

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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

Volume 4, Issue 8, April 15, 2008

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## 7th Annual Lakewood Hospital Ambulance Chase- Don't Miss It!

by Kris Griesmar

Lakewood Hospital Foundation is pleased to announce the 7th Annual Ambulance Chase 5K Race/Walk & 1.5 Mile Walk that not only raises funds for Lakewood Hospital, but also promotes health and fitness, as well as provides a sense of community for the more than 800 participants.

The Ambulance Chase, presented by Donald Martens & Sons, will be held Sunday, May 4, 2008. Both the race and walk will begin and end at Lakewood Park, with the schedule as follows: 7:30 AM - Registration 8:30 AM – 1.5 Mile Walk 9:00 AM - 5K Race/Walk The registration fee is \$17 before April 25 and \$20 thereafter and on race day, with registration for teams of 10 or more being \$14 per team member.

Various sponsorship opportunities

are available. All pre-registered participants will receive a commemorative long-sleeve T-shirt, goody bag and post race refreshments. T-shirts will be available for those registering the day of the race based on availability. Strollers and wagons are welcome in the 1.5 mile walk.

Since its inception in 2002, the Ambulance Chase has raised more than \$175,000 for Lakewood Hospital. Funds raised are distributed through a grant process to benefit a variety of programs and services provided by the Hospital. Awards are carefully selected to ensure the program/service funded will enhance the quality of health care provided and also fulfill the Hospital's vision of being the best place to receive care.

Founded in 1956, the mission of the Lakewood Hospital Foundation is to establish and maintain relationships that generate philanthropic



Runners take their mark!

support to enhance Lakewood Hospital's ability, as a community hospital, to fulfill its mission.

Lakewood Hospital, a Cleveland Clinic hospital, is a 400-bed acute care, community-oriented hospital. It offers

a wide range of health services and education programs. For more information about the Ambulance Chase or Lakewood Hospital Foundation, call 216-529-7009 or visit [www.lakewood-hospital.org/foundation](http://www.lakewood-hospital.org/foundation).

## Balancing Act: The City Of Lakewood's 2008 Budget

by Suzanne Metelko

It was an uncommonly quiet Lakewood City Council meeting on Monday, March 31. In fifty minutes and with very little discussion, Council completed the process of approving the 2008 budget. Lakewood City Council President Michael Dever summarized the process that was used to develop the 2008 budget. Considered were recommendations by the Grow Lakewood Task Force, the development of a fiscal strength strategy, a core service survey of 470 city services and functions, and a municipal peer staffing comparison that compares the City of Lakewood's staffing levels with five regional peers. In addition, the City of Lakewood Budget projections were examined and confirmed by the State Auditor's office. The results of a performance audit released in a report on March 27, 2008 were also considered.

Cost reductions, staffing level attrition, consolidation of services, position layoffs, reduction of benefits for non union employees, and operating and maintenance cuts were recommended strategies for budget reduction. Dever stated that the Council and the administration, with the help of the Municipal Court were able to reallocate \$400,000 until further analysis can be performed under the reduction of core service. Dever further explained that the administration had been meeting

with the seven collective bargaining units since February, representing over 90% of the city's employees, to discuss concessions on wage freezes and healthcare reductions. No agreements have been reached.

"The 2008 budget appropriation reflects values of teamwork, communication and cooperation between the city, staff, the court, the city council and the residents of Lakewood to continue to invest in long term growth, viability, and a quality of life that enhances this vibrant community that is the City of Lakewood," said Dever.

Councilperson Butler thanked the Grow Lakewood Task Force for their leadership and help with the 2008 budget. Councilperson Antonio complimented the city employees for their help in the process. Councilperson Powers focused on the positive aspects of the process including the more visible police presence and the anticipated economic development. "You can't cut your way out of a hole, you have to grow your way out. We have to look to the future with hope," said Powers.

Mayor Edward Fitzgerald spoke quietly about the serious nature of this year's budget and with hope and optimism about the participants and process that developed the 2008 budget. "In November 2007 we had a confluence of very negative trends hitting the city all at one time.....we had the worst budget deficit that the city

has faced since the great depression, we had the worst housing crisis since the great depression, and we had in my opinion the worst public safety situation that the city has faced in its history. We had 90 days from the inception of this administration to try to right our financial ship."

Fitzgerald went on to say the city was dangerously close to a state take-over. The typical reaction of mayors and councils is to be "all things to all people - that's how we got here. It's always popular to add services, never popular to reduce services. I think we have handled it well under the circumstances".

As Fitzgerald explained, the first step was to define the seriousness of the financial crisis, next was an open and impartial accounting confirming the deficit and last was a transparent and open process that included opening the city's books to anyone or any organization including the state auditor's office, the bargaining units and the city council for examination and any recommendations. Additionally, Fitzgerald was determined to reestablish a relationship between the administration and council based on cooperation and trust. "I believe through this process we have. The administration accepts the role of council and respects their role of oversight. The challenge of the administration was not to cut a budget but instead to balance the budget.....

This is the first budget in many years that doesn't spend more money than it takes in. We haven't had that situation in Lakewood, truly since 2002..... It doesn't take advantage of any one time income. This is a true reflection of income and expenditure. It is a balanced operation, as of this budget."

Fitzgerald went on to say that he felt an additional challenge was determining whether the city could do this while making additional investments in things that could not wait. "We

**continued on page 5...**

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## Events & Notices

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

### WEB S.W.A.T. 5K RUN:

## Charity Run To Benefit Concerns Of Police Survivors

Sunday May 18th, 2008 is the 2nd Annual WEB S.W.A.T. 5K Run and 1 mile family Walk/Run. This race is being coordinated by members of the West-shore Enforcement Bureau S.W.A.T. Team, on behalf of the Ohio chapter of the national organization Concerns of Police Survivors or C.O.P.S.

Ohio C.O.P.S. assists the surviving families of officer's killed in the line of duty with peer support to help rebuild their shattered lives. Ohio C.O.P.S.

holds an annual picnic, Blue Light Memorial Dinner, and assists surviving families during National Police Week. Further, Ohio C.O.P.S. also provides travel assistance to the National COPS hands on programs such as C.O.P.S. Kids Camp, Outward Bound Adventure, and the various retreats.

The 5K race will take place at the Westlake Holiday Inn located at the Crocker Road exit on I-90. This year's run welcomes the addition of a 1 mile

Fun Walk/Run for kids and families. Runners are directed out on the smooth course by a motorcade of police motorcycles. Police and S.W.A.T. vehicles will be on display in the parking lot after the race for all to enjoy.

The run coincides with the final day of Police Officers Memorial Week. Last year's run raised \$4,500 for Ohio C.O.P.S. This year, race organizers hope to have 200 plus runners with the goal of raising \$6,000.

This run is open to the public and will have trophies for the top three male and female finishers of each age group. A separate Law Enforcement category will have a trophy for the top Law Officer Finisher, which will be both age and gender indifferent.

The race will be at 9:15 AM with registration opening at 7:30 AM. The 1 mile Fun Walk/Run will be held at 8:50 AM. Race day registration will be in the parking lot of the Holiday Inn. Pre-register today to ensure proper T-shirt size. Pre-registration is available by contacting Hermes Sports and Events at (216) 623-9933 or by visiting the Hermes website at [www.hermescleveland.com](http://www.hermescleveland.com) The law enforcement officers of the West-shore cities of Bay Village, Fairview Park, Lakewood, North Olmsted, Rocky River and Westlake have great respect for the cities that they protect, and hope that you will join us for this charity run.

[www.webswat.org](http://www.webswat.org)  
[www.ohiocops.com](http://www.ohiocops.com)

## Register Now For H2O Summer Service Camp

by Celia Dorsch

April is the month for Lakewood residents entering grades 6-9 next fall to register for H2O "Help to Others" Summer Service Camp. Registration forms are available at both Lakewood Pub-

lic Libraries and Lakewood Division of Youth. Interested families can also access more information or download forms on the Division of Youth webpage at the City's website: [www.onelakewood.com](http://www.onelakewood.com). H2O Summer Service Camp is operated by the City of Lakewood, Dept. of

Human Services, Division of Youth.

During H2O camp, middle school students are divided into small groups of 5-6 middle school students per group, each headed by a camp counselor. After attendance is taken at 10 am, the groups diverge and spend the morning performing activities at various service sites. Students walk or are transported to daily sites by city vans if necessary.

Types of service sites include: visiting daycare and senior centers and nursing homes, sorting food at The Cleveland Foodbank, assisting families of ill children staying at Ronald McDonald House, gardening for disabled senior citizens, preparing for H2O's annual "Clothes 4 Kids" back-to-school clothing sale, and recycling used school supplies.

There are four different sessions of H2O Camp. Dates for each session are listed on the registration form. There is a \$60.00 fee for campers to attend a two-week session. Due to the popularity of this program, registrations will be processed through a random lottery. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 2nd to be entered in the lottery.

## USO Day To Support Our Troops!

by Celia Dorsch

Members of Lakewood High School Student Council and H2O, "Help to Others", youth volunteer program are joining forces to sponsor a collection of personal items and non-perishable food/snacks for U.S. troops overseas. Lakewood High students hope the entire community will join in their "Support Our Troops" campaign.

Representatives from the USO and LHS students will be conveniently stationed in front of the Civic Auditorium at Lakewood High School on Friday, April 25 from 7:30 am - 4:00 pm. Residents will be able to drive through and drop off donations without leaving their cars. Members of the USO will use

donated items to prepare care packages that will be sent to troops overseas.

Items most needed include: Personal Items - men's deodorant, mouthwash (travel size), dental floss, lip balm, shaving cream (travel size), eye drops, ear drops, sunscreen, bug spray (Off, Deep Woods towelettes). Food/Snack items: tuna, vienna sausages, and sardines etc. (small cans), dry powder drink mixes (small or individual), peanut butter, jelly (no glass), any type of small canned goods, tea bags (all varieties), fruit snacks (roll ups, raisins, dried fruit), peanuts, trail mix, bags of hard candy, Slim Jims and beef jerky. For more information contact - Kim Bindel - LHS Student Activities -529-4454.

## Vintage Views: A Retro Revitalization Saturday, April 19th

by Maria Parke

JWCL has acquired vintage wooden windows from turn-of-the-century lakewood homes. These windows, which once enhanced the community, have been carefully transformed by local artists, into works of art. They will be auctioned at the event.

Help raise money for Lakewood Christian Service Center, H2O, North-coast Health Ministry and Matthew's Lending Library at a very exciting and entertaining event in the old firehouse on Hopkins on Saturday, April 19th! Junior Women's Club hopes to raise thousands for these local charities and have a great time doing it! We hope

you can join us!

The auction begins at 8:30 pm with heavy hors d'oeuvres, dessert, and a donation bar. Tickets are \$15. Contact Valerie Mechenbier at 216.521.3463. Tickets are limited. The event will be held at Rockport Square Sales Office (the refurbished fire station), 1422 Hopkins, Lakewood.

## Become An Observer!

The Lakewood Observer is looking for energetic, community conscious individuals of all ages who are interested in supporting the volunteer creation of news, views, opinions, human interest and other contributions which illuminate the many facets of culture, arts, business, education, religion, and lifestyle this diverse city has to offer.

Those interested in contributing through writing, editing or photography should contact Dan Slife, [city.editor@lakewoodobserver.com](mailto:city.editor@lakewoodobserver.com) or 216.316.2628



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Your Independent Source for  
Lakewood News & Opinion

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# Lakewood City Council

## Lakewood City Council - 4/7/08

by Suzanne Metelko

It was a small public turnout for tonight's Lakewood City Council meeting. Council President Michael Dever called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. Clerk of Council Mary Hagan called the role. All members of council were in attendance as well as Mayor Ed Fitzgerald and all department directors. The docket for the evening was 65 pages with 36 agenda items.

Finance Chairperson Michael

Summers presented the Finance Committee report. He gave a concise explanation of the action recommended with respect to a total of \$3.5 million in debt due to mature on April 17, 2008. In 2005 this was to be a short term commitment for technology and vehicles. No provisions were made for the retirement of this debt. However, a plan will be developed and incorporated into the current financial strategy. Summers explained that the terms of the debt allow for at least two more rollovers but must begin retiring by 2010. It will

most certainly mean that "the city will be retiring the debt when the items are past their useful life".

Councilperson Bullock asked if this was an additional burden on the general fund. Finance Director Pae answered that "this is capital money and unrelated to the general fund." She went on to explain that currently "we don't have the capacity to pay a principle and interest payment for 3 - 5 years."

Councilperson Summers summarized the problem, "it's like a home equity

loan that we haven't begun to pay back."

There was a limited discussion regarding the remainder of the agenda items. Several liquor license permits were filed with no objections. Mayor Fitzgerald presented a resolution in support of Building Ohio Jobs, a \$1.7 billion jobs package that creates over 80,000 jobs in Ohio.

Planning and Development Director Nate Kelly submitted a communication requesting council's approval to renew Lakewood's participation in the Cuyahoga County Housing Consortium, an entity created to access federal HOME funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Councilperson Butler asked about program oversight and was assured by Director Kelly that the program has just been audited. Councilperson Bullock requested a copy of the audit to council. Councilperson Butler raised the issue of program effectiveness wondering about the appropriateness of income level versus home value and maintenance needs. Director Kelly explained that the program income levels are not discretionary. "Low to mod income levels are designations from the federal government." Additionally, Director Kelly asked council to approve his request to access administrative funds for reimbursement from the FY2008 amended contract for the HOME award.

Acting Public Works Director Strong submitted a resolution to enter into an agreement with the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District to accept a recycling grant.

A final agenda item concerned a liquor application for Donato's Pizza. Action on this item was deferred.

The final business of the evening was a comment by Lakewood Resident Edward McCartney who came to the microphone to compliment council for making "candid admissions".

Lakewood City Council adjourned its meeting at 8:27 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of Lakewood City Council is Monday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council auditorium at Lakewood City Hall.

### Message From Council:

## Out With The Old And In With The New

by Mike Flynn

My impression of Thursday night's Lakewood City Council meeting was that Lakewood needs to buckle down in the face of bankruptcy, strengthen an atmosphere for bringing new young families into the city, and to do this, we need to throw out the elderly and encourage them to die off more quickly so we can utilize their much needed space.

The Auditorium of Lakewood City Hall was filled Thursday night, the 27th of March 2008, and most of those present were senior citizens. According to Council President Michael Dever, this was nearly the final meeting, while there were a dozen previous, regarding the city budget. Many cuts were made previously, and now the ax is about to fall on the Office on Aging and the Refuse Department.

Dever was incredibly rude to both the senior population present and to a woman who begged the council to listen to the seniors' concerns. Dever treated her with disrespect upon this request, and in effect, he was asking her to sit down and shut up. He said that this was nearly the last meeting when a dozen had come before it over the last few months and that only one other meeting had an audience. This was apparently too late a time for the seniors to show their concerns. My silent question was why had no one told the seniors they were going to be

thrown out into the cold sooner? How can the council criticize these people when they never told any of the seniors that their fate was to be decided in this manner? His behavior was appalling and the seniors all deserve a formal apology from him.

It was not exactly easy to find out about what was going on at these meetings. If cuts are to be made in the city, whether it is with refuse or with senior services or anything else, the public should be made more aware. On the city's website, I found the minutes cumbersome to read and difficult to follow, and the most recent meetings were not posted. Imagine how much worse that small investigation would be for a senior citizen. The seniors present were lucky they found out about all of this as soon as they did, which now seems to be too late.

When the seniors finally did have a chance to talk, many of their comments seemed to be given a consoling nod of acceptance while secretly being disregarded. The seniors did not miss a beat. A woman in the audience asked if there was really any point to their being at the meeting since none of their concerns were really being considered. The council again said that there had been a dozen prior budget meetings and this was the second to last before deciding on this issue.

It was mentioned by the council that cuts were also coming from the Refuse Department, which serves the nearly 29,000 households of Lakewood.

One senior woman said that she already takes her cans, glass, plastic, paper, and yard waste to the tree lawn, and she can certainly handle taking one more can of garbage to the front. A man who works for the Refuse Department said that if the city gets rid of backyard pickup, the streets will be a mess. The Mayor commented that Lakewood has always had the best senior care and it still will, just to a lesser degree. I question why other communities that have to take their garbage to the street don't seem to have a mess on their hands.

It was mentioned from the audience that Lakewood has always been the gold standard with regard to senior care and that we shouldn't be compared to other communities because the rest pale with respect to what we do for our seniors. We care for our seniors not because we have to, but because we love them and they are our future selves. I am sure it is not really an issue of backyard pickup versus senior care, and I am sure that even if we cut out backyard pickup, it would not be enough to save our Office on Aging. But once these cuts go through, I cannot see how they would ever be recovered, and I see this as just the first step in a future full-elimination.

Maybe our council should stop taking so much time to congratulate themselves on making such hard decisions and instead work on the harder task of saving our respect and care for those who should be the most prized citizens we have.



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## CORRECTION

**The 2008 Budget Hearings: A Review and Conclusion**  
by Steve Hoffert Volume 4, Issue 7, April 1, 2008  
Dan Slife, Editor In Chief

Steve Hoffert's article "The 2008 Budget Hearings: A Review and Conclusion", which was published in the April 1st issue of the LO, contains the following editorial mistake which was made by your's truly.

In an email message sent on April 1st, Hoffert notes that when I added the phrase "on behalf of council" concerning "Summers' request for restoration of \$400,000 to refuse, that is wrong. He had communicated with council prior to the meeting that "he

wanted this and "he" was opening this for debate to the whole body of council. Councilmen are prohibited from discussing issues outside of an official meeting. This was an individual decision. Council didn't ask for this. He should get the credit for this decision just as Dever should get the credit for the amendment."

I apologize to the author, Steve Hoffert, councilman Summers and our readership for this mistake and any resultant confusion.

# Lakewood City News

## Making More Cents In Lakewood

by Paul Beegan

On Wednesday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Harrison Elementary School LakewoodAlive will be presenting the second of a two part forum series entitled *Making "Cents" of Lakewood's Finances*. A panel of Lakewood city officials will present the 2008 Budget for the City of Lakewood. The presentation will include brief review of city finance challenges, the methodology for creating the current city budget, and an understanding of the goals for investing in Lakewood's future.

"This is the first structurally balanced budget passed by Lakewood City Council in over 15 years," noted Jay Foran, president of LakewoodAlive. "We're happy to present Lakewood residents with the opportunity to learn more about the city's financial situation and the budget choices that were made."

The speakers participating in the April 16th forum include Lakewood Mayor Edward FitzGerald; Jennifer Pae, Finance Director, City of Lakewood; Mike Dever, President of Lakewood City Council; and Mike Summers, Lakewood City Council and Leader of the Structural Taskforce Citizens Committee.

Joe Gibbons, a LakewoodAlive founding member, will moderate the forum. The event is free and open to the public. Advanced registration is not required. Harrison Elementary is located at 2080 Quail Avenue in Lakewood.

LakewoodAlive is a non-partisan citizen group that informs and engages our community about issues that impact economic development and our quality of life. LakewoodAlive seeks to provide the residents of Cleveland's greatest

suburb with opportunities to learn how to better navigate the complex issues associated with economic development. For more information about the forum series or about LakewoodAlive please visit [www.lakewoodalive.com](http://www.lakewoodalive.com).

## Lakewoodite Debbie Riddle Named One Of Five Most Treasured Volunteers

by Staff Writer

Lakewood resident Debbie Riddle was named one of five Most Treasured Volunteers of 2007 at the 66th annual Human Services Institute of the Center for Community Solutions. Debbie Riddle approached the Domestic Violence Center after her sister was stalked and murdered by her ex-boyfriend. After educating herself on stalking, the laws, and police protocol, Debbie became heavily involved in educating others and raising awareness as a national speaker for the Stalking Resource Center. She played a major role in bringing together city and suburban police chiefs, officers, prosecutors, magistrates, detectives, and

other professionals for the very first Cleveland Area Stalking Conference, which resulted in the Anti-Stalking Task Force operating in Cuyahoga County. In addition to all of this, Debbie volunteers her talents as a graphic designer to the DVC.

Anne M. Pombier, Board member of Community Solutions, presented the awards in front of an audience of

more than 1,000 Greater Clevelanders. She noted their example of leadership in selflessly helping others.

The MTV Awards were established in 1984 to honor the outstanding efforts of community volunteers. Nominations are solicited each year from health, social service, civic, and cultural organizations. The awards are supported by Medical Mutual.

## Zoe Lukens Presents Undergraduate Research At Beloit College

by Staff Writer

Lakewood, Ohio, resident Zoe Lukens, '09, the daughter of Thomas and Nancy Lukens of Lakewood, presented her research on "The Search for Nationalism: Success and Failure in Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire" at the 32nd Annual Beloit College Student Symposium on Thursday, April 10. She is an Anthropology major.

Symposium Day at Beloit College is an academic forum at which students publicly present their research to the College community. All classes are cancelled to allow students, faculty and staff to attend the presentations. Topics range from scientific studies to interpretations of literary works. Each

of the 100 students participating in the program prepare a half hour oral presentation or make poster presentations of original research conducted during the 2007-08 academic year. Symposium Day participants are honored at a closing reception.

Lukens' presentation evaluated the factors involved in the construction of the African states of Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire, including political leaders, the role of democracy, language politics, ethnic solidarity and ethnic conflict.

Beloit College is a residential, liberal arts college offering 40 majors to its 1,250 students. Located 90 miles northwest of Chicago, Beloit is one of the nation's most international colleges, drawing students from 41 nations as well as 49 states.

### Balancing Act continued from page 1...

didn't feel we could wait to address the crime problem, we didn't feel we could wait to address the foreclosure crisis in our community, and we didn't think it would be wise to put off investments in technology." He complimented City Council for not just passing a balanced budget but also for resisting pressure to do the bare minimum with no initiatives.

According to Fitzgerald, when the budget is fully implemented the City of Lakewood will "have more police on the streets of Lakewood than ever before in Lakewood history." The Mayor promised that there will be a few neighborhood police stations scattered throughout the city this year; the city will be obtaining foreclosed properties for the first time in Lakewood's history and the city will be investing in technology. He continued "there has been a lot of focus on cuts, but this budget cuts in pretty broad terms across every department." And while there will be cuts across the board, Fitzgerald contends that the city can still maintain a high level of service in all areas. "We will still provide more human services than any other suburb in Cuyahoga County."

The Fitzgerald administration will be laying out new initiatives in the next several months beginning with law enforcement, senior services and Detroit and Madison Avenue redevelopment initiatives.

Fitzgerald believes it is a mistake to define Lakewood's government by how much money it spends. "It's old fashioned thinking. We're going to be able to do things we've never done before by changing strategies and leveraging public and private capital."

Fitzgerald finished by reporting that employee negotiations had been productive. While there have been no agreements yet, he is impressed by their willingness to talk. Outsourcing is being explored and everything is on the table. "This budget is not a solution to all our problems, but it is a responsible step that we're going to be able to tell the people of Lakewood that they've had to make sacrifices in their personal households; we are now making sacrifices as well." Council President Dever called for the vote. The motion to approve the 2008 budget for \$36.7 million was unanimously approved.

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# Lakewood Public Library

## Lakewood Public Library Events Calendar

**Sunday with the Friends Meet Emily Dickinson:** Stephanie Vetrone plays Molly Greenleaf – who just happens to be the best friend of Miss Emily Dickinson. Celebrate the life of the shy poet with stories, songs and peerless poetry. Finally, meet Emily herself for a rare question and answer session. **Sunday, April 20 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

**The Waxwings Old-Time Stringband:** Twin sisters and two brothers pick, pluck and strum traditional American instruments, including fiddle, mandolin, guitar, bass, carpenter's saw, banjo and dancing board for a heaping helping of old-time country music. Sonorous, soaring voices in close harmony make them the Waxwings. **Sunday, April 27 at 2:00 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 II. Two 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**

**Five Star Films Night of the Hunter** (1995 – U.S.) Directed by Charles Laughton NR: Based on a true story that happened in 1935 West Virginia. The incomparable Lillian Gish, Robert Mitchum and exquisite cinematography make this noir masterpiece a movie going 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 advance. Choose the day and time most convenient for you...

**Upcoming Themes:**

April 18, 19, 20 Faraway Places  
 April 25, 26, 27 Skates, Wagons and Bikes

**Day and Time**

Friday 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.  
 Saturday 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.  
 Sunday 2:00 p.m.

**In the Madison Branch auditorium**

**Homework ER:** for students in kindergarten through eighth grade: 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 (movement, music and drama) | 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, 2008 At the Madison Branch**

For more information on library programming or upcoming events, please visit us at <http://www.lkwdpl.org/calendar/events>

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## Oh Look It's A New Born Observer



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AGS/Observer Board Member Lauren Rich Fine, speaks at the Future Heights Annual Meeting about the emergence of the Hyper Local Paper, and it's place in history. It was also the unveiling of their first issue of the Heights Observer.

# Lakewood Public Library

Foster Brown's Greatest Hits:

## Family Music And More At Lakewood Public Library

by Emmie Hutchison

Patrons of all ages of Lakewood Public Library have a truly special evening to anticipate on Saturday, April 26, 2008. Spring will be upon us, the renovation continues in its final phase of collection restoration and the Saturday Night Family Music and More Program will return from its long absence with a performance by one of Northeast Ohio's most celebrated and beloved family entertainers and a Parents' Choice Award recipient, Foster Brown. Anyone who has seen his unique live performance of original songs, characters, storytelling and multiple instruments including banjo, guitar, dulcimer, mandolin and fiddle will need no more enticement to head to the library for the show.

During a pleasant phone interview and conversation, Mr. Brown described his interests and elements of his background that led him to his ideal career. As a child, he was in plays, loved the outdoors, band and choir, but never dreamed of putting it all together. He studied biology and outdoor education in college to become a naturalist and to lead outdoor recreation programs and trips. When he was a bit older, he saw a performer who used music, characters, and acting and he began to combine these elements himself. He formed Nature Theatre the name under which he still publishes and promotes his live shows. He relocated to this area from Indiana when the Cleveland Metroparks conducted a nationwide search for a Naturalist/Historic Interpreter and in 1996 he was hired. He continues to research all aspects of the natural and cultural history of our area, developing an enormous range of performances and characters for all audience ages. Check out his repertoire at clemetparks.com under the Education/Ask the Naturalist tab – it's amazing!

While he was enthusiastic about discussing all aspects of his career and upcoming performance, it was when I asked him what he enjoyed about this area that he became most excited. Without hesitating, he listed off that this area was a crossroads of indus-

try and natural resources; oil, lakes, canals, sandstone, railroads, steel and ore. There is a sad environmental history but one filled with rich human stories of ingenuity. He enjoys the connections and diversity of people who have settled and lived here, of puzzling over why different ethnic groups converged in our region. As such, his songs educate and create awareness and appreciation for their surroundings, the natural world and the history that connects us all. More than any particular message he could convey, however, he wants his shows to inspire people to get outside and connect to a place of

nature and to adopt caring attitudes toward one another.

Foster Brown is a folk artist in the purest sense of the art form; he draws from many sources of inspiration, factual research, and legends. He expresses himself through a variety of performance media and instruments and actively seeks audience participation. Above all, he seeks to create happiness with his songs and a memorable experience for families. He also recognizes that audience members not only feel a connection to performers but some ownership with the songs and that it is special to get to sit down with an artist.

Some of his most memorable experiences are when kids approach him after a program and want to sing with him which he said "melts his heart."

Please join us to experience this gifted and inspiring entertainer for the return of Family Music and More on Saturday, April 26. The show will begin at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. Doors open fifteen minutes prior to the performance. Seating is limited so please plan to arrive at this time. More information about Foster Brown can be found on the Cleveland Metroparks website or on his own site, [FosterBrown.net](http://FosterBrown.net).

## O Brothers And Sisters, Where Art Thou?

by Martha Wood

Twin sisters and two brothers pick, pluck and strum traditional American instruments, including fiddle, mandolin, guitar, bass, carpenter's saw, banjo and dancing board for a heaping helping of old-time country music. Soaring voices in close harmony make them the Waxwings. On Sunday, April 27 at 2 p.m. come watch **The Waxwings Old-Time Stringband perform for Lakewood Public Library's "Sunday with the Friends" series at 2 p.m.** in the auditorium on the lower level.

The Waxwings are comprised of twin sisters Lisa and Laura Cyrocki, originally from Michigan, and brothers Pete and Nate McDonald. Lisa plays an old parlor-style guitar from the 1930s and her grandfather's old carpenter saw. Laura plays a 125-year-old banjo, and Pete plays fiddle, mandolin, guitar and harmonica. They all join in on vocals and produce close vocal harmonies. They play traditional old-time music and old-time inspired songs.

Old-time music developed in the Appalachian Mountains early in the 19th Century. It has its roots in folk ballads from the British Isles yet it has evolved into a truly American form of music. A typical old-time song has a lead fiddle playing melody accompanied by guitar and banjo.

Lisa and Laura began playing old-time music recently. The twins have

been singing together most of their lives. Laura says, "We think our range is mezzo-soprano, although we've never had any formal music training to help us understand our voices." Pete and Nate McDonald grew up with a life of music in a family of talented old-time musicians and they were exposed to traditional music at a young age. In addition to performing and recording original and old-time music, Pete McDonald is also involved in promoting traditional music. His CD, "Here and Gone," was released in 2005 at the Beachland Ballroom.

The Cedar Waxwing is a medium-sized songbird whose call includes a very high-pitched whistles and buzzy trills. According to Laura Cyrocki the band was hiking together one day and they took a liking to the bird. "We all have an affinity for a bird called the Cedar Waxwing. It is a stunning bird and native to this region," says Laura.

The Waxwings Old-Time Stringband is quite a diverse group. When they're not playing they teach, work in land conservation and practice law. Join them Sunday, April 27 at 2 p.m. at Lakewood Public Library. The program is free and open to the public.

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# Lakewood Hospital News

## A Gift From The Heart

by Anne Kuenzel

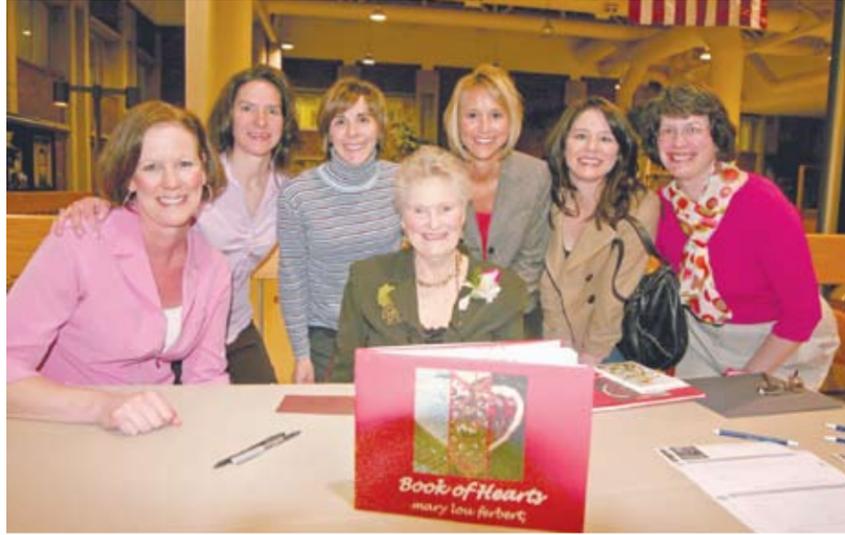
What's the connection between a passion for painting, love of family and a commitment to good health? Though to some these may seem an unlikely group of interests, their relationship becomes quite clear when you meet artist – and now author – Mary Lou Ferbert.

Over the past 40 years, Mary Lou has built her reputation as a well-known and loved local artist on Cleveland's west side. She embarked on her career by studying at the Cleveland Institute of Art for 10 years, where she was captivated by transparent watercolor painting. Through the years, Mary Lou has demonstrated enthusiasm for a variety of subjects – and a strong love of Cleveland – through her artwork. Her various collections include paintings of the city's Flats district, old-fashioned amusement parks, produce markets, greenhouses and urban botany to name a few.

"I'm very passionate about my subjects and enjoy finding things that people might not be bothered to look at," says Mary Lou. "Over time, the 'ordinary' has assumed greater significance in my paintings. And although I draw inspiration from many different areas, there is common ground among them.

"I feel that whether it's tucked away in obscure places or perhaps sitting right under our noses, value lives with each of us. Value begets beauty," she explains.

Her extraordinary use of transparent watercolor has gained Mary Lou recognition on a national level. Her artwork has been exhibited in the



Mary Lou Ferbert, center, surrounded by Lakewood Hospital Rehabilitation staff

collections of many companies and art museums around the country for decades. Today, Mary Lou is stretching her talents from artist to author, recently publishing some of her most private and beloved works in a new book entitled, "Book of Hearts."

Book of Hearts is a self-published collection of highly personal Valentines that Mary Lou painted during a period of twenty-five years as gifts for her family. The coffee-table style book includes 20 images, each accompanied by an essay Mary Lou wrote to describe their significance. Over time, the Valentines became a way for Mary Lou to record and pass along pieces of family history, honoring people and events that have a special place in her heart.

"Every year, my kids would look forward to receiving the new Valentine, which would bring back fond memories

of places we visited, times we shared or people we loved," says Mary Lou. "It was hard to let go of such personal pieces, but it felt right to do it now. Using the proceeds to help a cause dear to my husband and me made the decision easier."

The Ferberts consider Lakewood Hospital a treasured asset in the community. It is because of this that they are donating all proceeds from this printing of Book of Hearts to Lakewood Hospital Foundation for the benefit of the Rehabilitation Program at Lakewood Hospital.

Medicine has been an enduring presence throughout Mary Lou's life. In fact, before becoming a devoted mother and successful artist, Mary Lou studied to become a doctor at Duke University Medical School. Four generations of her family, the Mulligans, have practiced medicine, many of those years spent treating patients and interacting with the staff at Lakewood Hospital. Her husband, Fred, has also been affili-

ated with Lakewood Hospital for many years as a Foundation trustee.

More recently, Fred has spent a great deal of time during the last year or so as a patient at the hospital. "Our family has benefited from the skill, care and compassion provided to all the patients at this institution," notes Mary Lou. "Lakewood Hospital is a special place because it's so personal. The care is so great and loving there."

According to Mary Stilphen, director of Rehabilitation Services, the funds from Book of Hearts will be used to purchase new equipment that will keep the hospital's Rehabilitation Program on the cutting edge. "There's always something innovative on the horizon however the funding to acquire new equipment and technologies isn't always readily available," says Stilphen. "It will be so nice to have this fund to tap into when we see something that will improve our service to patients." And Mary Lou and Fred were happy to have the funds from the book donated specifically to the Rehabilitation Program because, according to Mary Lou, it fits with their life's philosophy.

"Our marriage has been absolutely without a health event until now, and I believe it's because we are both very committed to staying healthy. We've tried to instill that in our kids and our family," explains Mary Lou. "Helping people out of trouble, pushing them and keeping them well is what rehab is all about. It seemed to me that everything was right about doing this."

*Book of Hearts premiered April 3 with a book signing at the hospital and is available through Lakewood Hospital Foundation. To obtain a copy or get more information, visit [lakewoodhospital.org/bookofhearts](http://lakewoodhospital.org/bookofhearts) or call 216.529.7009.*



### Book of Hearts mary lou ferbert<sub>f</sub>

**A book about life, passion, and spirit, is a collection of personal Valentines Mary Lou Ferbert painted over a 20-year period.**

Mary Lou and Fred Ferbert will generously donate all proceeds from the sale of *Book of Hearts* to the Lakewood Hospital Rehabilitation Department

Order your copy today! \$40 (plus s/h)  
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[lakewoodhospital.org/bookofhearts](http://lakewoodhospital.org/bookofhearts)

## Eliza Jennings Senior Care Network Joins Area Health Care Providers to Benefit Lakewood Hospital : "Bowling with the Stars" Will Benefit Community's Underserved

by Linda Hart

Mark your calendars for Friday, April 18 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm at Put-in-Bay Lakewood Lanes in Lakewood. Eliza Jennings Senior Care Network will partner with ten other area health care providers to sponsor "Bowling with the Stars," a fundraiser to benefit Lakewood Hospital's Special Needs Fund administered by the hospital's case management department. With its distinctive nautical theme, Put-in-Bay Lakewood Lanes provides an intimate and unique atmosphere for this fun and lively event.

Individual bowlers are welcome. The \$10.00 entrance fee includes bowling, appetizers, one drink ticket and live musical entertainment by Neon Black, Cleveland's 80s and 90s "hair metal" cover band.

"Eliza Jennings Senior Care Network is proud to be a sponsor of this event and partner with health care providers who share our commitment to providing wellness care and services to

the underserved members of our community," said Jerry Gadd, Senior Care Consultant. "Participants have the opportunity to have some fun with the professionals who coordinate services for recipients while providing much needed support to ensure the continuation of these important programs."

Sponsoring teams will bowl with Lakewood Hospital's social workers and discharge planners, the "stars" of the fundraising event. Their goal is to raise over \$5,000 for Lakewood Hospital's Special Needs Fund. Other sponsors joining the Network include Harbor-side Healthcare, Harbinger Hospice, Infinity Home Health Services, O'Neill Management, The Oak Ridge Home, Rae Ann Skilled Nursing and The Belvedere, Rural Metro Ambulance, as well as Medical Service Company, Good Samaritan Nursing Home, Home Instead Senior Care, The Harbor Court and Rockport Retirement Community. For more information call Jerry Gadd at (216) 952-7666.

# Lakewood Arts & Entertainment

## Beck Center For The Arts Youth Theater Presents The Wizard Of Oz: April 18-27, 2008

by Fran Storch

Beck Center for the Arts Youth Theater presents *The Wizard of Oz* (An adaptation of the film by John Kane of the Royal Shakespeare Company), a musical fantasy on the Mackey Main Stage, April 18 through 27. Directed by Douglas Collier, this adaptation is based on the classic motion picture starring Judy Garland. Audiences, young and old, will be swept "over the rainbow" as they follow their favorite characters – Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Cowardly Lion, and Toto too, on their journey along the yellow brick road. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. There will be a special matinee performance at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 24. For tickets, call the Beck Center Box Office at 216-521-2540. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free on-site parking is available.

*The Wizard of Oz* features a cast of 75 talented students from the Beck Center Education Program. "Having the opportunity to be a part of this process is something I never thought possible," commented Collier "Not only am I able to work with over 70 very talented young actors, I am also helping them bring one of my favorite stories to the stage." Collier has appeared on the Beck Center stage in numerous professional theater productions, most recently as Cogsworth the Clock in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, and has worked behind stage as Musical Director for several productions. He also teaches Theater Education classes at Beck Center but this is his debut directing a Youth Theater production. "I am so excited about this production that even if I had no part in it, I would still have to come and see the show. These kids are that good."

*The Wizard of Oz* features music and lyrics by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg, background music by Herbert Stothart, dance and vocal arrangements by Peter Howard, and

orchestrations by Larry Wilcox. This production is based upon the motion picture owned by Turner Entertainment Co. and distributed in all media by Warner Bros. Musical direction for *The Wizard of Oz* is by Larry Goodpaster, who recently musically directed *Beauty and the Beast* at Beck Center with choreography by Devon Shriver.

Tickets for *The Wizard of Oz* are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children (12 and under). Discounts are available for groups of 13 or more. To reserve tickets, call the Beck Center Box Office at 216-521-2540.

*The Wizard of Oz* is sponsored by Cox Communications, Music Is Elementary, and the Ohio Arts Council. Programming at the Beck Center is made possible through the generous support of The Cleveland Foundation, The George Gund Foundation,



The John P. Murphy Foundation, The Kulas Foundation, The Eva L. & Joseph M. Bruening Foundation, The Abington Foundation, and the Thomas H. White Foundation. The Beck Center also gratefully acknowledges the citizens of Cuyahoga County for their support through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

### About the Beck Center

Beck Center for the Arts is a comprehensive arts organization which offers professional theater productions on two stages, arts education classes in dance, music, theater, and visual arts, and art exhibits featuring local and regional artists. For more information go to [www.beckcenter.org](http://www.beckcenter.org).

## Vintage Fashion Show And Lunch, May 3rd

by Jane Hitchins

The third annual Genesis Spring luncheon at Lakewood Congregational Church will be held on Saturday, May 3rd at 12 noon. This year, we invite you to enjoy a savory lunch and to stroll down memory lane with a fashion show presented by Viva Vintage Fashion Shows.

Viva is a non-profit organization that supports a number of local charities such as the MRDD daycare program at Goodwill Industries in Cleveland and the ARCA Halfway House for women leaving prison. The fashions in the show will include clothing from the 1880's through to the 1980's. There will be Victorian bustle dresses, Walking Suits, Edwardian silk dinner gowns and white lawn tea dresses, woolen bathing suits, beaded chiffon flapper dresses from the 20's, bias cut silks from the 30's, poodle skirts from the 50's and much, much more.

For this walk through fashion history, the models will circulate throughout the room giving the guests the opportunity to see these clothes up close. Commentary and era appropriate music will accompany the models.

A delicious lunch will be served and there will be gift baskets for a silent auction. Proceeds from the event, in addition to supporting the Viva charities, will be used to further the mission of Lakewood Congregational Church. Some of the projects Genesis Circle has financially supported include the church's Youth Mission trip, landscaping projects, painting and refurbishing the building, for the Interfaith Hospitality Network and

providing scholarship assistance for children attending Haynes Nursery School.

Tickets for the tea are \$20 per person and can be purchased through the church office located at 1375 West Clifton Boulevard at the corner of Detroit in Lakewood. The phone number is 216-221-9555. Our guests at the last two luncheons had a delightful afternoon of food and fellowship and this year's promises to be even better. Tickets are selling fast so call soon!

That they all may be one, even as You, 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**  
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| <p><b>April 6 - Jubilee Gathering</b><br/>                 9am-Bagel Breakfast 10am-Gathering</p> <p><b>April 13, 20, &amp; 27 - Gospel Meetings</b><br/>                 11am ~ Followed by Lunch Afterwards!</p> <p><b>April 26 - Christian Songfest</b><br/>                 7pm to 8pm ~Refreshments Afterwards!</p> <p>~ Who Are We? ~<br/>                 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!"</p> | <p><b>April 11 - Ice Skating at Winterhurst</b><br/>                 ~ 5:45-7:45pm ~ Lakewood <br/>                 ~ Free admission ~ \$1 Skates</p> <p><b>April 12 - Dairy Queen On Us!</b><br/>                 FREE Kids Cone or Sundae with any purchase and this Ad. <br/>                 ~ Warren Village Location only~</p> <p><b>April 25 - CANCELLED</b><br/>                 DUE TO SCHEDULE CONFLICT </p> |
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## Lakewood Cares

# First Federal Of Lakewood And Cleveland Foodbank Partner For Fourth Consecutive Year

by Christina Capadona

First Federal of Lakewood donated \$3,800 to the Cleveland Foodbank and \$200 to Community Resource Services in Lorain County, as a result of its annual branch-wide checking account promotion. First Federal donated \$5 for each checking account opened Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2007. First Federal presented the donation to the Cleveland Foodbank, March 6, 2008, at the Savings & Loan's Lakewood headquarters.

"This is the fourth consecutive year that we have partnered with the Cleveland Foodbank for this promotion, and we look forward to it each year," said Gary Fix, First Federal of Lakewood president, CEO and managing officer. "The mission of the Foodbank aligns with our mission to support community programs that truly make a direct difference in the lives of residents in Northeast, Ohio."

The Cleveland Foodbank's mission is to alleviate hunger by providing food and support to agencies that feed the hungry in Northeast Ohio. The Foodbank solicits, collects, sorts, and distributes nonperishable food, fresh produce, perishable and frozen food, and prepared meals to local hunger centers and other nonprofit agencies. Visit [www.clevelandfoodbank.org](http://www.clevelandfoodbank.org) for additional information.

First Federal of Lakewood, with 12 full-service branch locations in Northeast Ohio and First Federal Lending offices in Columbus and Solon, Ohio, has total assets exceeding \$1 billion. Founded in 1935, First Federal of Lakewood is a community savings and loan institution with a deep-rooted tradition of financial strength, stability and integrity. Visit [www.FFL.net](http://www.FFL.net) for additional information.



Gary Fix, First Federal of Lakewood president, CEO and managing officer, presents donation to Julie Simmonds, Cleveland Foodbank associate director of development and Lakewood resident

## Ursula Randolph Selected As Barton Center's Volunteer Of The Year

by Curt Brosky

Ursula Randolph was voted by Barton Center members as the 2008 Barton Center 'Sweetheart', or Volunteer of the Year. She was honored at a dinner held recently to recognize her 19 years of volunteer service at Bar-

ton Community Center. This was the 34th annual ceremony held to recognize Barton Center volunteers and was attended by more than 100 members, including 12 previous award winners.

Ursula was born in Berlin, Germany and survived the Russian onslaught at the end of World War

II. While working for the American occupation troops, she met her future husband and he brought her back to his Cleveland home. Ursula then worked for the City of Cleveland in the computer department for 27 years. After retirement, she lived in Florida for ten years, but returned to be closer to friends. In 1989, she moved to the Westerly Apartments, due to the convenient location and wide range of activities. Once in the Westerly, Ursula immediately joined Barton Center to keep active and make new friends. Her first volunteer position was as Transportation Greeter, arranging rides for members throughout Lakewood in the Barton Center car. While continuing to assist with this position ever since, she has also volunteered in many other areas in the Center: Corner Store, Food Service cashier, Hostess, Greeting Card coordinator, Crochet, Raffle Ticket seller and Gift coordinator. She says the job she enjoys the most is working in the Office where, for 13 years, she has served as bookkeeper and receptionist. On the nomination ballots, many of her peers commented on Ursula's cheerfulness, professionalism and her dedication to Barton Center. Ursula stated that "Barton Center keeps me young. We have fun all of the time." She also stated that she is "humbled to join the distinctive list of volunteers who have been honored with this award" annually since 1974. Ursula does not intend to rest on her laurels, but plans



Ursula Randolph, 2008 Barton Center Sweetheart

to remain an active Barton Center participant and volunteer in the future.

Ursula invites everyone to visit the Barton Center with its various shops, including: Hodge Podge furniture and resale shop, Greenhouse, Ceramic Shop, Corner Store and Book Nook. Membership in the Barton Center is available to anyone age 55 or over for \$15 per year. To find out more about Ohio's oldest senior center or to volunteer, call the Barton Center office at 216-221-3400. Barton Center is located on the Ground Floor of the Westerly Apartments at 14300 Detroit Ave. and is open M-F 9 AM-3 PM

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# Lakewood Schools

## It Takes A Village To Raise A Child

by Justine Cooper

A recent comment on the Lakewood Observer Deck about teachers "not being as good as they used to be" and that an education degree was "easy" to obtain left me reflecting (after steaming) about the whole education field. Yes, as a student of Special Education I do have a vested interest. But contrary to the poster's intent to discredit teachers, his comment only solidified my beliefs in the tremendous impact that teachers can and do make on a child's life. For me, moving around every three years as a child made school a difficult time in my life, as I tried to fit in and readjust to new areas. I can't say that I have one teacher that particularly stands out, who went above and beyond the call of duty to reach me. That doesn't mean I didn't have great teachers, but I don't have recollection of one who inspired me to be more than I could be until college. Rather than regret this, I will become a teacher in order to find the potential in children and spark a love of learning.

My journey started years ago, and in between different career paths and three children, I am finally on my way to finishing. It was a bit daunting going back to finish my graduate degree with students who are closer to my teenager's age than my own, but I was equally

and pleasantly surprised by other students my age, who have returned to school while balancing jobs and children to pursue the same dream, to teach children. When I see the sacrifices that many are making to make this dream possible, I actually feel sorry for the poster who had such a negative and shallow view of teachers and the education they pay thousands for, money that allows educators the privilege to teach children. And teaching children is nothing less than a privilege. If you think about it, teachers not only spend more time with our children than many parents do, but have the greatest impact on them, outside of parents and family. As a student I can tell you that obtaining a teacher's license is anything but easy and that most of my professors have PhD's and they all have as their agenda to produce informed and educated teachers. My grumbling and complaints this past semester stem from an intense workload from each class. They are not playing around. And I am glad, because teaching classrooms full of children, your children, is a high duty, and being informed and educated is only half the battle.

Lakewood's teachers, in particular, deal with a most diverse population of students, including non English speaking students as well as those from diverse income levels. To be successful, a teacher here in Lakewood must take

the "science" of teaching (including the No Child Left Behind legislation and evidenced based research practices) and combine it with the "art" of patience, teaching strategies to fit all children, applied with a lot of love. And from where I observe, they are hitting the mark. The pressure for teachers to be "highly qualified" and for schools to produce numbers can easily contribute to forgetting the child in lieu of the lesson, but Lakewood teachers' ability to balance both is impressive. I am not a cheerleader for all teachers though. If a teacher has lost his/her desire to motivate, to inspire and to be flexible with a changing student population, utilizing strategies instead of worksheets, I don't

think they belong in the classroom.

I don't believe in tenure, that you are "safe" because of the length of your service. Instead, I believe that teachers should be judged on how well they are changing with the trends. Teachers who honor that parents are entrusting their children to them deserve to be rewarded as do teachers who inspire and motivate our children. The best teachers, like the best parents, know that sometimes a student's anger and frustration toward them is a mark of success, if it because they know when and are executing their right to say "no" and when to push children past their self-imposed limits. The teachers that I grumble about the most today will be the ones I will be thanking when I am in a classroom, when their lessons help me to better serve the needs of a child.

## The Lakewood Observer Honor Your Teacher Contest!

by Justine Cooper

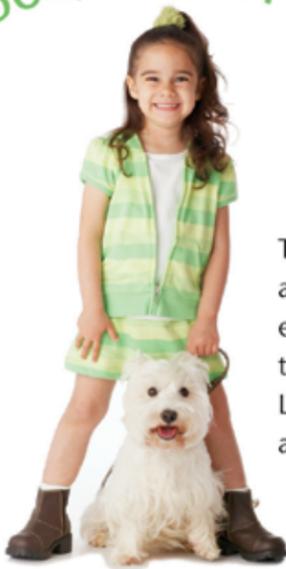
Because the Lakewood Observer and I believe in the power of teachers to make monumental changes in a child's life, the Lakewood Observer will sponsor a contest for individuals to write about the way in which a teacher has touched and changed their life for the better, or their child's life. This can be either a past or present teacher, but must be about

a teacher from one of Lakewood's educational institutions. Finalist's submissions will be published in the Lakewood Observer

Two prizes will be awarded. A teacher and the writer who honored them will win a lunch for two at the West End Tavern. In the case of younger students, they and their class will win a pizza party from Mama Mia's.

During staff appreciation month, what better lesson than to have your child reflect on what gifts he/she has been given by his/her teacher?

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# Lakewood Observer

Reporting One Week After Political Rehab:

## A Humorous (And Opinionated) Recollection Of An Overdose On Democracy

by Ivor Karabatkovic

After reading great articles from reporters Steve Davis and Nadhal Eadeh in the March 4th edition of the Lakewood Observer, I was motivated to write my own article about the ups and downs of covering the 2008 Election.

I have had the pleasure of shaking the hands of past, present and future leaders of the free world. I was reminded of what it means to be a citizen, and what it takes to be a journalist during this special time that comes every four years. Here is my light-hearted recollection of the 2008 Ohio Primary season.

As many readers know, the March 4 primary meant Presidential Candidates rolled through the Cleveland area like cattle on a ranch.

This meant that Lakewood Observer Publisher and talented photographer, Jim O'Bryan, reporters Steve Davis and Nadhal Eadeh and I took the streets to provide Observer readers with detailed accounts and coverage from rallies and debates. Of course, being sleep deprived from exams and English papers did not help. In the end, I felt that I had to tag along for this experience.

It was Saturday, February 23, when I beat Jim O'Bryan and Steve Davis to the Barack Obama rally being held at the Cleveland Convention Center. I was greeted by magic wand-waving Secret Service members who had to double check that my camera actually took photos, and that my lenses were in fact lenses. I signed in, passed the search and started surveying the beautiful auditorium for possible angles to take photos from. I ventured into the press seating area and watched people converge from all sides. I was excited about the rally; it took me back to my first Obama rally nearly a year ago at Cuyahoga Community Colleges Eastern campus.

After sitting down for a bit, I looked to my left and to my surprise, the other two Stooges came strolling in, camera and notepad in hand (a video camera, too). Jim and Steve showed up and to their surprise, the press table greeted them by saying "Oh! Ivor is already here!"

That's how the "Rockstar Photographer" jokes began, and they still haven't stopped.

From what I can recall from that crazy night, the hot dog that Jim was given by the concession stand was so burnt that you could knock a person out when pelting them in the head with it. Also, Jim, Steve and I laughed out loud because everything we talked about involved a great joke.

Obama came on stage, gave a very good speech on issues like the war in Iraq, foreclosures, the economy and education. I was surprised that the crowd actually booed him for a brief



Illinois Senator Barack Obama takes the time to listen to a concerned voter after his rally on February 23 at the Cleveland Convention Center



Senator Hillary Clinton signs autographs to loyal supporters who came to see her speak at Cleveland State University's University Center on Sunday, March 2.

moment after taking a job at rival Hillary Clinton. This being my second rally, I knew how Senator Obama operated. He gives his speech, and then makes two trips around to shake hands and meet fans. I positioned myself strategically, Lakewood Observer and camera in hand, to greet him as he was leaving the building. To my surprise, he stopped right in front of me, put his hand on the shoulder of a man and listened to what he had to say. To follow that, he picked up a "Babies for Obama" baby. That, to a photojournalist, is the equivalent to a game winning home run for a die-hard baseball fan. A picture of a candidate with his hand on a person's shoulder is great; but a picture of a candidate kissing a baby, now that will drive viewers wild!

After getting the Senators signature on the Lakewood Observer which featured my photo and article from one year ago, I took the RTA rapid back home with a few friends, who had never been to a rally before. The sleepy "Ivor K" wanted to sleep of course, but the photographer in me would not let me fall asleep until I had 395 photos edited. My sleep deprivation was only beginning!

Then came Monday, February 25.

It was a snowy day and it was the first day that media could pick up credentials for the NBC Presidential "Debate @ Cleveland State". I arrived early to the Media parking lot and was greeted by a nice police officer who asked which outlet I was with and took down my license plate number. I told him I was with the Lakewood Observer and that I came to pick up my media credentials.

"Oh! You are with Jim O'Bryan and Steve Davis, huh?" the guard replied to me. I have to admit, I laughed like never before. Two days after giving me the "rockstar photographer" guilt trip, here I am, puzzled, that these two goofballs beat me to the event!

Tuesday came along and I was excited to be part of this historic debate. I was so excited that I had shown up at the Wolstein Center six hours before the event occurred. Around me were anchors from CNN and MSNBC. It was great to see Cleveland in the national spotlight for one evening. Viking Catering catered the event and the food was excellent. In my opinion, keeping the press happy requires that they are well nourished.

The debate came along and we were escorted to the front of the stage

for the "photo spray". I was lucky to get the best spot; dead center in front of the stage with nothing but the candidates in front of me. I soon found out that this spot was probably the worst spot to have, because the amateurs next to me thought that moving a few inches to the right would give them a different shot. So the mosh pit began!

The two photographers to the left of me knocked over a speaker gently into my side. If I were to move at all, it would have come crashing down on the concrete floor and I would probably have been required to pay a big bill. They whispered to me, "just let it fall gently", but I could not do that. So I let the speaker rest on my left thigh and balanced for one hour on my right leg. My back is still hurting from that incident.

After the photo spray, we enjoyed a big screen projection of the debate in the press room. You could hear the minds at work, the fingers typing, and people clapping for Barack Obama after he "denounced and rejected" the support of a controversial individual. The media is truly infatuated with this guy!

By the end of the night, I was completely disappointed in the way Obama handled himself in the debate. All week Obama has been bashing opponent Hillary Clinton on her support for NAFTA, while he claims to strongly oppose it. Then the question "would you opt out of NAFTA if it meant constructing new rules" came up, and Hillary actually gave a tougher answer on the issue than Obama did. That settled it for me. I was waiting all night to see Barack take a swipe and be assertive, but he choked.

By 11 p.m., Nadhal, Steve, Jim and I made it to the "spin room" to interview Jesse Jackson, Stephanie Tubbs Jones and Governor Ted Strickland. I even had the chance to meet Youngstown boxing champion Kelly Pavlik.

It was past midnight when Nadhal and I wrapped things up and went home in white-out snowy conditions. "Please don't kill me, Ivor!" Nadhal said after we entered onto I-90. Thankfully we made it home in one piece, and I reassured Nadhal that the reason I've never had a single driving violation or accident is not because of my Lakewood Observer decal that proudly stuck to my back window.

Here I was again, late at night, this time with 470 photos to go through. Of course, I didn't sleep that night! My sleep deprivation continued.

I received the news that former President Bill Clinton was coming to Lakewood High School to speak. This was the best thing I have ever heard!

It was Friday and I spent the night playing video games at a friends house until 4 a.m. I knew that the three hours of sleep would not be enough for me to function. So I woke up trembling the next morning because I was so tired,

continued on next page...

## Pulse Of The City

# Stones of Life- Lakewood's Fossils and Arrowheads

by Gary Rice

From the time I was a little one, I've had a fascination with rocks of all kinds. I suppose that fascination could have carried forward to my involvement in the world of rock and roll, but that might be making a real stretch.

No, the rocks that I'm referring to are the stones of the past: those fossils, arrowheads and other reminders of life on this planet many years before you and I ever came into the picture.

Over in Pennsylvania, where I was born over a half-century ago, the hills were filled with evidence of prehistoric life. Fossils and arrowheads seemed to lie everywhere. Plowed fields would quickly reveal small flint stones, quite different in character from other neighboring stones in the ancient glacial deposits that shaped the landforms around the ancient Allegheny Mountains.

A number of years ago, while going through various garage sales and antique shops, I chanced upon several small groups of stones that were supposedly discovered primarily along these southern shores of Lake Erie. It is fascinating to examine these bits of evidence of life from thousands of years ago.

Nowadays, collecting things like these can be a more complex activity, as there are laws and rulings protecting certain fossil, artifact, and archaeological sites. There are also other archaeological guidelines to follow, if new sites are uncovered that may yield multiple items of prehistorical interest. Many objects in the past, for example, were carelessly removed from areas, leaving no documentation of where those objects were found. That has unfortunately been the case with many of the efforts of those early collectors. An arrowhead by itself, for example, tells us very little. Knowing where it came from is where its real value lies. Above all, be sure that you have permission, either from the responsible governmental entities and/or from a private owner, before you go exploring. A significant and controversial issue among Native Peoples has been that of human remains taken in the past for study by different groups. Recently, more and more Native American remains are being returned to Native Peoples for proper reburial.

Within general parameters, it is possible to determine in a given area what lived there and roughly when. For example, if you are looking for T-Rex or Velociraptor bones around here, good luck. While dinosaurs no doubt rumbled around on the Ohio land, we've never found a dino fossil here, as we've found no Mesozoic-era rocks in Ohio, probably because of our landform issues going on at the time.

Here in Lakewood, we were at times at the bottom of prehistoric waters. You'll find giant fish and stone scallop fossils, but no dinosaur stuff in this area. Around here, the fossils you will find will most often be aquatic

life forms. Fossils found in Lakewood come from the Devonian period of time. Arthrodiros, that is, big armored fossil fishes, have been found locally, as have the many forms of marine life that lived here during this time.

The trilobite is one of the more interesting fossils found in Ohio. This type of animal had a hard outer shell, so excellent trilobite fossils can often be located for study. The trilobite supposedly was the first creature to actually have eyes and to see the world around it. Please see the accompanying photo of "Timmy" the trilobite. (Timmy however, was not found around here.)

Just think about that for a moment... the first thing ever SEEN by little guys (or gals!) like Timmy (or by anything ELSE, for that matter) might just have been prehistoric Lakewood!

Fossil deposits are found in sedimentary rock, like limestone, shale, and sandstone, but may also be found along beaches and streams. It would be well to recall that oil, coal, and natural gas are all products of biological deterioration. That's why these are referred to as fossil fuels. Matter from once-living things will often burn, and thereby release heat and energy.

As far as other evidence of prehistoric life is concerned, Ohio's first human residents seemed to have come upon the scene about 13,000 years ago. This is considered the Paleo period, and it lasted until about 7000 BC. After that came the Archaic peoples of roughly 8000-500 BC. Then came the Woodland period of about 800 BC-1200 AD, followed by the late prehistoric groups of roughly 1200-1650 AD. Native Americans contacted by Europeans after that date are generally regarded as being in the "historic" (that is, recorded) period of time. Native Americans



photo by Gary Rice

Various fossils and artifacts surround Timmy the Trilobite- "Is that Lakewood I see?"

lasted in Ohio until the 1840's, when the last tribe, the Wyandots, lost their land in Upper Sandusky. These days, a number of Ohioans claim Native American ancestry or some tribal affiliation.

While the Hopewell and Adena mound building cultures are generally thought of as being located well to the south of here, it is well-known among those who care that there were, and are, plenty of mounds in this area. The fact that this is not better documented is probably due to the highly commercial nature of life in an urban area. Many of these mounds were probably plowed under in the name of progress. There are clues known to the Native American community as to where mounds are located, but these clues are not commonly disclosed, as the mounds are considered sacred ground. Every now and then, you will read in the paper about some battle with a developer over these sacred grounds.

In what is now Lakewood, a variety of Native American cultures used to live. The Erie tribe was here before they were taken over by the Iroquois Nation in the late 1600's. Other groups

passed through with trading or war parties over a span of many years. Warren Road was supposedly a winding trail used by these groups.

The design of the different arrowheads and tools can also provide clues as to their origin. The Erie were known to have used poisoned arrow tips. Different arrowheads have been used to identify various tribal affinities and time periods, although this type of identification can be difficult whenever objects have been removed from an area without proper documentation. Other artifacts that have been found in Ohio include stone ax heads and tools. Ironically, some of the tools having the best quality have been reportedly found from the earliest time periods.

These stones of life have outlasted just about anything that our own culture has produced, or quite possibly will produce. Timmy the trilobite has long vanished as a life form on this earth, but I can't help but wonder...if he came back and looked out and saw Lakewood, or our world...now...just what would he think?

### Political Rehab continued from previous page...

but I had to get my photo gear ready. I've now learned that I shake when I don't get enough sleep; moreover, I'm a pretty crabby person in the morning no matter who it is I'm waking up for. Even seeing my idol (President Clinton) wouldn't get rid of my crabbiness.

I arrived at the high school to see a line forming well ahead of the scheduled door opening. I went in, received my pass, and left my photo bag for the secret service to check in their mandatory building sweep.

To hear this man speak in person was the most inspiring thing I have ever experienced. It was by far the highlight of my personal and photojournalism experiences. At the very end, I positioned myself right above the door where President Clinton was exiting the gym, and shouted to get his attention. Luckily, he stopped, shook my hand and gave me a "God Bless you Son! I wish you luck!"

before he exited. Obama who?

I came home at 1 p.m. and fell asleep in my office chair while uploading hundreds of photos. I woke up moments later and immediately dove into my bed. I slept right up to 6 p.m. I woke up, ate, and then went back to bed. I was already getting sick of this "democracy" thing and had enough rallies until the general election. There was one rally left!

Sunday, March 2, came the Hillary Clinton rally at Cleveland State University. I didn't know Jim and Steve made plans to attend this rally as well, but when they turned the corner of a ramp that led to the press entrance and saw me, all hell broke loose! I think by this point I'm already delusional and Jim and Steve are in love with the idea of getting to make fun of me consistently for the past two weeks.

Steve enjoyed the cozy guarded off view of the "Press Area", while Jim and I decided to get our hands dirty and mingle with the swarm of Clinton supporters that filled the University Center. Here I was, surrounded by exuberant

supporters screaming in my ear that they don't want a rockstar President, while balancing two cameras and trying to maneuver around the rally signs that blocked everything in front of me. My back was hurting, my head was pounding, and Hillary hasn't even entered the building yet. It was a random guy singing about the blue color of Lake Erie. That thought let me escape my misery for a moment because I don't remember the last time the lake was blue.

Hillary finally took the stage, and it all came and went. She signed her autographs and I had the chance to thank her for what she has done for refugee families like mine. My rally binge was complete.

After two weeks of hope, change, and democracy I have come away with a lifetime of experiences, stories, and photographs. It was a fresh reminder of why I'm getting into the field of photojournalism, and how fun it was to record history in the making through my viewfinder. Ahh, the election season.. there is nothing like it!

## Lakewood Perspective

# 'Cause I'm The Taxman

by Bret Callentine

Welcome to the most feared day of the calendar year for many Americans: Tax Day. The day of reckoning. Or as it's written in the book of John, Paul, George, and Ringo...

*"Let me tell you how it will be / There's one for you, nineteen for me / ...Should five percent appear too small / Be thankful I don't take it all / ...If you drive a car, I'll tax the street / If you try to sit, I'll tax your seat / If you get too cold, I'll tax the heat / If you take a walk, I'll tax your feet / Well I'm the tax man, yeah, I'm the tax man / Don't ask me what I want it for / If you don't want to pay some more / Cause I'm the tax man, yeah, I'm the tax man / ...And you're working for no one but me."*

It's the day we pay the check for one more round at the great American smorgasbord; eat as much as you want, no doggie bags, kids eat for free. And while we have all year to do it, this is the one day where we're pretty much forced to examine our financial lives.

Now I certainly hope that most of you have your taxes filed by now. If you're lucky, you've already started to get your state or federal returns. But before you take the deep breath and prepare to burrow in for another long year of fiscal hibernation, I think you owe it to yourself and your family to

examine things just one more time.

A little over a year ago, I wrote an article (Resolutions Revisited) in which I challenged you to make 2007 the "beginning of the end of your personal debt." Well, I'm certainly not going to go through your accounts like the IRS, but I am curious as to how well you've done, or if you've even done anything.

I realize that this past year was riddled with potential pitfalls, as the economy seems to teeter on the brink of recession, the dollar falls, gas prices climb, and the housing market seems less stable than Britney Spears' career. However, there's always an excuse out there if you look for it. And, call me cold if you must, but even if it wasn't all your fault, it is still your responsibility.

I'm not here to judge, I know how hard it is to climb out of the pit of personal debt. I'd love to tell you that my family is paid in full, but you know I'd be lying. I'm not here for any of that, but I am here to encourage you again. Maybe the past year didn't go your way, but I can honestly tell you, regardless

of where you are, there is hope and you can reach your goal. That's not to say it will be effortless or without sacrifice and self-control, but it can be done, and it is very much worth it.

As a reminder, even carrying a few thousand dollars of debt on a credit card with an average interest rate means that you're literally throwing away a buck or two every day of the year. Imagine, getting out of bed, brushing your teeth, getting dressed, and then taking a couple of bucks out of your wallet or purse and throwing them in the garbage. Sounds rather silly, but it's exactly what's happening.

So, when that refund check, or economic stimulus check comes your way this year, you might want to think twice about what you spend it on. You can choose to buy new stuff today, but you're probably better served paying for the stuff you bought yesterday.

And while we're on the topic of fiscal responsibility, here's a little more information to add to the discussion. The group Citizens Against Government Waste has released its "2008 Congressional Pig Book Summary", which details most of the pork barrel spending that's been going on with our tax dollars. This year's report lists just a portion of the 11,610 projects that were added to appropriations bills worth more than \$17 billion. While you might be able to make arguments for some of the spending, keep in mind that all of the projects described meet at least one (if not more) of the following criteria:

*So, when that refund check, or economic stimulus check comes your way this year, you might want to think twice about what you spend it on.*

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While I suggest that you check out the full report at [www.cagw.org](http://www.cagw.org), I thought I would share some of my personal favorites.

Several Congressmen inserted close to twenty million dollars in funding for presidential libraries. This includes \$8 million for the John F. Kennedy Library, \$7.43 million for the Richard Nixon Library, and \$3.76 million for the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library. Keep in mind that these libraries already receive annual operating subsidies through the National Archives and Records Administration.

There's a \$196,000 appropriation to help the city of Las Vegas complete the renovation of the downtown Post Office into a museum on local history. Apparently what "Stays in Vegas" isn't quite enough to keep their tourism trade afloat. The wife and I were really stuck on several different vacation destinations, but I must say, a museum on the history of Las Vegas is pretty high on my "bucket list".

And my personal favorite: close to two million dollars was set aside by Rep. Charles Rangel for the (you guessed it) Charles B. Rangel Center for Public Service. Apparently generosity is much easier when it's not your money you're handing out.

While we mark Tax Day as a moment to reflect on the money we have, perhaps we might also want to spend a little more time watching the money that didn't make it into our wallet as well.

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# Lakewood Observer

## In response to Bret Callentine's 'An Independent Thought On Collective Health Care:' Little Other Strikes Back

by Alex Ippolito

"Confused yet? So am I."

- Bret Callentine

"Confusion is mightier than the sword."

- Abbie Hoffman

On break again, I would like to engage Bret Callentine's recent article on health care. To give you a head start on dismissing my position as unworthy of your *serious* consideration, you should know that I'm just a crazy radical youth still in my 'rebellious phase,' and that my grasp of *reality* is still a bit idealistic. If that doesn't stir a comforting, dismissive attitude that reinforces a sense of security in an anonymous average world, then it might help to know that I'm still a student, and haven't yet had a chance to accumulate enough Real world experience to fine tune my awareness of the way things are. If that doesn't cut it, then you can regurgitate the standard colloquial dismissal of most radical positions by collapsing mine into 'communism' and declaring, 'communism is a great idea, but doesn't work,' or otherwise into anarchy where the line is, "but without rigid and macroscopic social infrastructure, the world [excluding places like Iraq, of course] would be CHAOS!" I'm trembling in my boots. Then of course if that's still not quite enough (Mr. Callentine, the 'haves' always want more!), you can at least dismiss my position on the grounds that I am some sort of pompous, um, 'sophomoric' intellectual awash in my own ego, or produce your own piece in a balanced and reasoned tone that makes your opinion seem more factual, or perhaps in a sweepingly charismatic or stylish tone that captures the hearts of the masses. Finally, if you find yourself, with fright, starting to understand where I'm coming from, feel free to resort to the ULTIMATE: completely conflate my apparently dangerous perspective with terrorism, communism, anarchy, evil, treason, voodoo, chaos, or another ideological umbrella term infused with enough pejorative tone, negativity, and paranoia to have me dismissed by someone else that is more powerful and spiteful. So! Now that the important issue has been addressed, let us begin.

I was excited about where Mr. Callentine was going with this quote:

"Let's just say that between the major candidates that remain, I'm not filled with a whole lot of confidence that they'll even stick to their campaign promises, let alone affect positive change when they do. That's why I'm glad that no one is counting on my endorsement to help them make their own decision. It kind of takes the pressure off of things for me." Phew. 'Could it be?,' I thought to myself in near disbelief. 'Could it be that space is opening up for 'them' to make their

own decision?' Tuned in, I Turned on to the next paragraph, and saw it repeated: "despite the passing of the Ohio primary, we're still faced with a major decision in the Fall. Therefore, while I'll make no pitch to sell you on any one candidate..." Well at this point I was hooked, and knew that I'd have a lot to say in my next response.

On that note, let us begin afresh! I'd like to take a careful look at the messages underlying some of the arguments in this article. Lets look at the context of his voice. Mr. Callentine presents us, graciously (and in his paradigm of undifferentiated American citizenship, unnecessarily) with his own socio-economic status: "I must admit, I make a modest living; my family is by no means either rich or poor. As such, when it comes to health care, I'm afforded certain liberties that others might deem a luxury, while still having to navigate obstacles some others might avoid all together." Absolved of any guilt for deviating from a neutral average American prototype, Mr. Callentine is now in a position to speak for the rest of us average Americans. This icon of 'average American' can then stand in as the model for any American, to flatten any sense of de facto inequalities between us. Also, despite the implicit individualism in his title, the neutral author uses words like 'we,' 'us,' and 'Americans' to stand for all American citizens, so that it appears self-evident that everyone should be just as average and uncomplaining as the prototype. Here is one example: "Despite what Michael Moore would have you believe, Americans have access to the finest doctors and medicines in the entire world." There are two implicit messages I glean from this statement: 1. Michael Moore has done less empirical and or sociological research than Mr. Callentine and is therefore less reliable 2. complaints should be raised about the health care system only when they affect America as a whole, which is, of course, represented by the 'average American' in Mr. Callentine's paradigm. The general message is then, as I read it, that because Mr. Callentine is located in a socio-economic stratum that most of us suburbanites can identify with, a stratum that, conveniently, gives us just enough to be comfortable and educated but not privileged, we are absolved of any responsibility for the care of others who may be less fortunate than us. My guess is that we can trace this attitude back, through 'common sense' and thus probably the public education system (usually quite functional for average Americans), to a reductive misreading of Charles Darwin's *The Origin of the Species*. Such a reading (and it seems to be the standard, average one) extracts and isolates the competitive components of Darwin's work, projects them onto a mythical 'human nature,' and then

uses this competitive human nature to justify, with either unbridled enthusiasm or self-righteously pious and defeatist regret, the stratification of a whole 'society.' Both positions assume a fundamentally competitive or greedy human nature. Maybe we can't change it, but at least we can repent and count our own, average, blessing\$. And then we can deposit those blessings in the bank, and withdraw them later when it's convenient.

But is there any other way??? Mr. Callentine also addresses this question:

"I know a lot of you are still holding onto the dream of some utopian society where everyone shares equally in the fruits of collective labor. But let's face it, that's just not a reality. The Real situation is..." What makes me giggle a little about this quote is that Mr. Callentine, without a whole lot of empirical evidence but with an appeal to the ideology of neutral common sense (the hidden collective that gives his argument authority via down to earth proclamations like 'that's just not a reality') stifles the possibility that abstractions like 'society' and 'reality' were already dreams in the first place, or at least very general signifiers that could be used to imbue one who mobilizes them with a god like knowledge of the 'objective world.' In all *seriousness*, it's comforting when I can count on common sense to make me feel safe in a world predetermined by external forces, but sometimes I have to wonder if I'm jumping the gun by positing such a world of personal powerlessness...Am I afraid of someone or Something?

I suppose, ULTIMATELY, that I believe in the truth of the idea that jumping the Gun is a necessary gesture to preserve a sense of *reality*, a *reality* where "the 'haves' will always find a way to have, sometimes to the direct detriment of the 'have nots.'" I'm actually quite *obstinate* about this one, I *insist* this is necessary. I'm serious here. That's just the way things are. It's human nature, we're competitive. No one will deny that. But then again...it's as if there is some sort of anxiety behind my words, under the persistent statement and restatement of the unchanging status quo of my position. It's as if there's Something I'm trying to hide from myself...nevermind.

Getting back to my point of focus, to illustrate how words like 'reality' and 'truth' can be used to bolster authority,

I'd like to present an example from a foreword to 'German Physics' by German physicist Philipp Lenard in 1935:

"At the end of the war when Jews in Germany began to dominate and set the tone, the full force of its [Jewish physics'] characteristics suddenly burst forth like a flood. It then promptly found avid supporters even among many authors of non-Jewish or of not *really* pure Jewish blood. To characterize it briefly, let me best refer you simply to the activities of its undoubtedly most prominent representative, to the unquestionably pure-blooded Jew A. Einstein. His 'relativity theories' attempted to transform and dominate the whole of physics; but they have now already completely played themselves out against *reality*. Apparently they never were even intended to be true. The Jew conspicuously lacks any understanding of *truth* beyond a merely superficial agreement with *reality*, which is *independent* of human thought. This is in contrast to the Aryan scientist's drive, which is as *obstinate* as it is *serious* in its quest for *truth*. The Jew has no noticeable capacity to grasp reality in any form other than as it appears in human activity and in the weaknesses of his host nation. Astonishingly, *truth* and *reality* do not appear to be anything at all special or different from untruth to Jews, but are equivalent to any one of the many different theoretical options available." (emphasis added)

What do you think, Einstein? What else was I going to say? Oh yeah, there was another excerpt I found intriguing: "even IF the government institutes a state-run health care system, someone somewhere will find a way to develop a system of private doctors and private hospitals, where anyone with the extra money will be able to skip the lines of the regular hospital and not have to deal with the government red tape." Certainly we can Fix this problem somehow...after all, that's what this country's all about, right? Pull yourself up by your bootstraps! Get in there slugger! Get 'er done! So what will it be Mr. C.? State or Capital? Socialism or Libertarianism? Collective or Independent? Or somewhere safe in the average in-between? I personally am getting a bit tired of these trains of thought on a tired old one-dimensional spectrum. Always exploring either/or, both/and, mix and match, but never neither/nor. I had more to say, but I'm running into computer issues; I think this machine is broken.

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# Lakewood History

## Front Porches, Sycamore Trees, And Rosary Beads

by Therese Manczewski

Lakewood is wonderfully old and full of ghosts. So when I moved back after decades away, it was an easy decision to write a nostalgic piece about being young there, long ago. But it was hard to choose from so many ghosts and harder still to know what to do when an unexpected one appeared. Most difficult of all was figuring out the meaning of these memories - and what they might bring.

In 1959, houses were made of brick or clapboard, built tall and strong, and graced with wide porches. Never fancy, always welcoming, front porches were decorated with frayed rattan rugs and mismatched chairs, generous with offerings of cherry popsicles and little green-bottled Cokes. Open to sunshine and breezes, sturdy railings made perfect perches to see and be seen, to soak up summer's sweetness, while waiting for friends.

There, late in the morning, girls read about the adventures of Nancy Drew and turned up the volume on pink plastic radios, Teenager in Love tugging at their hearts. Boys, littering the stops, chewed gum, smacked baseballs into worn mitts, and acted cool. There, on hot afternoons, with skies gone black and the smell of rain rising, kids of all ages waited to confront the coming wildness. And when the storm finally roared across Lake Erie, everyone yelled and whooped and held their ground - fearless in the face of howling winds and savage thunder. There, after supper, Dads with ties askew and white shirts wrinkled, read the paper and listened to the Indians. Moms, aprons

finally discarded, rested. And there, as night came and crickets sang, families waited for the stars to shine and the moon to rise.

Tall sycamore trees spread their massive branches, arching green canopies over narrow, red-brick streets. Ghostly white in winter and splashed with grey-green bark in spring, they were like friends giving gifts. Their fallen, skittering leaves whispered like spirits on Halloween, and their bare branches draped themselves in snow and ice for Christmas Eve. Best of all, on summer nights, at least for the lucky and the bold, they made a path of shadows, a mysterious place for a girl and boy to stop, stand close and kiss.

Which brings up - nuns. Back then, Catholic school nuns were vehemently opposed to kissing, and they often warned against temptations that might precipitate it, things like holding hands and the wearing of a lipstick called Tangee. If memory serves, they also abhorred crooked margins and didn't care much for girls who giggled or boys who burped. The oldest nuns, the ones who were always assigned to teach eighth grade, were heavily armed with rulers and scowls. Shielded from head to toe in long veils, heavy habits, and sensible shoes, they were as powerful as their 100-pound rosary beads. They were invincible, and they were powerful and they - and the toughest boy in class - knew it.

Nuns could be thoughtless, in a mindless rap-on-the-knuckles sort of way. For reasons unknown, they could also be unkind. It was clear that the lonely kids fared no better with the nuns than they did with the kids who

had friends. The lucky kids acted as if the unlucky ones were invisible, and so did the nuns - no matter how often or how quickly the odd kids raised their hands to answer, no matter how smart they might be, they were rarely, if ever, acknowledged.

The boy who wore a tattered Davy Crockett hat and ate his pencil pouch never had a chance.

In the end, however, nearly everyone - girls with ponytails or beehives, boys with crew cuts or ducktails - survived the perils of eighth grade. Mere minutes after reciting the final graduation prayer and leaving St. Clement Church, many forgot the nuns' teachings at the first mixed party they could find. A few months later, all moved on to high school. A minority attended public school, the majority toughed it out for another four years at various parochial institutions.

After that, we went on to college or jobs, and life.

Some had their destinies shattered by accidents, sickness or the Vietnam War. Many found safe futures in surrounding suburbs or in far away places. Others never left Lakewood at all. A few, after many years away, came back.

Like me.

True, I didn't go far, just a few miles west with my new husband, where newer houses beckoned. And of course I visited Lakewood often, but for many years the seasons of my life and the beat of my heart were someplace else entirely - in a one-story house with a picket fence in front and a sunporch in back, where crab apple trees bloomed pink in the spring, on a wide street that seemed enchanted on winter nights when it snowed.

The point is, I was gone for a very long time and the journey back was full of unknowns. So now, with my daughter grown and me on my own, I am back where I started from, wondering what changes, what stays, and what it might mean.

From my new perch, I get a novel view of my old town. From my front balcony view, Lake Erie stretches out calm and green blue, and downtown Cleveland shines. The other view from the west balcony is closer to long ago memories - leading to familiar houses and trees, sun and shadow. I wonder, if

I walk that way, what will I find?

During the day, even in summer, front porches are empty and streets quiet. I wonder what happened to my vision of sycamore trees - there seem to be so few, with smaller canopies and diminished shade. I also discover that my old grade school, St. Clement, has closed its doors forever. And yet, my brick house on Belle Avenue, along with the clapboard houses next door and across the street, still stand, solid as time, as do the memories of friends who once lived there. On summer nights, the remaining sycamores, joined by stalwart oaks, cast shadows, streetlights shining through branches and leaves. Crickets still sing and the moon still rises. Sometimes, laughter and music drift out from porches, or I see someone sitting on steps, waiting.

Once, I even saw a girl and a boy standing under a shadowed tree, kissing.

Which brings me back to - nuns. Today, of course, I think about them quite differently. I see them in small, forlorn rooms, all alone. I imagine them facing endless Fridays of fish sticks, perpetually cleaning the church on Saturday, kneeling too long on Sunday. I begin to understand how they tried to teach us, certainly not with enlightenment, but perhaps in the only way they knew, framed in the reference of the Catholic '50s and their lowly place in it. And so, after all these years, I do wish them well, hoping they are now living in luxury in some of the finest mansions in heaven.

Even more, I wish I had been nice to the lonely boy in the tattered Davy Crockett hat.

Today, if I could, I would thank my unexpected ghost for stopping by and invite him kindly to be part of the things that stay: late afternoon light shining through tall windows, echoes of young voices whispering, dreams floating like chalk dust in air. These small things, I would tell him, along with towering trees and wide-open porches, will remain forever. As lasting as love, as strong as rosary beads, they are memories to hold onto and memories to be thankful for - wonderfully old and mysteriously permanent ghosts who bring surprising joy to bittersweet journeys home.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> annual WEB S.W.A.T. 5k Run / 1 mile walk-run Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> 2008



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**Time:** Registration and packet pick-up: 7:30 A.M.  
5K Race: 9:15 A.M. / 1 Mile: 8:50 A.M.

**Entry Fee:** Pre-registration \$15.00 (Deadline May 14) / Race Day Registration \$20.00

**5K Race Awards:** Awards given to top male and female runners.  
Runners finishing in the top three in each age group will receive awards.  
Age Groups: 14 and under, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65 & over.  
Separate awards for Top male and female Law Enforcement Finishers.

**1 Mile Fun Run:** Age Groups: 6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12 & over

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Adult T-Shirt size: S M L XL XXL (Circle One) Youth T-Shirt size: S M L (Circle One)  
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# The Buck Stops Here

## Our City Is Always Gone

by Robert Buckeye

“My City Was Gone” is Chrissie Hynde of The Pretenders’s elegy for Akron, the city of her youth. “There was no train station,” Hynde laments. “There was no downtown....My city had been pulled down/Reduced to parking spaces....The farms of Ohio/ Had been replaced by shopping malls/ And muzak filled the air/From Seneca to Cuyahoga falls.”

Our city is always gone. We don’t step into the same stream twice, the Greek philosopher Herakleitos reminds us. The city we leave is never the one we return to. The one we did not leave escapes us daily. The one we know is the one in our head. “My childhood memories,” Hynde sings (sighs), “Slowly swirled past/Like the wind through the trees.”

Change happens reads the bumper sticker. Change is good the therapist advises. Change is forever the mantra of the politician, preacher and sidewalk nut. Hynde’s song says something else. Not the truth Herakleitos emphasizes, the feelgood consolation of the therapist, the promises of those who want to win us over. The winds of change may always blow, but they do not always bring good fortune, and we know that more often than not we – or those who speak for us – have been responsible for change that has wreaked destruction, havoc, loss. Her song is an indictment of “a government that had no pride.” It is a call for change. How do we talk about change that is both real and possible? Change that is not proclaimed daily from the hilltops?

What does not change is the will to change, the poet Charles Olson writes. We are told everyday we must be better, can be better, will be better. Progress is how we measure our lives, and we do not ever not progress. We live better than did our parents. Our parents lived better than their parents. The twentieth century made more progress than the nineteenth, and we assume the twentieth-first will make even more. Look at what we have done in science, medicine, industry, technology. We can get from A to B faster, do research in a library thousands of miles away

without leaving home, talk to a friend on the other side of the world.

Why is it that progress has become a monster that sits on our lives? That the more things change the more they remain the same? That the more progress happens the less it satisfies? We cannot abandon progress because we have made it integral not only to our

lives but also to our society. If we do not believe in progress, how can we live? What are we? Somehow we cannot pull the emergency brake on the runaway train of progress, even though we know we should.

Governments fit themselves into history like hands into gloves, but the fit is never comfortable. Their Progress (the one always written with a capital letter) has more to do with

them than it does with us. Real progress and change can only be talked about in places where everyone is equal and can talk freely about his experience: neighborhoods, coffee shops, pool halls, taverns. In history, we have seen it happen in the ancient Greek polis, the Italian republics of the Middle Ages, the Paris Commune of 1871, the Hungarian workers’ councils in 1956.

### The Lakewood YMCA’s Strength Is In Its People:

## Meet Philip Bullock

by Matthew Nee

With any organization, the contributions and character of its people make all the difference. Take away family and friends, and a home becomes merely a house, a town nothing more than a geographic region. The same is true of the Lakewood YMCA: Its strength is in its people.

The Lakewood YMCA serves our community in many ways. But it couldn’t do so as effectively without significant contributions from outstanding members of that community. These are the people who make the YMCA much more than a gym, and they contribute in many ways – by giving time, by donating to scholarship funds, and even just by being members. Some people give in less quantifiable ways, but their gifts are none the lesser. They give their energy, they share their hopeful and supportive personalities, or perhaps they just know how to make others smile. Philip Bullock is one of those people.

Like many teenagers, Phil enjoys sports. Phil’s favorites are basketball, swimming, and Iron Kids (a group fitness program designed for kids and

taught by YMCA fitness instructors). Phil comes to the Lakewood YMCA nearly every day to shoot hoops, go for swims, and work out with other Iron Kids. In these ways, Phil might sound like a typical high school kid, but Phil isn’t typical – he’s exceptional.

Phil has Down Syndrome, a chromosomal condition that challenges Phil on the basketball court, in the pool, and in the gym. But Down Syndrome hasn’t touched Phil’s giving spirit. Phil knows how to make people smile. To know Phil is to like him, and for many at the YMCA, to love him.

It seems that the feelings are mutual. Two of Phil’s prized possessions are his YMCA identification card and his basketball. Phil has been a fixture at the Lakewood YMCA since well before the new building opened. Though never one to complain, Phil couldn’t wait to try out the bigger and better facilities. The spacious new gymnasium and modern pool were tantalizing. Phil was there the day the new building opened and, happily, it seems that he hasn’t left yet.

The YMCA is a huge part of Phil’s life. Day after day, Phil shows up with



Phil Bullock and his smile.

his basketball, his identification card, and a beaming smile. To Phil, the YMCA isn’t just a gym, it’s a community and, in a sense, a home. It’s a place where he’s comfortable and welcome. It’s a place where he can safely play, have some fun, and meet with friends. It’s where his spirit soars.

With much dedication and hard work, over the years, Phil has dramatically improved his motor coordination, physical strength, and social adeptness. With good cause, Phil’s parents, Rob and Beth Bullock, and his fitness instructors, Andrew Maynard and Alan Armstrong, couldn’t be prouder. And neither could the YMCA.

Without people like Phil, the Lakewood YMCA would remain a premier community-based charitable organization with top-notch fitness facilities. With people like Phil, the Lakewood YMCA is, like Phil, exceptional. If you are interested in learning more about how the Lakewood YMCA gives to our community and how you can become part of its efforts, please visit [www.clevelandymca.org](http://www.clevelandymca.org) or come by the Lakewood branch. Maybe you’ll be fortunate enough to run into Phil. You’ll know him by his smile.

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## Conservation Corner

# Green Your Spring Cleaning

by Heather Ramsey

Whether it's time for an annual Spring Cleaning or just the regular kind of cleanup, it is important to consider what your cleaning products are made of. According to the EPA, the air inside our homes is typically 2-5 times more polluted than the air outside, largely due to household cleaners and pesticides. Recent water testing by the US Geological Survey found detergent chemicals in 69% of tested streams, and disinfectants in 69%. Once in the water system, these chemicals do not biodegrade, and are harmful to salmon and other fish. Similarly, phosphates from cleaning products (especially automatic dishwasher detergents) act as fertilizers once in the water,

creating an abundance of algae that depletes the water's oxygen and kills fish and other water organisms. Not only are these chemicals dangerous as pollutants, but they also frequently rely on petroleum-based components, using valuable energy and oil supplies and creating pollution in their creation.

Though the majority of cleaning products are not required to list all of their ingredients due to "trade-secret laws", there are certain chemicals in particular to look out for as well as a variety of alternatives to mainstream cleaning products. Key ingredients to avoid include: ammonia (petroleum derivative, known to cause asthma),

chlorine (releases poisonous mercury and dioxin during production, irritates lungs and skin), MEA (petroleum derivative, causes respiratory irritation and asthma), glycol ethers (cause nerve damage if absorbed by skin, irritate eyes, nose, throat, and lungs, linked to reduced fertility and lowered sperm counts), APEs (hormone disruptors - affect fish reproduction and act like estrogen in the human body), and phthalates (affect fish reproduction, linked to obesity and hypothyroidism). Products without these chemicals in them may say so on the label, but beware of vague terms like "non-toxic" or "natural", which have not been evaluated by an independent party. However, do look for EPA and Green

Seal labels, which certify products that have minimal impacts on the environment and your health.

Consider making your own cleaning supplies using simple ingredients like soap, water, baking soda, vinegar, lemon juice, borax, and corn starch. Instead of a conventional drain cleaner, try pouring baking soda (up to 1 cup) down the drain, followed by vinegar (up to 1 cup); wait a minute or so, then follow with a pint of boiling water. For glass cleaner, mix white vinegar and water (either equal parts, or with additional water); rather than paper towels, you can use an old newspaper. Baking soda and cornstarch may both be used to deodorize carpets; lemon juice or white vinegar and salt will clean up mold and mildew; and baking soda, salt, and hot water create an effective oven cleaner. To add pleasant scents to your homemade cleaners, consider adding lemon juice or a few drops of essential oils (many essential oils are useful in cleaning, too, as mold killers or disinfectants, but be sure to test them on a small area to be sure they will not damage your surface). A variety of useful recipes may be found on the DIY Diva blog from the Green Guide, at [http://www.thegreenguide.com/blog/diy\\_diva/1050](http://www.thegreenguide.com/blog/diy_diva/1050).

If mixing up your own cleaners doesn't sound too fun or practical, consider buying from a growing number of environmentally friendly cleaning brands. Biokleen products are concentrated for less packaging, are readily biodegradable, are made from natural ingredients, and contain none of the harmful chemicals mentioned above. They are available at an array of health-food-oriented stores, including Nature's Bin (and online at <http://www.biokleenhome.com>). Method cleaning products are similarly earth-friendly, as well as stylistically packaged; they are available at Heinen's and Target, as well as online at <http://www.methodhome.com>. Mrs. Meyers products, including not only the typical household items, but also some for pets and babies, are available at Nature's Bin and Giant Eagle stores (and at <http://www.mrsmeyers.com>). There are, of course, many others worth checking out, including Seventh Generation and a few offered by conventional companies, like Clorox. In addition to using earth-friendly cleaning products, don't forget to use recycled paper towels or reusable cloths to apply them; consider using old t-shirts or microfiber cloths, and remember to disinfect sponges frequently to avoid spreading germs.

If you'd like to extend your Spring Cleaning efforts outside of your home, consider participating in the Great American Cleanup in Lakewood on Saturday, April 19th. Join your fellow citizens to clean up litter in our parks, schoolyards, business districts, and parking lots. The Recycling and Litter Prevention Office/Keep Lakewood Beautiful will provide all the necessary tools, as well as a luncheon afterwards (1 o'clock at the Women's Pavilion in Lakewood Park). Call the office at 529-6170 to get yourself or your group signed up!

## Earth Day Is Coming!

by Heather Ramsey

Celebrated for more than 35 years, each April 22nd, Earth Day has been important in promoting environmental awareness around the world. Its growing significance has made it the largest secular holiday in the world, involving more than one billion people, according to the Earth Day Network. The Earth Day Network, founded by the original creators of Earth Day, has seen it as a way to promote civic engagement, broaden the meaning of "environment," mobilize communities, support groundbreaking

educational programs, and assist with worldwide events.

This year, the EPA has established the Great Lakes 2008 Earth Day Challenge, challenging communities around the Great Lakes to collect one million pounds of electronic waste (e-waste) and one million unwanted pills. If disposed of improperly, the materials in e-waste can harm human health and our environment, while the chemicals in unwanted pills can leach into our water supply and endanger fish and other animals. In response, the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Dis-

trict is collecting unwanted computer equipment for recycling or refurbishing during the month of April. Donations are tax deductible. For more information, contact the Solid Waste District at 216-443-3749 and see the EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/earthday2008/>.

Twenty years after the first Earth Day, the Earth Day Coalition was formed in Cleveland. The Earth Day Coalition works with students and teachers on educational programs, works with businesses and institutions to promote energy independence and cleaner air, and works with communities to improve local air quality and energy efficiency. They also plan Cleveland's annual EarthFest, one of the most successful Earth Day celebrations in the country. This year's EarthFest is to be held on Sunday, April 20th, from 10am to 5pm at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. The festivities will be entirely wind-powered and will feature over 150 exhibitors on topics such as local and organic food, clean transportation, green home improvement, and environmental science, as well as children's activities, food, and entertainment. Admission is free if you register to walk or bike for the Earth or take the RTA Clean Air Bus from Public Square, or \$7 for adults and \$4 for children (free for under age 2).

For Earth Day festivities even closer to home, Lakewood's celebration of Earth Day will be held on Saturday, May 3rd, from noon to 4pm at Lakewood Park. There will be crafts, activities, games, and food, and admission is free! In addition to Earth Day, the even older tradition of Arbor Day is coming (April 25th), and Lakewood will celebrate at 10am in Lakewood Park, with a tree planting and ice cream social. And if the tree planting doesn't satisfy your thirst for gardening, check out the Leaf Humus & Perennial Plant Sale in the Old Stone House parking lot at Lakewood Park on Saturday, April 26th, from 9am to 1pm (or when everything is sold). For more information, or to volunteer at these events, contact the Lakewood Recycling and Litter Prevention Office at 216-529-6170.

## Community Gardening In Lakewood: Help Us Grow!

by Heather Ramsey

April is National Gardening Month, a time when people across the country celebrate the benefits of gardening. Here in Lakewood, a great way to celebrate is by taking advantage of community gardening with the Lakewood Earth & Food (LEAF) Community. The LEAF Community, whose initiatives also include Community Supported Agriculture, Earth Building, and Bulk Buying, plans to have several new gardening sites for the upcoming growing season, in addition to the already established Plover Patch in Bird Town.

Gardening here in Lakewood will have a number of advantages, including helping the environment. If everyone in Lakewood switched to eating locally produced food for a year, up to 35,000 tons of carbon dioxide would be eliminated. This is because an average meal travels roughly 22,000 miles before reaching your plate, emitting greenhouse gases from the industrial farming operation through the packaging, refrigeration, and travel processes. Vegetables that travel these distances are grown to do so - they are picked early and bred for sturdiness rather than taste, which brings us

to another benefit of eating vegetables grown close to home - flavor!

Aside from environmental issues, community gardening has a great deal of potential to benefit you and your family. Community gardens have been shown to raise property values and lower crime rates in adjacent areas, while providing hours of enjoyment to those who work them. Gardening can provide physical activity, camaraderie with neighbors, and stress relief, while contributing to overall wellness. It's a great activity for youth involvement and intergenerational interaction, and has been shown to improve nutrition in those who participate. The vegetables grown may help offset rising food prices and may represent a great escape to green space for apartment dwellers (of which Lakewood has quite a few). And all of these benefits come together to create a true community spirit.

If you'd like to get involved with community gardening in Lakewood, or learn about other LEAF activities, check out <http://www.leafcommunity.org> and fill out the interest form at the bottom of the page. Look out for LEAF Nights at the library, featuring arts and entertainment with local foods for sale, and consider joining one of our Community Support Agriculture (CSA) programs for more access to locally grown food!

# Real Estate

## Local Color

by Sunny Updegrave  
Prudential Lucien Realtor

Spring IS in the air! Although we haven't put in the screens yet, the front door stands ajar for a little fresh air that doesn't feel frigid. I'll even admit to washing interior windows while the last big snow kept me indoors. I've walked the exterior perimeter, picked up twigs, welcomed the leafy green shoots of the season's first crocuses and daffodils and noted the robin's nest-building activities well under way.

Unfortunately, I've also noticed the paint chipping and peeling from the porch floor and columns...and windows...and eaves. The once vivid shades of purple and green so meticulously painted on each porch spindle and rail have weathered into a speckled soup of guacamole and eggplant. When considering the cost of \$4,000 (and up) for an exterior paint job on an average Lakewood home, and the desire to have it look great, I was overwhelmed at the task of making the proper color selections while staying true to the architecture of the home. For the next 10-15 years, I'll need to feel happy, contented, and welcomed each time I pull into my driveway and NOT think that my neighbors cringe at "Happy Blue"!

Time to call in the experts! I called on Jay Gardner, a Lakewood resident and exterior colorist with an eye and a passion for our community's century-old homes. Jay's knowledgeable color palette paints our city streets from east to west and includes fanciful Victorians (like the Grace Mansion) and tidy western bungalows. I first met Jay when he

consulted on the coloring of my previous home on Arthur Avenue. He truly transformed my wonderful, but architecturally wounded, house into an attractive, stylish and much more visually appealing home. My neighbors were so impressed by this dramatic change that within 3 years, 5 other homes on the Library block displayed the elegance and flair of his distinctive choices. Jay says that's often how it happens.

When choosing a basic 3-color scheme, the placement needs to be dead-on (just painting the windowsill in an accent color won't give you the splash you desire). There's more latitude in placement with more colors (4-6), but the shades and tones are very important. Jay says it takes at least 4 colors to start to shine and 6+ to really make it POP! If you're thinking of a sale in the near future, the current supply of homes available means yours will have to stand out. Curb appeal is the #1 reason that buyers first show interest in a home.

When you call for Jay's service (at a mere \$250), he'll visit your home to take photographs and to discuss your thoughts and wishes regarding the overall look that you desire. He will return in about a week to present 3 different color palettes and the proper placement and effect they will create. When the selection is made, full written instructions to the painting contractor are provided. Jay visits the work in progress to be sure the results are as expected. YOU become a happy and proud homeowner! Jay Gardner of Local Color may be reached via email at JaydGar@sbcglobal.net or through the Lakewood Historical Society.

## Realty Reality Questions From Our Readers

By Maggie Fraley  
Prudential Lucien Realty

### "What is a Home Warranty?"

A home warranty is a service contract paid for by either the Buyer or the Seller, usually at closing. The cost in this area is a bargain at approximately \$500 or less. In today's buyer's market, many Sellers are choosing to offer a home warranty with the purchase of their home to potential buyers.

When using warranty coverage, the homeowner contacts an approved contractor and pays a relatively small deductible- which is minimal in comparison to large contractor bills! And

knowing repairs would be covered can provide priceless peace of mind, especially for first time buyers who may not have large cash reserves.

Warranty coverage is typically for one year and helps protect homeowners against the cost of unexpected repairs or replacement on a home's major systems and appliances. Some of the items that may be included are electrical systems, plumbing, furnace/central air, water heater, kitchen appliances and even luxury items, such as pools and Jacuzzi tubs, can be added. Each policy is a bit different, so ask your realtor what options there are to best fit your individual circumstances.

### Lakewood Real Estate Information

(According to Multiple Listing Service)

by Andy Tabor, Realtor, GRI-Prudential Lucien

| March                                  | 2007 | 2008 |
|--|------|------|
| Single Family Closed                   | 48   | 8    |
| Single Family Pending (Under Contract) |      | 56   |

### Interesting Real Estate Information

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Lakewood Single Family Homes              |     |
| Currently for Active in Multiple Listing: | 361 |
| Currently under Contingency:              | 9   |

### Look For Our Articles On These Pages



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New on the market! Enjoy Lake Erie breezes from your front porch or new 3-season room. Fabulous kitchen. Meticulously maintained.  
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1050 Lakeland Ave.,  
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1509 Arthur  
199,500

A Real Deal! Best price for an Arthur home. Lovely and charming. Just a block away from the new library! Hrwd. Flrs. Wndw.seats. New kit. New mechanicals.  
For more photos, go to 1509arthur.lucienrealty.com  
**Call Marjorie Corrigan**  
216-226-4673 ex.2072

Brick home on the boulevard! Just move in--everything's done, including new kitchen. Spacious home with 4 bedrooms, first-floor sunroom, and Lakewood character.  
**Kathy Lewis, Realtor**  
216-226-4673 ext. 2060



12999 Clifton Blvd.,  
\$149,000



1465 Mars Ave.,  
\$148,000

Very gracious home with large front porch, nice room sizes, refinished in-laid hardwood floors, finished 3rd floor. Fabulous location!  
See photos at 1465mars.lucienrealty.com  
**Kathy Lewis, Realtor**  
216-226-4673 ext. 2060

READY TO MOVE IN! Well maintained! Cable throughout the house! Perfect for Indians Games! Natural woodwork, patio w/ deck in back to enjoy BBQs in the summer. Make your appointment today.  
For more photos, go to 2050lincoln.lucienrealty.com  
**Marjorie Corrigan**  
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2050 Lincoln  
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1550 Larchmont  
\$129,900

Character & Value! Nat woodwork, beamed ceiling, built-ins & hardwood floors Well maintained! Super clean!  
1550larchmont.pruluc.com  
for more photos & info  
**Maggie Fraley**  
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Great remodeled oak kitchen 3 bdrms & part fin 3rd floor. see 2105warren.pruluc.com for more photos & info  
**Maggie Fraley**  
216.990.0522



2105 Warren  
\$109,900



2230 Wascana  
\$97,500.

Nice and neat colonial on a corner lot. Hardwood floors and natural woodwork. Very spacious eat in kitchen. Some updating done, some for you to do.  
**Sunny Updegrave**  
216-401-3353

Great price for this beautifully decorated 1BR condo with lake views! Amenities include restaurant, sundeck, outdoor heated pool, 24-hr front desk attendant, and exercise room. Move in and start living! See photos at 11850edgewater408.pruluc.com.  
**Valerie Mechenbier**  
216-226-4673



11850 Edgewater Dr.  
#408  
\$53,500



11811 Lake Ave  
(The Envoy)  
\$49,000.

Best value and best condition at this price. Fresh as a daisy with sonderful updates done throughout. You'll love the contemporary flair of the 2 bedroom unit.  
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216-401-3353

Visit  
[www.lucienrealty.com](http://www.lucienrealty.com)  
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**LAKEWOOD BAND2GETHER 08'**

**AUDITIONS FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS**

**WHAT:** A concert series to celebrate our community's rich talent and diversity by showcasing the talents of young musicians of middle school and high school age.

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 10, 2008  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**WHERE:** Hi-Fi Club: 11729 Detroit Avenue

**FEE:** Band Entrance Fee\*: \$10.00  
Public\*: \$2.00

\*fees will cover costs associated with BAND2GETHER programming.  
**THIS IS NOT A FUNDRAISER**

14 Bands will be chosen to play Fridays at Sinagra Park in July and August.

Bands interested in auditioning must return an application to Vance Music Studios (16420 Madison Ave) no later than Monday, May 5, 2008. Additional applications available at Vance Music Studios or found online at [www.lakewoodisart.com](http://www.lakewoodisart.com) and [www.vancemusicstudios.com](http://www.vancemusicstudios.com).

**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 submit this signed 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.

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Name of Band:</b>                      | <b>Band Contact:</b>         |
| <b>Mailing Address:</b>                   | <b>Contact Number:</b> ( ) - |
| <b>Band Members:</b>                      |                              |
| <b>Song to be Performed for Audition:</b> | <b>Music Genre:</b>          |

The **BAND2GETHER** 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    **AUGUST:** 8/1 - 8/8 - 8/15 - 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 **BAND2GETHER** 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) | Signature | (Month/Day/Year) |
| First Name   | Last Name |                  |

**Address:**

|          |        |            |
|----------|--------|------------|
| (Street) | (City) | (Zip Code) |
|----------|--------|------------|

**Phone Number:** ( ) -

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A variety of sponsorships are still available for this event - call **Ruth Koenigsmark** (216)521-2894 or email: [rkoenigsmark@yahoo.com](mailto:rkoenigsmark@yahoo.com)

**Lakewood Community Progress, Inc. (LCPI)** is a 501-(c)(3) organization whose mission is to encourage and support quality planning, economic development, rehabilitation and restoration by fostering public and private partnerships and promoting and celebrating the unique assets of downtown Lakewood. **Main Street Lakewood pARTy** is an LCPI program dedicated to bringing performing arts to Lakewood's historic downtown district.



**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 **BAND2GETHER** committee. Qualifications will be verified prior to acceptance.
- All applications must be submitted to **Vance Music Studios** (16420 Madison) by **May, 5 2008**.
- Finalists will be chosen by the judges and will be notified via phone by June 1, 2008.
- 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 videos.
- Finalist performances will be approximately 45 minutes in length.
- 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, snare, 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.
- All decisions of the judges are **FINAL**.
- Lyrics must be suitable for all audiences (no obscenities, profanity, violence etc.)
- By participating, each entrant consents to allow the use of his/her name and/or photographs for advertising this or similar promotions without further compensation.
- 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 hereunder. **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](http://www.mainstreetlakewood.org) • [www.lakewoodisart.com](http://www.lakewoodisart.com) • [www.vancemusicstudios.com](http://www.vancemusicstudios.com)

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