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Volume 4, Issue 7, April 1, 2008

Getting Back On Track: Administration And Council **Bring Budget Hearings To A Close**

On Thursday, March 27th, while the FitzGerald administration and Lakewood city council neared finalization of cuts to a crisis budget, our national debt broke yet another record high at \$9,412,362,408,343.83, an increase of approximately \$18,232,806,983.13 from the preceding day, according to the National Treasury. Only months earlier, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland's office released an estimated budget shortfall of between \$733 million and \$1.9 billion for the 2008 fiscal year.

The chickens of de-industrialization and globalization, it seems, have come home to roost. The complex set of factors incubating this hatching has led to the debt financed insolvency of our federal government, budget deficits and subsequent spending cutbacks in states and municipalities throughout the nation. The Federal Government continues to finance each year's deficit budget through foreign and domestically held debt, thereby increasing inflation and eroding the value of the dollar. Our export deficit pales in comparison to our import surplus. As a nation, we are pressing ever deeper into a debt financed, deficit future. Public institutions are coming under increasing pressure to recognize and act upon this bleak knowledge. At the state and local levels, this pressure turns to mandate.

States and municipalities are forbidden from legislating deficit budgets. Thus, when the cost of producing public goods and services outstrips tax receipts at the state and local levels of government, cuts, though difficult, become a necessity.

Dan Slife **Editor In Chief**

ald, "It's far worse than the unions were told."

THE

FitzGerald understood that the unions might distrust his administration's figures, stating "I don't blame them for that." With privatization as a last resort, the administration is intent on building trust with labor and council and renegotiating union contracts to fit the stark reality of reduced resources.

In a move toward greater transparency, FitzGerald contacted the State Auditor's Office for an outside assessment of his administration's figures. The State Auditor's Office offers in depth performance audits, which take up to nine months to complete under normal circumstances. With the state mandated budget approval date looming, this was not an option. By state law, municipalities must approve their 2008 budget by March 31. FitzGerald's administration worked with the State Auditor's Office to arrange for a fasttracked performance audit that would ascertain the financial condition of the city. According to finance director Jennifer Pae, the administration "received the budget reasonableness estimate at a status meeting held by the State Auditor's Office on January 31, 2008" which revealed the city's projected shortfall to be within 2% of the state's.

With confidence in their figures, bargaining units re-opened contract negotiations with the administration, a process not yet completed.

For the past three months, the administration and council have convened a series of public budget hearings wherein department directors presented their budget and program rationale and the effects of reduced spending on their programs and services. Throughout this process, the administration and council examined the budget in the hope of achieving greater efficiency. On March 31, the process drew to a close, with the final \$400k deficit being closed through cuts to Human Services, Public Works, and Municipal Court. In addition, the anticipated end of year balance was reduced from \$250k to a minimum of \$150k. The particular distribution of those cuts was completed on Monday, March 31. Council agreed to remain open to furture amendments to the budget should labor negotiations require such action.

"For the first time in years Lakewood is spending less money than we're taking in," states FitzGerald. The resulting document not only resolves the impeding deficit, it also re-directs resources to areas of urgent need. This, according to FitzGerald, is the remarkable thing. "Despite the worst fiscal crisis we've ever faced, we're not only spending less than we're taking in, but we've made additional investments in safety, technology and foreclosure properties."

"I think I can say with a great deal of confidence that the fiscal train wreck that the city was headed for has been averted," declared mayor Ed FitzGerald.

A Memorandum of Understanding

by Bill Call

In February of 2007, a memorandum of understanding to sell Kaufman Park was signed by Thomas Jordon, Director of Planning and Development under the George administration. The signed memorandum states a sale price of \$1,925,000, approximately \$192,000 per acre.

The memorandum was signed by the City and Giltz and Associates, Inc, an Ohio Corporation. Not an official sales agreement, the memorandum was subject to "Planning Commission and Council Approval". It and related documents were obtained through a public records request made to the City in early 2008.

An official of the new Fitzgerald administration stated that the memorandum is "off the table".

At the time the memorandum was signed an entity affiliated with Giltz had obtained an option to purchase Lakewood Plaza, a.k.a. Drug Mart Plaza. The plaza is located in front of Kaufman Park and across from Lakewood Public Library. The future of the park and plaza were the subject of intense debate during the recent election. Both the mayor and ward two races dealt with this issue during their campaigns. The developer envisioned an "up scale, mixed use project...having acquisition and construction costs exceeding \$30,000,000... which will consist of retail shops, a pharmacy, restaurants, rental offices, office condominiums and for rent and for sale residential units." The proposed name of the development was The Forum at Lakewood.

project as envisioned by the developer, in light of costs and land constraints". The site diagram, exhibit A, submitted by the developer shows no public space.

The memorandum requested that the City fund the development through tax increment financing, with the developer requesting "that the City make available ...service payments in lieu of real estate taxes". Under tax increment financing, property tax revenue would be used to pay off the debt incurred by the developer.

The memorandum also required that the project be an "all union, prevailing wage project" with requirements for female and minority participation.

Giltz completed the purchase of Lakewood Plaza in September of 2007 for a price of \$5,750,000. According to the County Auditor, at the time of the purchase the estimated market value of the Plaza was about \$2,700,000. Property taxes on the new value would be about \$200,000 per year.

In This Issue

Lakewood is not insulated from larger, global economic trends. Over the past several months, the FitzGerald administration and city council have worked diligently toward resolving Lakewood's budget crisis. Over a dozen public budget hearings have been held in which the allocation of funds for fiscal year 2008 have been trimmed from initial departmental requests. The depth of Lakewood's budget crisis became apparent during the dawn of the recently elected FitzGerald administration, which, upon taking office, immediately began an internal reassessment of the city's budgetary situation. The resulting estimate predicted a shortfall exceeding \$4 million, over three times higher than that projected by the previous administration. According to FitzGer-

The drawings indicate a high rise structure of about ten stories that would offer an "incredible view of Lake Erie and Downtown Cleveland".

The City desired that a "portion of the park parcel remain open for public use...that fit with the overall

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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 <u>www.lakewoodobserver.com</u>

Global Summit Of Social Responsibility

United by an enthusiasm for planning our future and effecting positive change, hundreds of association industry stakeholders have committed to participating in ASAE & The Center for Association Leadership's first-ever Global Summit on Social Responsibility on April 30-May 2, 2008.

Two Groups in the Cleveland area have joined so far as 1 day Connected sites for the Summit on its first day--April 30th . The Northern Ohio Electrical Contractors Association(NOECA) and Lakewood-Cares are two of the first groups in Northern Ohio to take advantage of this opportunity lead by Dr. David Copperrider of Case Western Reserve using his Appreciative Inquiry Model to guide the sessions via webcast.

"This is an opportunity for our members to discover the importance of Social Responsibility in our rapidly changing global marketplace. By working along-side influential business and civic leaders from around the globe, NOECA/IEC members will build greater awareness of the issues that are essential for corporate success", says David Schrembeck, President of NOECA.

Less than two months out, nearly 250 association professionals and industry partners are already registered to attend the Global Summit host site at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center just outside Washington, DC, and hundreds more will be connected at sites across the country and worldwide.

Confirmed connected sites in the U.S. include Chicago, IL; Marlborough, CT; Tallahassee, FL; Atlanta, GA; Duluth, GA; St. Paul, MN; Nashville, TN; Austin, TX; Milwaukee, WI; Seattle, WA, Cleveland, OH and Lakewood, OH. Conversations are under way regarding other locations in Phoenix, AZ; Sacramento, CA; New Orleans, LA; and New York, NY.

Anticipated international connected sites are being discussed, with possible connected sites being located in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra, Australia; Brussels, Belgium; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Shanghai, China; Bogota, Columbia; London, England; Paris, France; Jakarta, Indonesia; Dublin, Ireland; Manila, Philippines; Singapore, Singapore; Barcelona, Spain; and Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Commitments for additional national and international connected sites are expected and will be announced as they are confirmed. Working together, participants in the Summit will identify the unique competencies that associations bring to the table and how those competencies can be effectively leveraged to help society. The Summit will also advance the case for social responsibility as a business and strategic imperative, and generate guiding principles for associations looking to integrate SR into their everyday operations. "More than a buzz word, social responsibility is really evolving into smart business," said ASAE President

and CEO John H. Graham IV, CAE. "There are obvious benefits to associations consciously practicing social responsibility in a consistent, organized fashion. The Summit will help us identify what's already working and what's feasible in our community, so that we are setting both a short- and a long-term agenda for our profession."

"We are viewing this Global Sum-

mit as a tremendous opportunity for leaders in our community to experience and understand the business case for social responsibility," said Ruthie Koenigsmark, Executive Director of LakewoodCares. "We really encourage anyone in Lakewood are in a leadership in our community to register."

To learn more about ASAE & The Center's Global Summit on Social Responsibility visit <u>http://www.eshow2000.</u> com/gssr/home.cfm. To register for either the NOECA/IEC or LakewoodCares Forum contact Ruthie Koenigsmark, rkoenigsmark@yahoo.com or 216-521-2894.

NOECA/IEC Association Forum - Wednesday, April 30, 10am-6pm---FREE-- 5061 W 161st St Cleveland, OH 44142(6 spaces available)

LakewoodCares Community Leadership Forum- Wednesday, April 30, 10am-6pm FREE -at the Lakewood Library Main Branch (50 spaces available)

Snow Can't Stop Guitar Heroes From Competing!

by Celia Dorsch

Calling all players!! H2O's "Guitar Hero" Video Game Tournament is being held at Lakewood High School on Saturday, April 19th from 11am -1pm. A crippling snowstorm on March 8th, the original event date, threatened to spoil the fun; but H2O was able to reschedule its popular new event. So now, players still have time to sign up for a day of virtual guitaring in the East Cafeteria of Lakewood High School.

This unique fundraiser, which will benefit the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society, is being planned by students in H2O "Help to Others." H2O is a service learning program operated by Lakewood's Department of Human Services/Division of Youth.

The requirements to play are

simple. A \$6.00 entry fee guarantees a minimum of two games against an opponent. Each time a player wins, they will move up the tournament bracket. If shut out after round one, players will be assigned a consolation round with another player at their level. The tournament will use "Guitar Hero II" games on PS2 systems. Players can decide to play at one of the following levels: easy, medium, hard, or expert.

Admission to the event is only \$1.00 if you want to come and watch this exciting contest. The tournament is open to all Lakewood residents in grades 6-12. Players must pre-register by 3:00 pm on Friday, April 11th. Registration forms are available at the following locations: Garfield and Harding school offices, Lakewood High School - H2O Office, Lakewood Divi-



The *Keep Lakewood Beautiful* office is coordinating events throughout the month of April. Won't you please join other volunteers in the effort to eradicate litter from Lakewood? Select a location or call to have one assigned. Individuals, families, neighbors, scout troops and church groups are some of the people who will be cleaning public spaces in parks, schoolyards, throughout business districts and parking lots.

sion of Youth - 12900 Madison Ave., and Lakewood Community Recreation and Education Department - 1470 Warren Rd. Entry forms can also be downloaded from the Division of Youth webpage on the City's website: www.onelakewood.com.

Refreshments will be on sale at the event. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winner of each level: \$10.00 – easy, \$15.00 - medium, \$25.00 - hard, \$50.00 - expert. So fill out your forms and turn them in today. We hope to see you Saturday, April 19th at Lakewood High School!

THE LAKEWOOD CONTINUED TO A CONTINUE OF THE						
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To celebrate a beautified Lakewood volunteers will meet at Lakewood Park Woman's Club Pavilion at 1:00 for a pizza luncheon, hosted by the *Keep Lakewood Beautiful* board members. Meet Lucky the Lady Bug, Ohio's First Lady of Litter Prevention.

The Keep Lakewood Beautiful office at Lakewood City Hall will be providing gloves, litter grabbers, trash bags and tee shirts, courtesy of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. EWOOD

Spread the word and join the fun!

For more information and to sign up: call 216-529-6170

HIO

Funded by the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Recycling and Litter Prevention



Lakewood Hospital News

Lakewood Hosptial Receives American College Of Radiology Accreditation

Lakewood Hospital is pleased to announce that the Radiology Cat Scan Department received the American College of Radiology (ACR) Accreditation. This important accreditation acknowledges that the computed tomography services at Lakewood Hospital were surveyed by the ACR committee and accredited on quality and safety for both adult and pediatric patients.

In order to achieve this accreditation, the department underwent a rigorous review process and met the nationally accepted standards of care by ACR.

"This is a great achievement for our Radiology/Cat Scan Department," said Jack Gustin, president of Lakewood Hospital. "This accreditation marks another example of how Lakewood Hospital continually strives to offer the best health care with state-of-the art technology in a community setting."

In 2007, Lakewood Hospital installed a high-tech SOMATOM Emotion spiral whole body computed tomography scanner in addition to a current Volume Zoom CT scanner. Both scanners offer the highest quality imaging for patients. Lakewood Hospital is the first Cleveland Clinic regional hospital to receive this impressive accreditation.

Founded in 1907, Lakewood Hospital is a 400-bed acute care hospital located in the heart of Cleveland's Westshore communities. Lakewood Hospital offers a wide range of health services and education programs for women, men and children. Each year, Lakewood Hospital provides highquality 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.

Gina Gavlak Heads To Capitol Hill For Call To Congress

Lakewood Hospital congratulates Gina Gavlak, RN, BSN, Diabetes Program Development Coordinator for the Lakewood Hospital Diabetes Center. Gavlak continually makes a difference as she joins forces with the American Diabetes Association (ADA) to improve the quality of life of people living with diabetes.

The ADA National Grassroots Advocacy committee recently requested that Gavlak act as facilitator at one of the breakout sessions for Call to Congress. She will be participating in Call to Congress events at our nation's capitol April 30 - May 2, 2008.

Furthermore, she was invited to join the newly created ADA Health Care Task Force, which was created with the intent to establish a core of key principles and positions on the outlook for what the health care system in the United States should look like in the future.

Gavlak has been an active volunteer with the American Diabetes Association (ADA) for 15 years. In 2007, she was presented with the ADA's Outstanding Advocacy Award for Distinguished Achievement. This national award is given to three individuals who exemplify a significant and ongoing commitment to supporting ADA activities in their community to affect public policy and protect those with diabetes. Gavlak is currently the Advocacy and Programs Chair for the Cleveland Ohio Leadership Council and also serves on



the National Leadership Council and National Advocacy Committee.

We praise, congratulate and thank Gina Gavlak for her overwhelming and inspiring advocacy efforts that truly make a difference for those living with diabetes.



Multiple Sclerosis: Everything You Need to Know Presented by





Congratulations

Congratulations to St. Edward High School boys basketball team and Coach Eric Flannery, who made it to the Ohio Division I state championship final game.

You had an outstanding season, finishing in the top 10 in the state and #1 to all of us!

lakewoodhospital.org Your Life is Our Life's Work.



Complimentary lunch buffet to follow program!

Lakewood City Council

Budget Perspective: An Audit, Attrition, And Assumptions

At the end of the week Lakewood City Council wrapped up an extensive series of budget hearings. Council also had a look at the first phase of a performance audit conducted by the Auditor of State.

According to Mary Taylor, Auditor of State, a performance audit is defined as a systematic and objective assessment of the performance of an organization, program, function or activity to develop findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

by Stan Austin City Council Reporter

Phase one of this audit includes reviews of the following: the City's budget for 2008; the City's long-term financial projections (2009 – 2013); and the Structural Balance Task Force Report (SBTFR).

Budgets have a starting date and an ending date. The budgeting process, however, has become an increasingly continuous activity. Several years ago at the conclusion of a budget, several council members voiced concern over trend lines showing revenues increasing at a slowing rate while expenditures were in a constant rate of increase. If allowed to continue this would result in a structural or built in imbalance in the budget. Therefore, the George administration in cooperation with council established the task force mentioned above.

This year's budget was actually part of last year's mayoral campaign with then candidate, now Mayor Ed FitzGerald maintaining that a deficit of over three million dollars was looming. Despite the fact that a deficit is not possible because a city must balance its budget, the new administration and council proceeded the process using conservative projections. And, the SBTFR continued its work which included in-depth studies of various city departments. Upon taking office, the new administration put in motion efforts to change or modify the direction of several departments.

All of these efforts have not been completed and implementation of any new measures will, consequently, take place in the future. However, the deadline of March 31 for submitting a budget is unmovable.

The Auditor's report reviewed income sources and projections and confirmed the administration's projections. Estimated expenditures indicated a shortfall of around four million dollars.

In order to meet the deadline, give time for new measures which would restructure imbalances, and allow for recommendations from the second phase of the performance audit, council and the administration have agreed on a budget which relies on a combination of attrition and assumptions to achieve a slight fund balance.

On an average year, 30 – 40 employees leave city employment. This year, none of those positions will be filled. Early in the year council passed legislation at the administration's behest rescinding performance bonuses to employees who were not represented by bargaining units. Also, those employees were required to contribute more to their health insurance premiums. The administration would like to change the negotiated contracts with the unionized workers to achieve cost reductions or else have to layoff workers to reduce costs. The administration is in discussions with the various bargaining units but is using assumptions of the outcome of those negotiations as a basis for the budget.

So, the budget that will be passed on March 31 will be balanced. But, in the words of Mayor FitzGerald, "this is still a work in progress."

Not Baaaaaaaaaaa, City Council Saves Green, Going Green: Lakewood's New Trash Pick Up Plan Announced

Lakewood Observer Staff Press Release

As a budget cutting measure, Lakewood's City Council has passed an emergency resolution to end trash collection in Lakewood, effective April, 1st. Councilman Mike Summers, as chair of Council's Finance Committee, has consistently made it clear that Lakewood can no longer afford business as usual. Trash removal became a target for budget cuts. He challenged the Fitzgerald administration, and fellow council members to come up with a solution.

This has also been the position of Ward 4 Councilperson, Mary Louise Madigan. She has said, "Lakewood faces huge decisions about services and infrastructure. Our budget is tight, so the Council is working with the Administration to develop a plan to lead Lakewood through the next 5 years." Trash removal is an important part of the plan. She brainstormed with greenleaning Councilman Tom Bullock, and Councilman Kevin Butler, to come up with a plan. They have called it the "April First Plan", though all parts will not be in place on April, 1st.

Council President Mike Dever has been impressed by the commitment of the entire council, Mayor Fitzgerald, and the Public Works department. revolutionary suburban experiment. Councilman Brian Powers, though mostly interested in the budget savings, admits that he has also been swayed by the opportunity to capitalize on the publicity benefits of the "Green" nature of the plan reviewed the April First Plan. The publisher and editorial staff have agreed that this is the kind of advanced thinking not seen since Medieval times. "Remarkably rare thinking in this age," said publisher Jim O'Bryan. "Steve Davis and I often discuss the traits of successful communities in terms of safe, clean, and fun. This certainly is a unique approach to clean. I just never thought they could set the plan in action by April first. I guess it is foolish to underestimate these committed people."

HOW THE PLAN BITES AT COSTS

To reduce the costs of trash collection, residents are going to have to take a little more responsibility with their own rubbish, but they will also realize some personal savings in these trying times by not having to buy garbage cans. At-Large Councilperson Nickie J. Antonio wanted to be sure that residents realized a direct financial benefit for their participation in this plan.

Starting on the first of April, residents will no longer be required to put their trash in garbage cans. They only need to place their unbagged trash on the tree lawn for animals to eat. That's right, animals.

After a quick study, it was found that goats and pigs are voracious eaters of solid waste. One city official remembered cartoons from his youth in which goats would eat anything, including clothes drying on a line, tin cans, and even dynamite. "Only a fool would not consider this as the perfect solution. Why pay city workers to do

what animals will do for free?"

The city has issued RFP's for a variety of animals to help with trash removal. If all goes well, there should be about 250 piglets and 47 goats on the streets of Lakewood by the end of the week.

The Lakewood Observer has been informed that piglets are cheaper than full sized hogs. As they consume more and more garbage, like food scraps, they grow and grow until they are ready to be sold at market, adding to the city's coffers. Some would, of course, breed and continue the program without using more taxpayer dollars. Goats fill the gap by eating non-food items. Raccoons, birds, and rodents that are native to Lakewood will also serve as unpaid trash removers.

Just as they do with autumn leaves, residents will be asked to rake their rubbish into neat piles by the curb as part of their responsibility. Lakewood Police and the Municipal court are still ironing out enforcement details. They ask that residents not fool around and violate the April First Plan, and also to be careful driving near animals. **FUTURE CREATURE COMFORTS**

Budget cutting by replacing humans with animals may be a continuing trend. Lakewood officials are looking into mowing grass on park and school property with sheep. The city may save on chlorine bills by placing sterilized Chinese Grass Carp into swimming pools to eat organic matter.

The consensus at City Hall is that it would be foolhardy not to expand the April First Plan.

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The Lakewood Observer has



Mahall's Twenty Lanes 13200 Madison Ave., Lakewood, Ohio (216) 521-3280

The Suzie Mandley Memorial Corn Hole Tournament To Benefit "Our Lady of the Wayside Center" Saturday May 3, 2008 2:00 pm til ???

Donation/Entry Fee: \$50 per team (Teams consist of 2 players) Entry includes: Spaghetti Dinner, Salad, Roll & Butter, Desert, Draft Beer and Fountain Sodas

First Prize - \$500.00 Sponsorships - \$100.00 (Prizes based on number of entrants and is subject to change)

> We'll also a Chinese Raffle, Door Prizes, 50/50 Raffle, Lottery Board and more!

For official ACA Conhole Rules, log onto: www.playcornhole.org For details, call: Tom Mahall at (216)521-3280 or Dave Streeter at (216)407-6644

Proudly Painting Lakewood Homes for over 11 Years!



Lakewood Public Library

Meet The Author Of The Great Dayton Flood Of 1913

by Ben Burdick

It still stands as the greatest weather-related disaster in the history of the state-Ohio's Hurricane Katrina.

Commonly referred to as the Great Dayton Flood, many people have forgotten that the entire Midwest from Pittsburgh to St. Louis was nearly washed away as well. Three months of rain fell in four days and the lowlands of Ohio became a veritable inland sea. The locks of the old canal systems had to be dynamited for flood relief and were lost forever. Damage was estimated at \$100,000,000 (in 1913 dollars.) And 65,000 people from Dayton alone were forced to flee their homes.

From the first drop of rain to the aftermath and the innovations in technology and disaster relief that followed, historian Trudy E. Bell pieces together the story of the flood with photographs, documents and personal stories. She presents her findings in both her latest book and an illustrated lecture at the Library on Sunday, April 6 at 2:00 p.m. The handsome coffee-table style book will be available for sale at the event and the author will be available for book-signing after the lecture.

A professional writer with over four-hundred articles and a dozen books on science and history under her belt, Bell found her inspiration on a 2003 bicycle trip along the Ohio & Erie Canal. "Along that stretch, a number of historical markers say something to the effect of 'there used to be an X here, but X was destroyed by the flood of 1913." Curiosity aroused, she turned to the Internet, finding references to the 1913

flood throughout Ohio and in West Virginia and Indiana, as well. "When I discovered record flooding for those same dates in Troy, New York, I remember sinking back in my chair and real-'This izing, 1913 flood is a truly huge story!' And outside of Dayton it seemed to have been

almost forgotten."



Bell's research didn't end with an

Internet search. Nor did it end in library the she after nearly read book every and government report available on the subject. Once she mastered the basic facts of the science and the factors that created the disaster, she traveled to Dayton and surrounding areas.

She spent weeks pouring through photographic collections and historical archives searching for the human stories behind the great flood. What she found was startling.

Whether you come to the lecture or just read the book, Bell expects you'll be moved by, "The stunning photographs of the ruined homes with Daytonians picking through the wreckage of their lives, the heroism of risky high-water rescues, the evidence of the raw power of the floodwaters."

Pondering the impact of her research, the author muses, "I hope it will remind people not to forget what happened in the not-so-distant pastwith the sober reminder that another flood of similar geographical extent and magnitude could well happen again."

Become A Philosopher For A Day At Lakewood Public Library

by Martha Wood

Philosophical consultant Kerry Tobin uses her training in philosophy to help people solve their everyday problems. She is bringing her skills to Lakewood Public Library where she will guide people through a Socratic dialogue that will try to answer the questions, "What is fellowship?" and "What is unity?" You can come to one or both of these programs which will take place in the Main Library Auditorium on Saturday, April 5 and Saturday, April 12 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Through collective thinking, people can find out what they have in common by exploring their own experiences. Participants will also discuss how unity and fellowship are can be applied to the Lakewood community.

After reading Plato Not Prozac! by Lou Marinoff, Kerry decided to put her degree to practical use and she became a certified philosophical counselor. Philosophical counseling is more common throughout Europe and has only recently been used in the U.S. Tobin thinks that philosophy is reappearing because traditional religion doesn't play as big a role as it used to in people's lives. While traditional psychoanalysis deals with the way someone functions emotionally, philosophical counseling deals with a person's higher intellectual reasoning ability. The method that Kerry

uses to question her clients enables her to peel away the layers to get to the truth. This technique allows the client to examine his or her belief system and get a clearer sense of their purpose in life.

Kerry was born in New York and received her Master of Arts in Philosophy from Cleveland State University in 2000. She got her Certificate in Client Counseling from the American Philosophical Practitioners Association in Palermo, Sicily.

Kerry is currently a teacher at a local college and works as a project consultant for an art program. She is available for individual and group sessions and she does consulting work for a variety of businesses.

Lakewood Public Library Events Calendar

Sunday with the Friends Ohio's Katrina: The Great Easter Flood of 1913They called it the Great Dayton Flood, but the entire Midwest from Pittsburgh to St. Louis was nearly washed away. Three months of rain fell in four days, turning the lowlands of Ohio into a veritable inland sea. Trudy E. Bell recounts the whole story from the first drop of rain to the innovations in flood-control technology and disaster relief that followed. Sunday, April 6 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Brian Henke - GuitaristNew Age folk virtuoso, Brian hence, puts his acoustic fingerstyle guitarist skills on display, playing selections from his latest CD, Tree of *Life.* Even with forty years of performing experience and a world-wide reputation, the self-taught master continues to approach his craft as a student.Sunday, April 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium Lakewood Historical Society Ohio in the Civil War Mark Holbrook of the Ohio Historical Society takes an in-depth look at the pivotal role Ohio in the War Between the States with storied of Buckeyes who made a difference as soldiers, politicians, writers and more. Thursday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium Business Book Talk with Tim Zaun and Friends Authenticity: What Consumers Really Want By James Gilmore and B. Joseph Pine IITwo consultants from Aurora, Ohio examine the authenticity of economic offerings. Learn the five genres and ten elements of authenticity. This title is available at the Lakewood Public Library, catalog number 658.8343 GILMORE. Thursday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium Lakewood Public CinemaStar Dust Memories (1980) Directed by Woody Allen PGWoody Allen plays a serious film director, stick at a retrospective of his past hits with fans who wonder why he doesn't do comedy anymore. Charlotte Rampling co-stars as one of the most beautiful women ever put on film. It's a comedy, but -is it his most serious and meaningful film as well? Saturday, April 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Laughton NRBased upon a true story that happened in 1935 West Virginia. The incomparable Lillian Gish, Robert Mitchum and exquisite cinematography make this noir masterwork a moviegoing night to remember. The film was deemed by the Library of Congress to be "socially significant." Nobody could play evil like Mitchum.Saturday, April 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

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

Five Star Films Night of the Hunter (1995 - U.S.) Directed by Charles

advance. Choose the day and time most convenient for you

Upcoming Themes:

April 4, 5, 6 Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head April 11, 12, 13 Baby Animals Day and Time Friday 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. Saturday Sunday 2:00 p.m. In the Madison Branch auditorium

Homework ER: for students in kindergarten through eighth grade 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. Tuesday, September 4, 2007 - Friday, May 23, 2008. 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. Join the Club! Come for a different activity each weekday. No need to register.

ACTIVITY	DAY	TIME			
Make-It-Take-It (craft day)	Mondays	4:00 p.m.			
Marvelous Mysteries (surprise day)	Tuesdays	4:00 p.m.			
Twist, Shout, Act It Out	Wednesdays	4:00 p.m.			
Games Galore (game to play or make)	Thursdays	4:00 p.m.			
Make-It-Take-It (craft day)	Fridays	4:00 p.m.			
Tuesday, September 4, 2007 – Friday, May 23, 2008At the Madison Branch					

Lakewood Cares

The Phoenix Project -- Lakewood's Newest Church

by Marc Mannheimer

I was inspired to write about the Phoenix Project, when, on Maundy Thursday, the anniversary of the day Jesus held his last Passover, the Project held a Seder to honor that event. Being the only Jew in a new church development of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve, I had a great time seeing my friends enjoy a ritual I had experienced growing up. I learned things about Passover and Judaism and spirituality I had not known, or experienced in quite the same way before.

I joined the Lakewood-based Phoenix Project soon after moving to Lakewood in October. I ran into members at an Anne E. DeChant concert, and knew I wanted to hang out with these people. In the six months I've known Reverend Meredith White-Zeager (a daughter of a Presbyterian minister, recently ordained, herself) and the ten or so projecteers, I've been amazed at not only the openness of this new church, but by my own growth within its social and spiritual network. So many today cannot find relevance in the traditional church experience. "I just think," Meredith says, "that people who don't attend a church still have God working in their lives. God is not in the church, per se; God is in the individual."

The Phoenix Project is a place for people to come together to express, honor and celebrate that innate spirituality. (No, there is no connection

Another way this production

helps to deliver a message of faith

is in the use of the proceeds for its performances. The youth at LCC are

active in mission work, including an

annual Homeless Awareness Sleep-

Out and their yearly summer mission

trip. This year, they will travel to

Philadelphia to be part of the Urban

Service Learning Experience in that

city. Proceeds from Godspell will

help support the youth's mission

of church productions. Tickets are \$7

for adults and \$5 for children of all

ages and seniors [aged 65+]. For more

information, contact the church office

This is LCC's 26th anniversary

trip in July.

at 216.221.9555.

between the Phoenix Project and everybody's favorite coffeeshop.) And inclusiveness is a hallmark of the Project – anyone interested in enriching their spiritual life in an atmosphere inflected with the Christian Gospel – be they lesbians, gay, transgender, spurned by their childhood churches, or (as myself) from a different spiritual background altogether – are warmly welcomed into the Phoenix Project.

In Sunday services the pastor has spoken of bringing Spirit into ones life, bringing honesty and compassion into ones actions, and of service to the community and the world. Other weekly events include, but are not limited to, a Monday night "Theology Pub", where a new topic is brought up every week and discussed, with profound to hilarious results, and a Thursday dinner, church meeting and prayer session, in which the concerns of each in attendance are brought into deep, meaningful prayer. Sunday service is held at 5 P.M. at Meredith's house (2182 Clarence Ave.); Thursday prayer is at the same location, at 5:30 P.M. Monday Theology Pub is at Sullivan's Pub, 13368 Madison, 9:00 P.M. We are currently seeking a permanent location for church activities, hopefully down near the Madison Village district. For further info on weekly events, times and locations, check out the website, codenamephoenix.org, or contact Reverend White-Zeager at 906-3026; e-mail-<u>phoenixncd@gmail.com</u>

Local Church Spans Gender Gap With Godspell Production Day", "All Good Things", "We Beseech Thee", to name a few.

by Laurie Bartels

A hymn written by William A. Dunkerley tells us that 'in Christ there is no East or West, in Him no South or North'. For youth involved in Lakewood Congregational Church's (LCC) production of Godspell, we can add 'no male or female' to that list.

The part of Jesus is being played by Charlotte Petrie, a young woman who got the part because of her musical abilities. Julie Warren, musical director for Godspell, sees the gender bending casting choice as a good fit for the teachings of Jesus Christ.

"Did Jesus not embrace the unique qualities in people and reach out to those in need regardless of their gender, race or social standing?" Warren asks. "Godspell is about the message, not about the deliverer of the message. This show reminds us of the parables that Jesus used as teaching tools – it's about loyalty, friendship, learning life's lessons, communication, and goodwill toward humankind.

There are two performances planned for Godspell – Saturday, April 12th at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 13th at 2 p.m. Lakewood Congregational Church is located at 1375 West Clifton Boulevard [the northeast corner of Detroit and West Clifton].

The cast and directors of LCC's production agree that this musical is about delivering the message of their faith through song. In that, this production delivers the familiar songs audiences come to hear – "Day by

Characteristic

Arkansas Church Group Lends A Helping Hand

A group of 12 students from Arkansas on March 18 and 19, 2008 spent their spring break working to improve the Lakewood community.

The college students could have spent their spring breaks in the traditional way of going to Florida or some other warm destination partying, but they chose to volunteer their time and work with Lakewood's Cross Point Church here.

The students painted the inside of

the work was coordinated by Gail Higgins, who works with the Lakewood Dept. of Recycling and Litter Prevention.

Members of the church volunteer time and energy to promote God's word and to help improve both physical appearance and the feel of the community.

The church holds services at the Harding Middle School at 10:00 a.m. on Madison Ave. in Lakewood. <u>www.</u>



Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us that the world may believe that You have sent Me. John 17:21

Upcoming Spring Events - Sponsored by: The Church in Cleveland Address: 3170 Warren Rd. Cleveland, OH 44111 ~ Phone: (216) 789-3338 - Fax:(216) 476-9699

At our Home......and.....in the Neighborhood!

April 6 - *Jubilee Gathering* 9am-Bagel Breakfast 10am-Gathering

April 13, 20, & 27 - Gospel Meetings 11am ~ Followed by Lunch Afterwards!

April 26 - Christian Songfest 7pm to 8pm ~Refreshments Afterwards!

~ Who Are We? ~ We are a family-oriented, non-denominational group who are centered on Jesus Christ and the Bible, and hold to the common Christian faith of all genuine believers. We hope to see you soon in the coming weeks to say, "Hello!".

"meeting as the church in the city for all believers"

April 11 - Ice Skating at Winterhurst ~ 5:45-7:45pm ~ Lakewood ~ Free admission ~ \$1 Skates

April 12 - Dairy Queen On Us! FREE Kids Cone or Sundae with any purchase and this Ad. ~ Warren Village Location only~

April 25 - "God & Science" by, Dr. Rex Beck Ph.D (Harvard) Lakewood Public Library Auditorium ~ 7:30-8:30pm ~*Free Admission* ~ the skate house in Lakewood Park after <u>c</u>



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Lakewood Schools









Garfield Students Take Part In The Legacy Project

by Kathryn Cole

Students from Garfield Middle School, in conjunction with a group of volunteers from Lakewood Department of Human Services, Division of Aging recently participated in the Legacy Project, a nationwide essay-writing contest. The Legacy Project involved students meeting individually with older adults to learn about their lives: their dreams, goals, achievements and challenges. After the students finished conducting their interviews, they began work on their essays. According to the terms of the contest, each essay is to be a 300-word composition relating the life experiences of their interview partner, as well as the student's impressions and insights on what they learned. The winner of this nationwide contest will win a state of the art computer system, as well as software for their school. Garfield teacher, Mary Pat Ellert expressed appreciation for the willingness of the Division of Aging volunteers to work with her students, stating that many of the children have limited contact with grandparents or other older adults. Opportunities such as this provide a unique perspective for these young people.

Recovery International Merges With The Abraham Low Institute Abraham Low Institute (RI/TALI). 7:30 pm on Wednesday evenings at manage anger and to increase self-control

by Fred Weller

Recovery International, a mental health support group program active in Lakewood for over 45 years, has announced their merger with a sister organization, The Abraham Low Institute, effective January 1, 2008.

The new organization is headquartered in Chicago and is provisionally named Recovery International/The Abraham Low Institute (RI/TALI). It continues to offer mental health training programs based on the cognitive/behavioral tools and techniques developed by founder, Abraham Low, M.D., during the 1930's and 1940's.

Recovery International currently holds some 600 weekly mental health support group meetings throughout North America, Ireland, the UK, Israel and India. There are 29 meetings in northeast Ohio including the Lakewood meeting which is held at 7:30 pm on Wednesday evenings at Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 14502 Detroit Avenue. Anyone over 18 is welcome to attend and there is no formal fee although a voluntary donation is requested. Participants learn coping tools and life skills to help them deal with temperamental behaviors, nervous symptoms and fears.

The Abraham Low Institute has developed the "Power to Change" program which uses Dr. Low's tools and techniques to help students in grades 6 through 12 to manage anger and to increase self-control and self-respect. Since its introduction in select Chicago public schools in 2005, more than 700 students have benefited from the program. The merger will enable RI/TALI to expand the program to targeted populations such as college students, veterans and youth and adults in the criminal justice system.

Further information about the programs can be found at <u>www.neo-recovery.org</u>, <u>www.recovery-inc.org</u> or by calling (216) 267-1674.

Bring Lakewood Together For Children: Lakewood Celebrates National Week Of The Young Child

Staff Writer

The Lakewood City Schools in conjunction with the Lakewood Public Library asks Lakewood to come together for children during the Week of the Young Child April 13 – 19, 2008. As part of the national Week of the Young Child celebrated across the country, Lakewood is honoring young children and all those who make a difference in children's lives.

All young children need and deserve high-quality early learning

life and Lakewood has a great opportunity to do our part to help young children. The Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize the importance of early learning for all young children and to bring Lakewood together to help give all young children a great start.

We will celebrate Tuesday, April 15, 2008 from 7 - 8 p.m. in the Lakewood Public Library's Auditorium. We will have story time and tour the new library. Children will be given an activity to take home to make with their families. Also, children will be able to



experiences that will prepare them for



apply for new library cards.

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Lakewood Observer

The 2008 Budget Hearings: **A Review And Conclusion**

by Steve Hoffert

A capacity crowd filled the city hall auditorium on March 27th for the final hearing before the council's vote to approve the 2008 budget. The budgetary process, consisting of at least a dozen meetings over the last three months, has suddenly piqued the publics interest. Many long and tedious hours had already been spent by the administration, council members and a few curious onlookers debating the viability and necessity of each department and division.

The current administration was forced to make tough decisions after inheriting a projected \$4 million deficit. The State of Ohio Auditor's Office confirmed these numbers to be within 2%. Ohio Administrative Code prohibits cities from operating in the red.

Mayor FitzGerald's stance on the budget fulfilled the pledges made during his campaign. Spending has been drastically reduced, resources shifted and the staff trimmed. A police initiative adding four full time and up to ten part time officers promises to make the city a safer place.

During the past three months of ongoing debate, the fine points of those issues which came to a head on Thursday night were discussed, ad nauseam. At these discussions many details of the budget were worked out. The lack of public interest to this point led to flaring tempers throughout the evening of the final hearing.

The budget is divided into many parts. Most of the services that give Lakewood its personality such as police, fire, human services, refuse and public works operate out out of the general fund. Unfortunately, spending had outpaced revenue causing a structural imbalance.

Prior to the budget hearings all departments were asked to develop plans to increase the efficiency of their operations. Cuts exceeding \$1.5 million presented by department heads to the administration fell far short of the \$4 million needed to make the budget work. The administration and council were now faced with the difficult deci-



Councilman Dever addresses an anxious audience member about her concerns over public comment

that during the first two months of 2008 the police have written 50% as many tickets as in the entire year of 2007. Additional revenue from stepped up law enforcement may help offset the \$380,000 price tag of the initiative, which will not fully impact the bottom line until 2009.

Other initiatives such as partnering with the school system may prevent crime before it happens. New surveillance cameras in Lakewood Park will be added to compliment the those already installed in other locations around the city. The 70's era block watches seem to be experiencing a resurgence and will enjoy support from the ward officers.

Through creative staffing at the fire department's three stations, Chief Mroz estimates that over \$500,000 in overtime pay will be eliminated. Although the reduction in total required fire personnel on duty at any given time will be reduced, effect will be minor on the fire department's ability to staff most of its equipment. This substantial cost saving is accomplished with no reduction in fire personnel and is a relief from excessive overtime costs which had contributed to the current budget crisis.

Although many departments have seen a decrease in spending, the administrative workers have faired better. Along with the police initiative, the following divisions received modest increases in funding for 2008: Courts, Mayor's Office, Law, Planning and Development, Income Tax and Civil Service. Apprehension was visibly apparent as the public works department came under scrutiny. Acting Public Works Director Howard Strong sat stoically as the administration preceded to unveil their plans to potentially privatize each of the divisions under his oversight. Although savings can be obtained by contracting certain city services out to private companies, there was intense discussion regarding the functions of those employees. Some are cast contractually into one role but actually perform a myriad of tasks. The administration admitted that it is difficult to wrap a single Request for Proposal (RFP) around such broad based job descriptions.

Other services such as tree maintenance were also looked at as potential areas of outsourcing. Council members wondered how, in an event such as the recent ice storm, the city would cope with a reduced labor force. The administration stated that in these tough financial times there would have to be more interdepartmental coordination.

The threat of privatization is tempered by the city's contractual responsibility to negotiate with the unions, which specifically requires giving them the chance to match costs. The Mayor is currently in negotiations and contract law prohibits revealing the details of these discussions. The desired outcome would entail retaining jobs and services while bringing operating costs down to an acceptable level.

Many departments achieved cost savings by eliminating vacant positions. In some cases future positions that, according to department heads, would have had a great impact on all city departments were left unfilled. An example of this was a GIS tech to be added to the Information Systems budget. The Geographic Information System could have been used to better coordinate all city functions but sadly without input from the community that this division serves. Questions and controversy as to whether Cuyahoga County has the ability to absorb this population and provide these services in place of Lakewood dominated the conversation. Currently Lakewood outspends other suburbs in these areas and is considered this regions "gold standard" for human services.

Evidently, word had spread to the community served by Health and Human Services and they were well represented at the March 27th meeting. Tempers flared as citizens wishing to make comments sat by and watched as Councilman Summers asked, on behalf of council, for an additional \$400,000 cut in these services in order to maintain funding for backyard garbage collection.

Debate shifted to the refuse department represented by acting director Carol Rothgary. The administration, in other meetings, had expressed the belief that refuse was "the last piece" in the budget puzzle. Mandatory recycling and a \$400,000 reduction in funding would effectively end backyard garbage collection.

As the debate over refuse continued the audience grew more agitated.

"Trash is more important than people!" someone shouted strangely reminiscent of the film Soylent Green in which the government turned its citizens into crackers.

Frustration by all parties was evident and understandable. A heated exchange from an audience member wanting to address council was met by an appeal for patience from Council President Dever. Although council had worked for nearly three months on these issues, those potentially affected by these cuts may have just been informed of them.

Dever then introduced a motion to partially restore funding to Refuse but further reduce spending in Human Services, Courts and Public Works. The emotional debate continued.

Questions were now taken from the audience. The majority expressed concern that their lives would be adversely effected by these changes. Others questioned the logic behind cutting city funding for programs that receive matching funds leading to an unexpected and exponential loss of services. Still others felt that the council and administration were pitting Human Services against Refuse.

sion to determine what divisions supply "core services". Those not defined as such would be reduced or eliminated to meet the \$36 million mandatory budget cap put in place by the council earlier this month.

On March 18th, the council and administration listened to facts and feelings as division heads justified their department's existence. Acting upon actual and perceived changes in neighborhood safety, Mayor FitzGerald introduced his promised police initiative.

Changes include: an increase in police presence on the streets and in the parks, the hiring of four new officers to be liaisons to each city ward and an addition of up to ten new part time officers to do essential tasks, thus freeing full time Lakewood officers to patrol the streets. Chief Malley stated became a budget fatality.

The Human Services Department was hardest hit, having its budget slashed by an estimated \$830,000. Divisions such as aging and youth provide a great number of services to a diverse group of individuals helping them remain independent and healthy. Funding cuts will have a varying impact on each division and issues are further complicated due to the fact that the city receives matching funds for many of the dollars spent. Impact from these cuts was fiercely debated.

The council and administration's rationale for taking these drastic reductions is informed by the Structural Balance Committee's recommendations as to what constitutes "core services" for the city. Human Services was reduced to a second tier service "If you cut human services too much you are harming a great amount of people" one admonished, "we vote... and remember that".

Mayor FitzGerald stated other options would be cutting police, shutting down a fire station or selling one of our parks and that even after the cuts Lakewood will still have the biggest human services department of any suburb. Because of the sensitivity of both Refuse and Human Services he had reserved discussion on these items until the end of the budget process.

Further debated ensued concerning the balancing act between funding

continued of next page...

Lakewood Observer

Wonderful, Walkable Lakewood

by David Pauer

A Walkable Lakewood: Why it is important for our health, our economy, and our safety.

Joe has diabetes and recently received an "exercise prescription" from his physician to walk 5 times a week for 30 minutes. He loves the fact that he can go right out the front door in of his house in Lakewood and walk. Mary likes to live in Lakewood because she can walk to the bus stop and easily commute to her job in downtown Cleveland. Danny walks to school with his mom and a few other kids from his street on most days. He knows that he feels better and is more able to focus and pay attention in class on the days when he walks. Gayle is a senior who lives in Lakewood and can walk to her medical appointments at Lakewood Hospital, to the grocery store, and to her friend's house a few streets over. She knows that her friends who live in the outer suburbs have to drive to go anywhere. Steve and Jane are a young professional couple who moved to Lakewood from out of town and chose to buy a house here because of the walkable neighborhood.

These names have been changed but the stories are true. One of Lakewood's greatest assets is the ability to walk everywhere. Americans are increasingly living in communities that are designed and planned for automobiles and not for people when they are out of a car. This has contributed to the obesity epidemic and a loss of social connections in neighborhoods. In addition, walkable communities can make local economies strong and keep crime low.

WALKING CAN GREATLY IMPROVE HEALTH. According to the American Journal of Cardiology, walking 30 minutes at least 6 days a week is enough to reduce the risk of diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity and high cholesterol. In addition, walking and other moderate physical activity has been shown to improve mood, creativity and overall energy.

A WALKABLE NEIGHBOR-HOOD CAN INCREASE PROPERTY VALUES. A study by the Urban Land willing to pay a \$20,000 premium for homes in pedestrian-friendly communities compared to similar houses in surrounding areas. And a recent survey of 60,000 people found that 88 percent of respondents said they wanted to live in a neighborhood that's walkable. Reducing traffic noise and traffic speeds, which make it safer to walk, will also increase property values. One study found that a 5 to 10 mph reduction in traffic speeds increased adjacent residential property values by roughly 20 percent.

A WALKABLE NEIGHBOR-HOOD IS GOOD FOR RETAIL SALES. There are many models around the country that show clear economic benefits to improving the walking environment in residential and commercial districts. Lodi California launched a \$4.5 million public-private pedestrianoriented project, including a retro-fit of five main street blocks. The city credits the pedestrian improvements, as well as economic development incentives, with 60 new businesses, the drop in the vacancy rate from 18 percent to 6 percent, and a 30 percent increase in downtown sales tax revenues.

WALKABLE NEIGHBOR-Α HOOD DECREASES CRIME. A research project by the Urban Institute recently showed that from 2005 to 2006 crime increased the most in communities with less pedestrian traffic. Crime happens when a criminal perceives a high chance of getting away; if there are more law abiding people on the street there is a sharp decrease in the chance of getting away with a crime. People walking can hear and see things that cannot be seen from cars and respond faster. Crime increases when people do not know their neighbors. A walkable neighborhood encourages and facilitates social interaction by creating opportunities for people to meet and interact, helping to create community networks.

LET'S GET WALKING AND MAKE LAKEWOOD OHIO'S MOST WALKABLE CITY. A walkable neighborhood starts with good sidewalks. Other cities have increased the number of community members walking by installing public art on streets and creating marketing campaigns that promote walking. Cities have widened sidewalks and narrowed streets, which calms traffic and makes walking safer and more pleasant. But the biggest change can happen when we choose to walk to the store, coffee shop or park instead of driving and take full advantage of one of the best features of living in Lakewood. Future articles will individually feature the benefits of walkability on human health, property values, retails sales and safety.

USPS Safety Corner: Spring Has Sprung

First of all, let us begin by thanking all of our customers who kept their sidewalks, porches, and steps free of snow. For those who went the extra mile and put a box at ground level so the carrier did not have to go up steps unnecessarily, special thanks to you!!!

NEW SEASON, NEW ISSUES. With spring here, or supposed to have started, our children will soon be on spring break, or even on summer vacation soon. This brings out the family pets. We are especially focused on dog bites. In the last three months we have had 6 dog bites. Yes even in the winter time. Depending on the severity of the bite the carrier can be out of work and must go to the hospital. We experience over 3000 dog bites a year. This costs the Post Office hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly. The Post Office can also seek compensation from the home owner. Most people's pets are great, but even "Friendly Dogs" have territory issues. Here are some tips to help keep you as well as the carrier safe from a dog bite.

1. Make sure that if you open your inner house door, keep your screen door locked and secured. Please remind our dog bites were due to this very reason. The dog charged the screen door when he heard the carrier coming and pushed the screen door open.

2. Make sure screens are not torn so the dog cannot get to the carrier. Also do not open the door to retrieve your mail until the carrier is gone.

3. Please do not leash your dog close to your mailbox. This will prevent you from getting mail.

4. If you let you dog roam your yard freely, double check to see if your mail has been delivered. Also make sure all gates are properly latched.

As usual we welcome your input, and ask that you write us with any issues you may have.

Thanks again for all your support!!!

Your Lakewood Safety Committee 1475 Warren Rd

Area F.E.I. Chapter Honors Lakewood Native Elva Coadari

The Financial Executives International (FEI) Northeast Ohio chapter is pleased to recognize Lakewood native and Baldwin Wallace student Elva Coadari for achieving outstanding academic excellence. The FEI Northeast Ohio Chapter continues to build a partnership with the academic community, particularly those who teach in our region's business schools, many of whom we count among our members. This award, presented to college busior accounting, recognizes outstanding scholastic achievement, career objective, proven leadership traits and community service.

Coadari and eight other students will be honored at the chapter's Academic Night on Tuesday, April 8, at the Union Club in Cleveland. The event begins with a reception starting at 5 p.m. and features a keynote speech by Michael Victor, President of Lake Erie College.

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your children to do the same. Two of

ness students who are studying finance

Congratulations Elva!

2008 Budget Hearings

Human Services which helps the most vulnerable residents and Refuse which effects a greater number of people.

"The only other alternative is to pass a budget that wasn't balanced and have the state come in here and make the cuts for us," stated FitzGerald.

When there were no more questions from the audience, Council President Dever introduced a motion to redistribute the \$400,000 reduction in spending formerly slated for Refuse. Human Services would lose an additional \$100,000, the Court had already pledged to reduce their budget by \$76,000, Refuse would be down \$75,000, Parks \$24,000, Buildings and Facilities Fund \$25,000 and a end of year balance would be adjusted to \$100,000 down from \$200,000.

When asked if these additional cuts would have an impact on those divisions affected by this change, each director without hesitation said that it would.

Mayor FitzGerald expressed the hope that if the city ends up operating more efficiently than anticipated money can be moved around to restore some of what has been lost.

He summed up the evening by saying, "We will live with those cuts.... there's no more wiggle room."

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Lakewood Arts & Entertainment

Looking Forward To The Future, Beck Reflects On 75 Years Of Lakewood History

by Kelly Kutler

Take a moment and imagine the thrill of getting ready for a wonderful evening at the theater. The Guild of the Masque is the innovative new drama group in town and you're lucky enough to have a ticket to their anticipated premiere performance. The play is "The Queen's Husband," by Robert E. Sherwood. The Guild is taking a chance on a promising new playwright who will go on in 1936 to win the first of four Pulitzer prizes for his play "Idiot's Delight." But tonight, the price of your ticket to see a Sherwood play is just 40 cents.

The year is 1930 and you're about

Brittany Reilly With Almost Acoustic Band Spring Tour 2008

Staff Writer

Brittany Reilly will be coming to Cleveland, OH on April 12th performing at The Winchester with the Almost Acoustic Band supporting her new CD release "Good Old Country Sound". Their music is described as Old-Time Country, Bluegrass/Reggae Acoustic Roots Music. They will be on a three week national tour throughout the month playing shows in FL, OH, TN, MO, CO, NM, & AZ.

Good Old Country Sound was released March 1st, 2008. It brings back the old country sound with influences of bluegrass, reggae, rag-time and folk music. This is Brittany's first solo CD release and will be followed up by 150 national touring dates in 2008 supporting the new release. The CD is available through her website, I-Tunes, and at any of their upcoming shows.

> Show Info: The Winchester Tavern 12112 Madison Ave. Cleveland, OH 44107 216-226-5681 9:00 PM \$5.00 Adm. Official Website: www.brittanyreilly.com Myspace Site: www.myspace.com/brittanyreilly

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to witness the curtain rising on the future Beck Center for the Arts.Fast forward to the spring evening of May 7, 1938. A black tied and top hatted crowd of local dignitaries and leaders gather to witness Lakewood Mayor, Amos I. Kauffman, cut the ribbon allowing the curtains to open on the set of Fred Ballard's "Ladies of the Jury." After incorporating into Lakewood Little Theater in 1933, the former Guild of the Masque members have found their first true home in the recently leased and redesigned Lucier Movie Theater. With renovations costing only \$10,000, the old Lucier stage is now 50 feet wide, well lit, and deep enough to accommodate the impressive cast and court room set required for Ballard's three act comedy. This time the playwright's work has already been adapted for the popular 1937 film, "We're on the Jury."

These are just brief highlights from the Beck's rich 75 year history in Lakewood. For those of you who want to know more, stay tuned for a series of Observer stories chronicling the most exciting periods of change and revitalization. For those of you who were actually part of the experience, the Beck needs your help in creating a more complete record of the Center's past.

After more than seven decades

of providing a home for the works of countless accomplished and aspiring playwrights, presenting quality theatrical performances and arts education, the Beck Center is firmly committed to spending at least another 75 years here in Lakewood. "We're proud to be part of such a vital inner ring suburb and we are committed to preserving the historic aspects of our facility," says Cindy Einhouse, the Beck Center's President and CEO.

Did you or someone in your family attend one of the earliest theater productions, take a dance class in the 1970's, or participate in the original Children's Theater? If you have great stories or pictures of the Beck Center in past decades, they could be invaluable to staff in collecting and preserving important memorabilia. This is the official call to search your own back stages, including photo albums, trunks, and attics!

"The Beck Center belongs to this community," says Einhouse. "We invite all of you who've been a part of it to leave your own unique stamp on the Beck story by contributing your experiences." Anyone with information or items is welcome to call Yvette Hanzel in the Marketing Department at 216-521-2540, ext. 22 or e-mail <u>yvette@</u> beckcenter.org.



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Secret Shopper

No Party Poopers Here!

by Justine Cooper

Lakewood Tavern Supply on Madison Ave is a shop that you may have driven past hundreds of times without ever having known what lies beyond their doors. From a first glance at their sign or window display, it is not difficult to figure out that this business sells supplies to bars. However, when I ventured through the doors last year, I discovered that they also sold to the public a variety of items, from bar glasses to over-sized canned goods to dart games and wine and beer making kits. Lakewood Tavern Supply opened four years ago by Lakewoodite brothers Scott and Robert Villnuve (pronounced Vill-nerve). The Villnuve brothers, having grown up in Lakewood, noticed an overwhelming amount of taverns and restaurants in Lakewood, but an absence of a supply store to service them. Being of entrepreneurial minds, they decided to supply a need where there was obviously a demand. "Pure genius" Scott stated with a sly smile. "Not really" smiled his brother Robert, "just common sense". Combining a little of genius and common sense though, is a perfect combination for a successful business.

Having a learned knack for assessing the needs of the city that they love, the Villnuve brothers went into action when they heard that the Party Station was leaving Lakewood. "Packing up in the middle of the night and leaving town like Art Modell" one brother chuckled, "left a void in Lakewood". They knew that people who depended on hosting the perfect party, whether it be a Luau, graduation, birthday, communion, etc., would be out of luck, or worse, forced to shop outside of Lakewood. After the birth of the idea to expand to party supplies, a larger storefront on Morrison and Madison, less than two blocks up became immediately available. Almost overnight their storefront more than doubled and they are proud to bring Lakewood a complete line of party supplies, coupled with their existing product line, and giving life to their new name "Ultimate Party and Bar Supply".

"We are proud to truly offer the

Opening the first week in April. "We look forward to serving the general community in Lakewood and near west side. I don't think most people realized that we were open to the public" says Scott, "and that the public can get the same great deals on premium supplies that we give our restaurant and bar customers!" These great deals include glassware, cooking utensils, china and flatware, bulk paper products and cleaning supplies, home brew equipment and ingredient kits, dart supplies including boards and dart cabinets, etc. Look for specials during their grand re-opening, including sales on selected wine juice ready to brew, and a raffle free to enter

just for stopping in for a girl's beading party (donated). I picked up a kiwi pear chardonnay that should be ready to sip for a May Luau! Look for them to be part of the LIA MAMA Art Walk May 17th, as one of MAMA's newest member!

Lakewood Tavern Supply 15649 Madison Avenue 10 AM-7 PM Sunday-Sunday 216-227-0219

A Day In The Life Of A Snow Parking Ban

by Victoria Gates

My 21-year-old daughter and I live in an apartment on Clifton Blvd. where parking is not available. We park on the street. On Friday, March 14th, the evening of the big snow storm, a noparking ban went into effect on Clifton Blvd. For those of us who park on Clifton, we scrambled to find a space on the nearest side street. I called the Lakewood Police Department to check on the status of the parking ban. The parking ban would be in effect through Saturday and side streets would be included, Iwas told. The person on the phone stated emphatically that cars will be towed on Saturday if not moved off the side streets. Neither my daughter nor I could afford the cost of a ticket and a tow so we asked where we could park. The closest location was Lakewood City Hall, about a half mile from our home.

Saturday morning arrived and I called the police department to check on the parking ban status. Once again



the person relayed the same answer as the day before. The decision was made - we had to move our cars. We begrudgingly left our apartment looking more like moon walkers than human beings. We stumbled through thick snow drifts until we reached my compact car cradled in a high mound of snow. With only a collapsible car snow shovel and a lot of self-determination, my car was freed. Unfortunately our mobility was short-lived when my car wheels slammed into the thick heavy snow plow slush at the end of our street. We were stuck and I was frustrated. Lucky for us, within a few minutes a man and his bright red John Deer-type looking tractor with attached plow dug us out. Freed again! We watched our Good Samaritan continue down the road in search of his next snow victim. Thanks again, mister!

We then parked at City Hall. Being unaccustomed to walking in blizzards for any length of time, we were illprepared for the brutal and piercing snow as we walked down the unplowed



side street to my daughter's car. Upon arriving, our eyebrows and lashes were white with snow. We climbed inside and slowly thawed until the feeling returned to our fingers and toes. After digging the second car out we decided to stop for lunch. We started this venture at 10am and it was now 12:30pm. We hoped perhaps the parking ban would be lifted in a couple of hours. At 3:00pm, we made our final call to the Lakewood Police Department and the same message was relayed. Although perplexed at the number of cars remaining on the side streets, we "obediently" parked the second car at Lakewood City Hall. This time we were better prepared to face the elements. Using a third overcoat to shield against the icy blizzard, we clomped home from Detroit to Clifton Blvd. looking like a pair of overstuffed twins. As we turned on to Clifton, I fell into a huge snow drift and could not get up because I was laughing so hard. At last we were home, where we thawed for the next 30 minutes. It was 3:30pm.

On Sunday morning, we left once again to retrieve our cars. The snow had stopped falling, the sun was shining, and not one car had moved from their spot on the side street from the day before. No one was towed. It also appeared that we were the only cars that had parked at Lakewood City Hall overnight. There were no other tire tracks indicating guests. We drove past other side streets to find cars still remaining from the day before. Needless to say I was more than upset and felt as though some one had played a bad joke on us. What I have learned from this experience is that next time I will follow the majority. Obviously, there is an unspoken resident law that I was not aware of. Personally, I think it is a very good one!

complete party center" with the Grand



Lakewood Perspective

A Little Performance Anxiety

by Bret Callentine

I don't know how things are for you, but where I work there is a very comprehensive annual employee review process. In the normal work world, it seems, there is still a premium placed on actual results. And, employers still require that you meet your personal, departmental, and corporate goals. This is yet one more major area where the political world differs from the work world. If you went to your boss and used some of the same tactics and terminology used by just about every political candidate, you might last a little while, but eventually, the bottom-line nature of corporate America would catch up to you.

I'm always skeptical when a candidate at any level starts making promises, but I'm even more bewildered by how we as a country don't ever seem motivated to hold them to their word. The best politicians are always very adept at deferring both blame and responsibility, even while the results are crystal clear. In the work world, you either deliver or eventually you pack up your desk and make room for someone else who can. In the political world, it's always the other guy's fault, or something you just need more time or money to solve.

Part of the problem is that most of those political promises are usually so vague that even the slightest of movements in any direction is lauded as progress. Another culprit is the fact that actual gains are nearly impossible to measure independently. If a mayor promises to control crime, how do you rate the success or failure? Do you use conviction rates, incident reports, or just randomly ask citizens how they feel? Numbers can be speculative, and personal feelings are completely relative.

Yet another issue is that even the most well-intentioned politician is oftentimes completely dependent on the action of others to affect any positive change. And even when they can get something done, positive results in one area might have secondary consequences in others. I've been pretty hard on Dennis Kucinich in the past, but one thing I'll never criticize him for is how little money in earmarks he brings home to this district, because while it might help our local economy, to me, it's more important to limit the discretionary spending by Congress. Maybe these are some of the reasons that politicians hide behind vagaries in their campaigns. With so many people looking for a miniscule misstep, the mere possibility of a lie, or even the slightest slip of the tongue, it's like having thousands of bosses standing over you, every minute of the day while you work. If it were me, I think I would call in sick. A lot.

But that's why we need to come back to the work world for solutions. My job review starts with my own assessment. While the company definitely has its say in setting the appropriate levels of responsibility and achievement, they need my input as well, at the very least, to help shape how success is measured. That way everyone is on the same page and by the end of the year, everyone can grade on the same curve.

And that's why I think we need a similar system with our elected officials. Forget the initial elections process, that's a total crapshoot, trying to decide who's got the goods and who's full of hot air. I'm talking about once the election is over, having some sort of open dialogue with the public to determine not just realistic goals, but a realistic means to measure those goals.

I recognize that this would be considered very risky for the politician, but if they truly had as much faith in their own ability to succeed as they're asking from us, then the benefits would also be very lucrative. I can tell you right now that if Mr. Kucinich came to me with a measurable set of performance goals that we both agreed were fair, and he managed to meet even most of those goals prior to the next election, even I would have a hard time voting for someone untested who opposed him.

But it all comes down to one word: fair. To be fair, the goals must be legitimately obtainable. Regardless of what is promised, you can't hold a single Congressman accountable for ending a war, eliminating homelessness or balancing the budget. But you can charge them with things like proposing new legislation, or meeting a minimum attendance for voting. You might also work in goals for strengthening their individual district by measuring jobless claims, or monitoring bank foreclosures.

To be fair, the goals also must compensate for fluctuations in variables that are outside the officials' realm of responsibility. Being tackled with the responsibility to show an increase in jobs is difficult on its own, but if the country is in a recession, it's even harder. Instead of inflexible numbers, measurements should be graded on a curve. After all, what good is a 10% increase in Cleveland's Average Household Income if the city of Pittsburgh can boast 12%? Fairness also means utilizing universally recognizable benchmarks from unquestionable sources. The more you can use readily available and certifiable data, the less margin of error you incur. Transparency is crucial in this matter, as nothing scares me more than reading results from an "independent"

Letters To The Editor Response One To Mr. Callentine's Article On Health Care

Was Bret Callentine just trying to stir up controversy when he wrote about the U.S. health care system in the March 4 Observer? I can't believe he was really serious. If so, he certainly doesn't accept the principle that a nation's status is best judged by how it treats its most vulnerable citizens.

We do have the best medical technology and skillful doctors in the world. The problem is that you have to have the wealth of the Saudi royal family to afford them.

Health care should not properly be a business, it should be a service. Police and fire protection, primary and secondary education are services that are available to everyone. Everyone would suffer if this were not so. The same is true of access to health care. The whole country suffers when so many are excluded.

The high cost of health care is making American businesses less competitive with foreign business which don't carry the burden of health care benefits. Approximately 40% of bankruptcies are brought on by medical bills. Emergency rooms are crowded because people without insurance have no other means of getting treatment. This is the most expensive way of giving them treatment, and doesn't allow for preventive care.

The U.S. spends twice as much on health care as other developed countries, all of which provide universal medical coverage. When outcomes are measured our country is far down the list on longevity and high on the list of infant mortality, the two statistics which are usually used to measure the quality of care.

Government systems are not automatically more inefficient than large bureaucracies of the private sector. Medicare has administrative costs of a reasonable 12%. The administrative costs of private insurers is a whopping 25%. A quarter of their revenue goes down the hole of paper work, advertising, huge executive salaries and inefficiency. The senior population covered by Medicare has for a long time purchased supplemental coverage without the dire consequences predicted by Mr. Callentine. He doesn't, as a matter of fact, mention Medicare at all. If government management is as bad as he says Medicare would be a failure and should be eliminated. No politician seeking office would dare to suggest such a thing. It is too popular.

Medical care inevitably has to be limited in some way. We can't do everything for everybody. Wealth should not be the determinant of who gets the care. It should be of concern to Americans who have adequate health care that 45 millions of their fellow citizens do not. We would be a healthier, more prosperous, more just society is we were all provided with access to the health care we need.

Helen Brinich, Lakewood

Response Two To Mr. Callentine's Article On Health Care

Mr. Callentine expresses some valid thoughts on Collective Health Care, but he misses the mark on some important

some people who are otherwise responsible and self-sufficient find themselves in a position where they cannot afford health insurance. Large companies are able to provide insurance to their employees at very reasonable prices. The self-employed are subject to the vagaries of the market. At one point when I was self-employed, my health insurance cost tripled from one month to the next based on my age, marital status, and the place I lived. I had assumed that COBRA plans were just a continuation of existing insurance, but with the insured footing the whole bill. When my girlfriend was laid-off a few years ago, we discovered that the plans do not necessarily match. The COBRA plan was about \$450.00 per month and had more loop-holes in it than Swiss cheese.

your nest-egg at an increased rate, hoping you don't run-out of money before you find a job? Do you marshal your

points. He seems to categorize American citizens as being among the wealthy or the poor. This is not the case.

The American health care system is capable of providing health care that is equal to or better than anyplace else on earth. Unfortunately, the costs associated with this health care are very high. there is a "get what you pay for" factor. The American health care system also does a pretty good job of taking care of those who absolutely cannot care for themselves. The "haves" are already subsidizing the "have-nots". We have Medicaid. We have Medicare. We have hospitals that simply absorb a certain amount of unpaid medical care.

The real complication occurs for those who are neither "haves" nor "have-nots". As the economy weakens,

This is not an inviting choice when facing unemployment. Do you spend

resources and take your chances?

A hit-and-run accident while walking to the grocery store could cost you your house in medical bills.

Some retirees who think they are adequately insured may not be if they encounter a catastrophic illness. The health care system may save their lives while rendering them bankrupt or homeless.

I do not have all the answers. My observation is that the middle class is in an extremely delicate situation right now with respect to health care. The means to provide good health care is present, but in more cases than you might care to imagine, it can only be accessed at the cost of utter financial destruction. This will only create more poor people. *Brad Babcock, Lakewood*

continued on next page...

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Pulse Of The City

To Everything, There Is A Season... 1968-2008

To me, these words, opening the third chapter of Ecclesiastes, sum up much of the 1960's. Of course, I was less of a Bible student than a musician, so the Byrds' cover of Pete Seeger's song, "Turn, Turn, Turn," gave me that most poignant vision of Biblical expressions concerning those times.

For those of us who lived through the turbulent days of 1968 in Lakewood, it was a time for coming of age.

In January of '68, an American spy ship, the Pueblo, was taken by North Korea. We sat riveted to our black and white TV sets as this drama developed. The Pueblo's commander, Lloyd Bucher, and his crew were taken prisoner by the North Koreans and ended up spending 11 months in captivity, being released in return for a promise that the U.S. would not spy on the North Koreans again. As winter became spring, Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated in April on the balcony of a Memphis motel, unleashing a wave of civil rights unrest that in some ways has continued on to this day.

It was also a year much like this one, when a United States President would be elected. President Lyndon Johnson had declined to run for another term. America's youth, troubled by the threat of young men being drafted, and concerned about an ongoing war in Vietnam with no exit strategy in sight, took to the streets in vigorous protests that, at times, turned violent. At the August 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago, violent protests unfolded into mass arrests and injuries, as students clashed with police in scenes reminiscent of the civil rights struggles of the early '60's.

A third party candidate, George Wallace from Alabama, emerged to shake up the two-party system in this country. Republicans nominated Richard Nixon. Democrats struggled with several choices, including Edmund Muskie and Robert Kennedy. On the eve of his California primary victory, Robert Kennedy was tragically shot by a lone gunman. He died shortly afterwards, shocking the entire nation. Democrats finally settled on Hubert Humphrey as their candidate, but in November, Richard Nixon prevailed with his campaign promise of

"peace with honor" in Vietnam. On the international front, after a brief "Czech Spring" of freedom, Soviet tanks rolled into Czechoslovakia in a serious reassertion of Communist ideology and power. America began a long series of "peace talks" with Communist North Vietnam. American bombs fell on North Vietnam's capi-

by Gary Rice

tal city of Hanoi. North Vietnam's Tet offensive shocked Americans who were thinking that the war might be winding down. Americans were also further stunned to learn that U.S. soldiers had participated in a brutal massacre of Vietnamese civilians near a place called My Lai, in South Vietnam.

On the Ohio sports scene, the big local news was that the Cleveland Browns clinched the Eastern Conference with a decisive victory over Dallas, but were shut out in the NFL championship game with Baltimore. Cleveland baseball pitcher, Luis Tiant, struck out 19 batters in 10 innings in a spectacular game. Ohio State took the national college championship in football that year. Our own magnificent Lakewood Ranger football team took the LEL title, but lost to Shaw in the season's final game.

1968 would be the last TV year for the original "Batman" and "Star Trek" series. TV shows like "My Three Sons" and "Laugh-in" were watched, along with "Ironside" and "The Dick Van Dyke Show." New shows for that year included "The Mod Squad" and "60 minutes."

Famous people stories included the marriage of the late President John F. Kennedy's widow, Jacqueline, to Aristotle Onassis. Actress Jayne Mansfield died in a tragic automobile accident.

Modern rock and pop music seemed to get more categorical in 1968, with the "bubble gum" sound intending to appeal to the young. A group called the Ohio Express did a tune called "Yummy Yummy Yummy" and the 1910 Fruitgum Company did "Simon Says." Mainstream pop hits included Simon and Garfunkel's soundtrack from "The Graduate" and Glen Campbell's "By The Time I Get To Phoenix."

Otis Redding aced a posthumous R&B hit with "Sitting on the Dock of the Bay," recorded just three days before his 1967 death in a plane crash.

Top country hits included Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues" album and Jeannie C. Riley's recording of "Harper Valley PTA."

For rock artists, 1968 was a time of album rock, including the Beatles' "Magical Mystery Tour," Cream's "Wheels of Fire," and Jimi Hendrix's "Axis, Bold as Love." The Doors' "Hello, I Love You" mixed with the Rascals' "People Got To Be Free" in the singles mix, as did the Beatles' "Hey Jude" and the Monkees' "I'm A Believer." here was just under \$7,000 back then. Gas was roughly 34 cents per gallon, coffee was about 70 cents a pound, and a first class stamp cost 6 cents. The average Lakewood

home was going for around \$20,000. Let's go back and take a walk around Lakewood in 1968. If you were a teenaged guy, you might have a madras button-down shirt tucked into a pair of brown hopsack jeans, with white socks, wide "mod" belt, and penny loafers, each holding a bright Lincoln penny. If you were a teenaged girl, you might be wearing a skirt or dress with saddle shoes. Your lightly curled hair could be strapped into place with a wide headband, or might be set in a "beehive."

Let's start on Lakewood's east end, down on Detroit. As we pass Fairchild Chevrolet, we oogle and awe at the newly restyled Corvette in the window, barely noticing the Impalas, Novas, and Corvairs out in the lot. Nor do we pay much mind to Koepke's Mercedes cars, stately gracing the front window across the street. After all, we are teenagers, and those big, dignified beauties in no way match that 'Vette, at least to our young minds. Of course, Koepke once had a silver gull-wing Mercedes roadster in their show room, and that one did catch our eye!

As we come up to the downtown area, dozens of glittering shops greet us. There's Geiger's of course. Across the street at Warren, there's Bailey's, a full-service upscale department store. I'd gotten my first Beatles record there in 1963, and later, an autograph from the great Cleveland Brown, Paul Warfield. Of course, Melody Lane Records is right there too, having many of those hit records mentioned above.

There's Everden Jewelers over there, and Carson's dress shop too! There's Jackshaw Pontiac, Kelly's Donuts, and Walker Shoes, and of course Klanke's Funeral Parlor. Across from Geiger's, there's Keith Jewelers, where I established my first credit by buying a Bulova Accutron "electronic tuning fork" wrist watch for about \$100 at \$10 per week. That was a great deal of money, since a diamond engagement ring at Keith's could be had starting at \$59.50. If we'd gone further down Detroit, we would surely have stopped at Miller's Dining Room for some delicious sticky buns!

As we walk up Warren to Madison, we pass the red brick Lakewood Fire Station, as well as the Lakewood Post Office and the Board of Education. We stop for a great burger and fries at Bearden's. Up on Madison, we see the Rexall Pharmacy and, going east, pass by D & M Gastown, Flowers of Joy, and Ferrar's Macaroni (makers of homemade frozen macaroni products). At Lakewood's east end, on Highland Avenue, we'd find the stately Union Carbide facility. If we'd gone west, we would have seen the slot-car racing place, MG motors, and the Usher Insurance Agency.

Although many of the above businesses are no longer around, several that were here in '68 still are. Geiger's is, for sure. A Bearden's still sits over in Rocky River. Fridrich Moving and Storage still moves and stores, and of course there's Mahall's restaurant and bowling alley, Educator's Music, and others, as well.

The motto for the LHS Class of '68 was "Ours the world to discover, to understand, and to improve." It remains for all of us to wonder just how much the class of '68 followed that motto. Of course, I was only a junior then...

The pulse of our city may, indeed, have changed its rhythm over the past 40 years, but its heart appears to remain strong and well, as those seasons continue to change in our lives.



Our average annual wage around

A Little Performance Anxiety continued on next page...

poll when I can't see the methods and motives of the people conducting it. And finally, for it to be fair, it must also be understood that those who didn't support the candidate must concede to at least some of the goals of the people who did. You can't hold a candidate responsible for achieving things that weren't in his platform. They won by presumably getting the most votes, and given the way a democracy works, that gives them the right, if not the obligation, to try it the way they said they would.

If those qualifications can somehow be met, I think you'll find that even those who opposed a candidate would be more supportive of them while they held the office. And as election time rolls around again, results just might be a bigger campaign issue than hope.

WINE HOUSE

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Conservation Corner

A Pragmatic Prescription For Paper

by Heather Ramsey

Though paper is more recycled than glass, aluminum, or plastic, it is still also the largest portion of the waste stream, at about 35% and 85 million tons. Each year, 67 million tons of paper are used in the U.S.--700 pounds per person per year and twice as much as in 1960--and paper production has been projected to increase by more than 75% by 2020. Recycling is very beneficial in terms of saving resources and space in landfills (recycling 1 ton of office paper saves almost 6 tons of carbon dioxide emissions, 2 tons of wood, and 3 cubic meters of landfill space). In general, recycling paper creates 35% less water pollution and 74% less air pollution than disposing of it as waste.

Unfortunately, unlike aluminum and glass, paper is very limited in how many times it can be recycled. Estimates vary, but the general consensus is that paper products can be recycled only 3-7 times before breaking down. This means that it is especially important to reduce the amount of paper we use and discard, in addition to improving recycling rates.

One simple way to reduce paper use is to switch to online bill paying. Each year, 405,000 trees are used to send America its bills. If each household viewed and paid these bills online, more than 29 trillion BTUs of energy, 1.7 billion pounds of waste, and 2.1 million tons of greenhouse gases would be saved. Using online bill viewing and paying is usually simple to do, since companies are most likely already trying to get you to switch for their own benefit. Some may even offer you some sort of discount when you sign up. In addition to online bill paying, consider online banking and direct deposit to avoid paper statements and trips to the bank.

There are also many opportunities to make paper last longer before its trip to the recycling center. When printing long documents for your own use, consider using smaller margins and font sizes and single spacing to conserve space. Print on both sides of the page whenever possible, whether it be doublesided printing from the get-go, or using the second side of used pages later on.



From left to right: The Forest Stewardship Council and Green Seal certify environmentally friendly products. These symbols denote how much of a product is composed of recycled fibers. These symbols can be found on papers produced without Chlorine, a dangerous chemical.

And, only print what you need. If shredding old papers is part of your routine, consider using the shreds as packing material (much more earth-friendly than styrofoam!). Old paper can also be used in a variety of other ways, from wrapping presents to composting, from litterbox liners to shoe trees.

In addition to reducing paper use, it is also important to buy recycled. Buying recycled paper both saves natural resources and stimulates the recycling industry. When buying paper, look on the label for symbols telling you the recycled content of the paper. One ton of 30% postconsumer paper saves about 7 trees, 2,100 gallons of water, 1,230 kw hours of electricity, and 18 pounds of air pollution. Meanwhile, one ton of 100% postconsumer paper saves 24 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 4,100 kw hours of electricity, and 60 pounds of air pollution, according to Conservatree. In addition to the amount of recycled fibers, labels may also show endorsements by the Forest Stewardship Council (paper from sustainably harvested forests) and/ or Green Seal (certified green products), and whether or not the paper was processed using chlorine. The National Wildlife Federation offers resources on choosing the best papers at their website, <u>http://www.nwf.org/</u> paper.

There are, of course, many other ways to conserve paper, from reducing your junk mail and catalogs to saying no to receipts (though this option is not as widespread as it should be). Also consider whether paper that is useless to you may be of use to someone else - old construction paper may be welcomed at a school, old books and magazines at the library for a booksale, or at Goodwill or the Salvation Army, etc. And don't forget that you can recycle a wide variety of paper in Lakewood: books, boxboard, cardboard, catalogs, magazines, envelopes, junk mail, newspaper, office/computer/school paper, and telephone books.

Cuyahoga Soil And Water **Conservation District Providing Scholarships For Forestry Camp**

The Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District is looking for up to six high school students, with an avid interest in the natural sciences, especially earth science, biology, botany, and environmental studies, who would like to spend a week at the fun and educational Ohio Forestry Association's Forestry Camp from June 15-20, 2008.

Cuyahoga SWCD is offering up to six camperships for this week-long camp help at Camp Muskingum in Carroll County. Students must be 15 years of age by June 8th and have completed 8th grade. Interested students are encouraged to download the Forestry Camp Scholarship Application from the Cuyahoga SWCD website www.cuyahogaswcd.org, and return it

by May 16, 2008. Scholarships will be awarded by May 23, 2008. When notified of acceptance, health forms and a detailed registration form will be mailed to the applicant. At that time a \$25 deposit will be required. Total camp fee is \$250, so scholarship awardees will be getting a \$225 discount on a fabulous camp.

This camp concentrates on forest ecology including: silviculture, tree identification, and forestry products. It is primarily an academic program, but there are excellent facilities for swimming, softball, and other recreational activities. Over the past fifty years, Cuyahoga SWCD has helped to send over 100 students to Forestry Camp. Many garden clubs in Cuyahoga County have been strong supporters of the Forestry Camp program by providing critical scholarship funding. This is a great opportunity for those who are sincerely interested in conservation issues and enjoy a good walk in the woods. It is a unique experience that will expose students to the great outdoors and to possible careers in forestry, conservation and natural resource protection. For more information, contact Amy Roskilly at 216/524-6580, ext 22 or aroskilly@cuyahogaswcd.org The Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District's mission is to promote conservation of land and aquatic resources in a developed environment through stewardship initiatives, education programs, and technical assistance. www. cuyahogaswcd.org

Realty Reality **Questions From The Readers**

by Maggie Fraley

"Why Buy instead of Rent?"

This question is frequently asked by young adults or those who have been long time renters, hesitant to enter the world of real estate investing. Yet there are solid reasons to own instead of rent, and this column will list some of the main ones using information from Realtor.org

1. Tax breaks. You can deduct the interest you pay on your mortgage and your property taxes, as well as some ownership interest in your home. In a way -- paying yourself!

4. Savings. Building equity in your home is a ready-made savings plan. And when you sell, you can generally take up to \$250,000 (\$500,000 for a married couple) as gain without owing any federal income tax. (Though check with your tax advisor for specifics!)

5. Predictability. Unlike rent, your fixed-mortgage payments don't rise over the years, so in some cases, depending on your loan, your housing costs may actually decline as you ow the home longer. But keep in mind that property taxes and insurance costs will increase.



of the costs involved in buying your home.

2. Appreciation. While year-to-year fluctuations are normal, median existing-home sale prices have increased on average 6.5 percent each year from 1972 through 2005, and increased 88.5 percent over the last 10 years, according to the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS. In addition, the number of U.S. households is expected to rise 15 percent over the next decade, which will create continued high demand for housing. So even though the current market, like the stock market, is volatile, real estate is still an excellent long-term investment.

3. Equity. Money paid for rent is money that you'll never see again, but mortgage payments let you build equity

6. Freedom. The home is yours! You can decorate any way you want and benefit from and enjoy your investment for as long as you own it.

7. Stability. Remaining in one neighborhood for several years gives you a chance to participate in community activities, lets you and your family make lasting friendships, and offers your children the benefit of educational continuity.

Online resources: To calculate whether buying is the best financial option for you, use the "Buy vs. Rent" calculator at www.GinnieMae. gov or the many calculators at www. bankrate.com

Real Estate

Think Spring, Think Maintenance

b y Andy Tabor, Realtor - GRI Prudential Lucien Realty

Spring is a season of renewal. Birds are singing and the flowers are beginning to burst into bloom. The days are getting longer and people are getting outdoors again. So not surprisingly, real estate activity begins to swing into high gear. The weather is more cooperative and families are looking to move during the summer break. If you are considering putting your home on the market, now's a good time to do some spring maintenance to make sure your home is in tip-top shape. Even if you aren't planning to sell your home, you should still add these chores to your list to help preserve your home's value and help avoid major repairs later on.

Walk around the outside and check for any damage caused by winter's cold weather. Look for those sagging or loose gutters, window frames or siding. Is your roof missing any shingles, or is there any water damage under the eaves? Promptly schedule repairs for those items you can't do yourself. Over the fall and winter, leaves, mud and debris may have accumulated in your gutters. Check your gutters for clogging and damage and schedule an appointment for cleaning. Walk around your yard as if you were a firsttime visitor. What impression does your home make? Be sure to clear away fallen branches and leaves. Loosen the soil around perennials, plan to plant annuals or a vegetable garden. Prune shrubs and trees. If your water supply has been off for the winter, turn it back on. Test your automatic sprinkler system or connect your water hose and check for cracks and leaks. Replace old washers or sprinkler heads. Don't forget the backyard!

Is it time to condition your deck? Be sure to hammer in any loose nails, or replace them with galvanized deck screws. Replace any broken boards or rails. Consider renting a power washer to clean dirt and mildew from the wood, and then apply an all-weather sealer or stain. Then dust off that patio furniture you kept protected over the winter. Repair any broken fence boards and paint or seal them as needed. Clean the pool if it has been covered all winter. Wash windows, screens and windowsills; repair any winter damage.

Then take a tour inside your home and start making a list of things to do in each room. Then dive in. Dust walls and ceilings to remove cobwebs and wash any grimy areas. Wash window curtains or remove drapes for dry cleaning. Deep clean rugs and carpets. Dust and polish wood or laminate floors. Clean fan blades using mild soapy water. Check the central air-conditioning unit for debris and obstructions; vacuum the main condenser coil on top of the unit. Check the operating condition of window air-conditioning units; remove and wash filters in mild soapy water. Make sure all exhaust fans and vents are clean and clear. Don't forget to remove the lint buildup from the clothes dryer vent. One often-overlooked area is the fireplace. Be sure to sweep ashes carefully into your fireplace's ash pit or into a dustpan. Clean and lightly oil fireplace tools. Remember it's springtime, so you may want to decorate the fireplace with a large silk flower arrangement. Look around for clutter. Are there items you don't use any longer? If you are planning on moving, what items won't you need? Consider having a garage sale and then either donate or trash the remaining items. And lastly, don't forget to replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. A good time to change them is when you change your clock for daylight savings.

Although performing these spring chores may be dreaded task, they go a long way in maintaining and even enhancing the attractiveness and quality your home.



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1039 Forest Cliff Dr. Value Range pricing \$500,000-549,876	Classic Brick Tudor on quiet cul-de-sac. 5 bdrm/3 full baths. 3 firs of living space. Lakefront value. Maggie Fraley REALTOR®, ABR 216.990.0522 www.MaggiesHomePage.info	Take a look at this home and you will want to move right in. Truly a turn key home. Spacious 4 bdrms, inlaid floors, great neigborhood. Call today! More photos 1509arthur.lucienreally.com Marjorie Corrigan 440-331-8500 ext 2072	1509 Arthur \$205,900
1649 Marlowe Ave. \$169,900	Great 3 bdrm. Colonial. For photo's & more info visit 1649marlowe@lucienrealty. com.(No www. needed) Contact Monica Woodman 216-496-8782	New on market! Large brick colonial with brand new kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, interesting & unique character. Call to be the first to see! Kathy Lewis, Realtor 216-226-4673 ext. 2060	12999 Clifton Blvd. \$149,000
1465 Mars Ave. \$148,000	Very spacious, updated colonial in a convenient location near library, shopping, downtown Lakewood. See photos at 1465mars. Jucienerally.com. Kathy Lewis, Realtor 216-226-4673 ext. 2060	Value range Marketing! Seller will consider offers between \$130,000 and \$144,876. Clean and well maintained home. Nat woodwork. Great sized lot nicely landscaped. Call today! More photos 2050lincoln.lucienrealty.com Marjorie Corrigan 440-331-8500 ext 2072	2050 Lincoln \$130,000 -144,876
i3227 Hazelwood \$117,500	This cozy home offers 4 bedrooms and 2 full baths with one of each on the FIRST FLOOR. Perfect for a live in parent or sibling. Updated mechanicals and a large eat in kitchen add to this value pricing. Sunny Updegrove 216-401-3353	Enjoy the Lake Erie view from this beautifully decorated 1BR condo at the Lake House. Amenities include 24-hr front desk attendant, restaurant, sundeck, outdoor heated pool, and exercise room. Great price! 11850edgewaler408.prule.com. Valerie Mechenbier 216-226-4673	11850 Edgewater Dr. #408 \$53,500
I1811 Lake Ave -The Envoy \$49,999	Freshly painted and carpeted, this lovely 2bdrm condo has great contemporary designer touches. Lake views from the balcony add to the ambiance of this value priced unit in a neighborhood of restaurants/ walking/Edgewater Park. Sunny Updegrove 216-401-3353	NOW is a great time for investors! Rehab 2 family with great cash flow potential!! For more info on this and other investment properties Call Andy Tabor 216-235-5352	2186 W. 44th \$24,900

(According to Multiple Listing Service) by Andy Tabor,, Realtor, GRI-Prudential Lucien

February	2007	2008
Multi-Family (2-4 units) Closed	11	11
Multi-Family Pending		
(Under Contract)	13	16
Interesting Real Estate Information		
Lakewood Multi-Family Homes		(2-4 units)
Currently for Sale in Multiple Listing:	151	
Contingent in Multiple Listing :		1



 Image: Contract of the provided pro



Classifieds/Advertisements



AUGUST.

Park in July and

Bands interested in auditioning must return an application to Vance Music Studios (16420 Madison Ave) no later than Monday, May 5, 2008 ilable at os or found online at

Public*:\$2.00

cover costs associated with **BAND**2**GETHER** programming.

2008 BAND2GETHER APPLICATION

(see reverse side for OFFICIAL RULES)

LCPI-Main Street Lakewood pARTy announces BAND2GETHER, a Friday night summer concert series. BAND2GETHER will feature Lakewood based middle- and high school-age bands performing music on Friday evenings during the months of July and August in Sinagra Park. Youth bands who are interested in participating must solve in they see application to Vance Music Studios no later than Monday, May 5th. Auditions will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2008 at the Hi-Fi Club. The cost to audition will be \$10. The judges will select fourteen bands who will perform at least one 45 minute set during one of the Fridays this Summer.

Applicants must read the rules (see reverse) and agree to the terms of the event

Name of Band:					B	and Co	ntact:							
Mailing Address:					Cont	act Nur	nber:	()		-		
Band Members:														
Song to be Performed for Audition:						Music G	enre:							
The BAND 2 GETHER Concert Series runs every Friday from 6pm – 8pm, from July 4 to August 29, 2008. Please circle the dates that your band would be available to play during the summer if selected (keep in mind that being flexible might help your chances of being selected).														
JULY: 7/4 -	7/11 -	7/18 -	7/25	AUG	UST:	8/1 -	8/8 -	8/1	5 - 1	8/22	- 8	/29		
I certify that all band members have read and agree to abide by the rules of the contest (see reverse). I certify that each of the band members listed above has parental permission to perform at BAND/GETHER and other related activities including allowing the broadcast and dissemination of their image, voice, identification, performances (including original music content) and any other promotional materials.														
Parent Sponsor: (Print name) First Name			Last Name	Sig	Inature)							/ Nonth/	/ 'Day/`	Year)
Address:														
(Street)					(City)								(Zip C	Code)
Phone Number: ()	-					Design	by: w	vw.jenng	uladesig	jn.com			



BAND2GETHER OFFICIAL RULES

The contest is open to bands in which the majority of members are currently attending middle school or high school. No members of the band can be older than 21 years of age as of July, 2008, unless approved by the **BAND**2**GETHER** committee.

Qualifications will be verified prior to acceptance

LAKEWOOD

- 2. All applications must be submitted to Vance Music Studios (16420 Madison) by May, 5 2008
- 3. Finalists will be chosen by the judges and will be notified via phone by June 1, 2008
- 4. Finalists must be available to perform on the date and time given and to be video taped for broadcast on a public access channel and in promotional video:
- 5. Finalist performances will be approximately 45 minutes in length.
- 6. A professional sound system and engineer will be provided. Bands may bring their own sound engineer OR may use the sound engineer provided. Each finalist band must provide their own instruments for the performance except that a 5 piece drum kit will be provided and drummers should bring their own throne, snore, cymbals, hi-hat, and kick pedal. The use of a single house drum kit for all bands will allow for faster set changes and a smoother show.
- 7. All decisions of the judges are FINAL
- 8. Lyrics must be suitable for all audiences (no obscenities, profanity, violence etc.)
- 9. By participating, each entrant consents to allow the use of his/her name and/or photographs for advertising this or similar otions without further compensation
- 10. Participants release LCPI and affiliated companies and sponsors from any responsibility or liability in connection with any injuries, losses, or damages of any kind caused by or resulting from the performance at BAND2GETHER or from acceptance or usage of any prize awarded herender. BAND2GETHER is a program of LCPI-Mainstreet, a 501 (c) (3), non-profit organization dedicated to the revitalization of Lakewood's historic downtown district.

For more info visit: www.mainstreetlakewood.org • www.lakewoodisart.com • www.vancemusicstudios.com Design by: www.jenngulade