking about popcorn poppers which used hot oil and not hot air. I am not at all sure how one would prepare a spaghetti dinner in a hot air popcorn popper).

It seems to me that our reaction, especially prevalent in the sophisti-

Wabbit Stew

Serves 6

2 fresh rabbits, cleaned and quartered

For the marinade:

4 cloves garlic, finely minced
juice of one lemon
sprig of fresh rosemary
2 tbsp. soy sauce
4 tbsp. olive oil
1/2 cup dry white wine

Procedure:

If using wild rabbit, marinate overnight; if domestic, 3 or 4 hours. In a large bowl combine all ingredients for the marinade. Add the rabbit, turning to coat. Refrigerate.

After marinating, pat the rabbit dry. Reserve the marinade. In a deep skillet, brown the salt pork and reserve. Dredge the rabbit in flour, shaking off the excess. Brown in the bacon grease, 5-7 minutes per side. Add the onion, stock, cup of wine, bay leaves and reserved marinade. Cover and simmer 45 minutes. Add the vegetables and continue to simmer another 45 minutes. Remove rabbit from skillet, wisk in the flour water mixture to thicken. Return rabbit to skillet, turning to coat. Serve with crusty whole grain bread and a hoppy ale.

Note: Domestic rabbit is available at the West Side Market

For the stew:

Flour to coat rabbit
3 potatoes, cut in 2 inch cubes, skin on
3 large carrots, sliced thick
3 stalks celery, sliced thick
large onion, sliced
1/4 lb. salt pork, minced (or 3 strips bacon)
2 bay leaves
3 cups chicken stock
1 cup white wine
3 tbsp. flour mixed with 1/2 cup water
salt and pepper

cated urban climes, represents what I would refer to as “supermarket snobbery”. Somehow we have a perception that, with the exception of produce (which is still allowed to be displayed in large bins), if the product is not wrapped and sealed in plastic and foam trays, the mere thought of consuming it should evoke revulsion. My question is: Why? Part of the answer

lies in the fact that, as modern carnivores, we like to be removed from the realities of our meat consumption. It is so much more pleasant and acceptable to go to the meat counter and purchase something which is more identifiable as a pork chop than as a part of a pig than it is to prepare something that is clearly identifiable as a rabbit, squirrel, or other form of living thing. Perhaps aquatic game, i.e., fish are somewhat of an exception, although even one who enjoys the perch fish fry certainly does not enjoy the attendant activity of cleaning the fish. But fish and mollusks are cold blooded and not nearly as cute as a squirrel, rabbit or deer and so the act of “hunting” them is generally viewed with much more acceptance. So, as supermarket snobs, we stick our noses up at those silly country bumpkins who butcher their own venison and eat such oddities as squirrel, grouse or wild boar. Not because any of them are unpalatable, because that truly is not the case, but merely because commercially raised pork, beef and fowl are more urbane and thus somehow more acceptable.

I have a very good friend who fairly regularly supplies me with all manner of wild fowl. Kevin, who could well go with the motto, “If it flies it dies”, is an avid hunter. As a result of his activities, I have been fortunate enough to have experienced patridge, pheasant, and 5 or 6 different species of duck (pintails are the best). I must admit that sometimes preparing the bounty of his forays is somewhat disconcerting, as it may be necessary to remove a still feathered wing or seek out shotgun pellets before they find their way into my molars. Disconcerting also because it places me squarely in the position of dealing with what was once clearly a living creature that I now intend to roast and then eat, a situation quite different from sautéing a pork chop, the location of which most would be unable to identify on a pig.

There is no doubt that in terms

of culinary enjoyment, wild game can be a treat, and while I can still vividly remember watching my father gag as he would clean rabbits that he and my grandfather had shot, once those long-eared lupines were properly prepared, I can assure you that there was only delightful “mmms” with no adverse intestinal reaction. The further we are removed from the process of reducing a living organism to a meal, the more comfortable we become even though the only difference between dining on wild game and supermarket meat is our own involvement in the process. The foam tray insulates not only the chicken breast, but also our own sensibilities. So, with candidate Huckabee’s comment firmly in mind, we travel down to Heinen’s or Giant Eagle patting ourselves on the back for our superiority because we do not dine on such backwoods hick concoctions as possum, grouse, venison or boar. Having never considered consuming the same, we are comfortable with our perception that somehow being further away from the actual process of producing the food makes us, in and of itself, superior.

And yet, in a time when we are becoming more and more concerned with the effects of industrialized farming, the ecology of globalized food supplies, and the cost of maintaining a supply system to feed our sophisticated perceptions and fill grocery store meat cases, we avoid consideration of the more responsible approach, which is, in fact, to look to foraging food products, be it a Lake Erie Walleye, a Wayne National Forest deer, or a wild woodland rabbit or squirrel, all of which are fed on renewable resources and are naturally free-ranging without the increased Belle & Evans price tag.

Without regard to the political side of the issue, I offer this delicious recipe (developed by Elmer Fudd himself) for wabbit stew. While I haven’t tried to do so, I believe, in a pinch, it could be prepared in a popcorn popper.

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Conservation Corner

The Third R (Recycle!)

After reducing and reusing, recycling is the final priority in waste reduction, and probably the one with which we are all most familiar. In 2006, for example, Americans recycled around 82 tons of trash, saving the equivalent of more than 10 billion gallons of gasoline in the process. However, this recycling is only about 30% of the trash we are creating. If we increased this number by only 5%, we could reduce emissions by the equivalent of 10 million metric tons of carbon dioxide.

Recycling is beneficial not only in terms of stemming landfill growth, but also in many other ways: fewer resources are required to make a product out of recycled materials than out of new ones, using recycled materials allows us to conserve precious raw materials, recycling is itself an important and potentially job-creating industry, and it generates less pollution of the air and water than adding the items to a landfill. Because the goods you recycle need to end up as other consumer goods, it is, of course, important to BUY recycled goods as well as to recycle.

According to the EPA, we recycle around half of our paper, 45% of our aluminum cans, 34% of plastic soda bottles, 29% of milk and water bottles, and only 25% of our glass. In 2006, it was estimated that each American consumed 167 bottles of water, but only recycled 38, leading 38 billion bottles to landfills. According to the National Recycling Coalition, enough aluminum is discarded every three months to rebuild the country's entire commercial air fleet, while recycling a single can would save enough energy to power a television for three hours.

Hopefully, you are now convinced that you should be recycling everything possible, in which case, all that remains are the rules for doing so in Lakewood:

Curbside pickup is available for metal cans, glass jars and bottles, plastic bottles, books, newspapers, magazines, other types of paper, and yard waste.

Rinsed-out plastic, glass, and metal can go together in clear or blue plastic bags (tied closed). The bags should be 30-gallons or less, and weigh less than 30 pounds. If putting out several lightweight bags, tie them together so they do not drift away or spill.

All kinds of paper can be set out together, tied with string in bundles or packed in paper bags or boxes. If in boxes, label them as paper recycling and limit to less than 30 pounds as well.

For yard waste, limit weight to 50

pounds per container or bundle and use yard waste bags, boxes, or labeled garbage cans. Cut branches to 4' or less and tie in bundles; cut logs to 18" in length and 6" in diameter. Be sure to separate yard waste from trash.

Place everything on the curb after 6pm the night before your collection day or before 6:30am on collection day. To find out your collection day, or if you have any other questions or con-

cerns, call the Lakewood Division of Refuse & Recycling at 216-252-4322.

DO be sure that everything is closed securely, to avoid spills/litter.

DON'T mix paper with plastic, metal, and glass.

DON'T put paper or yard waste in plastic bags.

In addition to Lakewood's curbside pickup, some items that are not picked up curbside may be dropped

off at the Recycling Center (12920 Berea Road). The Lakewood Recycling Center accepts clean clothes, paint (not latex), motor oil, anti-freeze, car batteries, tires, cell phones, fluorescent light tubes, rechargeable batteries (Home Depots and Radio Shacks also accept these), computers and computer equipment, appliances, mattresses, and the usual curbside pickup items. During the winter season (until March), their hours are Monday-Friday 7am to 3pm and Saturday 8am to noon.

Heather Ramsey

The Barcus Brothers

Halo 3 Game Review

by Aaron Barcus

Game: Halo 3
Developer: Bungie (www.Bungie.net)
Style: First Person Shooter
Modes: single player, multiplayer, online multiplayer.
ESRB Rating: Mature (17+) for and gore, mild language, and .
Cost: \$59.99
My Rating: 4.5 / 5 stars

Halo 3, Bungies third and final installment in the Halo series, is one of the preeminent first person shooters for the X-Box 360, out to date . Whether you want fast paced online action, in depth campaign play, visually appealing graphics, or you just feel like messing up some aliens, look no further than Halo 3.

You don't have to play the first two Halo games to have fun on the third, but it would help to follow the storyline. From battling the flood, a parasitic alien race that is bent on the destruction of all life, to battling the covenant, an alien race whose only goal is to destroy all humans, you'll find no quandary running out of things to shoot at during the campaign mode. Also, there are an array of battlefields. The fights range from earth-like battlefronts to alien ships in the depths of space. The variety of enemies and battlefields makes campaign mode hours of fun, not to mention the four difficulty levels.

If you would rather test your skills against other players instead of the AI, then get ready for one of the best online games on the market today. With over ten maps to fight on and over ten game types Halo 3 makes for hours of fun with its multi player mode. To play online, how-

ever, you will need to get an X-Box live account, which is sixty dollars and can be found at your local game store. While playing online there are over five hundred thousand other players to compete against at any given time. Online play also offers a ranking system in which players get experience points and build on their rank with each win they achieve. From first hand experience, Halo 3's online play is the

best of any game out right now.

If I had to pick one fault with the game it would be that campaign mode can be a bit short, and you might find the game boring after beating campaign mode if you don't have online play. Overall I give Halo 4.5 out of 5 stars. The Halo series will forever be remembered as one of the best game trilogies ever created and Halo 3 ends the series brilliantly.

Wii Sports Review

by Jake Barcus


Game: Wii Sports
System: Nintendo Wii
Genre: Family, Fun : E: For Everybody
My Rating: A+

Synopsis: The Nintendo Wii brings a whole new level to gaming with a one of a kind wireless motion-sensing controller. If you feel like getting a workout in and/or just having some good old fashioned fun, the Nintendo Wii is perfect for you. Be careful though, the Wii can also be very dangerous. Make sure you wear the wrist strap on the controller or you just might be taking somebody to the hospital, or going to Best Buy to buy a new television.

Wii Sports includes Wii Tennis, Wii Bowling, Wii Baseball, Wii Golfing, and Wii Boxing. These are all

physically demanding sports, and I personally think they are all great. Wii Sports is the perfect game with which to have some family fun. If my electronically deprived seventy-five year old grandpa and my two year old sister can figure it out, I think anybody can.

I would say that the best game for the whole family would be Wii Bowling, because you can have up to four players at a time. The best game for a good work out would be Wii Tennis, the most physically challenging of them all. If you feel like showing off some of your knowledge, Wii Golfing is a very strategic game. If you can't beat your brother up, take your anger out on Wii Boxing. If you want to hit a couple of home runs, turn on Wii Baseball. Wii Sports comes with your purchase of the Nintendo Wii, and believe me, it's worth every penny.



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Lakewood Observer

Classical Music Comes To St. Clement Church

by Christina McCallum

St. Clement Church will usher in the New Year with the inaugural recital of its Musical Arts Series on Thursday, January 24, 2008, at 7:30 p.m.

According to St. Clement's Director of Music, Jeffrey Moellman, pianists Andrea McAlister and Heidi Began, violist Scot Buzza, and mezzo-soprano Fenlon Lamb will present works by Brahms, Debussy, Dvorák, Gershwin, and Joplin.

"I view hosting the recital as a means of outreach to the Lakewood community and a natural extension of our preexisting music ministry," said Mr. Moellman. "Furthermore, I have not seen many other classical music concerts in the vicinity, much

less many featuring musicians of such high caliber."

Pianist Andrea McAlister is Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Previously, she taught at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, where she also received her Doctorate of Musical Arts in Piano Performance and Pedagogy. Dr. McAlister has performed in festivals and recitals throughout the United States and Canada, including the Aspen Music Festival and the Rome Festival, as well as with the Cleveland Chamber Symphony.

Scot Buzza's career includes solo performances with orchestras in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands,

Spain, Switzerland, and Venezuela. He is a former principal violist with the Tokyo Philharmonic and former soloist-principal violist with the Chamber Orchestra of Barcelona, Spain. He is a regular performer with both the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

Regularly earning critical acclaim for her "dynamic, rich vocal sound," and "polished acting abilities," mezzo-soprano Fenlon Lamb has performed with The Cleveland Orchestra, Apollo's Fire, Opera Cleveland, and recently completed a concert tour in Asia. A graduate of the Peabody School of Music with a Masters in Vocal Performance, Ms. Lamb will make her Seattle Opera

debut this season.

Heidi Williams Began is an active teacher, performer, and adjudicator in the Cleveland area. She earned her Master of Music in Piano Performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Ms. Began has won or placed in numerous piano competitions, including First Prize in both the Greensboro Music Academy Piano Competition and the Meredith College Concerto Competition. aside from her performance engagements, Ms. Began is proprietor of the Cleveland-area Williams Piano Studio.

Father John Ocilka, Administrator of St. Clement Church, said "the event continues the rich tradition of the Catholic Church in hosting recitals of classical and sacred music. We are glad to be able to use St. Clement as a venue to present this program."

This recital is open to the public, free of charge, and families with children are welcome. A free-will offering will be accepted at the recital's conclusion and a reception with refreshments will allow audience members to meet the artists.

St. Clement Roman Catholic Church is located at 2022 Lincoln Avenue (at Madison Avenue) in Lakewood. Ample parking is available at the rear of the church. For more information, call 216.226.5116 or visit www.saint-clement.net.

You've 'Made It' Just Fine...

by Lauren Kirk

I've heard people say that as a creative soul, you won't make it in Northeast Ohio, until you make it somewhere else first. Why does it need to be Chicago, New York, or Los Angeles? Why not Lakewood? In a city where local restaurants like Melt display local artists' work and where clubs like the Phantasy and the Hi-Fi give musicians a chance to shine (or scream whichever they prefer), why is this town of often untapped local talent often overlooked?

As a writer, upon graduating from Cleveland State University, I was bombarded with a variety of questions.

"Where are you going to move?"

"You're really staying here?"

"Why don't you leave like everyone else your age?"

I didn't leave.

I chose to move to Lakewood and I haven't regretted it. Not a bit.

Rent is cheap. I am never bored. If I need to chase the ever elusive Muse, all I need to do is walk down the street. Sheer artistry faces me at every corner. Be it the construction in front of St. Ed's, or a friend singing karaoke at Corky's, the arts thrive in every fashion.

I attended Beauty and the Beast at Beck Center in early December. The production that I attended was absolutely packed. It was a Wednesday night. The massive turnout and audience enjoyment gave me chills. In one of the most densely populated suburbs around, with a demographic of people that do not fit any mold, people were coming together, coming out for the arts. There are very few sights that can rival that.

Who has the authority to say that someone "made it big"? Literary

and art critics and the fickle national media? Yes, they do have their say with large paychecks and swanky galas. But where is the authority on contentment? Lakewood provides that sense of approval and interest for creative types that is so desperately lacking in other areas. It is possible to be content with artistic tendencies in a city that embraces, instead of shuns.

Break out your paints, tune your guitar, write your poem, and welcome home. You've made it just fine.

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Smart As A Pundit

ANSWERS

1. John F. Kennedy (1960).
2. Lyndon B. Johnson (1968).
3. George Romney, father of Mitt. Governor of MI. His poll numbers went from a high of 30% in February, 1967 to a low of 7% after New Hampshire in February, 1968.
4. Willard.
5. Goldwater's margin of loss was 22.6; McGovern's was 23.2.
6. Harry Truman, 1/11/52.
[Slightly less than Nixon's before he left office.] 7. 69%.
8. John Ashbrook.
9. Geo. Wallace.
10. Ronald Reagan. Total votes at the convention - Ford: 1187; Reagan: 1187.
11. George H.W. Bush.
12. R. Nixon in 1972.
13. Ron Paul.
14. Ross Perot.
15. William J. Clinton.
16. Albert Gore.
17. George H.W. Bush.
Rating on 3/4/91.
18. Absolutely, YES.

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Pulse Of The City

Those Marvelous Mini And Micro Cars

When I was a teenager, a friend of mine pulled up into our driveway with a very unusual car. It was called a King Midget, and had been made right here in Ohio! King Midgets were made continually from 1946 to 1970, and they were certainly head-turners wherever they went.

Since that time, I have always been fascinated by small cars. Actually, the Templar “Superfine” Touring Roadster, made right here in Lakewood from 1917 to 1924, was such a car by the standards of the time.

Small cars have been around since motors were first attached to buggies. The first “car” inventions could probably be attributed to Gottlieb Daimler and Karl Benz in 1886. Benz’s version was actually a tricycle, and of course it, too, was a small vehicle.

The first real proliferation of compact cars started in Europe before the Second World War. Strangely, Adolph Hitler encouraged the design of a small car called the “Kraft durch Freude (Strength through Joy) Wagen” (otherwise known as the kdf-wagen, volkswagen, or “people’s car”). It was designed through the offices of Ferdinand Porsche. Although the vehicle was widely desired, actual production of civilian vehicles in quantity did not transpire until after the war was over.

The end of hostilities for WWII marked widespread shortages for war-ravaged Europe. Small, gas-saving vehicles started to sprout like daffodils. Some of the first post-war mini-cars to emerge came out of the defeated Germany. The Messerschmitt aircraft factory, prohibited from making weapons of war, turned to building prefabricated housing and, of all things, a super-small car.

It seems there was a German engineer who wanted to design a tricycle that could be hand-operated for some of the disabled war veterans. The project developed into a motorized model having two wheels in the front, with one bringing up the rear. When he started making the device, he was swamped for orders, not only from wounded veterans, but by the public at large. He took the project to Messerschmitt where they developed an enclosed body having a cockpit similar to their wartime fighter plane. Many people felt that this odd but efficient machine, called the “Kabinroller,” used leftover parts from the German fighter, but that was not the case.

Another unusual mini-car came out of a refrigerator factory in Italy. It was called the Isetta. The front of the car actually opened like a refrigera-



Insert: The parade begins...Who’s that under Neil? Above: “Tenderfoot” Gary, Craig, and Neil Zurcher, minutes before that fateful parade towing.

tor, and it, too, had a “reverse tricycle” design, with two wheels in the front and one in the back (two in the back of the later models). Isettas were made in a number of countries, but it was in Germany that the BMW company helped the concept to really shine. BMW popped a 247cc motorcycle engine into the baby and improved the suspension, making a truly road-happy car. Our fearless lead Observer, Jim O’Bryan, happily tootles around Lakewood with his distinctive 1957 Isetta.

You might be amused, dear reader, at my own Isetta tale of woe. My good friend, Neil Zurcher, of TV8 fame, has gone through a number of mini-cars over the years while doing his famous “One Tank Trips.” A few years back, Neil bought a yellow Isetta to use in parades. I was out at Vermilion’s Woolly Bear Festival as “Tenderfoot Gary the Scout Banjo Player” some years ago, when Neil drafted me to drive his car. It seems that the Isetta developed engine problems and had conked out just before the parade. The Isetta was then tied to the back of Neil’s Metropolitan (another small car built in the 1950’s by Nash in this country), and off we went with Neil’s wife, Bonnie, driving the Met.

I was in the driver’s seat of the Isetta and Neil was sitting on the back of the seat with his head and shoulders sticking out of the sun roof! We both waved and grinned to the crowd while, to my utter terror, I discovered that the spongy brake pedal on the thing turned out to be more of a suggestion than a fact. The Scout expression “to do a good turn daily” took on a new

and sublime meaning for me as I negotiated that parade route. Miraculously, we finished the parade unscathed. You can read more about our great misadventure in “More of Neil Zurcher’s One Tank Trips” book.

In the 1970’s, America saw the birth of the Citicar, a short-lived battery operated electric mini-car. There was even a van version available for

the few years that the company was in business.

Yet another post-war mini-car was the British Motor Corporation (and later, Rover) Mini. Our own Jim O’Bryan also has one of these babies. Unlike other designs, this car was built to compete on the road with the big boys, and with stellar performance. An 848cc powerhouse of an engine was turned sideways with the gearbox situated under it. At the time, this was a revolutionary design. The entire mechanical business end went into just 18 inches of space. Thus, passenger and cargo space was relatively generous. Over 5 million original Minis were built before they were discontinued a few years ago.

Recently, the Mini concept has been revived by the BMW corporation. With roughly twice the horsepower of the peppy original, and with an updated design, this new BMW MINI (the new brand is expressed with capital letters) is making a history of its own. Other new smaller cars with retro appeal, like the Chevrolet HHR, the new Volkswagen Beetle, and my own family’s DaimlerChrysler PT Cruiser, join even smaller vehicles around the world in providing drivers with that incredible blend of tradition and technology that marks the pulse of this city, and of this world.

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Lakewood Arts & Entertainment

Beck Center Brings Back Four Commanding Performances Of The Diary Of Anne Frank

by Fran Storch
January 26 – February 9, 2008

Beck Center for the Arts is privileged to bring back four commanding performances of Wendy Kesselman’s powerful new adaptation of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, opening January 26

through February 9, 2008 on the Beck Center’s Main Stage.
Kesselman’s compelling new adaptation of Anne’s famous diary, based on the original play by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, captures the terrifying existence of eight European Jews hiding from the Nazis

in war-torn Holland for more than two years. This impassioned drama depicts their fears, their hopes, their laughter, and their grief. Each day of these two dark years for these eight individuals shines through Anne’s clear and powerful voice and for millions who can’t tell their stories.

The Diary of Anne Frank features Heather Farr as Anne Frank, George Roth* as Otto Frank and Paula Duesing* as Mrs. Van Daan. Also, with Brian Bartels, Mark Cipra, Kevin Coughlin, Kyle Dowling, Gareth Harris, Bob McCoy, Anne McEvoy, Lisa Siciliano, John Stuehr, and Dawn Youngs.

Director Sarah May is well known to audiences, most recently through her direction of *The Children’s Hour* and *Boy Gets Girl* at the Beck Center. She received the Northern Ohio Live Award in 2001 for *A Piece of My Heart*, and was honored by Cleveland Scene Magazine, which named her Charenton Theatre production of *Six Degrees of Separation* the “Best Theatre Production” of 2003.

“What a unique opportunity it is to get to revisit this amazing play with most of our original cast intact!” exclaims May. “Two years ago I had the honor to work with these great actors to tell Anne’s story. Her saga represents the tragedy suffered by millions during the Holocaust, and it must never be forgotten! We are so thrilled to be able to celebrate their courage and pass their legacy on.” As part of Beck’s ongoing commitment to theater education, we will also be presenting ten performances for school groups.

Beck Center’s production of this emotional drama is sponsored by Cox Communications, WCLV 104.9 FM, The National Conference on Community and Justice (NCCJ), and the Ohio Arts Council. Educational materials were provided by the NCCJ. 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. Beck Center gratefully acknowledges the citizens of Cuyahoga County for their support through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

Show dates and times are 8 p.m. Friday, February 1, Saturdays, January 26 and February 9 and 3 p.m. Sunday, February 3. For tickets to *The Diary of Anne Frank* call the Beck Center box office at (216) 521-2540 or log onto www.beckcenter.org. Ticket prices are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors and \$17 for students (22 and under with I.D.). Group discounts are available for parties of 13 or more. Rush tickets for students (22 and under with I.D.) are offered for \$10 each on Sunday only, 30 minutes prior to curtain, based on availability. Members of the Maltz Museum of Jewish History will receive a \$5 discount on each ticket purchased. Beck Center for the Arts is located just 10 minutes west of downtown Cleveland at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. Free, convenient on-site parking is available.

Rock Shots At bela dubby

by Ruth Koenigsmark

‘Pop Art Show’ at bela dubby Rocks Out! With works of Jimi, Siouxsie, Prince, Iggy, White Stripes, The Clash, Ziggy, Bjork, Blondie and T-Rex, Rock Pop Artist Michael Heasley gives us a show worthy of SOHO. ‘Rock Shots’, showing this month at bela showcases some of the most popular and influential Rock Icons of the 20th and 21st century. Heasley completed this show in four months time—incredible when considering the size and detail of each piece and that he is a single father raising two small children. Heasley takes inspiration from famed Pop Artists like Jimi Hendrix, who is the subject of one of his pieces. “Everyone has a favorite rock artist they can identify with” says artist Heasley. The highly collectable artist’s work delicately balances the energy of celebrity with an intense color palette in vast pop art canvases that dominate the walls of bela dubby. The vivid and dazzling explosions of color and light inherent in these works reflect his desire to project pure optimism – as an alternative to the gritty realism of celebrity. Heasley’s pop art bursts forth with intense energy and color, demonstrating street art sensibilities, imbuing his work with a distinctive pop art aesthetic.

What is Pop Art? Comic books, magazines and other modern mediums are the inspiration for Pop Art Artists to create altered and transformed images of instantly recognizable faces. An obsession with celebrity and the changing influence of fame, the images



“Rock Shots” Show Artist Michael Heasley at his first show at bela dubby

are often warped versions of a very familiar face or versions of the artist themselves put through a filtered lens. Make an effort, and you will see a unique show from an up-and-coming local artist. Heasley currently does not have a website, but if you’re interested in his next show or to buy a piece of art, call him at 216.688-0305. This Show runs from through the end of the month. So, come by, grab a cup of coffee

(bela dubby’s lattes and mochas are the bomb), relax and enjoy “Rock Shots”.

Don’t Forget to visit your neighborhood galleries!

- Beck Center for the Arts**
17801 Detroit Avenue
216.521.2540
- bela dubby**
13221 Madison Avenue
216.221.4479 Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10 am – 10 pm, Friday and Saturday 10am-midnight.
- Local Girl Gallery**
16106 Detroit Avenue 216.228.1802
Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 12-5pm, Friday and Saturday, 12-6pm.
- Pop Shop Gallery**
17020 Madison Avenue
216.227.8440 Hours: Monday-Friday 4pm-8pm, Saturday 2pm-6pm.
- Wobblefoot Gallery**
1662 Mars Avenue 216.226.2971
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Art gallery news and event information should be forwarded to gallerwatchgals@yahoo.com. Every effort will be made to include it in our next column.



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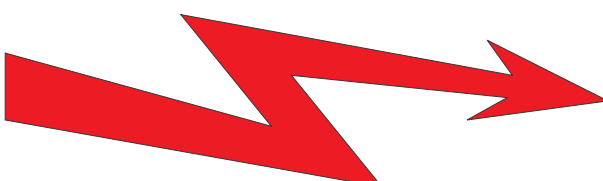
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