

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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

Volume 4, Issue 3, February 5, 2008

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Lakewood Democrats Host Northeast Ohio Straw Poll

Barack Obama Wins Big With Voters



photo by Gary Rice

Staff Writer

On January 31, 2008, the Lakewood Democratic Club hosted the Northeast Ohio Democratic Presidential Straw Poll which was held at the Lakewood Masonic Temple. Sponsored by a number of Democratic groups and indi-

viduals, Barack Obama won the vote count by a wide margin over second place winner Hillary Clinton. A straw poll is considered an unofficial barometer of the mood of Democrats in Ohio as of this date. The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Lakewood's own Tom Bullock, with Lakewood also being



photo by Gary Rice

well represented by Mayor Ed Fitzgerald. Congressman and recent Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich was also in attendance and spoke to an enthusiastic audience. Other candidates for office and their supporters shared the podium and gave their remarks as well.

Lakewood Observer columnist Gary Rice opened the event with the "Star Spangled Banner" on his musical saw.

Entertainment was provided by Lakewood's own Gary and Linda Cavano, a husband and wife vocal duo.

Lakewood Hospital Implement 12-lead Ekg Monitoring System For West Side Rescue Teams Thanks To Straight From The Heart Funds

by Jessica Klein

Lakewood Hospital, in coordination with WeShare (the West Side's Association of Paramedics and Life Squads) have installed 12-lead EKG technology in their Emergency Departments to assist Emergency Medical Services (EMS) first responders. The equipment was purchased with funds raised through the annual Straight from

the Heart event and raffle that benefits the hospitals' cardiac programs.

The 12-lead EKG equipment allows EMS responders to provide faster care to patients experiencing a coronary syndrome. An EKG reads electronic signals released by the heart providing a "picture" of what is happening. The "picture" is sent wirelessly from a monitor in the ambulance to Fairview and Lakewood

Hospital Emergency Departments (ED). The ED physician receives the vital diagnostic report from the rescue team as the patient is being transported to the hospital. EMS crews also have the option of entering other patient data before arriving at the hospital.

"Providing high-quality emergency medicine to our West Side communities has always been a top priority for us," said Fred DeGrandis, CEO and president of Cleveland Clinic Regional Hospitals. "By making the 12-lead EKG technology available at our hospitals and local EMS, lives will be saved. I'd like to thank everyone who has supported our annual Straight from the Heart fundraising efforts – your generosity is making a significant difference in the community." In addition to the hospitals' 12-lead EKG system, funds were also used to purchase four defibrillators and monitors that were donated to the City of Lakewood Emergency Rescue Squads.

"The 12-lead EKG technology enables paramedics to more clearly identify when a patient is suffering from a coronary event, treat them more aggressively in the field and give the hospital more advanced notice to be prepared for a heart attack patient when they arrive," says Laura Dollison, D.O., medical director, Lakewood Hospital

Emergency Department. "Early identification of a heart attack allows us time to prepare clot dissolving medication while the patient is being transported to the hospital. When administered early, the blood flow to the heart may be restored more quickly resulting in less or no damage to the heart muscle."

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Left to right – Jack Gustin, president of Lakewood Hospital; Matt Burke, City of Lakewood EMS supervisor; Chief Larry Mroz, Fire Chief, City of Lakewood; Bill Sillasen, EMS director, Cleveland Clinic Regional Hospitals

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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

Lakewood Home Show Returns This March

by Patty Ryan

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and the Lakewood City Schools Community Education and Recreation Department are excited to bring the LAKEWOOD HOME SHOW back to Lakewood on March 8 and 9.

Many of your local businesses are exhibiting and can assist and educate you with anything from the

basement to the roof! For an up to date list of exhibitors visit www.lakewoodhomeshow.com.

Businesses are lining up to have exhibits at the show, which will take place at the NEW Harding Middle School, 16601 Madison Avenue. “We’re extremely pleased with the response from our business community, residents, and city. The Home Show will bring commerce, commu-

nity, and our school system together for an event that will positively effect our area,” says Kathy Berkshire, CEO and President of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce.

This year’s show will feature both information and entertainment. Visit the show to learn about topics such as Designing with Annuals, How to make your Home “Green”, Feng Shui, Home Revitalization, and more! If you are looking to purchase a home, we will be hosting a Home Buying seminar on Saturday. For your entertainment, join us throughout the show to see and hear some of our areas fine young musicians!

Mark your calendar for March 8 and 9. The Home Show runs Saturday March 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday March 9 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets for the LAKEWOOD HOME SHOW are just \$5 (parking is free and kids under 18 are free), are available online now, and will be soon at the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce at 14701 Detroit Road.

For more information visit www.lakewoodhomeshow.com. Your Suburb...Your Home Show. See you there!

Winterhurst To Hold Holiday Pizza Skate

Staff Writer

Winterhurst Ice Rink will hold a special Pizza Skate from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on Monday, February 18, 2008 to celebrate Presidents’ Day. Admission is \$4.00 for Lakewood residents and \$5.00 for non-residents. Price includes the skating session, one slice of pizza and one can of pop. Skate rental is available for an additional cost.

Advance tickets are on sale at the Winterhurst ticket booth. Pizza and

pop is limited to the first 350 people. Coupons and passes will not be honored for this session.

Winterhurst Ice Rink, Northeast Ohio’s Premier Ice Rink, is owned and operated by the City of Lakewood. With a double rink configuration, it is one of the largest and most unique year-round municipal skating facilities in the country. Winterhurst offers public skating, hockey, broomball, speed skating, figure skating, Learn To Skate and Adapted Learn To Skate sessions.

For more information contact Winterhurst Ice Rink at (216) 529-4400.

Lakewood High Graduates Named To Marietta College Fall 2007 Dean’s High Honors List

by Adeline Bailey

Officials at Marietta College have announced the Dean’s High Honors List for the fall 2007 semester. Any full-time Marietta College student completing at least 15 credit hours with a grade point average of 3.50 or higher in a given semester is recognized as a Dean’s High Honors List student for that semester.

The following Lakewood residents have been named to the fall 2007 Dean’s High Honors List:

Nicholas A. Aylward, class of 2008. Aylward is the son of Barbara and Kevin

Aylward of Lakewood, Ohio. A graduate of Lakewood High School, Aylward majors in history at Marietta.

Alyssa M. Endress, class of 2010. Endress is the daughter of Tina and Jeff Endress of Lakewood, Ohio. A graduate of Lakewood High School, Endress majors in early childhood education at Marietta.

Heather A. Helbig, class of 2011. Helbig is a graduate of Lakewood High School, majoring in Spanish at Marietta.

Andreas C. Tabor, class of 2009. Tabor is a graduate of Lakewood High School, majoring in graphic design at Marietta.

Located in Marietta, Ohio, at the confluence of the Muskingum and Ohio rivers, Marietta College is a four-year liberal arts college. Tracing its roots to the Muskingum Academy begun in 1797, the College was officially chartered in 1835. Today Marietta College serves a body of 1,300 full-time students. The College offers more than 40 majors and has been listed among Barron’s Best Buys in College Education and Peterson’s Competitive Colleges, and has been recognized as one of the top regional comprehensive colleges by U.S. News and World Report and The Princeton Review.

Best Fish Fry In Lakewood?

by Jim O’Bryan

One afternoon, John Brinkman was telling me how good his lunch was at the Hylander on Detroit. I mentioned I used to go there once in awhile for their Fish Fry. He smiled and said “Best Fish Fry In Town.”

I thought back to how Ed and Gladys Favre would ask Deb and I to join him for the “Best Fish Fry In Lakewood” at Around the Corner. Or my neighbor would ask if I wanted to join him for the “Best Fish Fry In Lakewood” at Merry Arts. While I like the one Tom serves at Mahall’s?

QUESTION OF THE DAY(s)

Where do you think the Best Fish Fry In Lakewood Is?

<http://lakewoodobserver.com>



And I Haven’t Had My Coffee Yet

by Mark McNamara

On Wednesday, January 30, 2007, a couple on Arthur Avenue was awakened at about 1:30am by high winds and a loud crashing sound. They found that a large section of the oak tree in their front yard had fallen. The tree smashed the couple’s car which was parked in the driveway.



THE

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Your Independent Source for
Lakewood News & Opinion

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“We Love Dennis” Valentine’s Fun Raiser with Sean Penn

Sunday, February 17, 2008 3:30 pm - 6:00 pm

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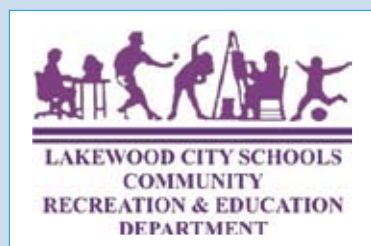
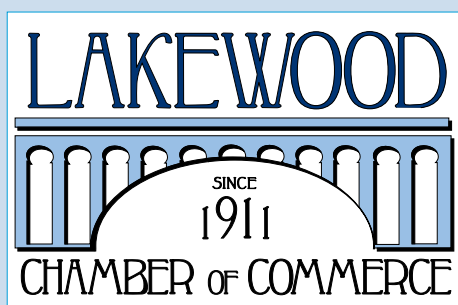
**Saturday, March 8 from 10 am - 5 pm and
Sunday, March 9 from 1 pm - 5 pm
at Harding School
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www.lakewoodhomeshow.com

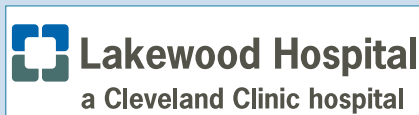
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Show Schedule

Saturday, March 8, 2008

11:00 - 12:00	Designing With Annuals and Q & A - Kevin O'Neil
12:00 - 12:30	Your Environmentally 'Green' Home - Jim Engler
12:30 - 1:00	Your Revitalized 'Old' Home - Jim Engler
1:00 - 2:00	Lead in the Home and Q & A - Jim Engler
2:00 - 2:30	Harding Middle School Strolling Strings
2:30 - 3:30	Home Buying Seminar and Q & A - Ray Antonelli
3:30 - 4:00	Garfield Middle School Strolling Strings

Sunday, March 9, 2008

1:30 - 2:00	Feng Shui - Kristine Pagsuyoin
2:00 - 2:30	Your Environmentally 'Green' Home - Jim Engler
2:30 - 3:00	Your Revitalized 'Old' Home - Jim Engler
3:00 - 3:30	Lead in the Home - Jim Engler

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Lakewood City Council

Experience-Is It Important?

At 7:34 Council President Dever called the January 22, 2008 meeting to order. The first docket item was the committee of the whole report which recommended appointing Brian Powers to the vacant council at large seat. Council received the report then passed a resolution to appoint Powers to fill the remaining two years of that seat’s term.

Mayor Ed FitzGerald performed the honors of swearing in the new council member under the watchful gaze of Powers’ wife and two daughters.

With that seat filled, this marks the first time in the last several years that all of the council members have served fewer than two full four year terms.

Mike Dever has served since November of 2003, slightly over four years. Mary Louise Madigan was just reelected and starting on her fourth year. Kevin Butler was elected to the ward one post in November 2005 to fill the remainder of a term and was reelected this past fall giving him two years. Nickie Antonio was elected to an at large seat at the same time as Butler giving her two years tenure, also. Mike Summers (ward three), and Tom Bullock (ward two) were just elected. And, as noted above, Brian Powers (at large) was just appointed.

Will that unique characteristic have an impact on how the city government of Lakewood operates?

Stan Austin
City Council Reporter

To answer that question it might be helpful to reexamine some of the basic theories underlying the structure of our units of government.

Perhaps the most basic principle which has informed our governmental structures has been the principle of checks and balances. By establishing processes which employ these techniques it has always been hoped that all sides of an argument and all proposals will be heard and examined without a majority or minority monopolizing or dictating governmental actions.

Taking this down to the local level, Lakewood of course has a traditional legislature and executive in order to have checks and balances. But, also, through the balancing of council jurisdictions (three at large and four ward) and staggering terms (elections every two years with at large or ward seats contested) the majority of council can almost be changed every two years. This also has the advantage of retaining either three or four members every two years for continuity. This is in contrast, to make a comparison, of the old City of Cleveland model in which all 33 council members ran every two years for election with the result of constant politicking and turmoil. In Lakewood

multi-term tenure on council was the norm for at least the last 30 years.

In this most recent election, through circumstance or deliberate choice, voters have put in place this council of relatively short service. The ward two contest serves to illustrate this point. The candidates – Tom Bullock and Dan Shields – would have been first termers. However, in the campaign Bullock emphasized his new or fresh outlook while Shields emphasized his long service to the community. Bullock narrowly edged out Shields in that race. That race seemed to be the model for the other races either implicitly if there was little competition or explicitly.

Part of this theme of a new or fresh look at the way the City operates has carryover implications for this year’s budget. How a campaign slogan will translate into dollars and cents will be determined in the budget hearings. While council has been attending to the necessary organizational tasks it has also been intensively involved in the budgeting process. The meetings are conducted on a department by department basis and serve to set the framework of the city’s operations for the next year. Those meetings are being covered in the Lakewood Observer in a series of special articles written by Steve Hoffert, who brings a background of municipal employment to help analyze the budgeting process.

Managing The Grand Stan

by Dan Slife - Editor

For nearly four years, our readers have looked to Stan Austin for what is perhaps the most in-depth coverage of Lakewood city council that any news organ has ever provided. Over the years Austin has worked hard to deliver a timely report of nearly every council meeting. He has done so - like all LO writers, editors and photographers - as a volunteer.

With the exception of Jeff Endress’s “Chef Geoff” column and until recently, Gordon Brumm’s work in “Minding the Issues”, no other writer has been as dedicated to the consistent production of material for the LO on a bi-weekly basis.

I commend Stan Austin, Jeff Endress and Gordon Brumm for their dedication to the project and encourage new columnists and writers to follow their example.

Because of my respect for Austin’s work, I am taken back by his most recent council report, “Experience - Is It Important?”, which is printed in this issue of the LO. The article is a speculative commentary on council’s “unique characteristic,” stemming from a lack of “multi-term experience,” rather than a factual account of the business carried out during the last meeting. Austin comments on how this “unique characteristic” threatens “checks and balances” and the “values and traditions” which have informed best practices in councils past.

In hope of clarifying Austin’s stance, I aggressively pursued first the amendment of his work followed by a laundry list of critical questions and qualifications for which I requested answers and explanations.

Austin refused both attempts, stating in email correspondence that the article “stands on its own. It needs no ‘defense’.” He asserts that my imposition of such an edi-

torial process is nothing more than a desperate attempt at imposing my own bias through “micro-management”.

The bias I am holding here is one that questions presumptions and values a balanced approach to the LO’s coverage of the new council and the new administration.

I contend that Austin has become an authoritative, if biased, voice on the business of local government. With such authority comes a great responsibility to deliver truth in the broadest, most objective sense.

As restated below, I see the essential problem with this article being that Austin is making an argument without wanting it to be recognized as such. He would like his presumptions about experience and “check and balances” to be read as facts when his assertions, definitions and logic are in my editorial view lacking validation. This is the basis of my objection to calling this submission a council report, on a LO page officially marked with the header “Lakewood City Council”.

Below the reader will find my laundry list of requests, questions and qualifications which Austin has refused to consider. The reader will need to have read Austin’s column in order to progress through the below printed list of editorial suggestions. I have indicated the paragraph(s) to which each point corresponds in parenthesis.

Editorial suggestions, criticism and comments sent from Dan Slife to Stan Austin via email on 1/31/08:

[5] Define the “unique characteristic”. What is it?
[6, 7 & 8] You confuse these “basic theories”(include principles, which you’re using interchangeably

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THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

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Lakewood Public Library

Love Is In The Air At Lakewood Public Library

by Martha Wood

Sunday, February 10 at 2 p.m., the musical duo, Sunday in the Park, will perform a program of romantic songs and melodies for Lakewood Public Library's "Sunday with the Friends" series. Sunday in the Park is made up of Christopher and Karen Ellicott, both 1993 graduates of Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory. Christopher studied guitar with Dr. Loris Chobanian, Professor of Composition and Guitar and the Composer-in-Residence at Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory. Christopher currently teaches guitar at Baldwin-Wallace, The Beck Center in Lakewood and TrueNorth Cultural Arts Center in Avon Lake. He is a founding board

member of the Greater Cleveland Classical Guitar Society. Karen has played the clarinet for over 20 years. She studied with Louis Gangle and Alan Squire, both of the Ohio Chamber Orchestra. She is the director of music at North Royalton United Methodist Church. The Ellicotts studied voice with Joyce Koch, cofounder of the Koch School, now a part of The Beck Center music education program. Christopher and Karen began performing together in recitals when they were students at B-W. After graduation they performed professionally at weddings, dinners, receptions and other parties. Their first public concerts were sponsored by the Cleveland Metroparks and were usually held on Sunday afternoons at various nature

centers. In October 1997, after Christopher and Karen were married, they chose the very apt performance name of Sunday in the Park. Join them in

Lakewood Public Library's auditorium on Sunday, February 10 for an hour of songs from the heart performed on guitar and clarinet.

Lakewood Public Library Services: E-mail Notification

by LaTasha Redding

Did you know that the Lakewood Public Library offers patrons e-mail notification for reserves and overdue accounts? That's right; you can now be notified via e-mail about the availability of reserved items and be reminded to return past due library materials. By visiting lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/notifyme and using the code on the

back of your library card, or by visiting the Customer Service desk at the Main Library or Madison Branch, you can sign up to: receive almost instant notification of available holds; reduce some of your wait time for items you have on reserve; save on late fees; and help reduce paper usage which is both cost effective and environmentally friendly. Be sure to visit us and give us your e-mail address today.

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 Casablanca (1942), Directed by Michael Curtiz, ALL AGES Everybody comes to Rick's – Nazis, pickpockets and even old lovers. Humphrey Bogart plays a former a 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:

February 8, 9, 10	Hugs and Kisses
February 15, 16, 17	Friends Forever*
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 grade- Tuesday, 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
Make-It-Take-It (craft day)	Monday	4:00 p.m.
Marvelous Mysteries (surprise day)	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.
Twist, Shout, Act It Out	Wednesday	4:00 p.m.
Games Galore (game to play or make)	Thursday	4:00 p.m.
Make-It-Take-It (craft day)	Friday	4:00 p.m.

At the Madison Branch



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Jordan's Family Foundation's 3rd Annual Charity Tasting for Congenital Heart Disease Awareness



Thursday Night, February 7th, 6-9pm

Featuring Tom Rees, Winemaker, St. Supery Vineyards, Napa Valley & Very Special Chef, Matt Harlan, Lolita (Cleveland)

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Spilled Ink & Notices



From Left: Fred DeGrandis, CEO and president of Cleveland Clinic Regional Hospitals, Kim Brill, Jackson Brill, Dr.David Brill D.O., Rocky River Mayor Pamela Bobst, Jack Gustin, president of Lakewood Hospital, open the new clinic in Beachcliff

continued from page 1

Each year coronary heart disease causes about 1.5 million Americans to suffer acute myocardial infarctions, resulting in about 500,000 deaths. Of the patients suffering these cardiac events, nearly 50 percent die before reaching a hospital. “We strive to have the best diagnostic tools available to treat our patients,” says John Tafuri, M.D., medical director, Fairview Hospital Emergency Department. “This wireless technology allows us to be better prepared to provide the best and most effective care for the patient. If an intervention is necessary, we are able to have our expert cardiac team in place before the patient even arrives to our ED.”

Sponsored by Lakewood Hospital Foundation and the Community West Foundation, the fourth annual Straight

from the Heart Raffle and Gala will once again benefit the cardiovascular programs at Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran Hospitals on February 16. To learn more about the event or to purchase a raffle ticket, visit www.lakewoodhospital.org or www.fairviewhospital.org

Founded in 1907, Lakewood Hospital is a 400-bed acute care hospital located in the heart of Cleveland’s West-shore communities. Lakewood Hospital offers a wide range of health services and education programs for women, men and children. Each year, Lakewood Hospital provides high-quality and innovative patient care for more than 130,000 patients. In 1997, Lakewood Hospital became part of the Cleveland Clinic Health System, a partnership between the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and nine community hospitals.

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Drug Mart Promotes Lakewood CertifiChecks

by Mary Anne Crampton

Use a Lakewood CertifiCheck gift certificate to make a purchase at either Lakewood Discount Drug Mart during the month of February, and you will get one free 20-oz. soft drink or water!

Discount Drug Mart is an Ohio-based company, and its two Lakewood stores are located at 11900 Detroit at Rockport Square and 15412 Detroit Avenue in our Main Street shopping district.

Lakewood CertifiChecks gift certificates are part of a “buy local” campaign

underwritten by LakewoodAlive and Main Street Lakewood. When residents support local businesses, they help to produce more jobs, income and tax receipts for our local community. It is also good for the environment when you shop close to home.

There are no fees associated with the checks, which are redeemable at full face value. Lakewood Gift Certificates can be purchased at Phoenix Coffee and Geiger’s Clothing & Sports. A list of participating merchants can be viewed at lakewoodalive.com. Buy local. Buy Lakewood.

Managing The Grand Stan

continued from page 4

with theories) with “techniques”. To clarify, theory and practice are two related though essentially different worlds. Technique belongs to the realm of practice. What techniques? Are we talking about governmental structure or political strategy?

[7] “Hoped” by whom?

[7] How is this thought concerning collaboration vs. unilateralism logically connected to the “unique characteristic”?

[7 & 8] Again, WHO is making that connection? It is not logical to make a value judgment on one aspect within this dichotomy of collaboration vs. unilateralism in absence of context. There’s no explanation of a context which would lead the mindful reader to conclude that this “unique characteristic” might threaten the theories and practices related to the balance of powers.

[7, 9 & 10] In politics there are winners and losers, Stan. Where is this going?

[8] What does it have to do with theory and practice? What does it have to do with the “unique characteristic”?

[8] Does the City Charter state that multi-term tenure is a pre-requisite for good government, and/or the maintenance of balanced powers? Please show me.

[8] What is the connection between the staggering of terms, multi-term tenure, and the balance of powers? You fail to make any such connection. The concepts are all there, floating in the ether, ill defined and disassociated.

[9 & 10] You are articulating the Change vs. Experience dynamic analogous to that driving the Obama vs. Hillary (respectively) democratic contest. Should you be interested, you could build on this theme to bolster your reputation as the council point man, people would love it. You would do well to articulate this thematically throughout the piece and in an objective way, highlighting the benefits and pitfalls on each side.

However, the essential problem with this article is that you are making an argument without wanting it to be recognized as such. You would like it to be read as fact when it’s actually debatable. This is the basis of my objection to calling this a council report, on a LO page officially marked with the header “Lakewood City Council”.

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Lakewood Schools



Student Erik Zirneskie talks with former Navy officer Robert Dennison.



Tom Farkas tells the students of his experiences on Iwo Jima

World War Two Vets Teach Life Lessons

by Linda Beebe

On Thursday evening, January 24, 2008, Dr. Charles Greanoff and his American History students from Lakewood High School met at the pavilion at Lakewood Park with twenty or so veterans of the Second World War, their friends, and some family members. Dr. Greanoff is a life-long Lakewood resident, graduate of Lakewood Schools himself, and is now a social studies teacher at Lakewood High School. He opened the evening by explaining that his

students have been studying the Second World War. He wanted them to meet and talk with veterans of that war first-hand, because the service of those veterans, the ones present and the others who had given their lives, was an object lesson in living for his students. He wanted his students not just to learn facts in a classroom, but to hear the stories behind those facts. Among the Veterans who participated was George H. Dennison, himself a veteran of the Vietnam War, who spoke proudly of his father and namesake, one of the original 29

Navaho Code Talkers (again the subject of the social studies curriculum). Mr. Dennison's father had been sworn to secrecy, and it wasn't until shortly before he received the Gold Congressional Medal of Honor in 2002 that his family knew of the important role he played in the War. Jim Quisenberry and other members of the Joint Veterans Honor Guard and the Memorial Day Association demonstrated and explained the military Flag Folding Ceremony. They also thanked the students from Lakewood High who assisted them in placing

flags each Memorial Day on thousands of veteran's graves. They reminded the audience that the veterans of the Second World War are getting older and fewer, and asked that more young people step up to assist in placing flags and honoring those who served their country well. Tom Farkas who served in the Marines on Iwo Jima told the students about his experience as a soldier, not much older than they themselves, caught up in the middle of a battle in a jungle where it was difficult to sort friend from foe. Many people worry these days about Proficiency Tests and No Child Left Behind. They worry that the responsibility of the classroom teacher to prepare his or her students for tests will take away creativity, those classroom activities that make learning enjoyable, and that encourage students to go on to be life-long learners. However, watching these students left one with a very different impression. The students were enthusiastic, and the veterans were impressed with their knowledge and the research they had done on topics such as the Battle of the Bulge, the Japanese Internment Camps, Rosie the Riveter, the Battle of Iwo Jima, etc. Here was a clear picture of what ought to be: a lesson taught that was clearly within the standards and benchmarks set for by the Ohio Department of Education. Obviously, Dr. Greanoff had been, "teaching to the test." However, the lessons his students were learning went far beyond those standards and benchmarks. They were learning lessons for life and this moment in time – again quoting Dr. Greanoff – was, "Only the beginning of their inquiries."

Mini Edisons Share Inventions

by Renee Klann

As any kid in Maureen Marshall's class can tell you, Saturday January 12, 2008 was an extremely interesting day. That's because the Invention Convention was held at the Great Lakes Science Center. If you have never been to the Invention Convention, it's a contest where kids present a one-of-a-kind invention to the judges. They compete for the Edison Award. The first timers from Lincoln School brought back three of the eight awards. For the past few months, these Lincoln students have been busy devel-

oping everything from light-up pencil grips to bedtime glasses-holders. The Lincoln teachers chose eleven finalists from the inventions the kids brought to school. The lucky few went on to the Invention Convention. That is where Lincoln distinguished itself. My day at the Convention began at two P.M when the public is admitted. (Before that, judges interview the contestants and tally scores.) All the students there had impressive inventions to say the least. Judges must have had an extremely hard time! Which students would emerge as the winners, though? We were about to find out.

Next was the awards ceremony where many students were rewarded. Saige Rook of Lincoln School received Best of Show. Two other students in her class won first place in their grade levels. Several other classmates won fifty dollar savings bonds at the 'Superior' Level. They all did a wonderful job. Now that the contest was over, the fun was not. In Lincoln's front hallway all the finalists' display boards were on display for the next week. Several other classes strolled through the exhibits. I, myself, got a chance to look at the boards, including Lindy Warren's and Lauren Klann's. All of the inventions demonstrated were useful and creative. What I saw told me it was a hard process to create the final product. It sure paid off. Well, it's entirely clear that Invention Convention was a learning experience. Lakewood should be proud and let's hope that we will compete once again.



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Lakewood Sports

Taking Down The Records

by Todd Shapiro

Back when Pat Duffy started wrestling at age 5, he never envisioned himself becoming one of the most prolific wrestlers in Lakewood history. Fast forward to 2008: Duffy, now a senior at Lakewood high School, looks set to rewrite the Rangers record book and end his high school career with a second consecutive trip to Columbus for the OHSAA state wrestling tournament.

“When I was a little kid I didn’t always take wrestling as seriously,” said Duffy, the Rangers 135-pound captain. However, once he got a taste of the excitement of the state tournament he knew he wanted a piece of the action. “Freshman year I attended the state tournament and I wanted to be on those mats, with all those people watching me. I knew that’s what I had to work for. That’s the goal of every wrestler to go to the state championships. If it isn’t your goal then why are you wrestling?”

Although Duffy had an exceptional freshman season, going 36-12 and recording 12 pins, he knew he had to take the next step to become a champion. Ranger coach Vinnie Curiale felt Duffy had yet to reach his potential. “The coaches knew Pat could be this good,” said Curiale. “He just had to learn how to win consistently. He always had the skills he needed to master the mental aspect of wrestling.”

Duffy has improved every season, going 36-10 as a sophomore and 48-6 as a junior wrestling in the 130-pound weight division. As a junior Duffy also qualified for the OHSAA Division I state tournament. The mats that were his field of dreams just two years earlier became his personal playground.

“I don’t know how to explain how it felt,” Duffy said about his first match in the state tournament. “It took me about three minutes into the match to settle down and remember what I needed to do.” In that opening match Duffy jumped out to a 4-1 first period lead against Adam Hass of Jackson High School before losing 9-7 and falling into the consolation bracket. “Early in the match all I could think was, I got a takedown, I am at the State Tourna-

ment and I’m winning.” Duffy worked his way back onto the podium, finishing seventh, by winning two consecutive matches before falling to Cloverleaf’s Kurt Wentink by a 5-4 margin.

Shortly after the end of that match Duffy knew what his goal would be for his senior year: to go undefeated. Heading into the inaugural Northern Ohio Conference tournament he is just that - 29-0.

Duffy cites preparation and hard work as reasons for his success. He began training for his final high school season while many of his classmates were busy lounging on the beach. Duffy spent 14 days refining his wrestling skills at the prestigious J Robinson wrestling camp at Edinboro University. It was at this camp Duffy learned the keys to success aren’t just takedowns, reversals and escapes. “I learned a total new definition of hard work. The hard

work I put in there taught me how to keep my mind right when I am in a tough match.”

With 149 career victories and nearly another month of wrestling to go, Duffy finds himself just seven victories short of Matt Curley’s school record of 156. Duffy already holds the Lakewood record for takedowns (426) and falls (61). After he is done with his assault on the Lakewood High School record book, Duffy hopes to continue his involvement in the sport. While he is on the radar of a number of Division III programs, he hopes a strong showing in Columbus will get the attention of Division I coaches. “I watched the Iowa-Ohio State match on television. It was so exciting with the great wrestling and the big crowds, I want to be a part of something like that.”

Duffy would also like to get into coaching when his wrestling days are

done. “I want to teach young wrestlers basic technique, intensity and the importance of hard work. I see a lot of kids who could go on to be champions if they had a better grasp of the basics.” He has first-hand experience of the importance a coach can have on one’s career. “Coach Curiale is a great coach and a great person. He has pushed me hard and helped me get where I am now.”

Whatever the future has in store, Pat Duffy will have great memories of his senior year. “The best part has just been being around these guys. The long hours in the wrestling room, the bus rides, we always have fun. That what makes this team so great; we have fun, work hard and still get the job done.”

Coach Curiale hopes the best is yet to come to Duffy, “He has had a great career. Hopefully we can end it with a greater finish.”

Rangers Run Bulldogs The Distance

by Todd Shapiro

The Lakewood Rangers boy’s basketball team had the honor of hosting the top ranked team in Plain Dealer top-25 poll last Tuesday night. The Garfield Heights Bulldogs came into town riding high with a 14-0 record but had to battle to the end to defeat the Rangers 79-68 in a Northeast Ohio Conference showdown. It was the second time this season the Rangers had to battle the number one team; St. Edward also came into Lakewood’s east gymnasium on December 15 on top of the PD poll.

Forward Joshua Reagan came off the bench to lead the Rangers with 16 points. Reagan, a 6-4 senior, also grabbed nine rebounds. Joseph Mastrodonato contributed 15 points for Lakewood, including nine in the fourth quarter to lead a comeback that saw the Rangers cut a 19-point Bulldog lead to just 7 points with 56 seconds remaining in the game.

After trading baskets for most of the first period, Garfield Heights pulled out to a 10-point lead with five minutes remaining in the half. Carl Jones scored 12 of his 18 points for the Bulldogs in



the first half. Center Robert Wilson led Garfield Heights with 20 points. Wilson is headed to the University of Wisconsin next fall to play for coach Bo Ryan.

Although the Rangers fell to 8-7 after Tuesday’s loss, they have nearly doubled last year’s win total and were rewarded with the fourth seed in the Brecksville sectional-district tour-

nament. Lakewood will open up tournament play February 19 at 6 pm against John Marshall. A win against the Lawyers and another against Grafton Midview in the sectional final could set up a rematch with cross town rival St. Edward. The top-seeded Eagles open tournament play February 22 against the winner of the Berea-Parma game.

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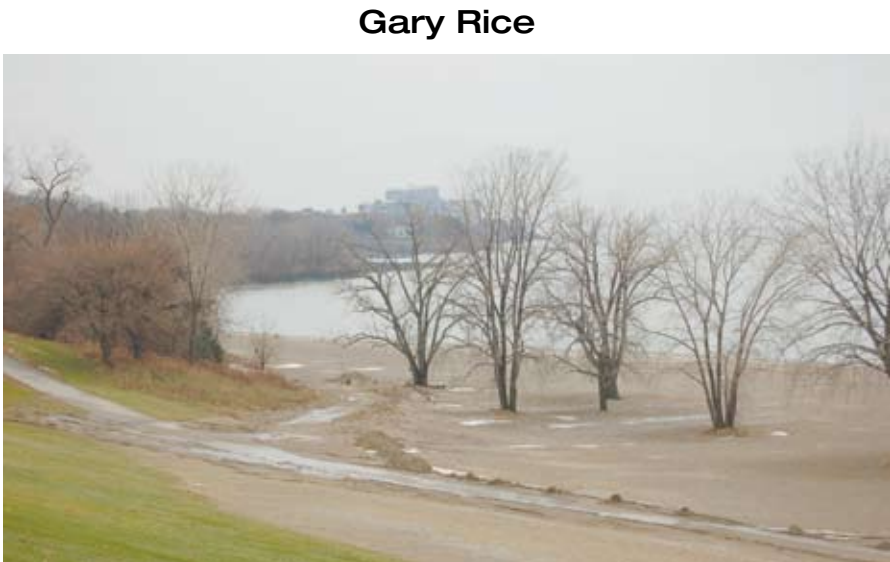
Pulse Of The City

Lakewood’s Wild And (Usually) Wonderful Weather!

Okay, so we’re not Miami Beach, and yes, I’m (hopefully) not in denial, and yes, I do “get it.” Still, I will make an unabashed claim that Lakewood’s weather is one of the best “weathers” around, at least here in Cuyahoga County.

The reasons are simple. In the first place, we live on a fairly low cliff near a lake, yet are still at a lower elevation than many of our southerly and easterly neighbors. Prevailing winds coming across the lake tend to hit that cliff and do the updraft thing, often hoping that snow, ice, and nastiness right up and over our placid little rectangle of real estate, only to be driven inland and dropped right down on places like Parma and Seven Hills. Another reason is that we sit on the narrow part of Lake Erie. Cities sitting on the geographic east end of a Great Lake (like Buffalo) often bear the brunt of what we fondly call “Lake effect” snows, as the winds have plenty of time to pick up the moisture from the lakes on their way to landfall.

I have one of these stories that school-age Lakewood children might not fully appreciate about Lakewood’s favorable weather position. The year that I retired from teaching, the Parma City School District (compris-



Wintry skies and Edgewater Park frame the Lakewood Gold Coast

ing Parma, Parma Heights, and Seven Hills) called for a snow day. Like the rest of the staff, I was notified by phone at my Lakewood home in the wee hours of the morning about this event (and yes-now it can be told: Teachers love those snow days just as much as their students do!). Anyway, as I usually did on such days, I went down into the basement, grabbed the old snow suit, and got ready to plod my way through the snow to the shed to start up the old snowblower.

As I opened the side door, I was greeted by a strange sight. No snow. As I

stepped outside for a look around, I also noticed that it was quite warm. Much too warm, in fact, for that snow suit. With a bewildered expression on my face, I went back into the house, took off the snow suit, and enjoyed a leisurely breakfast. Not long afterwards, and on Parma’s snow day, I cut the grass while in my shirt sleeves! Yes children, on that particular day, while you Lakewood students sat attentively in your first-period classrooms, Parma students turned off their alarms and went back to sleep!

It seems that a frontal system blasted the higher elevations south and east of the city on that day. When I drove off to school the next day, the ground cover went from zero inches here in Lakewood to about eight fluffy inches of powder by the time I entered Hillside Middle School’s driveway in Seven Hills.

That’s not the only time I experienced this type of thing either. The jackets that I piled up in the back seat of the car during a week of commuting between Seven Hills and Lakewood actually became a standing joke around my house. In Seven Hills, I would dress

for Alaska. By the time I got home, it felt like Tennessee.

Of course, there were other times when Lakewood did not escape violent weather conditions. On July 4th, 1969, a direcho came across the lake (unlike the rotating winds of a tornado, a direcho’s winds are in a straight line) and knocked trees onto houses and cars. The storm caused many injuries and fatalities, including here in Lakewood, resulting in the death of one of my own school friends.

Once in awhile, snows will indeed hit us big-time. Several times last year, Lakewoodites will remember being hit by mammoth snowfalls, with drifting going to five feet in places, but fortunately these are rare events, and they usually do not last for very long. While we’re on that subject, I’ve got to hand it to our city crews. They really take care of our streets.

We live more or less halfway between the equator and the north pole. This gives us four distinct seasons, and the probability of having very changeable weather just about all year long. I recall experiencing days when there was a variance of perhaps thirty degrees on our thermometers. Prevailing wind patterns around here can change at the drop of a hat. I recall that a family friend visited from way up in Canada during one winter. Within a few days, she’d had enough of our weather and had to go home. Although in her town it often snowed much more than we experienced, she had never felt the deep, unrelenting, damp cold of Lake Erie’s piercing winds. It was simply too cold for her down here in Lakewood!

So as we wait with baited breath for the blossoming daffodils, tulips, and dandelions, at least we do experience the winds of change around here, as we mark the pulse of our city.

Sports Continued...

Rangers Hockey Take Central Divisional Championship

by Todd Shapiro

The Lakewood Rangers hockey team completed their most successful regular season in recent history by both winning the Blue Central divisional championship and earning a birth in the Division III Baron Cup tournament.

Under the tutelage of second year coach Josh Dress, the Rangers will head into tournament play with a record of 16-4-4. Lakewood finished 9-0-1 in the Blue Central to win the league by a 2.5 game margin over the Brooklyn Hurricanes. In ten league games the Rangers outscored their rivals 88-13. Senior goalie Bill Snyder delivered five shut-outs in league play.

“Billy has been solid for us all season,” Dress said. “He knows he is responsible for the goal. Last year he had to share time but this year he stepped up and took ownership of the position.”

Snyder is one of seven seniors on this year’s team making the Rangers one of the most experienced teams in the Blue Division. Another senior, forward Sam Norris, led the Rangers with 48 points through the first 15 games of the season. Norris also led the Rangers in goals scored, lighting the lamp 26 times.

This year’s seniors have proved invaluable to the Rangers both on and off the ice. “This group has really worked hard,” Dress said. “These are the kids who were there for a lot of the losses over

the years. They have worked hard to turn the program around. Seeing how much their senior season means to them has pushed the younger kids to help to make this season a successful one.”

While the first line of Norris, Wayne Burke and Will Weible has accounted for the majority of Lakewood’s scoring it is the depth of the second and third lines that allowed the Rangers to dominate opponents in Blue Division play. Another senior, Kyle Parker has been the leader of the second line. “Nobody hustles more than Kyle. He has been asked to skate with younger inexperienced players all-season. Kyle has accepted the challenge.”

Senior Mark Shaw finished fourth on the team in goals scored (behind Norris, Burke and Weible) but according to Dress might be the most improved player on the team. “Mark has worked incredible hard this season. He is skating harder and consistently contributing to the offense.”

Lakewood was scheduled to begin their quest for their first Baron Cup Championship Monday against Garfield Heights. On January 20 the Rangers defeated the Bulldogs 4-0 in the Parma High School MLK day tournament. OHSAA tournament play begins the week of February 11. The Rangers are in the Brooklyn district tournament. For updated OHSAA tournament schedules visit ohsaa.org

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Lakewood Perspective

Checks And Balances

While I still don't consider myself old, I think I can accurately say that I've been around the block a few times. I've seen and done things, and I've racked up more than a little life experience. Some good, some bad, and more than a bit of it questionably grey. That's why I was more than a little skeptical when the government announced its economic stimulus solution a couple of weeks ago.

As originally proposed, the package would include several hundreds of dollars in cash to everyone not making more than about \$75,000 a year. On the surface, this sounds like a pretty nice idea. Admittedly, if I end up receiving a check from Uncle Sam, for any amount, I don't think I'll have any conflicts of conscience in cashing it immediately. However, the announcement, while seemingly straightforward in offering help to the "common taxpayer", set off more than a few warning bells in the back of my head. I understand WHY Congress thinks they need to intervene, but my concern is in HOW they choose to do it.

First of all, let me say that I believe that if this wasn't an election year, there is no way this would have been pushed through so fast, let alone proposed in the first place. For the most part, this is little more than a last ditch effort by politicians to prove that they care for their constituents. Both Democrats and Republicans alike need us to feel good about our government right now to keep them in positions of power, and neither are willing to open themselves up to the political fallout of opposing what they see as giving money to those in need.

But let's get one thing straight right from the beginning; it's YOUR money that they're giving back to you. It's kind of like staying at a four star hotel and having management expect compliments for putting a mint on your pillow. If I'm paying the extra hundred bucks a night for the room, I damn well better get a mint on my pillow. And like getting a cash rebate from a car dealer, the only real question then becomes: *If you're taking several hundred dollars off without me even asking, then how much extra profit do you already have built into the price?* Let's face it, if times are really tight, then how can they all of a sudden afford to be handing out all this money?

But what really scares me is how much this reminds me of my days of hanging out in pool halls down in Dayton, Ohio. While I wasn't a hustler, I certainly knew more than a few and watched them work their trade like true professionals. And one thing was certain, once they got a sucker on the line, they fought hard to keep them there. And rule number one was "you can shear a sheep plenty of times but you can only skin it once." In layman's terms, even the pool sharks knew never to try to take more than someone's got to give. Like clockwork, every time a player was just about to cut his losses

and walk out, the hustler would let him win a few games. False confidence suddenly restored, the sucker would proceed to loose it all back and more over the next few games.

And this is exactly how I see this "stimulus package". The government taxes our income, our spending, our land, and just about everything else, and when the economy turns bleak, rather than risk having the public start to question their policies, they'll try to placate us with a little cash in hand every once in a while, trying to keep us focused on our own spending rather than theirs. Like a magician, it's all about misdirection, building an illusion of awareness and enhancing the audiences' false sense of control.

Truth be told, with the grace of God, my family is actually doing okay

Bret Callentine

financially. Yes, we have our share of bills, but with some hard work and some tough choices, we are actually making the climb out of debt. And the reason why is that when we looked at our own personal budget, we quickly realized that the only way to balance out a deficit is by either working harder or spending less. Charging rent to my 7-year-old just isn't a feasible option. And borrowing from one credit card to pay off another doesn't actually get us anywhere.

But this doesn't seem to be a rule that applies to our Federal Government. Most of the time, they see a deficit as a shortage of income rather than a surplus of spending. And instead of trying to get more out of less, they opt for trying to squeeze more blood from the stone. While the notion of having the government constantly try to sup-

ply a safety net seems honorable, I'm of the belief that we're much better off taking care of our own needs. I operate on the premise that people are basically good and given the opportunity, along with the money that they would normally funnel through the government, we as a society would excel at fulfilling America's social services with private industry and through personal charity. Case in point, a study done by the Hudson Institute showed that in 2005, while the U.S. Government gave out about \$28 billion in foreign aid, individual Americans acting independently gave about \$33.5 billion.

The economy may well be headed for a recession, but if it is, trying to keep people happy with government kickbacks isn't the way to turn the ship around. Instead, we the people need to start paying more attention to the hand that's in our pocket rather than the hand offering us a check.

We Hold This Truth

by Peter Sackett

Do you believe everything you hear from our political leaders? Do you believe that they take their oath of office seriously? Can we trust that we are getting the truth, nothing but the truth, so help them, as they shall answer to God?

The answer for me is undisputably, "No." They all lie; they all keep secrets. They all confirm what James Madison and some guy named Jefferson were worried about 230 years ago – a national government run away from, beyond, and without the people.

We live in an era of a shrinking voter base and the politicians know it. They can depend on their sheep – the applicable groups that vote one way or the other and never veer. They chase the so-called independents. Are these the ones who understand the issues, or are they the ones waiting to get the answers they want to hear before walking into that booth?

I believe that the politicians of this country, those who want us to vote for them, are no more honorable than the ones we have elected to the office of the president over the past 50 plus years. Take a look.

Truman never saw a Jew or black man worth saving. He did his best to avoid the subject of civil rights. He is remembered for his valor in dropping a nuclear bomb to save American soldiers in the Pacific theater. But, his domestic policies, including the concept of nationalizing Youngstown Sheet and Tube, were morally bankrupt.

Eisenhower was nothing more than a fill-in-the gap Republican. He was lucky on 6/6/44 and he played golf like he wanted that to be his full time job for 8 years. He was old and worn out when he got the job and did nothing to prove those sentiments wrong from '52 to '60.

JFK never liked to leave his rocking chair, unless, of course, Marilyn Monroe was waiting at the White House pool. He knew more about Tampa Bay than the Bay of Pigs and, boy did it ever show. 1,500 ill-prepared troops would overtake 60,000 Cuban troops and deliver the island to the freedom seekers. He almost blew up the world over missiles on that same island. A few aged and well-admired advisors saved the day from a military that wanted to blow us all up.

LBJ lied and 57,500 men died under his watch. This Texas-born SOB hated nothing more than the blacks until one Martin L. King, Jr. started telling him that the whole country was going to blow up if he didn't get the Voting Rights Act passed. This guy let General Westmoreland call the shots and thought that the best and the brightest was a new rifle he could shoot on his farm.

Nixon almost took us down. This guy ran backwards to China to save his ass. He fought the good fight in Vietnam, just long enough to get re-elected. He thought obstruction of justice didn't mean he lacked the authority to tell "his" FBI what to do with that damn Watergate break-in story in the Washington Post.

Jerry Ford never wanted to be president and it showed.

Carter won and we had 20% inflation to show for it. He produced a partial settlement of a 2,000 year old problem and cancelled our Olympic participation over Russia's invasion of some place called Afghanistan.

Reagan was too old from the start. He blew up the unions, destroyed the concept of a balanced budget, sold arms to so-called freedom fighters, lied about it, changed his 40-year-old platform of anger at the Russians, and left us with his vice-president to get it all worked out.

H.W. Bush won a war and lost an election to a horny governor from Arkansas. Can you find Arkansas on a map?

Clinton had sex with an intern in the closets down the hall from the Oval Office. Are you kidding me? He ignored the horrors in Africa. He called for lots of things. He was only saved by the glory of the resilient American economy.

Gore couldn't remember how to smile and we got George W. This guy said he was against nation-building and over 3,500 soldiers have died calling him a liar. The deficit that increases under this man will never, ever be recaptured.

We are left with a nation at risk. Saudi Arabia owns Citibank; Dubai owns Merrill, Lynch; China owns our bonds; Japan owns our notes. We are the greatest debtor nation in the history of the world. More people watch American Idol than read a newspaper each day. Dancing with the Stars is the most highly rated show of the week and no one really cares about the lack of medical insurance for 50 million people. 50 million people.

So, I believe it is time to do one of the following: stop voting, vote them all out of office, or elect a black, female, Jew, Mormon, gay, or lesbian. Because these white, male guys have done nothing for me lately, or over my lifetime.

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Conservation Corner

Phantom Loads

Most appliances that use electricity, including televisions, DVD players, computers, stereos, and kitchen appliances, consume energy even when they are not powered on. This energy is often referred to as a Phantom Load, due to its invisibility to many consumers and its largely pointless use of energy. This standby power supports functions such as instant-on capabilities, remote control usage, channel memory, and LED clock displays, and can consume more than half of the energy that these devices use when powered on, some using up to 40 watts. A powered-off instant-on television in standby, for example, consumes 75% of the energy used when the TV is actually on. While consumer electronics account for around 15% of household electricity use, these Phantom Loads make up an estimated 6%, and add up to national costs of approximately \$4 billion per year!

Predictably enough, the solution to this problem is to unplug your appliances when they are not in use. For some appliances this might be just as easy as teaching oneself to turn off the lights when leaving a room or going to sleep, but for some it is not quite so convenient. If, however, your outlets are in accessible places, or power strips can be made accessible, the job is pretty easy. Especially considering you're paying almost as much to run these appliances

when they are off as when they are on.

Unfortunately, some of the biggest offenders may not be easy to stop -- cable boxes and satellite systems tend to use quite a bit of energy when not in use, but may need to be plugged in at all times. Contact your provider of these services to find out whether it will damage the equipment if the power supply is cut off. Similarly, unplugging the television, VCR, or DVD player may seem like a hassle, as any channel settings or clock settings may be lost.

Power strips may be extremely helpful in this regard for reducing

Heather Ramsey

Phantom Loads. With a group of items plugged into a power strip, you can simply power off the strip when going to bed. This may work especially well



with related items, such as components of a stereo system, or computers with speakers, printers, or other equipment. In these cases, you might also consider investing in a Smart Strip. Smart Strips allow you to tie the power

to a set of devices to the power setting of a main device. In other words, when you power off your computer, the strip will automatically stop power to the monitor and speak-

ers, and any other associated items. These strips also come with several unrelated outlets that remain active at all times, for items that should always have power available.

In addition to appliances, power cords for rechargeable devices may use a lot of power when not in use. AC adapters/cube transformers are between 60 and 80% inefficient! Thus, it is important to unplug chargers when the item is fully charged or no longer plugged in. This goes for phones, cameras, laptops, mp3 players, portable game systems, and anything else that needs to be charged.

Knowing about Phantom Loads in your home will not only conserve energy and, thus, help the environment, but it will also save you some of that 6% of your energy bill that was being used to do little more than run a few LED clocks.

Cox's 2010 Plan: A Bright (Fiber) Future

by David Lay

For tech geeks like me, Cox Communications' recent announcement of its Extendable Optical Network (EON) is music to our ears. Others will probably scratch their heads and think, "Extendable what!?"

Cox Communications, Lakewood's cable provider for more than 26 years, made some major announcements in November regarding the future of its network. Chris Bowick, Senior Vice President of Engineering and Chief Technology Officer, laid out Cox's directives under the 2010 Plan:

- Reduce analog channel count from 74 to 68.
- Increase digital, standard-definition channels to 200.
- Make 100+ high definition channels available.
- Boost data speeds to 25 Megabits downstream, 4 Megabits upstream and beyond.

Bowick refers to the new network as "flexagile," a newer, more flexible network design that adds bandwidth and capacity as needs allow. Initial efforts will include splitting nodes—aggregation points between homes and the network—from approximately 620 homes at present to 310, and eventually 250. (A tech I spoke with recently indicated this was underway.)

Also in the works is a move of all Cox networks to 1 Gigahertz capacity, making Cox the first cable operator to complete such a task. Presently, Cox's network provides between 750-860 Megahertz of total bandwidth. The new 1 GHz flexagile network would mean more capacity, and ultimately faster speeds, using next-generation equipment. This major upgrade has already been completed in "70 percent of Cox's markets, with almost no disruption of service," says Bowick.

Bowick went on to reveal the network switch is at a substantial savings compared to Verizon's \$800-per-home expense to build its all-fiber FiOS network, telling cable industry publication OneTRAK its costs "wouldn't be even close to that."

Two major announcements really

caught my eye: Switched Digital Video and the rollout of DOCSIS 3.0 equipment. SDV has been launched in two markets, and a third will be added this year. SDV is very attractive to cable operators because of its virtually unlimited channel capacity, as it delivers only video currently being viewed to the home, instead of all channels being sent through the cable. DOCSIS 3.0 trials will be starting this year as well. With the first versions of DOCSIS 3.0 equipment starting to make their way onto the market, the new technology offers more than 160 Megabit downstream and 100 Megabit upstream speeds, finally giving Verizon's FiOS some real competition.

Bowick saved the largest announcement for last, stating that the company plans to build its own Internet backbone. Currently Cox's backbone, composed of high-speed/high-capacity data connections, is provided by Level 3 Communications, a company operating most of the nationwide backbone that supplies Internet service providers. Cox pays for this connection on a per-bit basis, but in the past year traffic has increased exponentially. While the per-bit cost has dropped, Cox believes it can connect and operate its own backbone network at a substantial savings.

Cox will connect its own 18,000-mile backbone using Level 3's dark fiber under an "indefeasible right-to-use" lease. This requires a high initial investment, including buying equipment and hiring techs to run the network, but ultimately Cox will have a network that is cheaper and more agile. Bowick explains, "Now we need to take a look at the infrastructure and own, if you will, that infrastructure."

According to Bowick, half of the EON upgrades have already been finished, and the remainder will be completed by the end of this year.

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Lakewood Observer

The French Press: Coffee’s Holy Grail

by David Lay

When my lovely bride-to-be gave me a French Press for Christmas, I couldn’t have been happier. I think I said once in passing that I wanted to get a French Press; how she remembered that I wanted one is beyond me. Being the coffee geek that I am, this is one of the best gifts I have ever received.

The French Press, also known as a plunger pot or press pot, is considered by many coffee fans to make the ultimate cup of coffee. It is commonly referred to as the French Press because it is extremely popular with the French, who favor a richer, stronger brew. If you are looking for the richest, most intense cup of coffee you’ve ever had, this humble pot can deliver. While it might look cumbersome to the uninitiated, it is actually a pretty clean brew, provided you have the correct tools (clean press, good bean grinder). I’ll get more into that later.

The Vacpot and the French Press pose an interesting question: Which came first? After doing a bit of research, to my surprise, I found the French Press did. Comparatively speaking, the Press is designed much more simply. When the Vacpot was introduced in the mid-1800s, the Press concept was available, but the technology to make a tight-fitting filter was not. Consequently the first models had little success on the market.

In the early 1900s, the Cafeolette popped up in stores. The Meilor company released the first model with a stainless steel filter and metal body, which was purchased by the Swiss company Bodum, and it eventually became the ubiquitous Chambord Press, one of the most popular models today. Bodum is largely credited with making the press pot popular, releasing models in the ‘70s made of glass, metal and plastic, in a rainbow of colors. Bolstered by huge profits in the ‘80s, the company bought the Chambord model and also released more traditional units.

But enough history for now and on to the main topic: How to make a pot of French Press coffee.

Two things are important here: Don’t skimp on a bean grinder, and use the freshest beans you can find. DO NOT, I repeat, DO NOT use a blade grinder. The grounds have to be uniform, large particles. The problem with cheap blade grinders is that they won’t give you either. Blade grinders only result in sludge, which will result in a crappy cup o’ joe. A good model that won’t break the bank is the Cuisinart DBM-8 Burr Grinder, which runs about \$50. Some burr grinders can price up to \$200 or even higher. Bean-wise, the only logical choice is Phoenix Coffee. Any other coffee, store-bought or otherwise, just won’t do. Locally roasted and delivered fresh, you can’t go wrong with Phoenix. I’ve been

using the Spirit of ‘76 blend, which to me is just right—the perfect balance of intensity and flavor.

Now that you have those two things, let’s get on with it, shall we?

You’ll want to use 1 rounded teaspoon per 4-ounce cup of coffee. If you have a grinder like the Cuisinart, this is a no-brainer. It is important here to add the coffee quickly after grinding. If you’re smelling aromas, the coffee is already growing stale. You’ll want to boil the water before you grind to keep the coffee as fresh as possible. One trick I’ve used is to just run water through my coffeemaker. It heats the water to the proper temperature, and is a lot less cumbersome if you don’t have a teapot (like me).

Add the water in a steady stream,

covering all the grounds by pouring the water in a circular motion. A small ‘bloom’ of coffee should be starting to form. Leave an inch of space between the top of the pot and the coffee mixture to allow for the plunger. Use a wooden or plastic spoon (not metal) to stir the slurry. It is important to not use a metal spoon if you are using a glass press, because it can crack the glass at high temperatures. I use a chopstick to quickly stir; this aids in complete extraction of the coffee.

Add the plunger and turn the lid to close off the pour spout opening. This will keep the aromas inside the pot, and help brew the coffee. Let the coffee brew for about four minutes. After steeping is done, it’s time to

take the plunge! Hold the pot firmly, with the spout away from you. With just the weight of your hand, apply just a little pressure on top of the plunger knob, and push the plunger straight down into the pot. Using minimal pressure will give you the best results—you don’t want to force it. If the filter clogs, remove the plunger, stir the brew and try again. Using too much force can cause coffee to shoot out of the pot, potentially burning you. Don’t do it!

Voilà! You’ve successfully made your first pot of French Press coffee. Turn the lid to open the pour spout, keep one hand on the lid and pour your first cup. Add some cream and sugar (if that’s how you take your coffee), and enjoy!

Winter Escapes For Little Lakewood

by Sharon O’Donnell

New to parenthood or new to Lakewood? Dreading one more day stuck at home with small children? Don’t despair. It’s that time of year when parents and children are trapped at home by the cold weather. Boredom has kids bouncing off the walls and parents are second guessing their decision to have kids in the first place. (This isn’t just happening in your house.) Before you reach for that Wiggles DVD one more time check out what Lakewood has to offer young families. And most of it is free.

If you have a newborn and need a little company the Nursing Moms Chat has saved the sanity of many a new mother. Get help and advice from an experienced lactation consultant from Lakewood Hospital, meet other moms in the same boat, and make some new friends - friendships formed by new mothers are very similar to those forged by soldiers in combat. The Nursing Moms chat is held at the Lakewood Family Room every Wednesday 9:30-11:00 a.m.

The Lakewood Family Room has something for everyone and not all just for Lakewood residents. There are drop-ins on most days when you can

bring your kids to play and maybe do crafts. Being in a place with different toys should amuse your little ones long enough that you might just get the chance to have a conversation with a grown up. The drop-ins include the Alternative Parenting Drop-In, Teen Parents, Under Ones and more. There are also Early Literacy programs for birth to 5 years and Parenting Plus – a parenting education series for parents and caregivers of kids from birth to 8 years.

The Lakewood Family Room is at 17400 Northwood Avenue (behind St. James Church), phone 216- 529-5018, or check out their programs online at www.ci.lakewood.oh.us/human_echild_dropin.html.

The Lakewood Library runs free story and music programs for kids from 9 months to age 6. Check them out at www.lkwdpl.org/youth – click on ‘Story times’. Show up, shake a shaker, sing some songs, and you might just enjoy yourself as much as the little ones. Or, like me, you can sing the songs and shake the shaker as your child runs around the room vying for control of the book wagon with a bunch of the other toddlers. I am occasionally rewarded by seeing little hands clap. And yet, it’s fun.

While you’re at the library you could look up the programs being offered through the Lakewood Community Recreation and Education Department (www.lakewoodrecreation.com). Here you’ll find programs like Kindermusik and even horse-back riding for the preschool crowd. Or what about the Beck Center’s programs for preschoolers in music and literacy? They even have dance class from three years and up. Check out their programs at www.beckcenter.org, call 216-521-2540, or visit the Beck Center at 17801 Detroit Avenue.

And lastly, Lakewood Early Childhood PTA (LECPTA) exists entirely for preschoolers. It is a volunteer organization that runs everything from parties to playgroups with outings and activities for kids from infants on up (and also some outings for grownups). LECPTA regularly holds expert-run education workshops for parents. There’s even a monthly newsletter. It’s yet another way to meet other parents and get out of the house. Contact them at www.LECPTA.com.

Hopefully something here will work for you. If not, we’ll see you in the park when the weather warms up.

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Lakewood Arts & Entertainment

"Best New Musical" Premieres at the Beck Center -

The Breakup Notebook, February 22 - March 22

by Fran Storch

The Beck Center for the Arts presents the premiere of *The Breakup Notebook: The Lesbian Musical* in the Studio Theater, February 22 through March 22. Show times are 8:00 pm Fridays and Saturdays and 3:00 pm Sundays. To reserve tickets, contact the Beck Center box office at (216) 521-2540 or online at www.beckcenter.org.

Dive back into the dating pool with Helen Hill, a 33-year-old lesbian who has recently been dumped by her girlfriend. With the help of her best friend, Bob and gal pals, Monica and Joannie, Helen goes on a series of dates from hell as she searches for the girl of her dreams.

This is the first production of this new musical outside of California or New York. Originally a play, the musical version made its world premiere at the Hudson Theatre in Hollywood.

Written by Patricia Cotter with music and lyrics by Lori Scarlett, *The Breakup Notebook* received the 2006 LA Ovation Award for Best New Musical and a standing ovation this past fall at the Festival for New Musicals in New York City—an annual invitation-only event sponsored by the National Musical Theatre Alliance (NAMT) and attended by theater producers from around the world.

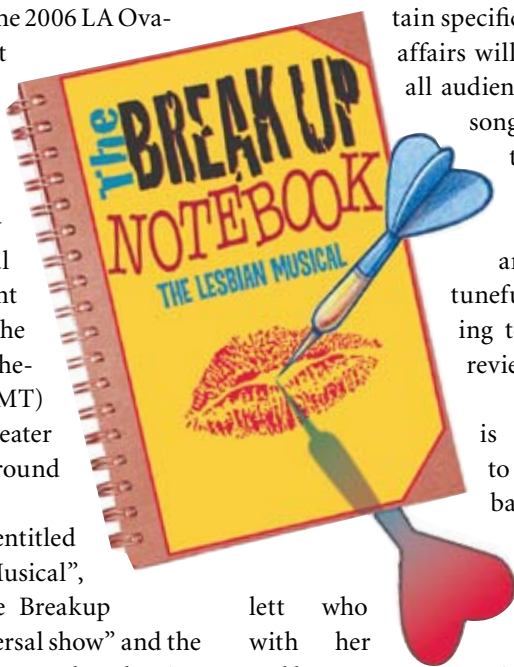
Although entitled "The Lesbian Musical", Cotter believes *The Breakup Notebook* is "a universal show" and the reactions of audience members leaving the NAMT performance confirmed this as they confessed that "every-

body's been through a breakup." The author thinks the songs that pertain specifically to lesbian affairs will connect with all audiences. Scarlett's

songs have a "contemporary girl-band feel" and are "witty and tuneful" according to a Backstage review.

"Beck Center is truly excited to welcome back to the area composer Lori Scar-

lett who with her long-time colleague Vicky Bussert on this production," exclaimed Scott Spence, Beck's Artistic Direc-



tor. "The life of a musical on its way to the top is always the most amazing of adventures, and the stop at Beck for *The Breakup Notebook* promises to be a fruitful one as the show continues to be reworked and refined. With a New York production a very strong possibility, I recommend you see it now while it's in Cleveland."

This premiere production is directed by acclaimed director, Victoria Bussert who is Resident Director of the Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Artistic Director at Cain Park and a Professor and the Director of Music Theatre at Baldwin-Wallace. She has directed locally at The Cleveland Play House, Cleveland Opera and Porthouse Theater; as well as shows regionally, national tours and internationally. *The Breakup Notebook* features Jodi Dominick as Helen with a talented supporting cast including Tracee Patterson*, Devon Yates, Libby Servais, Eric Van Baars, Kayce Cummings, Alison Garrigan, and Kim Godfrey.

Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors, \$17 for students (22 and under with I.D.). Special group rates are available for groups of 13 or more. To reserve tickets, contact the Beck Center box office at (216) 521-2540 or online at www.beckcenter.org. Beck Center for the Arts is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free, convenient on-site parking is available.

This show is sponsored by Cox Communications, WCPN 90.3FM ideastream, FreeTimes 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 gratefully acknowledges the citizens of Cuyahoga County for their support through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

*Actor appears courtesy of the Actors Equity Association (AEA), the union of actors and stage managers.

Art Showing At The Phoenix Cafe In February

by Julie Breitenstein

During the month of February the Phoenix Cafe is showing the works of five artists, in three separate installations.

Pete Green, a graphic art student at CSU, is showing five pieces done in charcoal. Pete was our delivery driver for Avenue Bakery. Though he no longer delivers to us, he is still part of the Phoenix community through his art.

Heidi C. Herzberger's pieces are simple and earthy, all done in acrylic. Heidi is a customer who wanted to show a few of her pieces. We are always happy to show smaller installations to add diversity to our walls.

The third installation is a collaboration by several artists of aerosol on wood and canvas. Adam Zagger is a resident artist here at the Marjorie Building in which the Phoenix is also housed. Adam is skilled in both visual and performance art.

Matt O'Reilley is an art student at the Cleveland Institute of Art. Matt's first art show at the Phoenix took place during his years as an LHS student, showing off his technique through oil on canvas. Matt has cultivated his unique style through many different mediums while continuing his education at CIA. Matt commits to living in Lakewood even though his commute by bicycle is a hefty one. He says that his community of friends here is too important to leave behind.

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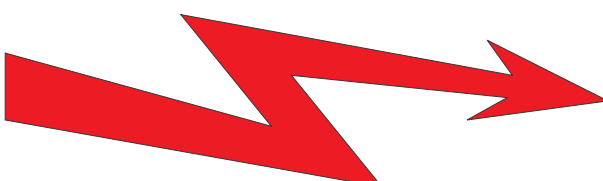
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