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THE
LAKEWOOD
OBSERVER

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

Volume 4, Issue 12, June 10, 2008

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Lakewood Public Library Officially Rededicated

Robert A. M. Stern Delivers A Gem



Soule Dimacchia was chosen to unlock the new library.

by Thealexa Becker

After two and a half years of waiting, Lakewood finally has its old friend back.

On June 1, the Lakewood Public Library reopened after extensive renovations which completed the transformation of the well known facility into a Hellenistic-style structure fit for the 21 century.

“The Library was rededicated to the citizens of Lakewood, who are at the end of the day our benefactors,” said Jeff Endress, president of the Board of Trustees for the LPL. “I think the actual ceremony was tremendously successful. We engaged our patrons and provided an opportunity for them to see the culmination of these two and a half years of construction.”

While construction for the LPL Main Branch was largely completed by May, the official Rededication Ceremony took place on June 1 amidst a host of celebratory activities including live jazz music from the Garfield Middle School Jazz Band, refreshments, a poem by Bill Knittel, and some words from the Library’s Director, Ken Warren, Jeff Endress, and architect, Robert A.M. Stern.

“It was a beautiful and exhilarat-

ing celebration,” said Warren of the official reopening.

The Reconstruction Process

The reconstruction of the LPL cost approximately \$17.8 million dollars, a surprisingly affordable figure considering not only the extent of the renovations, but the breadth of the new facilities added.

“It was a great phased building

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LHS Girls Rugby Team 2nd In The Nation



by Victor Melaragno

Yes, Lakewood High School has a girl’s rugby team. Not just a mere rugby team, but a great one at that. I’ve watched this team for four years win over and over again without much recognition of their achievements.

Recognition is great, but it’s the love of the sport that motivates these girls. Ask any one of the team’s players or coaches and they will tell you that they are hooked on rugby.

This year the team won all their regular season games as well as two scrimmages against both Kent State and Ashland University. Both the varsity and junior varsity excelled during the season. They placed 1st at the Ohio Rugby Classic Tournament (April 26-27). The 12 year old event is traditionally dominated by the Canadians, although twice, Lakewood has pulled an upset. This year, the girls defeated last year’s champions Applewood 39-5 and took home the trophy for the second time in three years. Lakewood also won the Ohio Girls High School State Rugby Tournament (May 10-11) after taking on Mayfield, St. Joes and Highland. In their next tournament, The Midwest Rugby Tournament (May 17-18), they placed second, and qualified

for NATIONALS, where they ranked second in the nation.

What makes this team special is the great coaching staff who promote the love of the sport. They encourage teamwork, teamwork and more teamwork! Teamwork is they key to a successful rugby team, more than any other sport I have witnessed. The coaching body of this team is head coach Andre Bruwer, coaches Garrett Prom and Mallory Carlson, and the manager/coach Alison Breckel.

The 27 players on this wonderful rugby team are (in alphabetical order): Talla Abu-Mathkour, Carrie Beatty, Kayla Bell (Captain), Liz Christian, Jenny Cross, Megan Curley, Bella Diflippo, Diana Espinoza, Katie Figuli, Danielle Foster (Captain), Jamie Gawlikowski, Jillian Getz, Mary Hardy, Olivia Hernlund, Brittney Kopin (Captain), Rachel Kowalski, Olivia Lavelle, Kourtney McNulty, Emma Melaragno, Kara Overcashier, Rebecca Pyatt, Danielle Sutcliffe, Gwen Whitney, Sam Whitney, Ellen Wyzlkowski, Kelsey York and Silvija Zvirblyte. I’m very happy and proud to say my daughter is a part of this fantastic team of coaches and athletes. Believe me when I say these girls are as tough as nails both physically and mentally!

Council Backs Lease For Iceland USA/Winterhurst Deal



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by Dan Slife

After a special council meeting held on Monday, June 9th the FitzGerald Administration’s proposed agreement to lease Winterhurst Ice Rink to Iceland USA, LLC is receiving “universal support within council,” according to Councilman at-large Kevin Butler.

“The deal is imminent. While we may have different opinions about the fine points, from our discussions, it would appear that council is supportive.” Butler believes that the contract both “adequately protects the city and restores Winterhurst.” Under the proposed contract, the city will receive a \$75,000 annual lease payment as well as 10% of profits from the facility.

“This agreement will result in a savings to the city of approximately \$1

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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

Summer On Main Street Lakewood

by Mary Anne Crampton

There are many fun and exciting events being held in Lakewood this summer. With more than 185 miles of sidewalks within 5.5 sq miles, Lakewood is considered by many to be Ohio's most walkable city...why spend money at the fuel pump when we have so much to enjoy right here in our car-optional city?

Main Street Lakewood is the host to a number of activities that you will not want to miss. LEAF meets on the city's front porch (at the Library) on Thursday nights. In addition to learning about local farming and gardening, there is usually entertainment and always good people on hand.

Band2gether - new this year with the help and inspiration of Lakewood

Is Art and Vance Music Studios - will bring middle school and high school student rock bands to Sinagra Park on Friday evenings starting July 11. Go to the foxnews website to see a video sampling of the great entertainment we have in store.

Save the date of July 19th when Walk+Roll™ comes to Lakewood. Downtown Lakewood will be car-

free to Lakewood Park (along Belle) from 4p.m.-9p.m. Lois Moss, founder of Walk+Roll™, was inspired to take her concept outside Cleveland for the first time when she saw how our community came together on the street last December for Light up Lakewood. Nine stages of FREE entertainment are planned. Rockport Square will once again be providing Lolly the Trolley to bring visitors to the downtown district that day. This is an event not to be missed!

Lakewood Hospital's Starry Night benefit for the arts and its Diabetes Center will be held on Belle Avenue on Friday, August 1. Lakewood's party of the year sets the stage for the 31st annual Lakewood Arts Festival in the Main Street district on August 2.

Visit the nation's #1 library then come for coffee, lunch, dinner, shopping and entertainment in our Main Street district all summer long. Experience wonderful, walkable, Main Street Lakewood!

Regan Clawson Receives PPNEO Award for Outstanding Staff Service

by Mary O'Shea

Regan Clawson, Director of Health Service Systems at Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio (PPNEO) is the 2008 recipient of the Nelson Award for Outstanding Staff Service. The announcement was made today by the organization's Great Places to Work Committee.

Ms. Clawson had multiple nominations for the award, for which the criteria included "demonstrated leadership and initiative" and "adherence to PPNEO values of service excellence, trust and respect, communication, diversity, and professional expertise and development."

"Regan has worked tirelessly on

many committees and workgroups to establish a strong workplace," said a coworker in her nomination. "She is always conscientious of the important balance between keeping staff satisfied, clients well-served, and maintaining high quality, cost-effective care."

Ms. Clawson, of Lakewood, will be honored at PPNEO's annual meeting on June 25, 2008 at the Cultural Center for the Arts in Canton, and her name will be engraved on the Nelson Award plaque that is displayed in the Akron Boardroom, along with previous winners. The Martha D. Nelson MD Fund was established in December 1996 to recognize the service of Dr. Nelson following her retirement from the Planned Parenthood Board of Trustees after serving 30 years. Awards were made to staff members in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Annual Senior Picnic 2008

by Dee Dee MacNamee-Gold

The Lakewood Department of Human Services, Division of Aging will sponsor the Annual Senior Picnic on Friday, July 11TH at the Lakewood Kiwanis Pavilion from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm (rain or shine). This has always proven to be wonderful summer event with live music, games, prizes, raffles, dancing and a box lunch.

This year's event will feature live music by country western singer, Logan Wells, a local favorite. The box lunches will be served at 11:30 and music is scheduled to begin at 12:00 noon. Bring your dancing shoes and line dance to country sounds or stroll around the

park on the paved walking trail.

As in the past, the raffle highlights a wonderful picnic basket filled with all the ingredients for a picnic to remember, a handmade afghan with matching pillow and many more items.

The event will cost \$3.00. Transportation is available for Lakewood senior residents. Please call (216) 521-1515 for reservations.

Vance Music School - Student Recital At The Winchester

Saturday, June 14th, 2008
9:00 PM

Vance Music School - Student Recital - Lakewood's Vance Music Studio is having their third student recital at the Winchester. This show features Vance students, young and old, performing in a lot of varied musical forms. You'll hear some jazz, some rock, some singer/songwriter, some vocalist pop, etc, etc. Tickets are \$5.00 and available

at Vance Music Studios or at the door on the night of the show. 8pm.

Location:
The Winchester Music Hall
12112 Madison Ave
Lakewood, OH
(216) 226-5681

View or post other upcoming events around Lakewood at <http://lakewoodobserver.com/calendar>

Phoenix Project Moves To Madison

by Marc Mannheimer

Beginning June 1st, the Phoenix Project, a new Lakewood Christian church of open hearts, open minds, and welcoming arms, moves its Sunday afternoon worship service to The Sacred Arts and Healing Center at 13351 Madison Avenue. Roger Sams, director of the versatile healing and arts center, graciously invited the Project for the summer of 2008.

The new church development of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve will hold worship, song, celebration and fellowship at 5 o'clock at the new location. Information about other weekly activities may be found at the website -- www.codenamephoenix.org, or by contacting Reverend Meredith White-Zeager at 216-906-3026 or phoenixncd@gmail.com.

Rozi's Wine House invites you and your friends to Two Special Wine Tastings in Back to Back weeks!

Thursday, June 19th from 6-9pm
Meeker Vineyards, Sonoma Valley
David Meeker, Owner/Winemaker

Tuesday, June 24th from 6-9pm
Steele Vineyards, Sonoma Valley
Jed Steele, Owner/Winemaker

\$20.00 admission per person will be collected at the door for each event.
****A coupon for \$10 off admission to the Steele Vineyards event will be given to all those who attend the Meeker Vineyards tasting.****

Our special guest chef will also be on hand to present gourmet dishes that complement the featured wines. No reservations required.

Rozi's Wine House (216) 221-1119
14900 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107
www.rozis.com



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Lakewood City News

Council Unanimous On Winterhust Lease With Iceland USA

continued from page 1

million dollars over the course of the lease,” stated Mayor Ed FitzGerald. “The extensive renovations will also bring the facility up-to-date in a way the City could not afford.” Iceland USA will invest \$1 million in renovations and upgrades to the facility over the course of the contract.

Lakewood architect Jim Larsen

has already been hired by Iceland USA to design the future upgrades to the facility. “It’s going to be a nicer, more user friendly operation,” said Butler.

By charter law, the contract must receive three readings before final approval. While the administration and attorney for Iceland USA are still working out the details of the contract, it is expected to be approved by the third hearing on Monday, June 16th.



Veterans Remembered At Grace Presbyterian Church’s 42nd Annual Memorial Sunday Service

Grace Presbyterian Church, at Hilliard and Rosewood Avenues, celebrated over 40 years of honoring veterans on Sunday, May 25th, with their traditional Memorial Sunday service, including a grand entrance by the veterans. Grace Presbyterian has held a special service in recognition of Memorial Day annually since 1967; to honor living and deceased veterans who came to the aid of our country. Participants in the service on Sunday included members of the Joint Veterans Council of Lakewood/ Rocky River, musicians from the North Coast Pipe Band, a trumpet player, and the church’s own choir, pastor, and organist.

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Lakewood Public Library

Singing Seniors + One = Fun!

by Martha Wood

The Singing Seniors Plus One will be bringing their keen sense humor and joy as well as their voices to Lakewood Public Library’s “Sunday with the Friends” series on Sunday, June 22 at 2 p.m. in the Main Auditorium. The group, led by Ione Smith, will be performing a variety of oldies but goodies, hymns, patriotic songs and show tunes.

The seniors in the group are Barbara Klein, Carol Mackenzie, Delores Polk, Tom Polk, John Wilson and Noreen Wolf. The “plus one” refers to Ione’s daughter, Adriane. Ione was the director of the Lakewood Golden Tones for a number of years. She was starting to get burned out and so she resigned. A month following her resignation, she was approached by several members of the group who encouraged her to form another musical group. After a bit of deliberation she decided to give it another shot and since then she’s never regretted forming what she calls “a small but happy group. We have a lot of fun and bring laughter and fun to our audiences.”

The group performs 3 times a month on average and will go wherever

they are invited to sing. They’ve performed for many residents at assisted living facilities and nursing homes throughout the area and they even provided holiday music at a CVS store.

Ione has always enjoyed music and singing and she has sung with her church choir for ten years. Her daughter, Adriane, the abovementioned “plus one” of the group, suffered a severe injury and is currently unable to work. While serving in the Navy she was out running when she caught her foot in a pothole and was thrown, causing irreparable damage to her leg, and specifically her kneecap, which actually had to be removed. A doctor at the Cleveland Clinic was able to build her a new kneecap and Adriane recently underwent the eleventh operation on her knee to remove some scar tissue. She enjoys singing with the group as well and she is looking forward to being able to fully recover in time for their Sunday, June 22nd performance at 2 p.m. in the auditorium at Lakewood Public Library. The Singing Seniors Plus One encourages the audience to jump right in and sing along because they love it when you join them.



Gary Thomas checks over the new and enlarged section of CDs, DVDs, and videos. Another welcome site is the computer room up and running with computers to spare.

Lakewood Public Library Event Calendar

FIVE STAR FILMS:

BLACK NARCISSUS (1947-U.K.) Directed by Michael Powell & Emeric Pressburger NR The exquisitely filmed classic in which a group of Anglican nuns is sent on a mission high in the Himalayas to start a school hospital and convert the populace. Over time, the two sisters in charge become drawn to the attractive British agent, and the rest stray from their appointed tasks as they fall under the spell of this hypnotic locale. Based upon the novel by Rumer Godden. Saturday, June 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS: THE SINGING SENIORS (Plus One)

Join this lively group as they perform patriotic songs, oldies-but-goodies, hymns and show tunes. Sunday, June 22 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

LAKEWOOD PUBLIC CINEMA:

GOJIRA (1954) Directed by Ishiro Honda PG* Think you’ve seen Godzilla before? Think again. The original Japanese cut, 100% Raymond Burr-free, is more than just a terrific monster movie. Huddle with the citizens of post-WWII Tokyo, caught between the wrath of nature wronged and the guilty conscience of science run amok. This film is far more ambitious than its numerous sequels and twice as entertaining as all of them put together. (Japanese with English subtitles) Saturday, July 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS:

Make the library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts. 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. Programs are held in the Activity Room at Main Library and the basement at the Madison Branch.

Friday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.,
Sunday: 2:00 p.m.
June 13, 14, 15: Bear-y Happy Readers
June 20, 21, 22: On Vacation

SPECIAL FRIDAY PERFORMANCES:

Zap’s Magic Safari in Search of Bugs!!!
Friday, June 13 at 3:00 p.m. at the Main Library
The Spider Prince and Other Silly Stories from Jennifer Johnson
Friday, June 27at 3:00 p.m. at the Madison Branch
All ages are welcome. Seating is limited. Doors open fifteen minutes prior to the performance.

BUG OFF: Crafts and activities for children kindergarten through eighth grade Stop in for a variety of cool summer programs. There is no need to register; however, to schedule groups, please call Main Library (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or Madison Branch (216) 228-7428.

Six-Week Summer Season: Monday, June 16 – Thursday, July 24

Monday-Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the Main Library and 3:00 p.m. at Madison Branch
Monday-Creepy, Crawly Crafts
Tuesday-Insect Games
Wednesday-Buggy Book Adventures
Thursday-Creepy, Crawly Crafts

SUPER SUMMER STORIES

Drop in for some summer fun with stories, songs and movements. There is no need to register; however, to schedule groups, please call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Six-Week Summer Season: Monday, June 16 – Thursday, July 24
Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.
In the Main Library Children’s and Youth Services Department

CATCH THE READING BUG! For children age birth through fifth grade Monday, May 12 – Saturday, August 16

Feeling sluggish, antsy, or somewhere in-between? Join the Summer Reading Club and choose to complete 30 books or 30 hours of reading. Visit the Reading Club table once a week to collect bug stamps and tickets toward prize drawings. Receive a certificate, a nameplate and a special reward when you finish the club.

In the Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch

METAMORPHOSIS: For students sixth through twelfth grade
Monday, May 12 – Saturday, August 16
Summer Reading Club has been transformed for teens and tweens. Choose to complete 30 books or 30 hours of reading and earn chances for prizes. Stop by the Reading Club table to sign up or for more information.

In the Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch

Lakewood Recreation Schedules

Lakewood Aquatics

by Erin Fach
LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL INDOOR POOL

Open Swim: Tuesdays/Thursdays 7:00 pm-8:30 pm, Fridays 7:30 pm-9:30 pm, Sundays 2:00 pm-4:00 pm Fees: Student \$3.00 per session Adult \$3.50 per session Adult \$22.00 monthly pass (valid at LHS Indoor Pool only – outdoor season passes not accepted)

Adult Only Swim: Monday through Friday 2:50 pm-3:50 pm Fees: \$2.00 per session \$22.00 monthly pass (valid at LHS Indoor Pool only – outdoor season passes not accepted)

Adult Only Lap Swim: (June 16-August 15) During Adult Only Lap Swim the pool is set up for 25-yard lap swimming. Lanes are broken down into three speeds and swimmers are asked to circle swim Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays 6:00 am-7:30 am, Mondays through Fridays 5:30 pm-6:30 pm Fees: \$2.00 per session \$22.00 monthly pass (valid at LHS Indoor Pool only – outdoor season passes not accepted) Adult monthly pass holders are entitled to unlimited monthly usage during any adult or open swim session in the calendar month stated on the pass card. Monthly pass holders must have picture taken and must check in each visit.

Municipal Pools: The outdoor municipal pools open Saturday, June 14. Opening weekend hours will be 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Becks Pool in Madison Park and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Foster Pool in Lakewood Park. Age requirements: for the safety of all patrons, children ages 8 and under must have an adult present in the facility at all times. Children 6 and under must be accompanied at all times by a paid adult in swim attire.

MUNICIPAL POOL FEES

Daily Admission Fees: Lakewood Residents Adult \$3.50 Student (under 18) \$3.00 Children 6 and under N/C w/ paid admission of an adult Seniors N/C w/ Season Pass Non Lakewood Resident Adult \$4.50 Student (under 18) \$4.00 Children 6 and under N/C w/ paid admission of an adult Seniors \$4.00 Children 6 and under must be accompanied at all times by a paid swimming adult. Children 7 and 8 years of age must have a paid swimming adult present within the facility at all times. Seniors 60 years of age and older must register for a season pass to receive free admittance.

Season Pass Fees (passes are valid at both pools) Lakewood Residents: Individual Pass Adult \$35.00 Student (under 18) \$25.00 Seniors N/C w/ Season Pass Family Pass First Adult \$35.00 Second Adult \$25.00Each Additional Adult \$35.00Each Child \$25.00

Non Lakewood Residents: Individual Pass Adult \$70.00 Student (under 18) \$50.00 Seniors \$50.00 Family Pass First Adult \$70.00 Second Adult \$50.00 Each Additional Adult \$70.00Each Child \$50.00

Water Aerobics – Foster Pool: Lakewood Recreation Department is offering water aerobics designed to provide participants with a low-impact workout designed to increase flexibility. The class will be lead by certified instructor Annette Johnson. Classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 am-11:30 am. **Session 1:** June 17-July 3, **Session 2:** July 8-July 24,

BECKS POOL: Madison Park, 13209 Madison Avenue

Open Swim: Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays 12:00 pm-6:00 pm, Tuesdays/Thursdays/Saturdays/Sundays 12:00 pm-8:00 pm

Adult Only Swim: Saturdays 10:00 am-11:00 am, Sundays 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Family Swim: Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Saturdays 11:00 am-12:00 pm. All children must have an adult age 18 or older present in the facility at all times during Family Swim sessions

FOSTER POOL: Lakewood Park, 14532 Lake Avenue

Open Swim: Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays 1:00 pm-4:00 pm, Mondays/ Wednesdays 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Tuesdays/Thursdays/Saturdays/ Sundays 1:00 pm-8:00 pm

Adult Only Swim: Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays 8:15 am-9:30 am, Tuesdays/Thursdays 8:15 am-10:30 am, Saturdays 9:30 am-11:00 am

Family Swim: Fridays 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Saturdays 11:00 am-1:00 pm. All children must have an adult age 18 or older present in the facility at all times during Family Swim sessions

Session 3: July 29-August 14. Cost is \$36 resident/\$46 non-resident per session. For more information or to register call the Recreation Department at 216-529-4081. You can register in person at the Recreation Department, 1456 Warren Road or on-line at www.lakewoodrecreation.com.

Sports Camps - Football, Basketball, Soccer, Tennis

Lakewood Rangers Football Skills Camp: Lakewood High School’s new varsity football coach, Ron Lewis, is hosting a camp for boys in grades 4th – 7th. Participants will be broken down into age appropriate groups and work on various exercises and drills with the varsity coaches and players. The camp will be held at Lakewood Stadium from Monday, July 21 through Wednesday, July 23 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. The camp is limited to the first 100 participants. Lakewood residents only. Cost is \$45 per participant. For more information or to register call the Recreation Department at 216-529-4081. You can register in person at the Recreation Department, 1456 Warren Road or on-line at www.lakewoodrecreation.com.

Football Rangers Coaches Camp: Lakewood Recreation coaches are welcome to attend the Lakewood Rangers Football Skills Camp and the Lakewood High School Football Camp. Both camps will be held at Lakewood High School July 21 through July 23. The youth skills camp will be held from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and the high school camp will be held 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Interested coaches should contact Mike Callahan at the Recreation Department at 216-529-4081 or by e-mail at mike.callahan@lakewood.k12.oh.us.

Lakewood Rangers Boys Basketball Camp: Lakewood High School’s varsity coach John Silva is hosting a camp for boy’s grades 3rd – 9th. Varsity coaches and players will work with participants to develop and improve fundamental skills in shooting, passing and dribbling. Activities throughout the camp will include 3-on-3 games, 5-on-5 games, 1-on-1 tournament and a hot shot tournament. The camp will be held Monday, June 16 through Friday, June 20 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Grades 3rd – 6th will meet at Garfield Middle School and grades 7th – 9th will meet at Lakewood High School’s East Gym. Lakewood residents only. Cost is \$60 per participant. For more information or to register call the Recreation Department at 216-529-4081. You can register in person at the Recreation Department, 1456 Warren Road or on-line at www.lakewoodrecreation.com.

Lakewood Rangers Girls Basketball Camp: Lakewood High School’s varsity coach Nicole Anderson is hosting a camp for girl’s grades 5th – 9th. Varsity and junior varsity coaches and players will work with participants to develop and improve fundamental skills in shooting, passing and dribbling through drills, competitions and team play. Additional position work for guards and post players will be taught. The camp will be held at Lakewood High School East Gym from Monday, June 16 through Friday, June 20 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Lakewood residents only. Cost is \$60 per participant. For more information or to register call the Recreation Department at 216-529-4081. You can register in person at the Recreation Department, 1456 Warren Road or on-line at www.lakewoodrecreation.com.

Lakewood Rangers Volleyball Camp: Lakewood High School’s new varsity volleyball coach, Bojan Miocinovic, is hosting a camp for girls in grades 4th – 12th. Participants will be instructed by the Lakewood High School Volleyball staff and

former players currently playing in college. The camp will be held at Garfield Middle School from Monday, June 30 through Thursday, July 3. Incoming 9th through 12 graders will meet from 8:00 am to 11:30 am and incoming 4th through 8th graders will meet from 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm. Lakewood residents only. Cost is \$65 per participant. For more information or to register call the Recreation Department at 216-529-4081. You can register in person at the Recreation Department, 1456 Warren Road or on-line at www.lakewoodrecreation.com.

Youth Open Gym: Lakewood Recreation Department is offering “Open Gym” during the Summer Break for kids under 18 years of age. Open gym will run from June 16 through august 8 (No open gym on July 4). Open gym will be held at Garfield Middle School on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm and Sundays from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm and at Hayes Elementary School on Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Cost is \$2 per child/per session. Season passes cost \$35 and are available at the Recreation Department. Basketball will be the primary activity. All sessions must maintain sufficient attendance. Sessions not meeting the minimum requirements may be cancelled without notice. Students must carry a separate pair of gym shoes into the building and will be required to change their shoes before entering the gym. Street shoes will not be permitted. Event Staff will supervise all activities. Lakewood residents only. For more information or to register call the Recreation Department at 216-529-4081. You can register in person at the Recreation Department, 1456 Warren Road.

Youth Soccer Fundamentals: Lakewood Recreation Department is offering Soccer Fundamentals for kids in Grades Kindergarten through 6th. The coordinator Joe Julian and his assistants will teach soccer skills including dribbling, kicking, receiving and passing. Skills are taught in an enthusiastic and enjoyable way. Participants must supply shin guards, water bottle and soccer or tennis shoes. Cost is \$45 residents/\$65 non-resident for 6 weeks. Classes will be held at Madison Park Soccer Field Tuesdays and Thursdays June 17 through July 24. Times are as follows: Grades K-2 4:30 pm to 5:15 pm, Grades K-3 5:15 pm to 6:00 pm and Grades 4-6 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm. For more information or to register call the Recreation Department at 216-529-4081. You can register in person at the Recreation Department, 1456 Warren Road.

Youth Tennis Lessons: Lakewood Recreation Department is offering group tennis lessons for kids ages 9 to 14. These group lessons will provide instruction in a fun, casual environment. Kids will have a great time while developing skills of the games. Participants must supplies a tennis racquet, 1 can of tennis balls, water bottle and tennis shoes. Cost is \$45 resident/\$65 non-resident for 10 sessions. Classes will be held at Lakewood Stadium Tennis Courts. Participants may register for either Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday. Classes will be held Mondays and Wednesdays June 16 through July 23 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm or Tuesdays and Thursdays June 17 through July 29 (no class July 4).

Lakewood Cares

“America’s Favorite Mom” Finalist Has Lakewood Connections

by Luanne Bole-Becker

Mothers’ Day 2008 saw the unveiling of what NBC and Teleflora referred to as “America’s Favorite Mom”. Patti Patton-Bader -- founder of Soldiers’ Angels, the nation’s largest all-volunteer military support organization -- was selected. But one of her four fellow finalists, Nora Leon, also has some Lakewood ties.

Nora Leon is a missionary in Haiti, caring for children at the Children of Israel Orphanage in Les Cayes. She gave up her life in the United States to do this special work, and members of a host of Northeast Ohio Lutheran churches are witness to her life-changing work.

Since 2002, members of Gethsemane (Lakewood), Royal Redeemer (North Royalton), and Valley (Chagrin Falls) Lutheran churches have coordinated short-term mission trips to Haiti, forging long-term relationships with Nora, as well as with the orphanage, church, and communities where she lives and works. Trips have included a variety of projects, including medical and dental clinics, teaching English as a second language, construction, youth interaction, jewelry making, basketball ministry, and establishing tuition sponsorships.

The three initial churches have been joined by pastors and lay members of other local churches: Ascension

Lutheran (North Olmsted); Ascension Catholic (Cleveland); Bethany Lutheran (Parma); Cleveland Baptist; Community of Hope Lutheran (Brecksville and Lakewood); Messiah Lutheran (Fairview Park); St. Mark Lutheran (Chesterland); and St. Thomas Lutheran (Rocky River). The most recent mission trip, held during Easter break 2008, was designed specifically for youth and featured students from Lutheran West High School in Rocky River.

Lynn Scheerhorn, a member of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, coordinates the ongoing mission trips to Haiti. She posted the following online comment in response to Nora Leon’s “America’s Favorite Mom” nomination: “Nora Leon is a saint! [She is] totally selfless in every way, living to help others, never thinking of herself.”

Mission trip participants voted in the nationwide contest to select “America’s Favorite Mom”, urging friends and family to do likewise. Even the Ohio District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod joined the effort. Rev. Terry Cripe, president of the Ohio District (headquartered in Olmsted Falls), recently traveled to Haiti following a personal invitation by Nora Leon. Upon returning, he urged all 169 churches within the Ohio District to take up a special Pentecost offering on



Nora Leon and boys from the Children of Israel Orphanage in Les Cayes, Haiti

behalf of the Lutheran church in Haiti.

The “America’s Favorite Mom” contest also had another Northeast Ohio connection. All video footage of Nora in Haiti was taken by Emmy Award-winning producers and Lakewood residents, Bob Becker and Luanne Bole-Becker. They gathered hours of videotape during mission trips they took as members of Gethsemane Lutheran Church between 2002 and 2006. It was that footage that enabled online voters and viewers of NBC’s “Today” show and the prime-time “America’s Favorite Mom” finale to catch a glimpse of Nora’s life in Haiti.

As a finalist, Nora Leon will receive a \$25,000 cash prize, which she plans to donate toward her work in Haiti. In addition to sharing the stage with Donnie and Marie Osmond, producers surprised her on Mothers’ Day by flying her husband Leon in from Haiti to join her in Los Angeles at the live extravaganza.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and has been hit hard by the staggering rise in food prices this year. Nora’s work is making a difference, but more help is always needed. You can read more about Nora’s life and work in Haiti at www.norainhaiti.spaces.live.com/. In addition, charitable donations for the orphanage or for appeasing the severe food shortage in and near Les Cayes, Haiti can be made to: Haiti Mission Fund, c/o Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 14560 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, OH, 44107.

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Lakewood Schools

New Football Coaches Make Their Debut



The LHS Football team took the turf for their first drills under newly hired coach Ron Lewis and his coaching staff.

H2O Working To Recover From Flood Damage

by Margaret Brinich

For the past 15 years, Lakewood’s Help To Others, or H2O, program has offered middle and high school students the opportunity to discover the power of volunteerism. This summer, 200 middle school students will participate in one of four 2-week long community service-oriented day camp sessions. When combined with the efforts of nearly 250 high schoolers and 80 middle schoolers, H2O students can be found giving of their time and tal-

ents at approximately 90 community functions this year.

However, on April 25th, 2008, H2O suffered a harsh blow to their otherwise vibrant and growing programs. Following a day of water-main construction near H2O’s Madison Avenue office, a hydrant line burst, causing massive flooding of the basement. When H2O director, Celia Dorsch, came into work that morning, she was met with emergency alarms sounding and standing water in the basement. At the time, the basement was being used primarily as

storage space for H2O summer camp supplies, with other program equipment for widely publicized events, such as Pumpkin Palooza and Spring Fling, in storage in other buildings.

The water was pumped out with the help of Lakewood Fire Department, but with estimated water levels reaching nearly 4 feet, the damage was already done; and the timing couldn’t have been worse. The flooding occurred in the midst of the big push of preparations for summer camp programming, which will begin in

mid-June. A basement that had been filled with everything from craft supplies and carnival decorations to the stacks of t-shirts to be distributed to campers as a memento of their summer camp experience, was now full of garbage. The water lifted plastic containers and boxes off their shelves, filling them with water, and splaying their contents across the basement floor. This made clean up simple enough: everything simply had to be thrown away.

Although insurance will take care of some of the losses, a large portion of the coverage will need to be put towards large ticket items, such as a furnace and electrical work for the building. With the first session of summer camp only weeks away, H2O needs our help for a change. H2O is dependent upon a combination of funding from the City of Lakewood and individual grants/donations, with the summer programming being run largely through the generosity of these individual contributors.

H2O’s truly unique service programming is designed to both build upon the core of kids who are already serving their community as well as further developing Lakewood youth as an invaluable resource to the larger community. In order to help H2O maintain and expand upon this already largely successful mission statement, please make checks payable to The Lakewood Foundation/H2O. The foundation is a 501(c)(3), so your donation is 100% tax deductible. Donations can be mailed to H2O c/o Lakewood Division of Youth - 12900 Madison Ave. Lakewood, OH 44107.

While monetary donations can be made at any time, please also note that after June 16th, clothing and school supplies can be dropped off at any of Lakewood’s fire stations. Clothes will be resold at nominal prices at the annual H2O “Clothes 4 Kids Sale,” with all proceeds being used to help fund H2O summer camp. The school supplies will be repackaged into back-to-school kits, with more than 250 kits distributed through the Lakewood Christian Service Center last fall.

School Board Reaffirms Commitment To The D.A.R.E. Program

by Matthew John Markling,
School Board Member

On June 9, 2008, the Lakewood City School District Board of Education reaffirmed its commitment to the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (“D.A.R.E.”) Program and enacted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, this resolution supports the grant application by the city of Lakewood Police Department to the Ohio Attorney General’s office for funding for the city’s Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program and commends the Division of

Police for its continued efforts to educate young people of the city as to the hazards of alcohol and drugs; and

WHEREAS, the city of Lakewood Police Department has operated the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program since 1990; and

WHEREAS, the D.A.R.E. Program has a positive influence on the young people of the city through education as to the hazards of alcohol and drugs; and

WHEREAS, funding to support the continued operation of the D.A.R.E. Program is available from the Ohio Attorney General’s office;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Lakewood City School District

that the Board supports the grant application by the city of Lakewood Police Department to the Ohio Attorney General’s office for the funding for the city’s Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program. The Lakewood Board of Education supports the city of Lakewood Police Department for its continued efforts in educating young people of the city as to the hazards of alcohol and drugs.

Board Bylaw 0148 Disclaimer: While Matthew John Markling is an elected member of the Lakewood City School District Board of Education, his views do not necessarily reflect the views of the Lakewood City School District Board of Education or of his colleagues on the Board.

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Lakewood Public Library

project,” said Warren. “My staff executed [the move] with great skill and good cheer.” Despite running about four months behind schedule because of various issues largely involving weather, the plan instituted for the movement of the materials (which tried to move each collection only once) worked smoothly.

“Initially, the new building foundation flooded,” said Endress of the weather related set backs. “It turned into a giant swimming pool. Nobody could have anticipated that.”

There were similar setbacks with the roof of the new and old building, for which the construction was halted due to a long period of “wet and cold”.

“All in all, we hoped it was an expansion that would serve us for the next 50 years” said Endress.

The overall territory acquired for the expansion of the square footage of the LPL created a square lot, which doubled the parking space.

“We did take one house,” said Endress. “the only reason was to square up the lot.”

The only other building that was raised to accommodate the new section of the library was Insurance Affiliates, which the Board of Trustees had tried to purchase for at least ten years until they finally were able to buy it in 2000.

The New Features

Since the LPL Main Branch has practically doubled in size, there are quite a few new additions to the facility including things as practical as 78 new computers for public use and some uncommon ones, such as staff locker rooms complete with showers.

There are now, among other things, two new auditoriums, expanded room for collections, updated facilities, a new children’s area, and a grand reading room.

And it’s the Children’s Librainium and the Grand Reading Room that are generating the most buzz.

“[The Librainium] is the fundamental point of entry for people to connect with learning, language, and story,” said Warren of the sophisticated new children’s facilities.

“I wish I had young kids again to go play in the Librainium,” said Endress. “It’s the world’s largest busy box. Unless you have kids, you don’t get to see it through their eyes.”



Those responsible for the new Lakewood Public Library. Back row left to right; Scott Kermode (LPL Board Member), Mary Nixon (LPL Board Member), Paul Dimmick (LPL Board Member), Jeff Endress (LPL Board President), unknown, Tim Laskey (Treasurer), unknown, unknown. Front row left to right: Councilperson Nickie Antonio, Robert A. M. Stern (Architect), Kenneth Warren (LPL Director), Mayor Edward FitzGerald (Mayor of Lakewood), Chris Johnson (LPL Board Member), and Nancy Seibert.

Featured in the front of the old library facility, the Librainium is an indoor playhouse with activities designed to amuse and inspire interest in learning.

Similarly, the Grand Reading Room provides a space for library patrons to share an interest in achievement and knowledge.

“The classical virtues are alive and well in the new LPL,” said Warren of one of his favorite spaces. “The [Grand Reading Room] allows us to experience that relationship between aesthetics, cognition, and ethics. The design and the style convey the grandeur of those values and as people, we feel it in the space.”

The color scheme for the Grand Reading Room, and in fact the entire new LPL complex was based off of the Thorvaldsen Museum in Denmark, which features bright colors and natural lighting. In an occasionally grey climate like Lakewood, Warren suggested that the colors would be enlivening.

“The natural lighting, the Richard Haas mural, and the furnishings, all make for an impeccable library experience,” said Warren.

“I’ve been in the New York Public Library’s Reading Room,” said Endress. “It ain’t got nothing on ours.”



With the expanded space, the Board of Trustees and Warren have been contemplating ideas for a more expanded set of programs and activities for the LPL to host.

“There is a possibility of an alliance with the Cleveland Cinematique to do our own film festivals,” said Endress. “We now have two auditoriums that could be turned into two mini theaters.”

In fact, there have already been special events hosted in the new LPL, including the most recent Lakewood High School Senior Art Show and several LHS student sponsored debates.

“We look forward to having and showcasing more talent from the Lakewood Schools,” said Warren. “For the opening and rededication ceremony we enjoyed music from the Lakewood City Schools. It’s a great venue to showcase local talent.”

Warren went on to say that when architect Robert A.M. Stern visited the multi-purpose room, he thought that it could potentially be an excellent venue for enlarged photography and acrylic art.

“He thought it would be good to rotate [the art],” said Warren. “It got me to thinking about the Senior Art

Show and the possibility of figuring out some way to have a contest that would allow for the exhibition of this art with some kind of award for artists from LHS.”

He added that these ideas need to be approved, but that there is a great interest in cultivating ideas and concepts, and that this in particular is a great one.

“I wanted a test kitchen, but it didn’t get in,” said Endress, who added that the LPL circulates a lot of cook books.

Changes at the LPL

Amidst the excitement of state of the art facilities, there were two significant changes to library policies.

In order to enter the new Audio-Visual (AV) section of the library, patrons need to check their library cards at the desk in that section.

“This was something that Mr. Warren discussed with the Board,” said Endress. “We authorized him to move forward with enhanced security because of ‘collection shrinkage’.”

Reports reached the LPL Administration that library owned DVDs were showing up in pawn shops and even on eBay. There are some patrons with over \$100 worth of material that has not been returned.

“What we’ve seen is that both the tech and AV materials attract a vast number of people to the library, some of whom are criminal and unethical in their behavior,” said Warren of the reason for the change in policy from an open and trusting customer service to tightened security. “We’ve designed a new preventive security measure to deter the criminal and unethical individuals from entering the space and absconding with public property.”

The community made an enormous investment in the building, continued Warren, and as such, he felt that the preservation of the collection should be maintained with fair, con-



Rededication June 1, 2008



Above; Before the celebration Lakewood Public Library Director Kenneth Warren enjoys conversation in the Grand Reading Room with LPL Board President, Jeff Endress, Robert A. M. Stern and associates. Below; Kenneth Warren, Robert A. M. Stern and Jeff Endress.



The Best Is Yet To Come
by Bill Knittel

Welcome, welcome,
young and old,
The task is now complete,
So enter, share, participate,
This knowledge filled retreat;
We've taken old, we've added new,
This structure now injected,
With past and present gem stones,
Wisely chose, and perfected;
The completion of this project,
A work of love and great endeavors,
Was planned with understanding,
Learning know how, used quite clever;
The job was sometimes stressful,
A work of art is quite dramatical,
So we refer to it as needed
And as a knowledgeable sabbatical;
We're back now, with a vengeance,
Useful help aids of every kind,
To shout to all of Lakewood
And to the world, just watch us shine;
Within these walls you're sure to find,
Most answers you require,
Or someone from the knowing staff
To reference your desire;
We're here for everyone who needs us,
On us just place your bet,
And as Jolson said in the movie:
"Folks, you ain't seen nothing yet";
So let's recall that in the U.S.A.
Lakewood Public Library's number one,
And with this new beginning, we're sure,

sistent, if not more stringent rules for access to the AV area.

"It's expensive to replace the media," said Endress. "It's inconvenient and we are still fine tuning it. When you go in to get a DVD, we want to make sure it's there. It's a shame that because of some people, we have to provide a protection protocol that inconveniences the other 99 percent."

The other policy shift took place in the technology center, starting with the main building. Patrons are now required to have a library card in good standing in order to access the internet through an automated reservation system. The system is now up and running at the main building and will be implemented at the Madison branch on June 16.

Future Plans

The emphasis on the reconstruction of the LPL did not allow for much collection expansion other than some small binges in graphic novels and large-print books, but Endress feels that because of the greatly expanded space, he can see the collection growing and filling all the empty shelves.

"We are getting back to full strength in terms of acquisitions," said Warren. "We were not at a normal level for the past two years."

But the Main Branch did acquire two new maintenance and a number of customer service staff members. "Over the past two years, we have had to reduce our staff. We are starting to rehire and bring our staffing back to what it was two and a half years ago."

Both Endress and Warren assured

that there are no plans for any more expansion of the LPL Main Branch. However, there is the possibility, as Warren suggested, of an expansion of the Madison Branch.

"The community will need to have a conversation concerning its commitment to library service in the city and on the southeast side of town," said Warren about a possible Madison renovation. In the 90's the LPL invested capital improvement dollars in the Madison Branch to make it Handicap Accessible, to improve furnishings and technology. But because the square footage of the building has not increased, and new tech and AV departments have been added, the Madison Branch is now very crowded. "It will take two years to ascertain how usage patterns at the Main Branch and the Madison Branch will unfold."

The feedback from the community on the renovation has been overwhelmingly positive since all of the elements of the Main Branch were made operational.

"It's all about virtues and getting people committed to their potential to realize virtues," said Warren of the final product which he calls the best nationwide; a complete package. "It's the common goal of a community to cause virtue in children, neighbors, friends, and citizens. That's how you build a strong culture and community. The Greeks had it right."

W.E.B./S.W.A.T./C.O.P.S. 5K Run



Lakewood police officers, and organizers of the run Patrick J. Fiorelli(left) and Ptrick Foye(right) award the COPS check for \$6,000 to widow Grace Leon.



A small part of the Lakewood group from left to right Mike Carroll, Judge Patrick Carroll, Mark Kay Schobel, Patrick Foye, Gary Easter, and LO's Stan Austin.

Each year the Lakewood Observer has the pleasure of working with Westshore Enforcement Bureau, and SWAT for the Concerns Of Police Survivors 5K Run. This year under rainy skies we got a record turnout raising \$6,000 for C.O.P.S. Great job done by Officer Patrick Foye, and SWAT Commander Patrick J. Fiorilli. You two do a great job for Lakewood and always make this event fun.

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Society's Child

Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce's

Taste Of Lakewood 2008

by Jennifer Scott

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce did it again! On Sunday June 1st the Chamber hosted the 5th annual Taste of Lakewood at the Clifton Club. Twenty-two local restaurants participated this year to showcase some of their most popular menu items. From Around the Corner's wings to Melt's fried Twinkies there was something for all tastes. The weather was perfect allowing for guests to enjoy outdoor dining on the Club's beautifully landscaped grounds.

Many Lakewood business owners came out to support their fellow Chamber members and restaurateurs. Thanks to the Chamber, the sponsors and The Clifton Club for hosting this fabulous event. Thanks also to all of the restaurants that participated this year. We are all looking forward to see what everyone dishes up next year.



Left to Right from the top of the page. People enjoy the taste treats at the Clifton Club., Councilman Mike Summers and wife Wendy, Todd Kick and Karen Privitera, Judge Pat Carroll and wife Bonnie, John and Tina Russell, Nikki and Mike Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Faulhaber, Fun under the tent, Patti and Mickey Krivosh, Ed Girman, Kevin Scott and George Quil, Tom and Cindy Einhouse, and from the Lakewood chamber of Commerce Patty Ryan and from the Clifton Club Ane Calabrese.





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Lakewood Perspective

A New-found Love And Respect For The IRS

So, proposing an energy plan is easy (well, at least for those of us not in Congress), but the next thing I'd like to see our government do is a little more intrusive.

I know I've complained about this already, but I'm convinced that the United States tax code exists solely for the purpose of creating millions of jobs in the accounting industry. I'm guessing that once you pass the test to become a CPA, there's actually an oath you have to take that makes you swear not to reveal the fact that there is no real logic or reason involved in the method for which ordinary citizens pay the price of public services. After all, once the masses figure out that it

is only confusing for the sake of being confusing, then the jig is up.

Right now, we pay tax on income, purchases, property, interest, and just about everything in between. We're so used to additional charges being added to everything we buy that most of us don't even look at the bill anymore. Don't get me wrong, I think having a certain few services paid for collectively is a good thing (sorry, but healthcare is still not on that list). For instance, I think everyone who drives a car should help pay to keep up the roads. But although I can agree that taxes are necessary, what I'd

by Bret Callentine

like to see is this...

First of all, I'd suggest eliminating the existing system altogether and moving, instead, to a national sales tax. I've put a lot of thought into the flat tax proposal, but to me, I'd personally prefer to shift the focus of taxes away from earnings, and onto spending. I don't know what the final percentage rate would have to be (I've heard estimates everywhere from ten to thirty percent) but I'd rather place a burden on decadence than continue to try to get more blood from the middle- and low-income stones. Yes, the price of consumer goods will go up, but so too will your paycheck since the long list of withholdings will be eliminated. And if necessary, different rates can be assigned to different purchases, with a discount rate given to the essential and basic and an elevated rate to the luxurious and extravagant.

Second, I'd like to take a page from the feudal system of government. Instead of our tax dollars starting at the federal level and trying to make their way back to our individual states and cities, I'd rather have every dollar start at the local level. Each city would be responsible for collecting their local sales tax, then the state would have to tax the city, and the federal government would be completely dependent on getting its money from the state. Imagine if you will, a country where you no longer have to file even a single tax return (let alone three), and where the federal representatives have to justify their needs to each state, not just each other, whenever they need funding.

Now here's the point where several special interest groups will point out that if this system were instituted, hundreds of thousands of accountants, and revenue collecting agents, will suddenly be out of work. But never fear, I'm not about to throw those hard working individuals out on the street.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but one of the lingering arguments surrounding the problem of illegal immigration is the years of waiting and reams of paperwork that await anyone seeking the legal path. So here we are, all of a sudden left with a glut of detail-

oriented people who specialize in scrutinizing over the minutiae of government requirements. Seems like a perfect fit to me. Instead of tax preparation stores on every corner, I foresee walk-in immigration shops. With this new army of I-dotters and T-crossers, getting a temporary work permit should be as fast and easy as obtaining a fishing license. And filing for citizenship could be accomplished while you wait for a pizza next door.

My next move would be to phase the Internal Revenue Service into the Immigration Regulation Service. While the accountants are tackling the mountains of paper, I'd set the IRS agents to work, sniffing out all the U.S. contractors and businesses that for years have unscrupulously profited from the illegal use of immigrant labor. I'd love to see those agents use the same fervor that used to be reserved for persecuting prospective tax cheats now targeted toward the people who've made a living out of short-changing people only looking for a piece of the American dream. The use of undocumented workers has been hurting us all and it's time we put an end to the slavery of the 21st century.

And to make the punishment fit the crime, anyone caught hiring illegal immigrants would get mandatory prison time, in a Mexican prison. Once again, if we can outsource so many other things to foreign countries, I don't see the problem with paying other nations to house our criminals. Especially in this case, where it would be like putting a member of one gang into a cell full of members of the rival gang, I can't imagine a more natural and obvious deterrent.

Now I know I'm probably missing a few details here or there. Like I said before, I'm not an economist. But overall I think the strategy is sound. One possible exception might be to have a tax on property to address simple infrastructure needs; however, that tax would be at the complete discretion of the city and individual municipality. Overall I seek simplicity, efficiency, and a logical flow of time and money. Stop punishing people for working harder and make our nation dependent on prosperity, not tethered to mediocrity.



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Letters To The Editor

Pit Bull Fight Continues In Lakewood

Letters To The Editor

Rebuttal to Councilman Powers
Regarding the Proposed Pit Bull Ban

My purposes for writing this are twofold: it is intended first as a rebuttal to Councilman Brian Powers' article from the May 27th Lakewood Observer; second, I write this as an open letter to all citizens of Lakewood, so that both sides of the issue may be understood.

Let me start by say-

ing that I do truly believe that Councilman Powers has the best interest of Lakewood citizens at heart. I appreciate what he is trying to accomplish, specifically ensuring the safety of our residents. I wouldn't wish it any other way. I do believe, however, that his proposal to ban "pit bulls" and other breeds, though well-intended, is misguided.

Breed-specific legislation (BSL) makes no sense. There is no other crime for which we would stereotypically criminalize an entire population due to the actions of a small minority of its members. If a negligent driver struck and killed a pedestrian, would we respond by banning cars and drivers from the city? Of course not; that would be ridiculous, even though it is the only way to ensure that it never happens again. Instead, we would punish only the negligent driver – it would be unreasonable and unfair to punish other drivers.

Mr. Powers cited an example in which one Lakewood man in recent months was attacked and disfigured by a dog. I agree that this dog – and its owner – should be severely punished. But why punish all of the other owners and all of the other "pit bulls"? Where is the reason in that?

Dr. Robert V. Hutchison, who is recognized internationally for his work with purebred dogs and is the operator of a 16 veterinarian small animal hospital in North Ridgeville, Ohio, has been a practicing veterinarian for over 35 years (he also happens to be my father). He had this to say,

"Realizing that Mr. Powers feels he is trying to protect the citizens of Lakewood, the fact is that people who actually work on a daily basis with dogs of all types understand that no one breed is any better nor any worse

than any other breed. The truth is that it is the owner - not the breed - that makes a dog good or evil. The person in charge is where the legislation should be directed. Just as profiling humans by race or nationality is totally inaccurate, trying to profile a canine by no other criteria than breed is no less a fallacy."

This is an emotional issue for dog-lovers,

meaningless as far as I'm concerned. What does have meaning to me, and meaning to thousands of dog owners in this city, is that I love my dog, and he is an essential part of my family. But because he may, in the eyes of the city, be a "dog of mixed breed which has the appearance and characteristics of being predominantly [a

of protection that is not considered by governments to be a "vicious breed" (a term I fully reject as invalid).

For those readers influenced by practicality, Councilman Powers issued statements on the difficulty of enforcing Lakewood's current vicious dog laws. A ban on the entire breed is, "stronger [and] simpler," and, "...easier to enforce," he argues. How can criminalizing the whole population be easier to enforce than targeting just those dogs (and their owners) that are known offenders? According to the study, "Attacking the Dog-Bite Epidemic: Why Breed-Specific Legislation Won't Solve the Dangerous Dog Dilemma," published in the Fordham Law Review in 2006, it isn't.

Using Prince George's County, MD as an example, the study argues that policing a suddenly larger illegal dog population is a strain on law enforcement and animal control officers. Furthermore, a task force charged with studying the BSL in Prince George's County found that the average cost to the county, "of maintaining a single pit bull throughout the entire determination and appeals process was approximately \$68,000," leading the task force to ultimately recommend repealing the ban. That same county has also seen an increase in other, "large, powerful breeds not subject to the ban," which is not surprising. As I noted above, the humans who seek out dogs that they can make vicious and violent will simply move on to the next breed.

Which leads me to the real issue: when a dog goes bad, it is the owner that is the real monster. The force of any legislation should be targeted at the humans who abuse, neglect, and train these dogs to be violent. If we as a society can prevent a few awful people from ever owning any dogs, we can mitigate the danger from dog attacks and start to repair the reputations of these breeds that have been slandered by sensationalizing media and reactionary officials for far too long.

by
Brad Hutchison

Letters To The Editor

Standing Firm on Pit Bull Ban: Councilman Powers Responds to Critics

Dear Editor:

When I agreed to serve as a member of Lakewood City Council, I vowed to strive to do the right thing for our residents, not necessarily the popular thing. Since introducing legislation to ban those dogs known as "pit bulls" from Lakewood, all members of Council have been deluged with e-mails arguing against such a ban, mostly from out-of-towners. Sadly, the pit bull ban is receiving an inordinate amount of public attention, even though it is but a small part of the broader effort by the Mayor and Council to make Lakewood a safer place to live. We should be focusing on the recent decision to add four new full-time and ten part-time police officers, but we are instead flooded with advice from out-of-state special interest groups about dogs.

In the past few weeks, I've personally been called a "hysterical demagogue" by out-of-town blogger Charles Brettell and have been labeled a "canine racist" by pit bull enthusiasts. Let's get this straight: dogs are dogs and people are people. It is absurd to say that a pit bull ban is a form of racism. To compare human racial minorities to a breed of dogs is an insult and a trivialization of the very real issue of human racism.

Pit bull rescue groups are pledged to protect pit bulls, so it is understandable that they do not like our proposed law. But members of Council have vowed to protect the people of Lakewood. Pit Bull Rescue Central argues that I have taken language out of context from their Web site. Yet, I quoted full sentences and whole paragraphs. The fact is that even pit bull supporters cannot deny that these dogs are different, as a result of very specific breeding practices. Here is further material from Pit Bull Rescue Central:

"It is unfortunate that one of the original purposes of the APBT [American Pit Bull Terrier] was (and still is) dog-to-dog combat, but it's a fact that can't be denied or ignored. It's important that every potential pit bull owner understand the selective breeding process that took place to make the dogs of today. ...The American Pit Bull Terrier has been 'selectively' bred for hundreds of years to fight other dogs. This is the sad 'work' these dogs were created for. In the same way that Labradors were bred to retrieve birds, APBTs were bred to face other dogs in mortal combat. Even in dogs that are not recently bred from fighting lines, the urge to fight can arise at any time. Not to strongly emphasize this fact would be negligent....Training may help the owner control his/her dog, but it will not eliminate the risk for fights. In the case of a fighting breed, the urge to fight is often the result of genetic heritage. Remember that there is no magic cure to remove an inherited behavior selectively bred into a dog." (from PBRC.net)

Thus, it is clear that pit bulls ARE very different from other dogs. Some pit bull enthusiasts point to studies allegedly showing that golden retrievers and even poodles have a worse "temperament" than pit bulls. But the fact remains that, between 1982 and 2006, poodles killed no humans, while one person was strangled when a golden retriever accidentally tugged on a scarf, but pit bulls accounted for at least 110 deaths.

For the above reasons and for safety of our residents, I remain in support of the proposed "pit bull" ban.

Respectfully,

Brian Powers
Brian Powers
At-Large Council

dog-haters, and those concerned with public safety alike. Some of Councilman Powers' quotes, such as, "...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," are typical of the inflammatory, substance-less comments made by people on both sides of the argument. That Petey from the Little Rascals was a "pit bull" is similarly

"pit bull" breed], he could be banned from Lakewood and I could be charged with a crime. I would leave the city in a heartbeat before I would give up my dog, and a lot of others would too.

Do you know who won't leave the city? The abusive, neglectful people who train their dogs to be aggressive and violent; they will abandon or destroy their "pit bulls" and get Rottweilers, Dobermans, German Shepherds, or any other large dog with a tradition

Pulse Of The City

Those Among Us:
Fridrich Moving And Storage

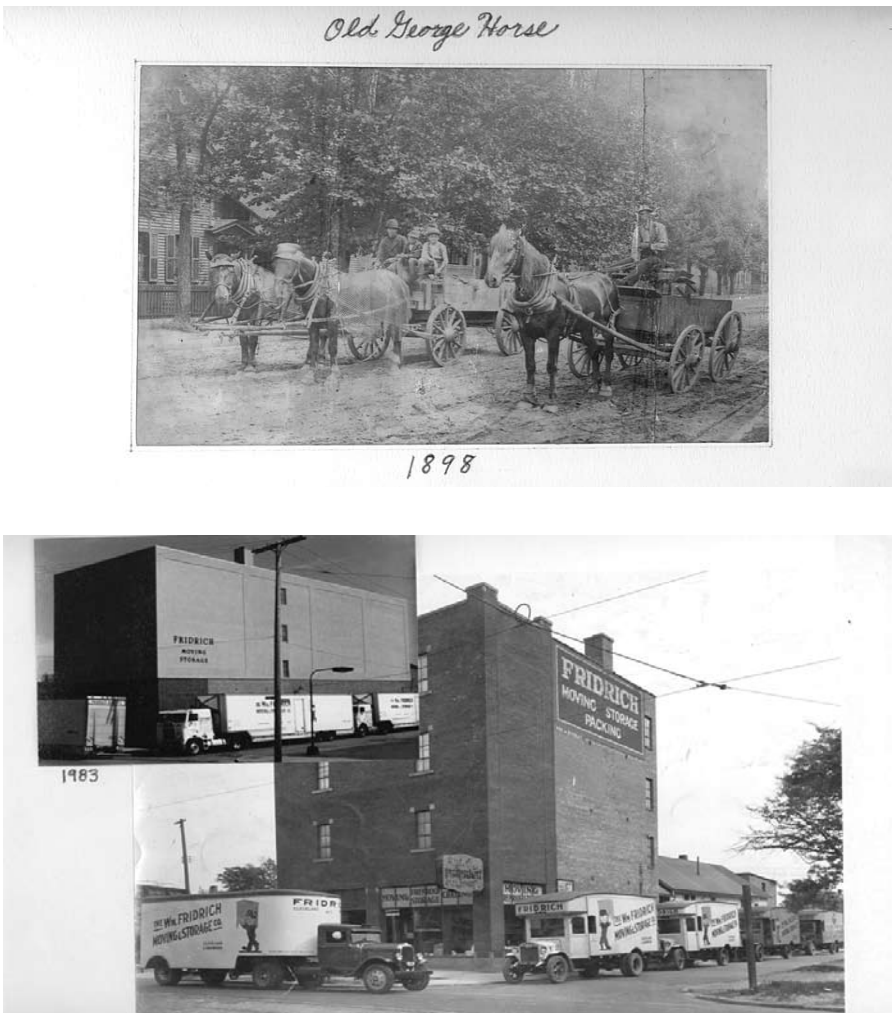
by Gary Rice

I would suspect there are few Lakewood businesses with the longevity, not to mention the utterly fascinating heritage, of Fridrich Moving and Storage.

The Fridrich family has been well-known in Cleveland business circles for well over a hundred years. According to Mike Fridrich, president of Fridrich Moving and Storage, one branch of the family (George) started the Fridrich bicycle business over on Lorain Avenue, while another (William) went into the moving and storage business.

Mike also says that the family is related to Lakewood's Kundtz family. Theodor Kundtz was a well-known Lakewood businessman and owner of a famous castle-type home on Edgewater Drive in Lakewood (razed in 1961). The great Kundtz lumberyard in Lakewood extended from Clifton south to the tracks and from Manor Park to Giel, but it burned in a spectacular fire in May of 1921, according to that great book, Lakewood Lore, by Lakewood author Dan Chabek. After that devastating fire, new Lakewood streets were developed between Giel and Manor Park, including Bunts, Hathaway, Merl, and Chase.

Mike also indicates there were ties with the White Sewing Machine Company, both with family and with product. According to Mike, the Kundtz group supplied cabinetry for the sewing machines



Top: George, the horse, on your right, in 1898. Photo courtesy of Mike Fridrich . Above: Lakewood's Fridrich Building in 1930 and (insert) in 1983. Photo courtesy of Mike Fridrich

and wooden wheel materials for White trucks (which were ALSO used by Fridrich moving!) and later was absorbed into the White company. What an intricate and historical Lakewood web!

As far back as 1895, the G & W Fridrich business delivered flour and feed and bailed hay, straw, and coal to the homes and businesses on Cleveland's near West Side with their

horse-drawn wagon. Their horse, also named George, knew the established delivery route so well that one day when the driver came outside after making a delivery, both George and the wagon were gone! After some anxious searching, both George and the wagon were discovered patiently waiting at the next stop along the way!

Before long, it was decided to incorporate as a moving business. This was done 93 years ago, in 1915. They established a facility located at 14221 Madison Ave. Although the business headquarters later moved up to 14800 Brookpark Road, the Madison facility remains an important part of the operation.

It was, in fact, at the Madison facility 75 years ago that the first organizational meetings of North American Van Lines were held. Fridrich Moving and Storage remains as the oldest operating agent for North American Van Lines.

The Fridrich moving legacy continues today under the direction of Mike and Bea Fridrich, of Lakewood. As mentioned previously, Mike is the president of the company. Bea is the company's warehouse manager.

Mike and Bea live near me, and they have done so much to make their Lakewood street a great place to live. On Halloween, they can always be counted on to provide an incredible display of pumpkins and other attractions around their home. They have also provided luminaries for much of the street on special holidays, and they are always willing to lend a hand to their friends and neighbors. They also have great people working with them. Having used their company several times over the years, I can personally attest to their professional staff and careful handling of our family items. In fact, one of their more challenging jobs was probably the moving of our player-grand piano! That was one heavy puppy to deal with, and they handled it with ease!

Other interesting jobs that the Fridrichs have been called upon to do were to return a crashed plane to the airport in the 1920's, and to serve as last-minute pallbearers for a funeral at a nearby cemetery. During the company's early years, one of the Fridrich moving vehicles had convertible sides that could turn into seats so that the van could do double-duty as a sightseeing ride for the public! With hard solid rubber tires on that truck, those rides were no doubt memorable experiences for those involved.

The Fridrich company continues to move and store just about anything and everything for just about anybody. They have a regular relationship with a number of Cleveland's business and cultural institutions.

I am honored to be able to call Mike and Bea my good friends. They carry the torch for a fascinating company with a historic Cleveland-Lakewood legacy, and they continue to provide a necessary and valuable service to the pulse of our city.

USPS Safety Corner: Vehicle Safety

BEWARE OF POSTAL VEHICLES. Even though we have newer vehicles, it is imperative that children are taught to stay away from vehicles until the carrier has come to a full stop. Like on most vehicles, the mirrors that we use do not give an accurate distance when backing up, and it is very difficult to locate the front and the rear of the vehicles.

To prevent accidents, the Post Office has specific rules to help keep our customers, as well as our carriers,

safe. Carriers are discouraged from backing up unless it is absolutely necessary. Carriers also are discouraged from double parking, unless they are delivering a parcel. Moreover, Carriers are to use a customer's driveway only when there is absolutely no other option.

We all know that in Lakewood parking is hard to come by, especially on Saturdays. That is why carriers are told to continue their route if there is no parking space at the time. Carriers

will return with your mail when there is an appropriate place to park. We would rather delay your mail then risk anyone getting injured. So, if you see your carrier moving on, please don't get upset, they're keeping all our safety in mind.

POSTAL INCREASE. An increase went into effect May 12. Please double check your letters before you put them out for pick up. Remember that "Forever" stamps are sufficient first class postage, even upon all future increases. You do not need additional postage with these.

However, stamps that are beige with an American flag and say just "First Class" are old forty-one cent stamps. So, you'll need to add a one-cent stamp. If you have any questions please ask your carrier, or feel free to call the Post Office.

SPEAKING OF STAMPS!! Many of you are not aware that you cannot reuse postage, which includes stamps that were put on the wrong envelopes or uncanceled stamps. Also, you cannot tape, staple, or glue postage of any kind. Any defacing of postage makes it invalid.

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Lakewood Arts & Entertainment

The Beck And Lakewood, A Perfect Marriage!

by Patricia Neligan Barley

As Carl Sandburg once said, "Nothing happens unless first we dream." Did you ever dream about the day you would leave for college, where would you go, what would you study? Or maybe you had a vision of what your wedding would be like? Would you get married in a park, or perhaps a church? How would you fund such an event? Well, that would take a lot of planning. There are so many things to consider, and think about.

That is how the vision for a new Beck Center has come about. It has started with a vision for what the Beck Center for the Arts sees in their future. As Cindy Einhouse, President and CEO of the Beck Center for the Arts said "The most successful projects are the ones carefully planned out." First you start with a vision, then you have to consider the cost, the impact it would have on the community and if it is something you want to support. Of course, then there is getting the word out about the project. Just like planning a wedding, you need to have a budget, decide how it is going to impact your life, and see if your family and friends want to support you. Then you let everyone know by getting engaged and sending out invitations! Consider this your invitation to learn more about The Beck Center!

I recently met with Einhouse and Yvette Hanzel Director of Marketing & External Affairs, and I asked them what differentiates the Beck Center from other art centers. They agree that it is the most comprehensive art center that they have found. There are two professional theatres, an arts education program including dance, music, theatre, visual arts and creative arts therapies, all offering a variety of classes for all age ranges. I live right down the street from the Beck Center and have taken advantage of a few of the children's programs and performances but I had no idea how many art programs they have for the entire family. The day I met with Einhouse and Hanzel, Chuck Yarborough was on the front page of the Plain Dealer for his "On the Job" article about his stint as a live model for one of the Beck's adult drawing classes.

For the last 75 years the Beck Center has been a vital community resource, but the three buildings are very costly and inefficient to operate. There are over 30 different heating systems and the new plan is to make the new buildings more "green." They have experienced tremendous support from the city as a whole and Lakewood's Director of Planning and Development Nate Kelly. Kelly meets monthly with some Beck Center board members, outside experts in real estate, along with urban planners and an architectural design team including Westlake Reed Leskosky and the KSU Urban Design Collaborative to help move the plan forward. The goal of this Revitalization Project is to consolidate the

operation on the existing footprint and convert some of the property for business or housing which would generate income and provide a stimulating environment for the community. The Beck Center's vision is to do all this while being attentive to historic preservation, as well as be a catalyst for the creation of an arts and culture district in Lakewood.

The Beck Center is in the planning phase of this Revitalization Project and would like the community to know that they are still working on it. The project is being costed out and a business plan is being written, as well as dialogue with developers to decide how best to proceed. "Our vision is for the Beck Center to be an exciting destination point with mixed use of facilities," says Einhouse "Our goal is to create an exciting atmosphere with a positive economic impact." The Beck is in discussions with a local entrepreneur about putting in a coffee shop. When I commented that this would

also be a great "hot spot" for parents to relax, and maybe get some work done while their children are in classes they informed me that Beck is already wired for Internet connections and this is already a possibility.

Compared to other arts organizations, the Beck's percent of earned income is relatively high; 65 to 70 percent of expenses are covered by earned revenue. However, this still leaves approximately \$750,000, which needs to be raised each year from individuals, corporations, foundations, and government entities that understand and appreciate the vital role that such a tremendous cultural asset provides to a community.

I had no idea about the upcoming "Inside the Beck" a Community Celebration of the Arts, and this is simply because there is not always funding to help get the word out. "Inside the Beck", is on Saturday, June 7th from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. This will be a fun family event to help highlight all of the great things the Beck Center has to offer.

There will be vintage costumes on sale as well as stage items, and make and take art activities. If you don't know that much about the Beck now is your time to come and find out.

The Beck Center is celebrating 60 years of its children's theatre program. There have been generations of families involved in the Beck and it is an important part of the fabric of this community. "We constantly hear wonderful feedback from the community about the Beck's educational programs and professional theatre series. It is our mission to provide the finest quality arts education programs and to stage innovative and exciting theatre. With the support of the community we will continue to do so for years to come", says Einhouse. Please stop by and check out this diamond of a place and help it sparkle into the future! The Beck and Lakewood, a perfect marriage! The Beck Center for the Arts 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood (216) 521-2540 www.beckcenter.org

Local Artists Interpret Area Landmarks

by Susan Fenske

Pleasant and inviting The Local Girl Gallery in Lakewood held the opening for "Architectural Renderings" featuring artwork from Paul G. Jira and John Musarra Jr. Both artists covered the subject of local and regional landmarks thoroughly; some you might expect, others might surprise you.

Mixing pieces of wet brown paper bags with paint on black construction board, Jira's interpretations of The West Side Market, The Old Stone Church and our Cuyahoga River are intriguing. Playhouse Square is one subject that comes to life as the depicted marquis captures a moment in time advertising "Jesus Christ Superstar" featuring Ted Neely.

Jira laughs about the subject matter he chose for Garage Sale; a still life drawing of engines from the garage, "everyone else was drawing bowls of fruit." A great tribute to the now decrepit Chippewa Lake Park in Medina is a painting featuring the skeletal remains of the carousel.

John Musarra Jr. pays homage to an

even wider array of architectural matter; his pen and ink drawings are simple but realistic. The Terminal Tower, The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Edison's in Tremont are all here and the list goes on.

Also included were John Mussara Sr.'s colorful, calendar-ready photo-

graphs "of places I've been to such as the Metroparks..." says the senior Mussara.

A wonderful inclusion was Gina DeSantis' functional pottery. All of her creations have a neat, modern flair. All are food safe, microwave and dishwasher safe.

"Architectural Renderings" will be on display and for sale at The Local Girl Gallery located at 16106 Detroit Avenue, through June 13.

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Conservation Corner

Driving Down Gas Usage

The price of oil continues to be discussed incessantly, with most talk centering on how high it will go or who plans to do what about it. Perhaps instead, we should consider how to use less of it. Since barrel upon barrel of it is turned into gasoline to fuel our personal vehicles, all of us have something to gain from doing a few simple things while driving that can make that gallon of gas go a little farther:

Don't let your car idle. Though it is often tempting to leave your car running while you run back into the house to get that thing you forgot or while waiting to pick up a friend or child, it is almost always better for the environment and your gas usage to turn off the car and then start it again when you're really ready to leave. In fact, letting your car idle for only 10 seconds uses more fuel than turning it off and then turning it back on.

Empty out that trunk. While trunk space is often convenient, the extra weight of whatever you've decided to keep in there can also result in your car getting lower gas mileage. Adding 100 pounds of weight to your vehicle (whether in the trunk or anywhere else) uses 2% more fuel. Using the trunk is preferable, however, to using a roof rack, which will not only add to the weight, but will also reduce

the aerodynamic qualities of your vehicle, thus increasing fuel consumption. A loaded roof rack can decrease fuel economy by up to 5%.

Keep your tires properly inflated. Check them once a month with the same gauge, to ensure consistency. The average tire loses 1 pound per square inch per month, but keeping them properly inflated will save about a tank of gas each year. Proper pressure for your tires can be found in your owner's manual. Flatter tires won't roll as well and will also wear out faster than properly inflated ones, which will also help your fuel efficiency by around 3.3%.

Don't drive aggressively. Aggressive driving can increase fuel consumption by up to 33% AND puts out more dangerous emissions than more conservative driving. Slamming on the brakes, accelerating rapidly, and the acceleration and deceleration of frequent lane changes are not only hard on your car, but the environment too. Seconds of this kind of driving can release as much carbon monoxide as half an hour of normal driving, while a more relaxed approach can save you between \$0.19 and \$1.23

by Heather Ramsey

per gallon over time.

Perform regular maintenance. Check your filters. A clogged air filter can reduce your fuel efficiency by around 10%. And this will help protect your engine. Make sure to use the right motor oil, and change it and the oil filter on a regular basis. Whenever possible, use recycled oil and make sure your old oil gets recycled. You can improve your gas mileage by 1-2% by using the motor oil recommended by your car's manufacturer. Also look for motor oil that says "Energy Conserving" on the label. A general tune-up to check for this and other issues can improve your car's fuel efficiency by 15-50%.

Watch your highway speed. Driving slower can make your gas go farther: driving 55 mph instead of 65 mph on the highway uses 15% less fuel. You may not earn many fans amongst

the speedy drivers around you, but you'll save up to \$0.86 per gallon in the long run, as for many vehicles, fuel efficiency drops rapidly past 60 mph. Also use cruise control whenever possible, as the reduced pedal usage makes for more efficient operation.

Think ahead. Check the traffic before you leave (or, if you're really lucky and have an on-board GPS system, while you're out) to avoid stop and go traffic and lengthy periods of idling. Combine your errands into a long trip rather than taking several shorter ones. Taking multiple trips from a cold start can use up to twice as much fuel as covering the same distance while the engine is warm. This may also help you avoid re-tracing your steps, putting less wear and tear on your car as well as saving gas. If you have a garage, park in it to keep your car out of the sun and minimize fuel evaporation. If not, try to find a shady spot or buy a window shade.



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LAKEWOOD EARTH & FOOD COMMUNITY

Garden Plot Registration Form

Deposit your completed form at the Lakewood Public Library main or Madison branch building

Name _____ Date ____/____/____
Street Address _____ Apt# _____
City _____ Zip Code _____
Home Phone _____
Work Phone _____
Email _____

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:

<input type="checkbox"/> Site maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction projects	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone calls
<input type="checkbox"/> Watering	<input type="checkbox"/> Mailings	<input type="checkbox"/> Staking plots
<input type="checkbox"/> Flower plantings	<input type="checkbox"/> Fall cleanup	<input type="checkbox"/> Assigning plots
<input type="checkbox"/> Composting	<input type="checkbox"/> Walkway care	

Indicate your top three site preferences
(1= most desirable to 3 = least desirable):
Cove Park____ Kauffman Park____ Madison Park____ Webb Park____

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.

*** Make checks payable to: LEAF Community**

Real Estate

HGTV Wants Your Home For TV

The Lakewood Observer is working with HGTV's My House is Worth What? to get some Lakewood homes on TV!

Owning a home can be a great investment. And with the ups and downs of the current real estate market, it may be worth your while to find out what your home may sell for in today's market! Appear on our television show My House is Worth What? and get a free evaluation of your home by the experts and our host Kendra Todd, season 3 winner of The Apprentice.

Homeowners:

- Do you own a home in Los Angeles, CA; Oakland, CA; Orange County, CA; Detroit, MI;
- Indianapolis, IN; Cleveland, OH; Pittsburgh, PA; Jackson, MS; or Nat-chez, MS?
- Are you looking for a professional evaluation of your home's market value (comparing original purchase price with any renovations made to come up with a current sales price)?
- Thinking of moving? Downsizing or even upgrading into a new home?
- Want to know what a recent upgrade or renovation has done to your overall home's value?
- Want to take advantage of the equity in your home for a vacation around the world, your child's college or wedding? Tell us your story.
- You have to be at least 18 years old to submit a picture of yourself and home. We will ask that you & your family make us a video tour of your home, showing off the house and the projects you have done (or the projects you want to do if it's worth the money!)

On the Internet go to: http://www.pietown.tv/Shows/mhiww_applicationowners.html

Realtors:

- Are you a Realtor working in one of our major cities (listed above)?

Do it ASAP by completing the application below.

A Little Early Lakewood Real Estate History... Part I

by Maggie Fraley
Prudential Lucien Realtor

Lakewood is a beautiful 5.6 square miles named for its natural wooded setting along the Lake Erie shore. The first permanent settler, James Nicholson, came from Connecticut on foot when he was only 20 years old. By 1818 he acquired over 300 acres from Madison Avenue to the Lake. Our first real estate developer!

Lakewood was originally known as Township 7, Range 14, of Rockport Township (created in 1819). Whew! What a name- but thankfully later it was known as East Rockport. Word traveled about the natural beauty here and what a great place it was to live and the city quickly developed in the 1830's-1840's.

East Rockport was primarily an agricultural community that was known for the quality of the fruit from its many orchards and vineyards. The few businessmen at that time were

mostly tavern-keepers. Did they make their own fruit wines?

Whether they did or not, that business tradition continues today with the many pubs, taverns & bars close by where people can walk to meet their friends and relax. Stone was plentiful in this northshore area, so stone houses began to replace the log cabins along Detroit Avenue.

Although once there were many stone homes in our community, now only the Old Stone House museum at Lakewood Park remains as an example from the past. In 1835, James Nicholson built a graceful and lovely white colonial, "Nicholson House", on Detroit Avenue. Fortunately for us, that building is preserved and available to rent from the Lakewood Historical Society for private parties or meetings.

It's listed in the National Register and considered to be one of the best examples of New England architecture in this area today.

Realty Reality: Questions From The Readers

by Maggie Fraley
Prudential Lucien Realtor

"Are Retirees and Baby Boomers exempt from capital gain taxes?"

Capital gains tax is a common topic of interest to a large part of the population. Realtor.org specifically comments on 3 possible exemptions to capital gains taxes. Since 1997, up to \$250,000 in capital gains (\$500,000 for a married couple) on the sale of a home is exempt from taxation if you meet the following criteria: 1. Lived in the home

as your principal residence for two out of the last five years. 2. Have not sold or exchanged another home during the two years preceding the sale. 3. Meet what the IRS calls "unforeseen circumstances," such as job loss, divorce, or family medical emergency. Real Estate is a terrific way to build our financial stability and increase our retirement funds, but as in any financial matter, it's best to consult your tax preparer or financial expert for specific answers about your individual circumstances.

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See photos at 15912alden.pruluc.com
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1649 Marlowe
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Spacious 3 bdrm. Colonial beautifully finished basement with full bath gorgeous natural wdwk.
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\$53,500

Lake view, pristine condition, new kitchen.
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Lakewood Real Estate Information (According to Multiple Listing Service) by Andy Tabor,,Realtor, GRI-Prudential Lucien		
May	2007	2008
Single Family Closed	39	34
Single Family Pending (Under Contract)	69	
Interesting Real Estate Information		
Lakewood Single Family Homes		
Currently for Active in Multiple Listing:		63
Currently under Contingency:		15

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