

THE
LAKEWOOD
OBSERVER

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Lakewood Comes Out...

Second LIA/MAMA Art Walk Big Success

by Michelle Meno

As I watched laundry spin around in the washing machines of Coin Wash Laundry while residents commented on artwork hanging on the Laundromat’s walls, I realized how unique my city really was.

The 2nd Annual Lakewood Art-Walk was a smashing success this past Saturday, May 17th. Lakewood businesses, citizens and artists merged together for the various art showings, events, and activities.

Cyrano’s Place was one of the many art active places to visit on the walk. Head instructor Sara Kass explained that the fencing school was the perfect space to show off students’ fencing skills while Lakewood residents perused artwork by artists Jan Ols and Nancy Hunsberger.

The Ultimate Party and Bar Supply store was another unconventional location for art, showing off Jeff McNaught’s artwork and books titled



photo by Rhonda Loje



photo by Rhonda Loje

Left: Chalk Artists Ruthie, Poppy and Mollie Henriksen at the Beer Engine

Right: Be Studio with owner Christina Anderson

Above: The band: Flipside at the Coffee Pot



photo by Rhonda Loje

story continued on page 11 with more photos



photo by Gary Rice

Grand Lodge officers and Lakewood Lodge participants in the 100th anniversary re consecration of the lodge.

Those Among Us-
Lakewood Masonic Lodge #601
Celebrates 100th Anniversary

by Gary Rice

On Saturday, May 17th, Lakewood Lodge #601, Free and Accepted Masons, celebrated its 100th anniversary with a Ceremony of Re consecration at the Lakewood Masonic Temple on Detroit Avenue at Andrews.

Officers from the Grand Lodge of Ohio were in attendance for this historic event.

Members attending enjoyed a morning meeting, followed by a lun-

cheon, and afterwards, the ceremony of re consecration celebrating 100 years of Lakewood Freemasonry.

Lakewood Masonic Lodge #601 holds their stated meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at Lakewood Masonic Temple, except during July and August.

Persons interested in obtaining information about Lakewood Lodge #601 are welcome to contact Lodge Secretary Steven Toth at steventoth@att.net

Sign Up For Community Produce Shares!
LEAF Offers Two CSA Programs

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a term given to a model of food production and distribution where a group of people (us) develops a direct relationship with nearby food producers (farmers). Customers enroll in the program to support a grower, who they trust to take good care of their land, crops, and animals. A typical CSA program includes an early spring membership payment, with weekly distribution of produce and other items when they are freshly harvested. Produce from a CSA program is fresher, healthier, and tastier than “conventional produce” that has travelled up to 1,500 miles to the store after days or weeks spent on trucks. If you are interested in connecting with the freshest, locally grown produce, the LEAF Community offers two programs to assist our Lakewood neighbors in doing just that. Both programs vend shares of produce picked within 24 hours of delivery on Thursday evenings at the Lakewood Public Library’s main branch. These two programs are:

Covered Bridge Gardens
This farm, run by Mick and Kay Prochko, is located in Jefferson, Ohio (Ashtabula County). Mick and Kay

deliver weekly produce market bags to Lakewood on LEAF Nights. You will have the chance to discuss how the farm is doing, ask questions and get to know Mick and Kay throughout the season. This program includes weekly

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SIGN UP FORM ON
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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

Walk & Roll Lakewood: Good for Business!

Lakewood residents are nothing if not experts on summertime. The moment the first ray of sunshine slices through the clouds after a long winter, Lakewood-ites take to the sidewalks in shorts and flip-flops. This summer, Lakewood residents will be encouraged to hit the pavement hassle-free when two miles of Lakewood streets are blocked off for Walk & Roll Lakewood.

Walk & Roll Lakewood will take place on Saturday, July 19, 2008 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. in downtown Lakewood. To take advantage of the walkability of this great city, Detroit Avenue will be blocked off from the Lakewood Hospital to the main branch of Lakewood Library, and Belle will be closed all the way down to Lakewood Park, allowing pedestrians, bicyclers and rollerbladers to “walk and roll” to the many free, health and exercise oriented activities that will be offered. It will be a vibrant

celebration that will raise awareness of our parks and green spaces, the culture and history of our community, and encourage healthy, active lifestyles.

This is a perfect opportunity for Lakewood profit and non-profit businesses to get involved in some fun and inexpensive self promotion. Lakewood businesses are invited to host one or more activities which will promote healthy and active lifestyles. In planning their activities, organizations are encouraged to get creative; programming will range from tumbling, dancing, aerobics, and yoga to a bike rodeo, skateboard demonstrations, and more. This will be a great time for Lakewood profit and non-profit organizations to introduce themselves to the community or to simply gain more exposure to the residents that support them.

Walk & Roll Lakewood puts

Lakewood in the company of communities world-wide who have had great success with this type of progressive event. To gain an idea of the vision for Walk & Roll Lakewood, readers will find it worthwhile to check out a video clip from a similar event in Bogota Columbia at <http://www.streetfilms.org/archives/ciclovial/>.

Several profit and nonprofit businesses are already on board for this great event, so organizations who are interested should sign up as soon as possible; July 19th is right around the corner! All profit and nonprofit participants will be charged a nominal fee of \$20, which will go toward the promotion of the organizations involved in Walk & Roll Lakewood as well as promotion of the event itself. To sign up to host a program or to find out more about getting involved, businesses can contact Shannon Strachan at 216-226-8418 or at sstrachan@sbcglobal.net.

Oldest Stone House Herb Society & Women’s Board Hold Special Event

The Oldest Stone House Herb Society and the Women’s Board of the Lakewood Historical Society invite you to attend a SPECIAL EVENT!

The Mystery of “THE MISSING THYME” will be presented by Herbal Theatrics, a wonderfully talented performing group of two women, Connie Williams and Karen Rodachy. They will take on the personas of two curious maids, Rosemary and Calendula, as they investigate the mysterious disappearance of Mistress Cicely’s thyme. The suspects include the butler, Phenius Comfrey, and the vicar, Thomas Sage.

The performance will be Monday evening, June 2, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Women’s Club Pavilion at Lakewood Park. Light refreshments will be served. There is no charge for this delightful evening!

Reservations are requested, but not required. Call Jane at 216-529-0740 or Sandy at 216-226-7527 to tell us that you’ll be attending. Don’t miss it.

Pillars, A Refreshing Young Professionals Group

by Michael Bentley

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce has created a young professionals group, Pillars. Our mission is to cultivate Lakewood’s business development by engaging the city’s demographic of 20-40 year olds. By offering programs that go beyond the typical singles happy hour, we strive to deliver true

value and connect residents, employees and business people of the city to their community. Examples of this are events that engage the attendees with one another to create an environment conducive to networking and business development. A couple major events are in the works.

The first is the annual golf out-

ing at Sweetbriar on July 25th, which has the theme “Hitting the Greens for a Greener Lakewood”. All proceeds from this event will go towards greening business areas and schools within the city. The second event will be the 3rd annual Wing Cook Off in August, where the restaurants/bars will be squaring off to provide the best wings in Lakewood. Sponsorship and participation opportunities for both of these events are still available.

On top of our major events, we will be hosting monthly programs that feature educational speakers at various locations throughout the city. Our first will be on May 29th at Around The Corner from 6-8pm, and our featured speaker will be Brian Salem of Realty One on business benefits of community involvement. Our second program will be held June 26th at Put-In-Bay Lakewood from 6-8pm. We will have a very special guest speaking on the dos and don’ts of interviewing. The cost for both these programs will be \$5 for Chamber members and \$10 for non-members. Please visit our website for more information on the group or events at www.pillarsoflakewood.com.

Need Prom Or Formal Dresses Look In Cinderella’s Cloest

by Justine Cooper

Prom is approaching, and Cinderella’s Closet is a non-profit closet of semi-formal and formal dresses for girls who need a dress for a school dance. You do not have to be low-income to qualify, as all families have financial stress. This is confidential and free. The dresses come in all sizes and if we do not have your size, we will search to help you.

All girls are Cinderellas and Goddesses, and should feel like one, so please call for an appt. to try on a dress for any high school dance. Many of the dresses still have tags on, and many others are designer dresses generously donated by local women.

If you would like to try on a dress or donate a dress, please contact Justine Cooper at 216-521-8263 or Kathy at Goddess Blessed on Hilliard and Madison at 216-221-8755. School administrators please make note of this closet for your students!

Cinderella’s Closet is growing and is looking for a non-profit (church or other) who has a room to house dress racks with dresses for girls to try on! Please contact Justine or Kathy if you are interested.

Generous thanks to all the women who have donated beautiful dresses and especially to Designer Consignor on 17118 Detroit in Lakewood , my favorite shop for the perfect dress, who semi-annually donates dozens of gorgeous dresses to this closet!

You Are Invited To Become An Observer!

Every 2 weeks the Lakewood Observer relies upon the independent contributions of Lakewood citizens to provide our readers with news and insights into life in Lakewood. As the name suggests, the Lakewood Observer, is designed to present a snapshot of Lakewood through the eyes of its community members.

The talents, opinions, and hard work of a wide variety of individuals have been showcased over the 4 year history of the LO. But, as we all know, Lakewood

is a diverse, dynamic place to call home, which in turn makes the comprehensive portrayal, definition, and analysis of the city in its entirety, a very tall order. Only by expanding this pool of dedicated individuals will the LO continue to move forward as a truly revolutionary, open-source journalistic endeavor.

The final product in front of you is the result of a local, community based process, which includes volunteer writers, photographers, and editors. You too can join these energetic, commu-

nity conscious individuals of all ages who share a common goal, i.e. supporting the creation of news, views, opinions, and human-interest stories, highlighting the many facets of culture, arts, business, education, religion, and lifestyle that Lakewood offers.

And here’s how!

If you are interested in becoming a writer, photographer, or editor for the LO, contact Dan Slife at city.editor@lakewoodobserver.com or 216.316.2628.



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Lakewood City Council

Frequently Asked Questions about the Proposed Pit Bull Ban

By Councilman At-Large Brian Powers

On May 19, I proposed a ban on those dogs commonly known as pit bulls. The current administration, including Mayor Edward FitzGerald, City Prosecutor Richard Neff, and the animal control officers, are supportive of the legislation. Since the introduction of this proposed ordinance, a number of Lakewood residents on both sides of the issue have approached me with questions. Below is a summary of those questions, along with his responses.

Question: Pit bulls have been around Lakewood for more than a century. Why are we now proposing a ban on these dogs?

Answer: In January 2008, a man was attacked by a pit bull right here in Lakewood. The dog tore the skin away from half of his face before it was put down by animal control officers. There is no doubt that pit bulls are an increasing problem in our city. In 2004, we impounded 11 pit bulls. By 2006, the number had risen to 36. In the first three months of 2008 alone, 16 pit bulls had to be impounded, and that was in the cold winter months when dogs are rarely a problem. We must take action to stem this explosion in the pit bull population.

Question: There is no such thing as a “pit bull,” but there are a number of breeds that get unfairly labeled as pit bulls. How can we pass a law about pit bulls and canary dogs when these terms are not recognized by the American Kennel Club?

Answer: In Lakewood, we must follow the laws of our City and not the directions of the AKC or any other special interest group. The terms “pit bull dog” and “canary dog” are very carefully defined under current Lakewood law. Under our existing ordinances, “pit bull dog” means any Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier or American Staffordshire Terrier breed of dog; any dog of mixed breed which has the appearance and characteristics of being predominantly of such breeds; any dog commonly known as a pit bull, pit bull dog or pit bull terrier; or a combination of any of these breeds.” It is very clear under our law what we mean by “pit bull dog.”

Question: Let’s not blame a certain breed of dog for problems caused by irresponsible owners. Instead of “breed specific legislation,” why doesn’t Lakewood pass a law requiring leashes, muzzles, special “dog run” fencing, and mandatory insurance for dangerous dogs of all breeds?



Answer: City council members have been deluged with e-mails from organized pit bull supporters around the country with this advice. But what these out-of-towners fail to recognize is that Lakewood already has such a law! Owners of dangerous dogs, including pit bulls, are currently required to have special leashes and strong muzzles whenever the dog is outdoors. They also must construct a “dog run” in the backyard, with walls six feet high, a roof, and sides imbedded at least a foot in the ground. These dog owners must also purchase at least \$100,000 of insurance to cover liability arising from a potential attack. The problem is that the current law is very difficult to enforce. We have the finest law enforcement officials in Ohio, but they cannot be expected to spend all of their time measuring the tensile strength of leashes, or peering into backyards to see if fencing has been constructed, or asking dog owners for insurance paperwork. We tried the suggested method of controlling these dogs, but the owners of many pit bulls in Lakewood have been irresponsible and have not followed our current laws. We have no choice but to implement a stronger, simpler ban.

Question: A ban sounds difficult to enforce. Haven’t other cities had trouble with breed-specific bans?

Answer: In Cuyahoga County, a number of cities including Parma and Garfield Heights have reported success with pit bull bans. Other Ohio cities, such as Youngstown and Toledo, have also passed legislation banning pit bull dogs. Again, an outright ban is easier to enforce than a complicated law requiring leashes, muzzles, fences, and insurance.

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Lakewood City News

Historic Designation OK'd – Pit Bulls KO'd?

Council president Michael Dever brought the May 19, 2008 council meeting to order at 7:40.

After a year of hard work by the Lakewood Planning Commission, the Heritage Advisory Board and advocacy by the Lakewood Historical Society, council finally passed revisions to the zoning code providing for Historic Preservation Districts (HPD) and Historical Property (HP) designations.

Most readers are familiar with Historic Districts such as Bird Town. That designation is a result of completing a long application process to the National Historic Register. Ultimately, it is hoped that the Bird Town Historic District will retain its unique character and will result in appreciable benefits to the larger Lakewood community and the property owners in that area.

While that is to be commended, a gap in the zoning code became apparent several years ago. The owner of a house at Lake and Nicholson, facing foreclosure, had applied for several demolition permits. At that time there were no conditions to obtaining a razing permit. Neighborhood homeowners were very concerned about the eventual use of a very beautiful house and property. Then councilman Edward FitzGerald hosted a public meeting at the high school to allow concerns to be heard. The basic outcome of that meeting was

the realization that the city had few tools in the way of laws on the books or even programs to deal with such a situation. Even the Lakewood Historical Society while gravely concerned was unable to step in.

So, the Lakewood Planning Commission started the long process needed to revise the zoning code so that the City would have laws to deal with individual situations as well as establish a process to allow for an expansion on the theme of historical preservation.

Generally, an area – a street or streets – could request that the Heritage Advisory Board assist in the application process to designate an HPD. The Heritage Advisory Board acts as a technical assistant and resource during the designation process. Individual and commercial properties could also request an Historical Property designation.

After such a designation property owners would have to go to the Architectural Review Board (ARB) with plans for any major exterior changes. This is currently required anyway. The ARB would then apply historic criteria to the proposal to see if it reflected defined historic standards. A homeowner would continue to be able to institute general maintenance repairs

without review.

According to Planning Commission Chairman William Grulich this would help Lakewood maintain the area's unique character and architectural diversity. Grulich added, "There are benefits to home and business owners from tax credits, which may allow people to afford more improvements. This legislation would not have been possible without the dedicated work of Rick Sicha, Tom Einhouse, John Pyke, Heather Rudge, and councilman Kevin Butler."

Mazie Adams, director of the Historical Society said, "Passage of this legislation Monday night is an historic event for Lakewood."

Upon entering city hall Monday night visitors were greeted by a friendly dog on a leash. The pup appeared to be what is commonly known as a pit bull. His doggy grin elicited many pets as he clearly relished his role as designated greeter for the evening.

Inside, however, Brian Powers (at large) was introducing legislation which would ban that pup and any that looked like him from Lakewood. Powers pointed out that in the last six months the animal warden has had to respond to many complaints involving pit bulls and in one instance a man was bitten in the face by one. Referring to the current ordinances that required

leashes, muzzles, and liability insurance as inadequate, he called for an outright ban on this kind of dog.

Maybe the reason the pup outside was so friendly is because he knew the council audience was filled with his supporters that night. They all wanted a chance to talk.

Melissa Ungerman of Waterbury Avenue stated that she acts as a dog rescue for pit bulls. "This is a reaction to a perceived and not real threat, she said. Let's go after the owners who aren't responsible."

Bob Scott of Lake Avenue asked the question, "what is a pit bull? There is no dog called that in the American Kennel Club."

Jason Brown of Wyandotte Avenue said "pit bull is a generic term. It is the owners who create these monsters. There is no reason why my dog should suffer because of these knuckleheads. Over 350 children touch my dog everyday when I walk my 7 year old to school."

Ann Kaiser, a professional dog trainer, and Sharon Klein – president of Canine Advocates of Ohio both stated that there is no evidence that breed specific laws reduces dog bites.

This is an issue that will undergo intense public scrutiny in the next several weeks. It was referred to the Public Safety Committee which is chaired by Tom Bullock (ward 2). He indicated that he would be holding public hearings on the proposal and he would make every effort to elicit all opinions.

Ian Bell Places Second in Reading Rainbow Writing Contest

by Lauren Kirk

Ian Bell, a third-grader at Taft Elementary, received second place in his third grade category in Reading Rainbow's Young Writers and Illustrators Contest. The contest is in its fourteenth year and had 550 submissions this year. The contest is for children in kindergarten through third grade. All stories and illustrations are original. With word counts ranging from 50-350 words according to age group, the entrants were judged on creativity and originality among other aspects. Ian's story "Rocketboy" was one of only 12 selected winners from throughout Northeast Ohio.

WVIZ/PBS is known for their educational services and programs in Ohio and beyond. Reading Rainbow is an integral part of their programming due to the focus in education and inspiration. It is also one of the longest running children's programs in public television history. "WVIZ/PBS is pleased to have been able to offer this opportunity again this year. The talent of the student entrants in this year's contest was truly remarkable. We may be honoring a future Newbery or Caldecott Medal Nominee in this group," said Jean O'Malley. Ian and all of the other winning entries will be posted on the WVIZ/PBS website. Jean O'Malley is the educational services programming coordinator at WVIZ/PBS. "These stories and illustrations are among the highest quality ever received and reflect the enormous amount of creativity in area students." O'Malley also said that she was "personally delighted to have read every entry submitted in the contest."

Ian will be recognized at an awards ceremony given at the Idea Center at Playhouse Square on May 28th. The winners will read their entries in front of an extensive audience of family and friends. Ian's parents, Joanne Schwark and Andrew Bell will of course be in attendance to see Ian receive a signed certificate from LeVar Burton, the host of Reading Rainbow.



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Lakewood Public Library

Learning Lakewood Through Play: Librainium Ruling Hearts and Minds

by Dan Slife

At a critical time and place in Lakewood’s history, the nationally renowned designer of cutting-edge pre-literacy learning tools, Burgeon Group, has delivered big on a promise to advance early childhood cognitive, social and linguistic development with the recent unveiling of the Lakewood Public Library’s Librainium for reading readiness.

Intended primarily to teach, through play the six principles of pre-literacy, Burgeon Group’s work goes further, transmitting and evoking these experiential lessons through a rich, soulful set of symbols, shapes, textures, facts, images and language, which all are organically related to Lakewood’s local culture, civic life, natural and built geography. As a visionary cadre of former library administrators, artists and teachers, the Burgeon Group aspires to the librarian’s highest calling: the creation of knowledge. In opening the book of pre-literate childhood development through the unique language of the Lakewood community, they have created, in effect, a record of community self-knowledge made marvelously accessible to our city’s youngest residents. And the verdict is in, as two youngsters wrote on the Librainium chalkboard: “Lakewood Public Library Rules!”

Approaching either the main or branch library installation, it’s hard to miss the prominence of a diverse collection of bird houses and other colorful artwork along the skyline, high above the interactive components of each Librainium. The bird houses serve multiple purposes. From a dis-



Tate Calaway and Olivia Waters exploring blocks at the light table.

tance, they catch your eye, aspiring to peak your curiosity and draw you and your child to interact with the learning center. At closer look, they’re adorned in different images, words and colors. Lakewood’s time-honored City of Homes theme is expressed through the architectural styles of some of the bird houses, suggesting and even mimicking notable landmarks within our city. One house mimics the tutor style and is wrapped in Shakespeare quotes. Another replicates the Oldest Stone House, while others resemble some of Lakewood’s turn of the century, Lake and Edgewater Avenue apartments.

The community lexicon doesn’t end with bird houses. In fact, the Burgeon Group strives to hide nuanced articulations of the Lakewood code that children might unpack for years

after the initial opening of the Librainium has passed. Of the less hidden Lakewood knowledge, you’ll discover the wordy wrapping of a community newspaper lining the inside of reading nooks and decorating the outside of a large wooden boat. Canned vegetables bearing the LEAF Community name and mission statement are employed to spark conversation about food and nutrition. Images of the Gold Coast and other aspects of our urban architecture are also integrated into the design. Kim van der Veen challenges Lakewoodites to discover other hidden treasures within the Librainium.

Through locally grounded images, symbols and language, within an experiential, hands-on environment, playful conversational and tactile sparks can ignite the connection

between community knowledge and a child’s immense capacity to learn and process new information through literacy.

Kim van der Veen and her team from Phoenix fell in love with Lakewood, its community institutions, arts and cultural life, collective communication channels and rich urban and architectural histories. These impressions inspired Burgeon’s artists to integrate Lakewood’s community practice and civic language within the Librainium. “We were very impressed by the sense of community in Lakewood,” says van der Veen. Not only does the Librainium reflect Lakewood’s deep sense of community and civic pride, by way of its participatory nature the platform itself engenders new relationships among Lakewood’s youngest residents, parents and neighbors.

Children’s and Youth Department manager Andrew Harrant has witnessed the birth of new friendships between both parents and children within the space. In one instance, two mothers became acquainted with a third through shared interaction, between each other and their children. The two mothers invited the third to join them with child at Kaufman Park that afternoon. “It’s instant community!” Harrant exclaims with a deep sense of appreciation for the Librainium’s impact at such a grass roots, interpersonal level.

The bonding extends deeper, into the realm of early childhood development, and further, in the way that a

continued on next page

Lakewood Public Library Event Calendar

June 1 12:00 p.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Official Opening of The Main Library and Reception for Architect Robert A.M. Stern: Remarks, Refreshments and EntertainmentSunday,

Sunday, June 1 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday with the Friends Doug Wood: Progressive Acoustic Instrumental: Doug Wood’s instrumental music can shift from a sweet fingerstyle guitar piece to a composition that loops energetic world rhythms with various percussion instruments in the blink of an eye. A wry sense of humor connects it all with tales of the road.

Sunday, June 8 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Note-Ability: This four-part, women’s a cappella group draws its membership from the Sweet Adelines International regional medal-winners, The Greater Cleveland Chorus. They love to sing your favorite barbershop harmonies and fill a room with joyful sound.

Saturday, June 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

The Lakewood Public Cinema King Kong (1933) Directed by Merian C. Cooper & Ernest B. Schoedsack, PG*: See what Peter Jackson got wrong in his ill-conceived remake by joining us for the glorious original. An adventurous film crew travels to Skull Island for the scenery and ends up finding the living eighth wonder of the world. Can Kong be tamed? Will New York City ever be the same? Is this the greatest special effects movie of all time?

Saturday, June 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Second Saturday Folk Music Presents - Hopper & Reilly – Old time country and folk music,

Family Weekend Wonders Make the library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts. 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, time and place most convenient for you.

May 30, 31 & June 1

Safari Stomp

June 6, 7, 8

Let’s Go to the Beach



he verdict is in on Lakewood Public Library’s renovations, especially the new Children’s and Youth Services Department. This message was left by two unidentified students on a chalkboard located on the port side of the barge in the new Lakewood Librainium for Reading Readiness, a space for children ages birth through five and their parents. Copyright Burgeon Group

Lakewood Public Library

Librainium Ruling Hearts and Minds

continued from previous page

library’s broad access to pre-literacy learning opportunities raises the bar for the academic and civic accomplishments of future generations. “Early literacy plays a key role in enabling the kind of early learning experiences that research shows are linked with academic achievement, reduced grade retention, higher graduation rates and enhanced productivity in adult life,” according to Dorothy Strickland and Shannon Riley-Ayers.

There are Six Principles of Pre-Literacy (<http://www.opl.on.ca/ECR2R.php>):

Letter Knowledge Learning that each letter is distinct and that each letter has its own name and unique sound.

Phonological Awareness Being able to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words.

Narrative Skills Being able to describe things and events, being able to tell stories.

Print Motivation Being interested in, and enjoying, books.

Vocabulary Knowing the names of things.

Print Awareness Noticing print, knowing how to handle a book and knowing how to follow the words on a page.

Strong correlations exist between literacy and an individual’s capacity to think abstractly and critically. While more abstract, intellectual modes of cognition are the stuff of late adolescence and adulthood, it is clear that building the foundations for a critically

sensible civic discourse begin with the teaching of the six pre-literacy skills.

Through playing with each other, reading, conversing and generally experiencing the Librainium, children are pulled into the learning experience, developing synaptic connections which will underpin future cognitive, social and emotional development. And they’re leaning because they’re playing. This is accomplished by molding a learning environment that is “visually interesting but not over stimulating,” according to van der Veen.

Lakewood’s youngest residents first embarked on the Librainium experience with the opening of a small scale organic learning center at the Madison branch library in late April. The branch Librainium was an instant success. “I’m thrilled to see the children and parents interacting with the puppets and the Librainium,” said Judy Grzybowski, Madison Branch Manager. On any given day, and especially between children’s programs, the Madison Branch Librainium magnetizes the children’s area. Toddlers engulf the interactive learning center in a playful swarm, curiously exploring the ABC Ball Pull and the Dancing People. The branch installation includes a sitting space, which draws children into reading and interaction with the built-in learning tools.

“Not only is the Librainium a work of art, there are a lot of great display items for parents and children to look at and interact with. Most of the art is totally interactive with kids, and



Kids playing with plastic vegetables by the “B is for Barge” feature. The children in the photo (left to right) are Joseph Trzaska, Olivia Waters, Sam Stallbaum, and Tyler Stallbaum and Tate Calaway.

everything has a learning purpose. There are a lot of things that deal with motor skills and brain development,” said Harrant, who is especially appreciative of the way that constructive play time with the Librainium will advance timely neurological development for Lakewood’s youngest residents. Simple repetitive actions like “getting kids to move their hands in circles strengthens neuron flows across the brain’s synapses,” explains Harant. “Every point of the space is intended to develop early literacy skills and general brain development. But the kids don’t know it, because they’re having fun.”

“For all of our installations across the country, we try to integrate seating, interactive learning panels, and cozy reading nooks to encourage parent-child interaction around the six pre-literacy skills,” says van der Veen.

Harrant is equally impressed by the way in which the Librainium seems to encourage reading both within the library and beyond. Throughout the

Librainium there are many shelves situated within a child’s sightline and grasp for displaying books. At any given time, there are nearly fifty pictures books on display at the Main Library Librainium. “We have to refresh the books four to five times a day. Children will play, then read a book, play and the read some more.” There’s also a toy book drop which helps to encourage responsible patron habits at an early age, and the children derive great joy from this, too.

Indeed, the children are learning, and deeply, in the Librainiums at Main Library and Madison Branch. And they don’t even realize it.

By providing such a locally unique experience of the six pre-literacy skills in Lakewood, the Burgeon Group has opened the door for our city’s youngest residents to one day realize their higher potentials in community, thus increasing the odds that Lakewood’s long standing tradition of community pride and civic know-how extend well into the 21st century.

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Lakewood Observer

Proposed Pit Bull Ban

continued from page 3

Question: All breeds of dog bite. Are pit bulls really more dangerous than other dogs?

Answer: Unfortunately, yes, pit bulls are very dangerous. When a labrador, collie or other dog bites, you might end up with a bruise or, in some cases, a puncture wound. When a pit bull attacks, you may end up maimed for life or, in many cases, dead. Every legitimate study conducted in America, including the study by the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, has demonstrated that pit bull bites are more likely to result in a fatality than bites or attacks by any other breed. Pit bulls account for less than 3- 4% of the dogs in our country. Yet a study from 1979 through 1988 released by the Journal of the American Medical Association found that pit bulls accounted for 42% of all dog-related deaths. Another study conducted in 1982 through 2006 similarly concluded that 44% of all fatalities from dog attacks involved pit bulls. And the numbers are getting worse. The JAMA article reported that in the most recent years of the study (1987-1988), pit bulls accounted for 62% of the deaths. Another study in 2007 found that 58% of all dog bite fatalities involved pit bulls. Clearly, we must act before these statistics include a fatality in our town.

Question: The people who own and work with pit bulls every day say these dogs can be very friendly. Why don't we listen to the people who know pit bulls the best?

Answer: Actually, the people who know pit bulls best, such as pit bull rescue groups, understand that these dogs are different from other breeds and need

Pete the Pup in Our Gang helping the kids (Little Rascals)



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_TnLev_kWE

to be treated differently. For example, according to Pit Bull Rescue Central "It is a fact that our APBTs, ASTs and pit mixes come with a built-in fighting heritage [their emphasis]. It doesn't matter where we get them from, whether it be the pound, a stray we pick up, or a puppy we buy from a breeder. ... We cannot predict when or where it will happen and we can't love, train or socialize it out of the dog [their emphasis]." The experts understand that these

Railroad Trespassing In Lakewood

by Rudy Husband

Law enforcement officials from Norfolk Southern, Cleveland and Lakewood spent May 13 and 14 addressing the dangers of trespassing on railroad property. On May 13 Norfolk Southern Police and Norfolk Southern's Cleveland Safety Committee distributed pamphlets and posters to schools, businesses and residences near the railroad tracks between West 110th Street in Cleveland and the border of Lakewood and Rocky River. On May 14, Norfolk Southern agents and local police will patrol this area and issue citations to any trespassers encountered.

"Trespassing on railroad property equipment is an extremely dangerous – and potentially fatal – activity," said Rudy Husband, director of public relations for Norfolk Southern. "Whenever possible we try to raise awareness with the public that railroad tracks and equipment are private property and people should simply stay away. We

are grateful for the participation and support by Cleveland and Lakewood to help us get this message out."

According to statistics compiled by the Federal Railroad Administration, 2007 saw 484 people killed and 393 injured while trespassing on railroad property. In Ohio, 20 people were killed while trespassing and 17 people were injured. Since 2004, eight people have lost their lives trespassing on railroad property in Cuyahoga County and five have been injured.

Norfolk Southern Corporation (NYSE: NSC) is one of the nation's premier transportation companies. Its Norfolk Southern Railway subsidiary operates approximately 21,000 route miles in 22 states and the District of Columbia, serving every major container port in the eastern United States and providing superior connections to western rail carriers. Norfolk Southern operates the most extensive intermodal network in the East and is North America's largest rail carrier of metals and automotive products.



photo by Brad Hutchinson

What about mixed breeds like this?

Question: But don't many veterinarians say that they have never had a problem with pit bulls?

Answer: Veterinarians and their staffs are often specially trained to deal with aggressive dogs. Vets are understandably careful about publicly bashing any breed of dog, for fear of backlash from the public. But the American Veterinary Medical Association has a 40 page book entitled "Dos and Don'ts Concerning Vicious Dogs" which helps vets understand the dangers of certain types of dogs. Almost every example of dangerous dog behavior in the book relates to pit bull attacks. According to the AVMA book, "American Pit Bull Terriers/American Staffordshire Terriers, which comprise the majority of the Staffordshires or pit bull group, and are unquestionably the most dangerous and unpredictable. One should remember that cross-bred dogs with pit bull in their bloodline, i.e., American Pit Bull Terrier and Rhodesian Ridgeback, are equally dangerous and unpredictable."

Question: Helen Keller owned a pit bull and Petey from the Little Rascals was a pit bull dog. Doesn't this prove that these dogs are gentle and trustworthy?

Answer: Unfortunately, breeding and in-breeding over recent decades have made these the dogs of choice for those who want to make a "macho" statement. Pit bull fans always point out that Helen Keller owned one, but they fail to mention that, more recently, Michael Vick owned 49 pit bulls. And the Little Rascals was a fictionalized account of childhood in the Great Depression, not a documentary. In Lakewood, there are many things we don't want to bring back from the Depression, and pit bulls running loose with children is one of them.

Question: But law enforcement agencies and the military use pit bulls for search and rescue missions. Why would they use these dogs if they are so dangerous?

Answer: In the hands of trained professionals, pit bulls have traits that can be very useful. These dogs will attempt to accomplish their assigned mission even if they are beaten, shot, wounded, or pepper sprayed. While these traits are desirable if a dog is pulling wounded soldiers off a battlefield, they are dangerous if the dog is attacking a child in the backyard. Lakewood is one of the most densely populated cities in the nation, with homes, churches, schools, senior centers, and shops all in close proximity. There is simply no place in Lakewood for these dangerous dogs.

Former Councilman Completes Basic Training

by Ryan Patrick Demro

Former Ward II Councilman, Ryan Patrick Demro, recently completed a rigorous training regimen at the United States Army Infantry Center. Located at Fort Benning, Georgia, the Army's Basic Combat Training Program consists of ten weeks of preparation in the skills requisite to be a soldier in the Army. Upon graduation, Demro moved across base to the Army's Officer Candidate School (OCS) for another twelve weeks of training in anticipation of receiving a commission as a Second Lieutenant later this summer. "Enduring this type of training has given me a much greater appreciation for the sacrifices made by the soldiers that defend our nation." Demro, an Army Reservist, explained that the time away from home, family, and friends has been the most difficult part of the training. "It is hard to be away when you are



Ryan Patrick Demro so deeply involved in the life of a community. I miss the people and the Council." Demro expects to return to Lakewood briefly in August and then permanently in the fall.

Lakewood Schools



Miss Mandi Pohorence; Teacher and Alumni of McKinley



Children play during Taft school's last track and field day.

Lakewood Prepares to Say Goodbye To Two More Beloved Buildings

The time to reminisce, honor and bid farewell to two more of Lakewood's beloved school buildings is at hand. The community will say goodbye to McKinley and Taft and staff and students will prepare to move into the newly renovated Emerson and Horace Mann Elementary Schools for the 2008 – 09 school year.

Emerson and Horace Mann, former Middle Schools, have been fully renovated into state-of-the-art elementary schools, thanks to the passage of a bond issue in May 2007 to fund Phase II of the district's facilities plan, which

will replace or renovate all of the buildings in the school district.

Many festive activities are planned for the Decommissionings of McKinley and Taft, which will take place on Wednesday May 28, 2008 from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. Programs include choirs, speeches, desserts and tours of the buildings. The event is open to the public and all are welcome to participate, especially current and past families and staff from each school.

The formal program for Taft will be held from 6:30 – 7:00 PM with

refreshments, provided by the PTO and building tours to follow. At McKinley, building tours and refreshments, provided by the PTA will be held from 6:30 – 7:30PM, with the formal program to follow at 7:30PM. This was planned in case anyone wanted to attend the formal ceremonies at both schools.

"As we prepare to end our stay here at Taft and move to our new building at Emerson next year, we invite the entire community to join us in our closing celebration. School officials, Board of Education members and civic leaders

will join us in the decommissioning of our building," said Mrs. Peg Seibel, Principal of Taft Elementary School. "Please plan to attend!" said Mrs. Seibel. At Taft's program, a family with four generations of Taft students will be on hand to help celebrate, and at McKinley, a current teacher who was also a student will help to reminisce.

McKinley is located at 1351 West Clifton Blvd, Lakewood 216-529-4257 and

Taft is located at 13701 Lake Ave., Lakewood 216-529-4254

Kids And Chairs That Care

by Julie Wang Warren

Are you sitting down for this news? Really? What are you sitting on? Does a great work of art adorn your chair? Was it lovingly painted by little hands? If not, you need to check out the Chairs That Care Auction coming up on Saturday, June 7, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. at Lincoln Elementary School. At the auction, over 45 unique, colorful, hand-painted chairs will be available for bidding!

Under the guidance of Maureen Marshall, 2nd and 3rd grade students from the Discovery program at Lincoln School have been studying famous artists throughout the year. Renoir, Picasso, Cassat, Monet and so many of the masters have been the focus of these children. From their biographies, the kids were able to learn interesting tidbits including the artists' hometowns, their favorite subjects and mediums and even other artists with whom they may have been friends.

When it came time to choose which work of art they were going to replicate for their chairs, the students were thrilled with the possibilities. Second grader, Carter Gamez, who chose to paint a Georgia O'Keeffe, said, "I liked the way she drew the pictures, especially the colors." A famous piece by Matisse was Saige Rook's choice. She

reported that she "really liked the content and the colors that he combined."

These one-of-kind chairs are so special on their own, but what really sets this event apart is that 100% of the proceeds raised from the auction directly benefit the Cleveland Food Bank. The students are well aware that many Clevelanders go hungry every day, and they want to make a difference. Over the course of the last four years, kids in Mrs. Marshall's classes have managed to donate over \$18,000 to the Food Bank with similar auctions.

Of the auction, Mrs. Marshall simply smiles and says, "I am so amazed at what their little hands can do, and how quickly they catch onto the styles of the artist. Most of all I am so proud of how much of themselves they put into this project, and how eager they are to do something that helps others. "Knowing that fewer people will go hungry because of our efforts, makes it all worthwhile."

Another green point is that many of the chairs, which are now beautiful treasures, were likely, at one time, someone's trash. Quite a few were retrieved from local tree lawns, saving them from landfills. So don't just SIT there, make a plan to attend the Chairs That Care Auction on June 7th. We'll save you a seat!



Hannah Solo, a 3rd grader at Lincoln paints her chair.



Kent Adams with his recreation of a Mary Cassat piece.

Lakewood Schools

Lakewood Kiwanis Scholarship Lunch

by Jennifer Scott

On Tuesday May 13th the Lakewood Kiwanis Club recognized the recipients of their annual scholarship award. There were six winners in all, each receiving \$10,000 over the next four years. These outstanding students go through a selection process that begins in early spring. Some of the requirements include an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher, an interview with the scholarship trustees, and proof of enrollment at an accredited college or university. The trustees also take into consideration the student's leadership and service to the community, their character, their SAT/ACT scores and a need for financial assistance. All six of these students had an opportunity to speak at lunch and share their future plans. Patrick Bittel will be attending Loyola University in Maryland to study pre-med. Jacqueline Colm will be studying International Affairs in Washington D.C. Madeline Elaban (whose parents met at a Kiwanis function!) will be attending Penn State University. Kevin Knab is the third one in his family to receive this scholarship and he will be going to Marietta College. Emma Paras will be attending the University of Akron to study emergency management and photography. Finally, Morgan Schroeder will be going to the University of Cincinnati. These young students should be proud of their achievements. Best of luck to all of you as you move forward into the next phase of your lives.

Anyone who would like more information about joining the Lakewood Kiwanis Club or about the scholarship program may go to their website at <http://www.lkwdpl.org/kiwanis>

Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Awards Scholarships

by Patty Ryan

On Friday, May 16th the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce honored their 2008 Scholarship recipients at a breakfast at Pier W Restaurant. Congratulations to Najam Hassan, Makorobondo Salukombo, and Brittany Schroll, current seniors at Lakewood High School; and Steven McKinney, a senior at St. Edward High School. Mr. Tom Ryan, Head Wrestling Coach of the Ohio State University was the speaker and offered the students and local business leaders inspirational advice from his own experiences as a coach, father and community leader. This year's scholarship recipients were all exceptional. Best of luck to each of them as they head off to college next fall!



From left to right: Madeline Elaban, Emma Paras, Pat Bittel, Kevin Knab, Morgan Schroeder, and Jaqueline Colm

Scholars To Examine Future In Medicine:

National Youth Leadership Forum On Medicine Offers Career Insights

This summer, young scholars from across the nation will participate in the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine (NYLF/MED). Sessions take place in eight states throughout the United States. Scholars will join other High School students from around the country who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership potential and an interest in a career in medicine.

Throughout the ten-day forum, NYLF/MED will introduce students to a variety of concepts in public health, medical ethics, research and general practice and will include site visits to medical facilities and clinics. Scholars will engage in a stimulation using problem-based learning, an educational method in which students will be presented a fictional patient's case history and must diagnose and develop a treatment plan for the patient.

"Each student may very well be the face of the future of medicine," said NYLF executive director, Donna Snyder. "The National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine creates a virtual classroom with hospitals, clinical facilities and healthcare professionals. By shadowing key personnel, these students will have a great opportunity to gain a behind-the-scenes perspective on a medical career. Timing is critical as young people explore career paths, just prior to immersing themselves in college coursework."

In addition to visiting cutting-edge medical schools and clinical facilities, scholars will have the opportunity to hear from and interact with leaders within the medical field. Students engage in



Kathryn Burke, who graduated from SS Cyril & Methodius school here in Lakewood in 2007, was recently selected to attend this prestigious event at Georgetown University, based on test scores and academic achievements. Kathryn was also a participant in the 2007 Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair (NEOSEF) in the category of Biological Science - Health/Medicine where she was selected to move on and participate in the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge in Washington D.C. She is currently a freshman at St. Joseph Academy in Cleveland.

personal contact with physicians, surgeons, researchers, scientists and medical educators as they view these professionals at work.

NYLF is an educational organization that brings various professions to life, empowering outstanding young

people with the confidence to make well-informed career choices. NYLF has provided programming to more than 100,000 young people.

For additional information, visit us at www.nylf.org

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Lakewood Observer

The Lakewood YMCA Appreciates And Continues To Need Your Support



Recently, Papa John's Pizza offered twenty-three cent pizzas at its Cleveland area shops to soothe the rancor caused by its "LeBron James - crybaby" gaffe. On a damp and chilly day, the lines stretched around parking lots and down city sidewalks. Like kids waiting for concert tickets to go on sale, some people waited nearly two hours. Although some people were there just for kicks, many others commented on how they needed to catch such a break from high food prices. Relief showed in their eyes.

A similar phenomenon occurred when the Cleveland Cavaliers gave away free gasoline. Hundreds of people waited over an hour hoping they would reach the head of the line in time to receive their gift. One woman said with a tear in her eye that the hour plus wait was well worth not having to choose between gasoline and food. Another woman emphatically praised the Lord.

Gasoline prices in Northeast Ohio are approaching \$4 per gallon. Food prices are escalating, too. Unquestionably, times are tougher than they were a few years ago, when gasoline prices were threatening to break through the then unthinkable \$2 per gallon barrier and a gallon of milk could be had for a dollar less than today.

The confluence of rising prices and other dour economic factors affects us all. For some, prudence has dictated reprioritizing spending and travel habits to hedge against future uncertainty. For others, necessity is the driving factor.

During such times, when a cut-rate pizza or a few gallons of gratis gasoline engender relief and overflowing thankfulness, the need for charity and good-will is painfully apparent. During such times, communities must not withdraw into self-preservation; rather, communities must find ways to dig deeper to reach out to those who are compelled to choose between necessities.

Through the dedication of its staff and the generosity of its benefactors, the Lakewood YMCA is doing what it can to address the increasing needs of our community. In 2007, the Lakewood YMCA provided nearly \$50,000 in assistance to individuals and families who otherwise could not have afforded memberships or programs. This year the Lakewood YMCA anticipates that the need will exceed \$60,000. Through the first four months of 2008, assistance already has topped \$20,000, nearly \$8,000 more than during the comparable period of 2007.

What the YMCA can do to help

is limited by only the generosity of those who support it. In that regard, the Lakewood YMCA has been blessed. The YMCA of Greater Cleveland is nearing the end of its annual Strong Kids Campaign, through which the Lakewood YMCA has raised over \$52,000 to subsidize memberships and programs for children in need. The Lakewood YMCA is most grateful to those who have supported this and other worthy YMCA causes. You have given hundreds of children opportunities to learn, to socialize and exercise in safe surroundings, and to grow in spirit, mind, and body. Your generosity is priceless to those children, and it will resonate in their lives indefinitely.

The need for assistance in our community still remains observably

acute. Hand in hand with the price of a gallon of gasoline or milk, the need is increasing. Accordingly, although the YMCA's annual campaign is nearing its end, the time to reach out to members of our community who are hurting continues. To those who believe in the YMCA's cause and who have the means, please contact the Lakewood YMCA at 216-521-8400 and lend your support. The Lakewood YMCA thanks you in advance for your generosity.

Matthew Nee
Lakewood YMCA Community
Advisory Board Member

Look Better. Feel Great. In Less Than An Hour! Laser Surgery Provide Relief For Varicose Veins

by Anne Kuenzel

Many people think varicose veins are just a cosmetic problem. And although they may appear unsightly, varicose veins are often the cause of fatigue, discomfort and swelling for both men and women. In fact, approximately 25 percent of all women and 15 percent of all men suffer from varicose veins, which can also represent serious underlying issues.

New procedures performed at the Lakewood Hospital Vein & Vascular Center in Westlake have revolutionized the way varicose veins are diagnosed and treated. Minimally invasive outpatient procedures have replaced lengthy, painful surgeries, helping to improve the quality of life for many patients.

Stan E. can attest to that. Stan suffers from chronic venous insufficiency, a condition that occurs when the valves in the leg veins are unable to pump blood to the heart. Managing a fast-food restaurant and on his feet almost 12 hours a day, Stan found it nearly impossible to work because of the pain and swelling in his legs. For years, Stan controlled the swelling with tight compression stockings, but found them to be difficult to put on and embarrassing to wear. "Meeting Dr. Bekeny and his staff really changed my life," Stan explains. "I had no idea there was an alternative to the compression stock-

ings. After the first procedure, I felt like a new person – more energetic and back to normal. I was back to work in a day or so."

Stan underwent four rounds of laser vein ablation and microphlebectomy to eliminate his vein problems. These procedures are done in the office, without anesthesia, using only small micro-punctures into the skin with no stitches needed. Following the procedure, most patients walk out of the office and return to normal activity the same day. And that's exactly what happened to Kathy N., a Lakewood resident who underwent the same procedures as Mr. E. As a mother of four children – three of them under four years old – Kathy had trouble keeping up with her kids. "My legs felt so heavy all the time, I could barely carry them up the steps at bedtime," she says.

Since the conclusion of her treatment last winter, Kathy reports a marked success. "I can run around now and my legs never hurt. I would do this all over again in a heartbeat. The procedures and recovery time were minimal, and nothing compared to the end benefit." Come to a consultation appointment in June, July or August and receive a free gift! To learn more or make an appointment, call 440.250.5760. James Bekeny, MD Lakewood Hospital Vein & Vascular Center.



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Lakewood Business News

Senior Housing Options

by Jason Jacobs
& Bridgette Ashley

It's no secret that the senior population – in this country and around the world – is growing and changing. While there are approximately 36.5 million Americans age 65 and over currently, it is estimated that by the year 2050, that number will rise to 86.7 million. That's a 147% increase while the American population as a whole will only have increased by 49% over the same period!

Many people remain in their family homes for their entire adult lives. However, others find they need to move to other locations because household chores such as housekeeping, laundry, meal preparation, and yard work can become too burdensome as the years go by. A variety of housing options exists for older adults who need assistance and wish to relocate. Some of the housing alternatives that provide assistance to seniors include independent living facilities, assisted living facilities, and nursing facilities. There are many factors that determine which type of living environment is appropriate for an individual or a couple, including cost, location, amenities, size of residence, and the personal and medical services provided.

One of the main advantages of living in these types of facilities is security. They also provide seniors with continued monitoring of health and the opportunity to socialize and participate in activities. Experts agree an active social life has a positive impact on a person's physical health and overall well-being. Another major benefit for seniors is relief from the



One of the Independent Living buildings along Bunts Rd. at Lakewood Senior Health Campus

hassle of performing daily household chores. Weighing the advantages of service-oriented facilities against the independence offered by remaining in one's family home is a complicated task. The most constructive way to approach such decisions is to begin early by collecting all possible information on an individual's various living options.

At Lakewood Senior Health Campus, we offer a wide array of living options to accommodate seniors as their needs change. Among the senior housing options available on our campus, Independent Living provides the greatest amount of self-reliance and versatility. Residents who choose an

Independent Living community generally do not require extra assistance with daily tasks, can communicate with doctors and caregivers by themselves, and desire the relaxed lifestyle found on a seniors-only campus. The Independent Living units at Lakewood Senior Health Campus include kitchenettes; however, we also offer meals in a social-dining setting. Our Independent Living community offers apartment-style living, with access to many services such as housekeeping, transportation and activities designed to help residents make the most of their retirement years.

Assisted Living offered at The Inn

at Lakewood Senior Health Campus includes the best of both worlds for seniors who need ongoing help with personal care and typical daily activities, yet wish to retain their independence to the fullest extent possible. A person's ability to perform tasks of daily living determines the appropriate level of care and services. Highly-trained nurses and other health care professionals are close at hand should a resident require additional assistance. Other amenities at The Inn at Lakewood Senior Health Campus include three meals per day, transportation, security and emergency call systems, health and exercise programs, and many social, cultural, and educational activities. A middle ground between Independent Living and Nursing Home care, the Assisted Living services offered at The Inn aim to foster as much autonomy as possible for each individual.

Residents of most nursing facilities, including the Care Center at Lakewood Senior Health Campus, do not require the level of care that a hospital would provide, but need more involved care than is typically provided in an assisted living or home health care setting. Our facility offers the skilled medical care services of trained professionals such as RNs, LPNs, and State-Tested Nursing Assistants, among others. We also provide personal care including assistance with activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing, eating, and grooming. With the supervision of licensed Physicians and Nurse Practitioners, our residents receive the highest quality of care possible. Our care center also provides daily activities, such as entertainment, religious services, and many other social opportunities.

Rehabilitation is a critical part of recovery for many people that have encountered a hospital stay. Our physical, occupational and speech therapists offer patients an opportunity to maximize their strength, function, mobility, and confidence so they can regain as much independence as possible. Board-certified consulting physicians augment our therapy services to promote more comprehensive care. After surgery, injury, or illness, the staff at Lakewood Senior Health Campus can provide the physical and emotional support to help you or your loved ones achieve their optimal quality of life. We support short-term admissions and encourage residents to return to their home as soon as possible to enjoy their independence.

Owned and managed by the John O'Neill family, Lakewood Senior Health Campus is proud to offer this wide spectrum of housing options to seniors in Lakewood and the surrounding communities. The O'Neill's have been meeting the changing needs of families in the Westshore area since 1962. Located on the corner of Detroit Avenue and Bunts Road, we invite you to stop by today to see for yourself all that Lakewood Senior Health Campus has to offer.

Mary McNulty Young Award For Distinguished Achievement In Community Service

by Andrea Fagan

Patricia Nees Klanac graduated from Marian College in 1968 with major in sociology and a minor in psychology. Since 2000, she has served as a licensed social worker for the Lakewood School District in Cleveland, Ohio. She has also served her community as a psychiatric social worker and foster-care social worker. In her present capacity in the K-12 setting, Klanac has implemented a "lunch buddy" mentoring program in which she enlists local organizations to provide mentoring to youth who lack positive role models. She also works closely with the Catholic Charities refugee program to help mentor and provide basic needs to Burmese refugees whose children attend the Lakewood school system.

In 2001, Klanac experienced one of the most rewarding moments of her career and her life when she learned how her work had impacted another individual. She was invited to make

a surprise appearance on the Montel Williams television program to remark on the transformed life of a former foster-care client, Antwone Fisher, who had been kicked out of his home at the age of 14. By then an adult, Fisher had written a memoir, *Finding Fish*, about his harrowing journey through the foster-care system, which eventually became the basis for a movie starring Denzel Washington. Klanac had handled Fisher's case and became a pivotal figure as he struggled to start his life over. Her counseling, he has said, did not end when the job was over; it lasted a lifetime. And, the recognition she received years later has stayed with her. As she wrote, "Very few of us are blessed to know how her actions have positive impact." Klanac exemplifies hope, kindness, and the full spectrum of Franciscan values she learned years ago at Marian College.

Patty Klanac is a school social worker at Taft elementary school in Lakewood. On June 27, she will receive

a Distinguished Alumni Award from her alma mater, Marian College, in Indianapolis.

She was nominated by more than 15 people—many of whom are fellow alumni from her class of 1968—including Antwone Fisher, who wrote about her in his memoir *Finding Fish*. She is a very special person, much beloved by the college and her classmates, and I imagine she is special to her students, too. We thought you would like to celebrate—and share—her good news. The ceremony will be June 27 in Indianapolis.

Patty will receive the Mary McNulty Young Award for Distinguished Achievement in Community Service. Named for Mary McNulty Young, an alumna from the class of 1947, this award recognizes individuals who work with others for the betterment of the larger community. Young has given generously and often to agencies in and around the central Indiana area that help those least able to care for themselves.

Lakewood Observer

Virginia Marti College Of Art And Design’s 21st Student Art Exhibition

by Rhonda Loje

The Virginia Marti College of Art and Design’s 21st Student Art Exhibition opened to the public May 16th and is on view until June 30th.

The V.M.C.A.D. students accepted into the juried exhibition have on display works of art that display their technical virtuosity and creative imagination. Many industry professionals view the show and it helps open the employment doors for many of the students. The art exhibition focuses on student creativity with the all too real restrictions of the design industry’s trends, customer analysis, and the need for marketability.

The creative director for WMMS and former student, Emily Moes, was

the judge for the Graphic Design category. She stated, “There were some works that were difficult to cut, and many times it came down to presentation (i.e. clean cuts/mounting, wrong numbering on booklet pages, cut-off graphics, out of date color choices and fonts) which is great that the level of work coming out of V.M.C.A.D. these days makes judging so picky.

Mr. Patrick Melnick, Director of Art Studies at V.M.C.A.D., says he’s always amazed by the skill, talent, and drive of the college’s students. “The high level of art and design in this exhibition shows not only the talent of the student but also the high quality of education taught at the college.”



photo by Rhonda Loje

Category 1st Place Winner Title

Drawing: Billie Jean Evans Reclining Nude

Photography: Chandra Washington Sweets

Fashion Design/Fashion Illustration:

Cara Kovatch Portfolio Preparation Fashion Design Boards

Fashion Merchandising/Visual Display:

Lisa Emmett, Marissa Kovach, and Kari Evans

Mad Hatters Tea Party

Graphic Design: Allyson Rice Emerald Isle Massotherapy

Interior Design: Laura Thompson Law Firm

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Best of Show: Valerie Mayen Victorian Final



photo by Rhonda Loje

Virgina Marti-Veith and Mr. Patrick Melnick, Director of Art Studies

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Lakewood Is Art

LIA/MAMA ArtWalk Marries
Local Shops with Artistic Visionaries

continued from page 1

“Mr. Lumpy Goes to School” and “The Frog Went a Courtin’.”

“I have shown my work in bars, but never in a store,” McNaught said. This ArtWalk allowed artists to show in unusual places like Pet’s General Store, Cuttin Loose Salon, and the Lakewood Hardware Store to name a few. Many of these artists were sought out by the business and storeowners, which gave the ArtWalk a “grassroots” feel. This allowed young artists to show and sell their work in a laid back setting without the pressures of high priced tents and tables that are mainstays at most art festivals.

Michael Heasley was one of these young, hip artists whose acrylic painted canvases of Jimi Hendrix, Debbie Harry and Bjork dominated the walls of Vance Music Studio’s new, additional studio space.

Photographer Joshua McLaughlin, who showed his work at Pet’s General Store, found out about the ArtWalk through Craigslist. Imagine an ad reading “Wanted: Artist to show in local pet shop.”

Showing alongside McLaughlin was mixed media artist Ray Tapajna. Tapajna’s art showed tremendous range, from padded fabric art of Babe Ruth, to political editorial cartoons and postage art.

Tipajna was raised in the Lakewood Food Store, graduated from Lakewood High School, and had previously owned four businesses in Lakewood. Tapajna was the ultimate artist for what the Lakewood ArtWalk represented.

“It was word of mouth (that was used) to get other artists to show,”

Chris Palmer, owner of Cuttin Loose Salon said.

Mrs. Palmer had participated in the ArtWalk last year and her husband Glenn Palmer, owner of the Lakewood Hardware Shop, decided to participate this year.

The Sacred Arts and Healing Center was another huge space for local artists to display their work while residents were welcome to participate in



photo by Rhonda Loje



photo by Ruthie Koenigsmark

dance.

Christine Siarka, Pauline Alma, Jennifer Whitten, and Shahin Afnan all exhibited artwork on the walls of the dance center. Whitten and Afnan both danced at the center regularly and heard about the ArtWalk through the owners, Katie Augustine and Roger Sams.

The 2nd annual ArtWalk was an



photo by Rhonda Loje

Above: Grant Discovery Class Film on Cowan Pottery at Omega Cuts, Top Left: Madison Rose Bookstore with artists Meredith White-Seager, Below Left: Author Hazel Chapman holds a copy of her book at Wobblefoot Gallery. Hazel is Tracy Chapman’s mother.

Lakewood Senior Art Show 08

Photos by Thealexa Becker



Senior Art Scholarship winner Bethany Staley with her favorite painting from her art show entries.



Senior Hannah Keelor and her art work were crowned “Best in Show”.



Senior Emma Paras and her Artichokes (Blue Rubber Bands).



Senior Jamie Meggas shows that an apple a day can keep the doctor away.



Senior Sam Moree and his grape still life.

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Lakewood Observer



ExpressJet Captain and the playdate group

A Field Trip To Hopkins International Airport

by Naila Jones

Traveling with the family is not easy! There’s planning, packing, stressing over which liquids are allowed on board, in the luggage, or on your person; getting to the airport, checking luggage and ultimately going through security. And all this with time constraints. We decided to make it a fun event and got ExpressJet Airlines to organize it for our Playdate on May 13th, 2008.

Stace Robeson, Chief Pilot for the Cleveland Base, Nancy Libiger, Cleveland Base Administrator and Eric Fanello, Intern of ExpressJet Airlines worked with TSA Security, the City of Cleveland and Airport personnel to make our fieldtrip an unforgettable one. The children were between the ages of 2 months old and 2 1/2 years old. We had 12 children and 10 parents in the group. When we arrived, we met with Nancy and Eric who accompanied us through our Airport journey.

They handed us Security Clearance boarding passes which allowed us to go through security. Strollers, toddlers and babies, a usual nightmare through security, went pretty smoothly. In line, I observed travelers, surely hoping we weren’t on their flight. You know the look, you’ve probably given it before, to parents arriving down your airplane aisle with their loud toddler throwing crackers and a screaming baby.

It was so unusual to walk through the airport with no stress. We walked

to Concourse D. With the toddlers, this took about one hour. Those little legs running through concourse C, stopping at each window and looking at the big airplanes. The tunnel from Concourse C to Concourse D was a treat. The kids were so excited to walk on the walkway. It might have made a couple of travelers unhappy because our kids do not understand the concept of stand on the right and walk on the left. Our final destination was Gate D3 where an Embraer 145 Regional Jet was waiting for us. Parents and kids went down the jetway to the aircraft. They got to sit in the airplane and in the cockpit. Of course parents were with cameras ready to capture the memories.

It was a wonderful experience for them. The kids loved to dress up with the Captain Hat and earphones and touch all the buttons in the cockpit, some did not want to leave the cockpit and give up their turn, and others wanted to fly off, hands on controls. They were sad we were going back home.

Thank you to the organizers of this event and especially a big thank you to ExpressJet Airlines for letting our toddlers sit in the cockpit of a jet Airliner, like in the old days where we could go up to the cockpits of airplanes and talk to the pilots. Because of security issues, this is not anymore possible, but ExpressJet has permitted our kids to experience it!

LO Sponsors 2008 SWAT 5K Run



Lakewood Observer’s City Council reporter Stan Austin rounds the final marker in the 2008 SWAT 5K. More photos and stories next issue!

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Lakewood Perspective

Sorry Bambi..., But We’re Going to Need Some of that Forest

Okay, I’m not the unbomber, and this isn’t exactly going to be some deep, thought provoking manifesto that will solve all of the world’s ills. But I think I’ve given more than enough time to the things that frustrate me, so perhaps it’s time to spend a little ink going into what I’d do to solve them.

And before you get started, NO, this is not the precursor to me announcing my candidacy for one office or another. While I consider myself smart enough to have a plan of action, I also recognize the need for experience in the inner workings of the government if you ever hope to actually get anything accomplished. So, even if I had the desire to serve in that capacity, I know that I don’t have the patience. Therefore, unless you’re prepared to elect me as your king, where I wouldn’t have to worry about things like a popular vote, due process or impeachment, then I think I’ll stay right where I am.

That said, here’s what I’d like to see from my government...

First of all, stop with all this nonsense regarding energy. We’ve got oil, we’ve got coal, and we have the resources and technology to bring an abundance of electricity to every home in the nation. Yet we won’t drill for it, won’t refine it and won’t build new plants to provide it. WHY? Because we’re harming the environment. Because nuclear power isn’t safe enough. Because, God forbid, we might disrupt the mating habits of the North American Caribou.

Are you kidding me? I’ve spent many summers in Alaska, and I’ve seen the seemingly devastating effects of logging. I’ve also revisited those same areas years later, and seen the new trees replace the old. I’ve seen miles of pipeline, yet have continued to see the bears, moose and deer that seem to have found ways to continue to procreate despite the intrusion. Simply put, time and time again, I’ve seen man intervene, yet nature overcome.

Going even further, what is it about people who insist that we don’t harm the natural environment of ANWR but seem to be okay using oil and oil byproducts that are created at the expense of the, just as natural, environments of Canada, Mexico and Saudi Arabia. What makes the arctic worth preserving yet the Middle East worth pillaging? That’s like insisting that fur is murder, then going out to Morton’s for a nice juicy steak.

Truth be told, I really don’t care if gas goes to \$5 or even \$10 a gallon. I believe that the market will naturally work itself out. That people will find their own personal breaking point for conservation. That the higher the price of gas, the more motivated people will be to find alternative modes of transportation and the more industrious this nation will become in solving its own problems.

I don’t wish for the hardship, and I certainly don’t look forward to the hard choices ahead, but in my opin-

ion we’ve gone soft. We’ve become lazy. And we’ve confused our wants as an “entitled” society with the rights of a hard working nation. Growing up, if you were making a cake and needed just one more egg, you walked next door and asked the neighbor to borrow one. Now, you hop in your car, drive to the nearest store (which you expect to stay open 24/7) and complain to the manager about having to buy an entire dozen.

Cheap gas isn’t a right, and expensive gas, in itself, isn’t necessarily a problem, unless we spend more time complaining about it than we do actually getting off our collective butts trying to find alternative solutions.

Don’t get me wrong, I still think that we need to drill, we need to mine, and we need to build. Just not solely to provide any break in the price of these resources, yet, to also put the U.S. back into a position of independence.

I can only imagine how hard it was for the Saudis to withhold their laughter when President Bush swung by to request that they increase their oil production. If one of your customers came to you and said, “We’d like you to work

by Bret Callentine

harder and produce more, but only so we can pay you less per unit, meaning you’ll only make about the same amount in the long run,” what would your response be?

Just as bad, in my opinion, is the recent plan to institute a “windfall” profit tax on the oil companies. How does letting the government take more of their money help us pay for fuel? The bigger question is; what prevents the oil companies from passing this additional cost of business right back to the consumer? Help me out here, what is the historical context for a move like this? When has increasing the tax on business ever successfully lowered prices?

With all of this in mind, here’s what I propose: First, I’d like to see our government open up just about every square corner of the country to the prospect of energy production. Why can the government level houses to build a school, but not displace a few moose to fuel our economy? It can rezone residential lots to build a strip mall, but apparently can’t redistrict a fishing hole to make way for offshore drilling.

The second step is to begin con-

struction on at least a half dozen new nuclear power plants. And, I already know where the first one should go: Tijuana Mexico. If we can import oil, why not electricity? We help them build it, we train them to use it and in exchange they feed some juice across the border to the cities that invented the term “rolling blackout”.

Aside from providing more energy in the long run, these first two steps should have at least a marginal effect on driving down oil prices in the futures market, which in turn should show up in lower prices at the pump. But to truly inspire us to broaden our technology I’d still like to see our government announce step three: Energy Independence.

Call us the Amish of the modern age, but I’d like to see them set a date, say July 4th, 2026 (250 years after our original Declaration of Independence) and make it a law that all our power and fuel from that date forward will come from within our own borders. That might help us get a little more motivated to act and not just whine.

For my next suggestion, I’ll propose a way to use accountants to solve the immigration problem.

Letter To The Editor

Please Don’t Ban The Pit Bull

Mayor FitzGerald and Council Members:

I recently read that Lakewood will hold a council meeting next week to consider banning the Pit Bull breed in Lakewood, Ohio. As a citizen of Lakewood and an animal lover, I would like to voice my concern on the passing of this bill.

Like most stereotypes, Pit Bulls are misunderstood and mistreated, only creating more negative reactions to their breed. If we take the time to truly understand what the problem is, we may then be able to fix it. Just as building more prisons in our state will not fix the problem of crime, banning a certain breed in our city will not fix the problem of uneducated citizens treating animals poorly and without love and respect. The only way to fix the problem of crime is to educate, just as the only way to fix the “problem” of “violent breeds” is to educate people on how to properly care for an animal.

I encourage you to really look at the problem at hand, instead of the symptom. The problem is not the Pit Bull, but the uneducated person. Just because a child may hurt another child, do we ban that child from the city? No. We either educate the child or the parent on how to be better, on how to do things differently. We cannot “ban” everything just because people do not understand or take the time to figure out how to make things better.

I volunteer in a shelter, have

worked with many Pit Bull breeds, and it never fails to amaze me how loving these creatures really are when they are treated with love and kindness. If you raise a child to be a criminal, they will commit crimes. It is the same for an animal. It is not the animal’s fault that they are brought up in a family who ties them to a tree, has little or no human interaction with them, gives them nothing to chew on or eat, leaves them out in all types of weather, and then is surprised when they go to pet the dog and it bites them. This dog is in a prison, scared of humans due to no interaction, and due to maltreatment. You would bite, too.

Here’s a short story from the shelter where I volunteer. There was

female a Pit Bull found sitting next to a garbage dumpster, her nine healthy, beautiful babies in box in the dumpster. Amazingly, they were all beautiful and healthy, and NOT amazingly, once we retrieved them all, Momma was a star mother. To think someone would so carelessly dump 9 one -week old babies into a dumpster goes to show how much a necessity education really is.

Please really consider this bill before deciding to pass what I would consider a “quick fix”. Look at all angles, as our shelters will be filling up with helpless animals who did not choose to be in this position.

Sincerely,
Sarah Chahy
Lakewood Resident



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Lakewood Observer



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Please check the three areas you are most interested in volunteering with during the season. Each gardener is expected to volunteer during the season to help with chores:

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Indicate your top three site preferences
(1= *most desirable* to 3 = *least desirable*):

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DO NOT SUBMIT PAYMENT WITH THIS FORM: A plot fee of \$25.00 is due upon submission of your signed Release of Claims and Acceptance of Garden Rules Form. Payment and forms are due before a plot assignment will be made. Selected gardeners will receive all remaining forms and submit payment following the processing of the Plot Registration Form.

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Sign Up For Community Produce Shares!

LEAF Offers Two CSA Programs

continued from page 1

newsletters with recipes, information and tips on how to handle, prepare, and preserve items in your share bag.

How the Program Works:

The Covered Bridge Gardens CSA program accepts payments in thirds (in May, June, and September). Weekly shares will be available for pickup at the Lakewood Library main branch on Thursdays, from June 19th to October 5th, from 4:30 to 8:00 pm. If you know that you will be unable to pick up your share, you can let the farmers know ahead of time to make arrangements to either have someone pick up your share for you, or double up your share on a different week. If you have specific requests, you will be able to communicate those with the farmers by phone or email.

Pricing

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The registration form for this CSA program is available at www.leafcommunity.org

In order to serve you best, please register by May 31st.

City Fresh

This program was initiated by the New Agrarian Center in Oberlin, Ohio. The New Agrarian Center is a non-profit organization that receives grant funding to support staff and transportation costs. Their employees work with 16 local farmers to bring shares of produce to several locations in Cuyahoga and Lorain counties. For the Lakewood Fresh Stop, all the produce is delivered to the Urban Community School in Ohio City. The truck is unloaded by volunteers, counted and divided up, then re-loaded for delivery to the Library in Lakewood, where shareholders pick up their share bags.

How the program works:

Shareholders are required to pre-pay for shares at least 1 week ahead. The price for the regular-income shares is slightly padded to subsidize the low-income share cost, which is 50% less. City Fresh accepts WIC, Senior Farmer's Market Vouchers, and the Ohio Direction Card. The program will run for approximately 20 weeks, starting on June 5th, with shares available for pickup at the Library on Thursdays between 5:30 and 8:00 pm.

Pricing:

Full Share: \$20/week
Half Share: \$10/week
Full Limited Income Share: \$10/week
Half Limited Income Share: \$5/week

The sign-up form for this program is available at www.leafcommunity.org and more information is available at <http://www.cityfresh.org>.


Volunteer with us!

New volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested in volunteering at LEAF Nights or have any questions regarding the Community Supported Agriculture Programs offered by LEAF, please contact Annie Stahlheber at banannie_22@yahoo.com.

"My apartment here is large and bright. I am happy living at Lakewood Senior Health Campus with good friends who, like me, enjoy being active. We have many activities to take part in. We go on outside trips to stores and restaurants. I've been so busy lately, I've had to do my laundry on Sunday! If you need assistance, the staff are all kind and caring people. I encourage my friends to come and enjoy living at Lakewood Senior Health Campus. I should have moved here sooner!"

~ Marian Siddall
One Year Resident

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The Buck Stops Here

1968 Is Now Forty Years Gone

1968. For many an old story. For others, a story they don't want to hear. Assassinations and turmoil. Kennedy, King. Revolutionary fervor. Protest against the Vietnam War, racial, gender and class inequality. Rioting in the cities and on campuses, in Chicago at the Democratic Convention. "Something is happening," Dylan sang, "and you don't know what it is, do you, Mr. Jones?" Things could not go on as they had before. "The entire world was on the verge of radical transformation," Eliot Weinberger writes, "from the structure of society and state to the details of body ornament." The Stones and bell-bottoms. Free love and free spirits.

by Robert Buckeye

Equality as never before, possibility unthought of. In the streets of Paris in May, 1968, students took for their slogan a Situationist International cry, "Beneath the Paving Stones, the Beach," to emphasize the need to discard the old ways of doing business and finding a way to live that was free, fulfilling, just.

For those of us who found our lives shocked and buffeted by the Sixties, the current beatification of that decade is disturbing. To make of it – as movies, television, magazines and newspapers have – something to

make an evening pass in an entertaining, even vaguely enlightening, manner is to betray what that experience was. To see it as nostalgia is even worse, sleazy. I do not want nor intend to repeat the practice of my parents, who used their experience of the Depression as a club over my childhood. But I cannot help but feel that what we are doing today about that time guts that period badly.

In his poem, "Memory at the 'Modern'," George Oppen says, "I am a man of thirties, no other taste shall change this." 1968 is now forty

years gone, and whatever else I am, I have been formed and informed by that decade, as Oppen was by the Depression. I went to jail, marched with Spock, heard Malcolm, taught Sylvia Plath with teargas seeping in the windows of the classroom, heard Jimi ask, "Are You Experienced?" It was not an uncharacteristic life.

In 1776, Americans overthrew the rule of the King of England and became an independent country. In 1789, the French overthrew the King to bring about not a new government but new lives. 1968 was, whatever else it was, an unprecedented reordering of private lives. Students stepped outside their ivory towers and used their privileged status to question what was happening to the less fortunate. Open enrollment at universities – college to anyone who showed up – became the norm. Men let women step forward. Love became whatever love was, not what society determined. Sure. 68ers wanted to defeat LBJ. They wanted the Vietnam War to end. They wanted everyone to have a place at the table. But more than anything else they wanted lives that were free. How do we live? It is the battle still fought today, but ever, always, crucial. "Revolt is indispensable," writes Julia Kristeva, herself a child of '68, "both to psychic life and to the bonds that make society hang together, as long as it remains a live force and resists accommodations."

Beck Center Hosts Free Community Event

by Fran Storch

Beck Center for the Arts will host a community celebration of the arts. INSIDE the Beck, a free family fun open house event and sale of vintage costumes and stage items, takes place on Saturday, June 7, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Beck Center in Lakewood – 17801 Detroit Avenue.

INSIDE the Beck will have something for the whole family to enjoy – make and take art activities, music, a bake sale, a chalk festival, and much more. The costume and stage item sale will take place in the Music-Armory Building, while the main building will offer fun programming for the entire family. In addition, the Cleveland Artists Foundation will exhibit Parallel Paths, Singular Quest, painting and sculpture by Barbara and Julian Stanczak.

"For more than 75 years, the Beck Center for the Arts has been a vital resource for Lakewood and the entire West Shore region," says Cindy Einhouse, President and CEO of Beck Center. "We're very excited about hosting this free community event for the generations of residents who have taken advantage of our classes, programs and professional theater performances."

Beck Center for the Arts is a non-

profit, comprehensive performing arts center, offering professional theatrical productions and curriculum-based education in creative arts therapies, dance, music, theater, and visual arts. Special thanks for this event goes to the City of Lakewood and PODS. For more information about INSIDE the Beck call (216) 521-2540 or log on to www.beckcenter.org.

Programming at the Beck Center

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

The Winchester Receives More National Attention

by Rebecca Mileti

The Winchester Tavern & Music Hall, right here in Lakewood, has been receiving national attention for years now, including multiple mentions on VH1 and XM Radio, and is currently in the middle of more national exposure. The current edition (May 23) of Goldmine Magazine, which is a bi-monthly national music and record collector's magazine, on newsstands across the country, features a glowing review of the Kim Simmonds show that took place at the Winchester on January 26th, 2008. Kim Simmonds is the founder, lead guitarist, and vocalist of British blues/rock band Savoy Brown,

and was named one of the top 10 guitarists EVER by Musician Magazine. This was his fifth time at the Winchester; the first four of which were with Savoy Brown. This is the second time that Goldmine has covered the happenings at the Winchester.

In addition, there was a big show at the Winchester on Wednesday, May 14th by jazz/fusion guitarist Allan Holdsworth. Allan is on the cover of the April 2008 issue of Guitar Player Magazine and was called "The man who changed guitar forever!" on that cover. Holdsworth played in a three piece with drummer Chad Wakerman, who played in Frank Zappa's band for 7 years. Chad liked the Winchester and

the sold-out crowd so much that he says he plans to bring his trio to the club.


On June 4th, Ike Willis & Ugly Radio Rebellion bring their Frank Zappa tribute to the Winchester. Ike Willis was also in Frank Zappa's band and was one of the longest serving members of Frank's outfit. Tickets for the show are available for \$10.00.

The Winchester Tavern & Music Hall is located at 12112 Madison Ave and is available by phone at 216-226-5681 and on the web at www.thewinchester.net It was named "...the west side's premiere live music venue" by The Plain Dealer and listed among the Best of Cleveland in Cleveland Magazine in 2007.

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Conservation Corner

LEAF Breaks Ground with Community Gardening

by Heather Ramsey
Green Correspondent

After receiving enthusiastic support from Mayor FitzGerald, the Lakewood Earth & Food (LEAF) Community has officially broken ground at plots in Cove, Kauffman, Madison, and Webb Parks, as well as the Plover Garden in Bird Town, for its community gardening initiative in 2008.

Beginning last year with six plots in the Plover Garden, LEAF has expanded its efforts in community gardening to more than 130 plots across Lakewood, including about 20 at Cove and Kauffman Parks, 30 at Madison Park, and more than 50 at Webb Park. Plots are now available to the Lakewood community for a small fee.

These four new sites have been carefully chosen by LEAF board members and approved by the Mayor in order to appeal to a wide variety of residents, from west to southeast Lakewood. More specifically, they are located in the southwest corner of Cove Park, on the south sides of Kauffman

and Madison Park, near right field of the baseball diamonds, and along the west side of the tennis court in Webb Park.

Each location has ample space for a number of 10' x 10' plots and leaves plenty of the park areas intact to allow for the continued use of baseball diamonds and playground equipment at the sites.

Aside from providing apartment and condo dwellers with green space and room to garden, community gardens have been shown to raise nearby property values, lower crime rates in adjacent areas, and provide hours of enjoyment to those who work them. They provide physical activity, camaraderie with neighbors, stress relief, and contribute to overall wellness. Gardening is a great platform for intergenerational bonding, provides a wholesome (and fun) activity for families, teaches children where food comes from, and improves the nutrition of



Webb Park immediately following removal of the sod by the City of Lakewood Department of Public Works.

participants.

Growing vegetables in community gardens can also help offset rising food prices and bring the community together in the process.

Applications for a garden plot are now available at both the Madison and

Main Branches of the Lakewood Public Library.

To learn more about the LEAF Community and its community gardening initiative in Lakewood, go to <http://www.leafcommunity.org> or e-mail leafcommunity+gardens@gmail.com.

Love Your Local Lettuce!

by Heather Ramsey

The average meal travels anywhere from 1,500 to over 10,000 miles from the farms (or, more likely nowadays, factories) to your plate; these miles are often referred to as food miles. Each component of a meal, from fruits and vegetables to meats and grains to spices, has flown or been driven from where it was grown (or raised) to where it was processed to where it was packaged, THEN to a store where you travelled to buy it. Not only is the environment affected by the fossil fuels burned for each of these trips, but also by the use of resources in packaging (papers, plastics, and possibly aluminum) and, most likely, the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and antibiotics (possibly even genetic modification) to grow it on a large scale and withstand the trip. Though the concept of food miles is somewhat flawed (as that tomato

carpooled with hundreds of other tomatoes and whatever else), it is still a useful representation of the hidden costs of our modern day food systems.

It has been estimated that local food uses 4-17 times less oil than non-local, but local food has a number of benefits in addition to reducing this food mile-energy. One benefit of local (fresher) food is added nutrients. As soon as produce is picked, its nutrients begin to break down, so those tropical fruits that traveled two weeks before reaching the store are not as nutritious as local ones. Fresher food also tastes better. Foods that are grown to support local populations are less likely to be breeds grown exclusively for their hardiness and abilities to endure travel, and so are more likely to be grown for taste.

In addition to taste and nutri-

ents, local food may also be safer. Local farmers often eat their own produce and must take care of their land. As a result they are more likely to use less dangerous (organic) methods of pest control and fertilization, and use growing methods that keep the soil healthy in the long term. Organic food generally uses less energy in production, so sometimes it may also be beneficial to get organic food, even if it comes from a greater distance.

One important consideration in buying local is the growing season. In the modern world of 24-hour grocery stores full of exotic produce, few of us are truly aware of the natural growing season of Northeastern Ohio. The next few months of local food may have these in store:

May: Asparagus, Garlic, Lettuce, Mushrooms, Radishes, Spinach

June: Asparagus, Beans, Beets, Blueberries, Broccoli, Cabbage, Garlic, Green Onions, Kale, Lettuce, Mushrooms, Peas, Radishes, Spinach, Squash, Strawberries, Zucchini

July: Basil, Beans, Beets, Blackberries, Blueberries, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Green Onions, Kale, Leeks, Lettuce, Mushrooms, Okra, Onions, Peaches, Peas, Peppers, Plums, Potatoes, Raspberries, Spinach, Squash, Tomatoes, Zucchini

And don't forget local honey, chickens, eggs, and other products that are available all season.

So, how do you get these delicious local foods? There are several opportunities here in Lakewood. One way is by checking out the

Lakewood Farmer's Market, which is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, June 4th from 11am-2pm in the parking lot of Kauffman Park (behind Drug Mart, 15412 Detroit Ave.) and continue each Wednesday until October 1st.

You can also join a local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program through the Lakewood Earth and Food (LEAF) Community. LEAF offers two choices of CSA programs, City Fresh and Covered Bridge Gardens, with weekly pickups of produce at the main branch of the Lakewood Library on Thursday nights, beginning June 5th. Pre-registration on a weekly or seasonal basis is required, so check out the brochures at <http://www.leafcommunity.org/initiatives/community-supported-agriculture/> and sign up today!

If you like fruits and don't mind putting in the effort to pick 'em yourself, visit local farms like Rosby's Berry Farm (<http://www.rosbycompanies.com/berryfarm.htm>) and Patterson Fruit Farm (<http://www.pattersonfarm.com>), where you can pick your own produce. And, don't forget the option of growing some yourself!

Lastly, you can join the Slow Food Movement, which works toward a food system based upon high quality and taste, environmental sustainability, and social justice - a system that is good, clean, and fair. Check out their website at <http://www.slowfoodusa.org/about/index.html> and the Northeast Ohio chapter at <http://slowfoodnorthernohio.blogspot.com>.



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(According to Multiple Listing Service)

by Andy Tabor,,Realtor, GRI-Prudential Lucien

<u>April</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Single Family Closed	29	39
Single Family Pending (Under Contract)		57

Interesting Real Estate Information

Lakewood Single Family Homes	
Currently for Active in Multiple Listing:	353
Currently under Contingency:	20

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