

THE

LAKEWOOD

OBSERVER

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

Volume 4, Issue 13, June 24, 2008

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DNA Evolution Tour Rail Jam At Geiger’s



The DNA Evolution Tour Rail Jam behind Geiger’s last Saturday. more on page 11.



Preserving Lakewood

by Thealexa Becker

Imagine going on the World Wide Web and being able to find what your home would have looked like years ago, maybe even before you were born, if there even was a house there.

In this age of technology, it isn’t hard to believe that there would be images circulating on the web of old places and it is even harder to believe, but it’s fortunately true, that one of these websites is devoted specifically to the city of Lakewood. If you don’t believe that there is a site called “Yesterday’s Lakewood” with over 2,100 images of the city of Lakewood, just talk to William Becker, the site’s creator and 33-year archivist for Cleveland State University.

Becker is a long time resident of Lakewood, although he grew up in the Parma area. He lives with his wife, Thea, and their daughter Thealexa.

As the archivist at CSU, Becker’s job is to maintain records, including their storage and retrieval. He is also responsible for indexing the minutes of the Board of Trustees, the School Senate, and the Graduate Council.

An archivist is, as Becker put it, “The custodian of records.”

He also works as a part of Special Collections by maintaining websites on The Cleveland Memory Project, such as the Cleveland Union Terminal Construction Photos, the Fenn College page, the images of CSU, and his pet project, Yesterday’s Lakewood. Yesterday’s Lakewood is an online collection of photographs from the city of Lakewood dating back to the nineteenth century. There are over 2,100 images of the city on the page sorted into categories by location, usually by street.

“Yesterday’s Lakewood was used to gain experience in creating websites and learning the HTML language,” says Becker of the creation of the site. “I chose this because of my familiarity with the subject.”

“[Yesterday’s Lakewood] is designed for physical Lakewood.” In fact, one idea for the growth of the site is to attach the images to their corresponding locations on a map of Lakewood, which Becker said is a feasible plan, but one that will require a significant amount of work.

The photos that comprise the expansive site have come from a wide variety of sources. The initial images came from the Special Collections part of the library. Others have come from people who have pictures in their family and were willing to share them. Becker has a partnership with the Lakewood Historical Society that gives him access to images to post on the site. He also borrows images from the City of Lakewood, mainly through the Lakewood Police Department.

Once he has the physical images, getting the pictures on the site is a task in and of itself. First, the pictures need to be identified, a job which Becker spends his weekend afternoons doing. He can often be seen riding around Lakewood with copies of the orphan pictures to potential locations. It’s usually a hit or miss. “The hardest pictures to identify are the residential streets,” said Becker of his ongoing quest to label images appropriately. “I’m always working on trying to identify photographs. It’s like a constant project; I’ve got about a dozen now that still need to be identified.”



The intersection of Detroit and Warren circa 1950. Courtesy of Yesterday’s Lakewood.

Second, the images need to be scanned onto the computer. They are then cleaned up so that they can be posted on the web in their highest quality. Finally, the images are entered into the database and loaded on the site. From there, Becker uses the city directories to try to find additional information of interest about each location, such as if there were any stores there at one time.

From there, the public can access the images at any time, which is one of the beauties of the site. Reproductions and copies of the images are also available to the public for a nominal fee.

This ready access has allowed two Lakewood Elementary Schools, Grant and McKinley, to use the website for in-depth projects on various aspects of the city.

Dina Bluemel, one of the Gifted Program teachers at Grant, has used the website several times with her 2nd/3rd grade class to do in depth projects on the Templar Process and Birdtown. Access to those projects is available on the Lakewood Historical

Society webpage.

To see if your home, street, or favorite landmarks are on Yesterday’s Lakewood, go to www.clevelandmemory.org/lakewood.

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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



Robert and Gary Rice receive their awards from Garfield band director Julie Tabaj, and Garfield principal Mark Walter

Robert And Gary Rice Receive Lakewood Schools Distinguished Volunteer Service Awards

by Staff Writer

Retired teachers Robert and son, Gary Rice, recently received Distinguished Volunteer Service Awards from the Lakewood Schools for their support this year with the Garfield and Harding Middle School music programs. The father-and-son team has volunteered with the Lakewood Schools, in conjunction with the City of Lakewood's Division of Aging. Robert is a former Lakewood Schools band, orchestra, and choral director, starting

his career in Lakewood fifty years ago this fall. (1958-1983) Gary is a former special education teacher, and is retired from the Parma City School District. The two men had also collaborated in writing a march for the new Garfield Middle School. Mr. Robert Rice wrote "The Harding March" many years ago, as well. Pictured are (from left to right) Robert Rice, Julie Tabaj; Garfield band director, Gary Rice, and Mark Walter; Garfield principal. The photo was taken by Garfield student and trumpet player, Kole Miller.

Annual Lakewood Beautiful Homes Award Contest
Nominate a beautiful home that you feel is deserving of an award. The nomination form should include the property location, the owner, if known, the nominator's name, address and phone. Nominations should be sent to:
**Keep Lakewood Beautiful**
Lakewood City Hall
12650 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood OH 44107

Deadline for nominations is July 9, 2008.

CORRECTION

Corrected from Lakewood Observer Volume 4, Issue 12, printed on June 10, 2008.

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,
"The best is yet to come."

June 28 Cornhole Tournament

by Mary Anne Crampton

Lakewood Community Progress, Inc. (LCPI) will hold its second annual Cornhole Tournament on Saturday, June 28. Play will be at the Around the Corner Café parking lot at the corner of Sloane and Mathew Avenues. Participants can pre-register in person on WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25 at Around the Corner Cafe between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

A flighted event, this tournament guarantees all players a minimum of

four games. Tournament rules can be downloaded at www.americancornholeassociation.com. Tournament information pick-up will be on Friday, June 27 from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Around the Corner Café, located at 18616 Detroit Avenue. Play will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

The entry fee is \$50, and prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100 will be awarded to top finishers. Proceeds benefit LCPI and the Main Street Lakewood program.

The Altar Boyz Are Coming To Beck Center

by Fran Storch

Beck Center for the Arts presents the rockin', rafter-raising, soul-saving spoof, *Altar Boyz* on the Mackey Main Stage, July 18 through August 17. Winner of the 2005 Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Off-Broadway Musical, *Altar Boyz* is a fast-paced, booty-swinging musical comedy about a fictitious Christian boy-band performing the last concert of their "Raise the Praise" tour. Join heavenly heartthrobs – Matthew, Mark, Luke, Juan, and Abraham as they dance and sing their hearts out to save the souls of the sinful.

Show times for *Altar Boyz* are 8:00

pm Fridays and Saturdays and 3:00 pm Sundays. To request tickets, contact the Beck Center box office at (216) 521-2540 or online at www.beckcenter.org. Beck Center is located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just 10 minutes west of downtown Cleveland.

Free Meals For Seniors

by Jason Jacobs

We all know that as the price of gasoline continues to increase, the prices of many other items, including food, are subsequently affected. In an effort to help offset the increasing cost of food for our seniors, beginning in June 2008, Lakewood Senior Health Campus is providing all Independent Living residents who have an apartment with us a FREE daily breakfast meal.

The meals are included in the residents' rental fees at NO additional cost to them. Furthermore, our Independent Living residents also have the option to enjoy all three meals, seven days per week, in our newly renovated, beautifully appointed dining room. Owned and managed by the John O'Neill family, Lakewood Senior Health Campus is the only Retirement Community in Lakewood that provides all levels of care including Independent Living, Assisted Living, and Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation. We are proud to offer the highest quality of care and amenities to seniors in Lakewood and the surrounding communities.

Call Tammy Sibert at The Inn at Lakewood Senior Health Campus for additional details, or to schedule a tour. (216) 226-4010.

**THE LAKESWOOD OBSERVER**
Your Independent Source for
Lakewood News & Opinion
The LAKESWOOD OBSERVER is published biweekly by Lakewood Observer, Inc., 14900 Detroit Avenue, Suite 309, Lakewood, OH 44107.
216.228.7223
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PUBLISHER
Jim O'Bryan
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ADVERTISING
216.228.7223

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lakewoodhospital.org/diabetes

Lakewood City News

St. James 100 Years Old, LCRAC Brand New

Calling it “Lakewood’s Cathedral” Dever introduced a resolution congratulating St. James Church on its 100th anniversary. Father Kline of the parish said “the church building is important, but it is only as important as the people of its community.”

Michael Summers (ward three) then offered a resolution in support of military veterans. He indicated that this resolution would indicate Lakewood’s respect for the nation’s veterans and serve as a welcome for veterans to our neighborhoods. Summers said, “while we may disagree with the policies of how our Nation deploys its military, this disagreement should not manifest itself in a disrespectful manner toward the military forces themselves. We must not confuse the war with the warrior.”

Lakewood veterans Richard Healy and Frank Murtaugh spoke on behalf of the resolution. They pointed out a special concern about vandalism at the various armed forces recruiting offices.

Nickie Antonio (at large) then presented a resolution recognizing Dignity of Human Rights Pride week in Lakewood and extending congratulations to the Cleveland Pride Committee on their twentieth anniversary. Antonio said, “while we strive within our community to

respect our differences and oppose discrimination, there is still much work to be done towards the goal of achieving civil rights for all citizens. Tonight we take this opportunity to recognize the many and varied contributions from members of the LGBT community that enrich our civic life as we work together to create a civil and respectful society that values the dignity and worth of all citizens.”

On hand to receive the resolution was Todd Saporito of the Cleveland Pride Committee. He took the opportunity to introduce several active members of the group

and their partners.

After over a year and a half of work the Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission presented its bylaws to council for ratification. Acting as joint presenters on behalf of the Commission, Kyle Weigand and Lisa Shaffer-Gill read the mission statement of the group.

Mayor Edward FitzGerald sent a communication regarding the Sanitary Code, specifically high grass and weeds. He indicated that the administration will institute internal changes in the process for inspection, violation notice issuance,

and re-inspection and abatement. Additional research will be done to strengthen the current ordinance which would include a fine for repeat offenders.

Planning Director Nathan Kelly then offered proposed legislation to amend the ordinances which limit expenditures to \$7500 without council approval. Specifically, he wants the Mayor to have the authority to spend up to \$65,000 without council approval so that if a property comes on the market the city can act quickly to purchase it. Kelly said this would augment the land banking program and current authority to purchase HUD owned properties.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Lakewood Chamber Of Commerce Recognizes Hospice Of The Western Reserve - 2008 Outstanding New Member

by Patty Ryan

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce Hospice of the Western Reserve as its 2008 Outstanding New Member. Hospice joined the Chamber of Commerce in 2005 and has consistently been supportive to the Chamber and the community. According to Kathy Berkshire, CEO & President of the Lakewood Chamber, “Hospice and its employees contribute their time, tal-

ent and effort to make Lakewood a better place to live, work and do business.”

Lisa Tomm, Community Facility Coordinator of Hospice, was recently elected to the Chamber Board of Directors. At a Chamber luncheon on

Friday, June 20th, Lisa stated, “It is such an honor for Hospice be chosen as the 2008 Outstanding New Member. I also look forward to serving on the Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce.”

The Melt’s New Addition Opens Up



Matt Fish spreads his wings in the new space The Melt just added to their restaurant. This has nearly doubled the space, which was sorely needed for lunch and dinners since they opened. Good luck Matt!



Lakewood CAR KULTURE SHOW



2008

Saturday August 16th, 10:00am till 6:00pm
13321 Madison Ave. Lakewood OH
Open to Hot Rods, Customs, Vintage and Classic Cars 1972 and older.
Vintage motorcycles, scooters, choppers, and bobbers 1972 and older also welcome.
Bands, food, vendors.

For information contact
216-521-2894.





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Lakewood City News

First Federal of Lakewood Earns Community Service Leadership Award

by Christina Capadona

First Federal of Lakewood, a community bank founded in 1935, received the Community Service Leadership Award at the 12th annual Business Leadership Awards, sponsored by The Rotary Club of Cleveland and the Cleveland State University Nance College of Business Administration. Gary Fix, First Federal president, CEO and managing officer, accepted the award at a May 15, 2008 reception in Cleveland.

“It is with great honor that I accept this award on behalf of First Federal of Lakewood and its employees, for the service, support and charitable work that truly makes a difference in the lives of others,” said Gary Fix, First Federal of Lakewood president, CEO and managing officer. “As a community bank since 1935, First Federal of Lakewood understands and values the importance of civic involvement, and we remain committed to programs that enrich our communities.”

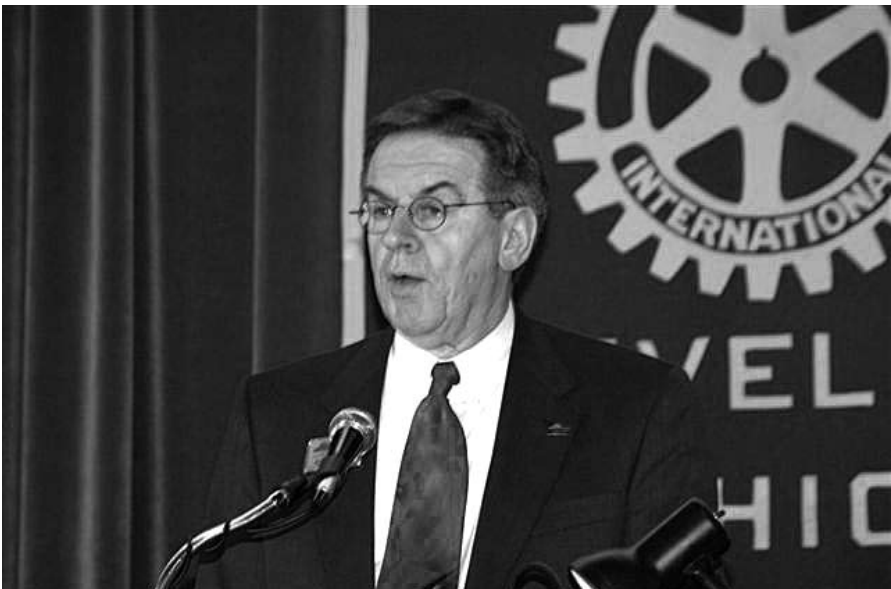
About the Business Leadership Awards Program

The Nance College of Business Administration at Cleveland State University and the Rotary Club of Cleveland initiated the Business Leadership Awards Program in 1997 to provide recognition for outstanding leadership in five areas: global business, entrepreneurship, quality service, training and employee development, and community service.

Crucial to the success of the program has been the involvement of four other Cleveland-area organizations, each uniquely qualified to assist in the development of criteria for the awards – American Society for Training and Development (ASTD), The Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network (MAGNET), The Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE) and the World Trade Center Cleveland (WTCC).

About First Federal of Lakewood

First Federal of Lakewood, with 12



Gary R. Fix, First Federal of Lakewood president, CEO and managing officer, receives Community Service Leadership Award

full-service branch locations in Northeast Ohio and First Federal Lending offices in Columbus and Solon, Ohio, has total assets exceeding \$1 billion. Founded in 1935, First Federal of

Lakewood is a community savings and loan institution with a deep-rooted tradition of financial strength, stability and integrity. Visit www.FFL.net for additional information.

Letters To The Editor

Pit Bull Rescue Central Response

On May 25th, Councilman Brian Powers quoted Pit Bull Rescue Central’s website to show that pit bulls are dangerous and unpredictable. Unfortunately, he ignored the context of these quotations and much of the other information on our website. More than anything else, we stress that while aggression toward other animals is a normal trait in pit bulls, aggression toward humans is not. This is a point that most people miss, and we are disappointed that Councilman Powers used our information to mislead his readers. The quotations were mainly taken from an article on how to prevent dog fights, and it is quite clear that we are talking about pit bulls’ tendency for dog aggression while urging pit bull owners to be cautious around other dogs. By neglecting to mention anything about animal aggression, the councilman made it seem as if we were declaring that pit bulls are generally unstable in temperament. This is not true.

In fact, pit bulls pass the American Temperament Testing Society’s stringent test at a rate similar to, if not higher than, many other medium-to-large, powerful breeds. The American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, and Staffordshire Bull Terrier pass at rates of 84.3%, 83.4%, and 88.8% respectively. Compare this to Golden Retrievers (84.2%), Great Danes (79.2%), Weimaraners (80.1%), and Standard Poodles (85.3%), to name just four common breeds.

The councilman also cites a Center for Disease Control report on dog bites and an American Veterinary Medical

Association book on “vicious” dogs. The CDC has repeatedly acknowledged that this report is methodologically flawed and should not be used for setting public policy. It lumps American Pit Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, and Staffordshire Bull Terriers together with “pit bull mixes,” something it doesn’t do for any other dog. It is simply bad statistics to lump three breeds together with a bunch of dogs that might look like those breeds.

Lumping German Shepherds together with mixes to create a third category called “German-Shepherd-type dogs” would result in a similarly inflated percentage. And while Councilman Powers seems confident that everyone knows what a “pit-bull-type dog” looks like, the doctors at the CDC aren’t, which is why they oppose breed bans and even stopped collecting breed-defined fatal attack statistics ten years ago. This is one of many problems with the CDC report; readers can find out more here: <http://www.understand-a-bull.com/BSL/CDCReport/CDCReport.htm>.

There are, as the CDC notes, no reliable statistics on dog bites, and statistics on dog-related fatalities tell us little except that it is exceedingly rare to be killed by a dog of any kind. As Janis Bradley explains in her book *Dogs Bite: But Balloons and Slippers Are More Dangerous*, your chances of being killed by a dog are roughly one in eighteen million. You have a better chance of being killed by lightning. While we are not familiar with the AVMA book, it is likely that those quo-

tations were also taken out of context. Along with every other major veterinary and animal welfare group, the AVMA has clearly stated its opposition to breed specific legislation. Puzzlingly, Councilman Powers freely quotes the CDC and AVMA but refuses to heed the advice of their experts when it comes to legislation that would affect a significant number of people.

We urge the City Council and the people of Lakewood to show good sense in this matter. Breed bans do little to punish irresponsible owners. Councilman Powers writes as if all pit bull owners need to be punished. Why would he want to punish many people for the transgressions of relatively few

people? Aside from wasting tax dollars, breed specific bans merely criminalize good owners, the kind of owners Councilman Powers needs in his constituency.

Instead of strongly enforcing the laws already on the books and holding bad owners accountable, the council would rather curtail your property rights by having law enforcement officials bang on your door and take away your family’s dog (which may or may not be a pit bull), just because it looks a certain way.

Respectfully,
The Volunteers of Pit Bull
Rescue Central

As a Lakewood resident for nearly 50 years serving as Prosecutor, Councilman at Large, Mayor, and State Senator, I support Councilman Brian Powers’ pit bull ban.

The issue here is not about dogs. It is about PEOPLE! People’s safety, children’s safety, and the unfortunate inability for pit bull owners to abide by the present law.

At council hearings, pit bull owners advocated penalizing delinquent owners rather than the pit bull itself. Unfortunately, NONE of the eight “responsible” owners that testified against the ban were in compliance with current city codes. If so called “responsible” owners cannot even comply with current code, what is the status of the hundreds of pit bulls with “non responsible” owners?

A scary thought for sure.

A majority of the opponents to this legislation live out of Lakewood and out of state. Lakewood citizens SHOULD NOT let out of state advocates make decisions for us.

I hope we don’t have a catastrophe occur to a child or fellow citizen for Council to pass this bill.

The ban should be enacted.

Tony Pinagra

Lakewood Public Library

The Need For A Frame Bending Change

by Kenneth Warren

The Situation

As the offerings of the public library expanded to audio-visual materials and access to computer technology, the opportunities for criminal and unethical behavior to occur in public space have increased accordingly. Public libraries across the United States are suffering from the diffusion of criminal, indecorous and senselessly unethical behavior that erodes common goals, community interest and voter support, especially in an era of limited resources and economic contraction.

Deterrence and Prevention

The need to raise Lakewood Public Library's commitment to security and preventive measures that deter theft, criminal and unethical behavior has become increasingly clear over the course of recent years.

A growing population attracted to AV materials and public computer access abuses and disrespects not only the public library culture of open and trusting values but also the public property intended to flow ethically and responsibly to borrowers through efficient low grid access rules. The situation is no longer sustainable.

It's never a pleasure to impose new rules but with the bad economy, the regionalization of banditry, and the rise of E-Bay sellers fencing public library property, more stringent steps need to taken to reduce the loss of AV materials.

In reviewing security strategies with several off-duty police officers that LPL employs, we hypothesized that increased customer contact and identification in combination with video surveillance and recording are likely to deter theft and aid in materials recovery efforts. After three weeks of actual practice, the hypothesis is proving true.

The card surrender and identification practice is, at the first level, a preventive measure designed though raising the bar for access to stop people who do not play by the rules, who scam, swarm, create diversions and

act-out in order to abscond with AV materials from occupying the AV room and thereby boosting public property.

For certain classes of thieves and especially for criminals with outstanding warrants, the insistence on personal contact and positive identification is a game-changer. Rather than be identified in a public site where video surveillance and off-duty police officers are employed, they will leave the premises. With a simple preventive measure, the dysfunctional game of anomie, chaos, crime and disrespect in the public library is now changed considerably - much to the enjoyment and enrichment of the majority.

For anyone seven years or older, then, a library card is now required for admittance to the AV Room.

The reality, rights and responsibilities for respectful action and attention in the public library situation are useful lessons for children over seven to learn.

A Place Committed to Virtue: Aesthetics, Ethics, Community

With a beautiful new building that evokes the classical tradition now open, it is a critical moment in the library's history to recalibrate rules in a more stringent and virtuous register, one allowing the collective dedication of the population to support the role that aesthetics and ethics must play in a public space dedicated to culture, inquiry, knowledge and reading.

As easy as it might be to let things slide along the open and trusting way, the investment, the resources and the total public library situation in Lakewood must be managed better through an increased commitment to more stringent rules and an engaged and positive customer service demeanor.

LPL Staff, Customer Service and the Call to Virtue

LPL staff must organize, align with the call to virtue in the community place of the library and adapt positively to an attentive and dynamic process that educates and serves citizens, while protecting the institution and public property from criminal and unethical behavior.

LPL staff must generate from their own reservoir of virtue an enthusiastic commitment to beauty and ethics, a commitment exemplified in our new space, in order to enforce rules consistently and fairly without diminishing the courteous treatment people expect.

It's everyone's duty. And the challenge requires everyone's commitment - staff and public alike.

It's a complex challenge born from a frame bending change.

Now is the time.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Lakewood Public Library Event Calendar

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 27, 28, 29: Creepy, Crawly Critters

July 5, 6: I Love a Parade

SPECIAL FRIDAY PERFORMANCES:

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

SUMMER READING CLUB 2008:

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

LEAF

Nights



Artists and Musicians

The Lakewood Earth and Food community invites you to join us in creating a community festival on the front porch of the Lakewood Library every Thursday night this summer.

Art Tent
display your art in our on street art gallery

Music Stage
Play solo or with friends on the front porch of the Lakewood Library. The library provides the sound system

Your services will be paid in kind with a plethora of fresh local produce!

contact Julie at dancecafe@gmail.com for more information or to sign up!

Lakewood Business News

Innovative Auto Tech Opens For Business

by Paul Beegan

You can stop wondering what is going to happen with one of the empty storefronts on the eastern portion of Madison Avenue. Innovative Auto Tech has opened for business in the former Donnelly Furnace & Heating building at 13415 Madison Avenue. Innovative Auto Tech (IAT) is a new automobile customs company. Their services include anything and everything to detail and customize your car, including car audio and video, alarms, remote starting, under-car lighting, and complete detailing. If you are looking to “pimp your ride”, this is the place for you.

A few years ago I purchased a CD-player for my Honda Civic at one of those big box retailers. Sure I saved a few dollars, but they messed up my car. After the installation, my remote locks would not work. I went back and they told me that the remote locks stop working as soon as the fac-

tory radio is removed. They failed to tell me this before I purchased the CD-player and refused to fix the problem.

I recently walked into Innovative Auto Tech and explained my problem. Their experienced and professional staff explained that my situation would never have happened with a proper installation. They ordered a \$15 wire plug and installed it in 15 minutes. Now my remote locks work so that I can hold my daughter and groceries while opening the locks AND use my CD-player once we’re in the car. While there, I also had them wash and detail it; they took great care and now my car looks like new.

Innovative Auto Tech is here in Lakewood to stay. They purchased the building late last year and have spent the past few months getting it ready for business. 13415 Madison Avenue is a simple building at first glance, but at closer inspection, you will find a rare black glazed brick. They will be par-

ticipating with the City of Lakewood Commercial Revitalization Program to re-open the storefront, including large panes of glass, awnings, and a new building sign.

Innovative Auto Tech is excited to make Lakewood their home. I was told that Lakewood reminds the owner of his native New York, a vibrant city full of small shops and great people. They

hope to sponsor and participate in the Madison Village Kustom Kulture Car Show later this summer.

If you are in need of any car audio, video, alarms, remote starting, or car detailing, you should definitely pay a visit to Innovative Auto Tech on Madison Avenue. Later this summer, their storefront will be completed and will bring new life to one of our Madison Avenue gems.

On A Magic Safari



Zap the Wonder Chap took 135 children and adults on a magic safari in search of bugs on Friday, June 13, in the Main Library Multipurpose Room. This program was part of the library’s Summer Reading Club, “Catch the Reading Bug.”



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Lakewood Perspective

Can It Be? That ‘L’ On My Forehead Might Not Stand For “Loser” After All

by Bret Callentine

Even with several more months remaining in this election season, I was beginning to feel a lot like the red-headed step-child of the political process. Every time I thought I had found a candidate I could hitch my vote to, they dropped out. Whenever I took part in any of the online questionnaires that supposedly match you with your candidate, all I got was disappointment.

As an Independent, I’ve always known that finding a candidate who excited me was a long shot. My personal political beliefs are so wide-ranging that the real concern was how I prioritized certain issues. Am I willing to vote for someone who’s pro-choice even if they’re for further gun control? Do I sacrifice my views on the economy for their voting record on national security? And no matter what they say, can I ever trust a man with two first names?

Taking part in the democratic process was feeling more like partaking in a product survey for Proctor & Gamble... “Yes, my skin feels silky smooth, but all of a sudden I can’t see out of my right eye, so no, I don’t think I’d buy this lotion.”

But right when I had just about lost hope, I stumbled across a television interview with Libertarian candidate Bob Barr. Although he doesn’t have

my exact views on the war in Iraq, he shares my suspicion of this whole ‘Global Warming’ thing. Interesting. He’s for smaller, less intrusive government, which I like, but where does he stand on other economic factors?

The big question is: How would I feel about voting for a third party candidate? A lot of people suggest that voting for someone like Bob Barr is essentially throwing my vote away, since he stands little chance of winning. Others say that I would be splitting the vote, which only helps the Democrat win (I guess they’re assuming that I would have voted for McCain otherwise). But when it’s all said and done, how do I not vote for the candidate I would most like to see running the country, regardless of party affiliation or his overall odds of winning?

In the end, my own vote is a small reflection of the ethics and standards I seek in a candidate. Over the past two issues, I’ve written about some of the policies I’d like to see a candidate support, but just as important are the principles that I’d like to see a candidate display. Nothing disappoints me more than when I hear about our elected leaders using their votes as bargaining chips. They end up peddling in power, rather than pushing an agenda, and waste time trying to manipulate the system rather than confronting any actual issue. And

they easily stand up when the press coverage is there, but are rarely seen when what’s right isn’t what’s popular.

So how can I ask something of a candidate that I can’t ask of myself? I expect my representative to vote based on right and wrong, not popularity or gamesmanship. If it’s good for the country, the state, or the county, then they need to stick to their duty. Likewise, if when everything is said and done the closest to matching my criteria for president is Daffy Duck, let alone Bob Barr, I should put my money where my mouth is and cast my vote that way, regardless of the outcome.

That said, as I go through the final stages of determining who will be my choice for president, here are a few last things I’d like to see along the campaign trail:

I’d like to see a candidate enjoy an imported beer. That’s right, an import, be it from Canada, Germany, England, or wherever. When the cameras are on and the public is watching, I’m much more likely to back a politician that is strong enough to order what he wants to drink, not what he thinks will make him look like the “common man”. After all, the “common man” doesn’t capitulate to peer pressure, and I highly doubt these guys have a fridge full of Bud Light sitting at home.

I’d like to see a candidate take

Sundays off. As a Christian, nothing aggravates me more than seeing politicians use their religion for little more than a photo-op. Posing for pictures while walking into church holding a Bible that’s obviously never been opened demonstrates more a desire for fame than any devotion to faith. I’ll always be suspicious of anyone who enthusiastically displays pride on a day that calls for humility.

And lastly, I’d like to see the candidates spend more time talking with people than at people. It’s been said that the easiest way to be a leader is to find out where the group is headed and get out in front. And, while you need to have a clear vision already in hand to be a viable candidate, I fear that the people who hold our highest elected offices rarely take stock of where we, as a people, want this country to go. I’d like to meet the politician who spends twice as much time listening as he does talking, because only then will he be able to truly understand our expectation of his responsibilities.

That said, I think time will show this to be one of the most important elections of our nation’s history, and I pray that whomever this country eventually chooses will rise to the occasion and deliver all that is expected of them.

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Lakewood Observer

Lakewood Early Childhood PTA: Meet the Trucks

by Patricia Neligan-Barley

Jenny Reali and Lakewood Early Childhood PTA have done it again! As Jeanine Gergel, this years outgoing LECPTA President, always says, “If the world were run by a bunch of preschool moms, it would be a better place!” “Meet the Trucks” was met with huge success again this year. This year’s crowds doubled with approximately 3,000 in attendance. Reali guessed that the crowd increase was due to heavy PR work like the new banners around town made by the City of Lakewood and Lakewood City Schools who helped get the word out. Reali, a mother of four boys has helped make this event happen each year. She realizes the importance of such events not only to her family but also to her community. There was so much to do and see it was hard to fit it all in. From the two huge bounce houses, to face painting, to putting digger tattoos on, it was hard to find time to actually go meet the trucks! This year’s event was also about becoming acquainted with the many wonderful community services and programs hosted by the city of Lakewood.

and Goeller formed this Foundation to provide information to other people, especially parents, regarding heart disease prevention and nutrition. They passed out information regarding nutrition and how to get kids to lead a more active lifestyle. “We hope to help educate others and avoid the information lapse we discovered existed within ourselves,” said Goeller. Another organization represented at Meet the Trucks was the Greater Cleveland Safe Kids Coalition. Parents could get their car seat checked to make sure it was installed properly as well as have their child’s head measured for a bike helmet. This was the first year that there was a community outreach program at Meet the Trucks. The Metro Health “Friends of Mother’s and Infants” was there with supplies to make layettes for low income expecting parents. There were onesies, bibs, booties and paper to write the new mom a note. One hundred layettes were made with materials assembled by Metro Health and LECPTA. “It was a good use of money,” said Reali. “Colleen Mackey, another LECPTA mom organized this and it

was nice idea for families to teach their children about volunteering. I was originally going to use the money for balloons, but I thought this was a great opportunity to do something more useful with the money.” There was also information about Lakewood’s new library as well as rad-KIDS a personal empowerment safety education program for children ages 5-12(www.radKIDS.org). Many LECPTA members were involved in various aspects of planning Meet the Trucks. Andy Marvin designed the Meet the Trucks logo on city signs and t-shirts, Brent DeWitt designed the fabulous flyers seen all around town and Julie Sweaney designed the program. “There is no way I could even begin to thank every person who helped make this event happen,” said Reali. She guessed she had 60 plus volunteers mostly from LECPTA families and about 20 H2O volunteers from Lakewood High School. Marianne Quasbarth, LECPTA Health, Safety & Welfare Officer in LECPTA helped Reali bring in organizations such as Operation Life Saver, the U.S. Power Squadron, the Cuyahoga Board of Health, and the Coast Guard dem-

onstration, which were wonderful additions to this year’s event. This years co-sponsors were LECPTA, City of Lakewood, Lakewood Hospital, Alpha Agency Group, Cliff Tower’s Marathon, Home Team Marketing & Judge John P. O’Donnell. Lakewood is an amazing community with so many wonderful families. Events like this help remind me why I choose to live in Lakewood and why we need to continue supporting each other and encourage young families to continue to live and stay in Lakewood. If you are new to the area or are a new parent, please check out www.lecpta.com to learn about all of the amazing things this organization does. If you are looking for somewhere to go, or if you just want to get out of the house and talk to another adult, stop by the Family Room. Thank you, Jenny Reali to you and your army of volunteers and especially to all of the LECPTA families that donated cookies as well as time to help make this event a huge success, not just for our children but for our community! And a big thank you City of Lakewood for your generous donation to this event and allowing our children to toot, honk, beep, push and pull at our City’s wonderful fleet of trucks!

USPS Safety Corner: Carriers & Dogs

The Lakewood Family Room had a craft table with games and a sample of what their Family Room is all about. Toni Gelsomino the Program Manager at the Lakewood Family Room runs a program called “Learn Through Play”, which focuses on literacy for caregivers and their children from birth to age 6. “The activities are geared to this age range, though older siblings are welcome. Come and enjoy a relaxed, friendly environment while you discover art, creative play, math, science, language and stories with your child. My vision for the Family Room is not just for the children but also for the parents to come and develop a network and build a community of friendships where parents can support each other,” said Gelsomino. “Learn Through Play” is a free drop in program that you do not need to sign up for. During the summer “Learn Through Play” sessions are being held June 16th - August 28th at Lakewood Park on Monday and at the Madison Park pavilion Thursday mornings from 9:30am- 11:00 am. That is in addition to the regular sessions held at Lakewood’s Family Room Wednesday evenings from 6:15- 7:45 and Friday mornings from 9:30am-11:00am. Stop by and check it out. The Family Room is located right behind St. James Church, 17400 Northwood Avenue.

As the summer moves forward, the children are now out of school. This leads to a whole new set of scenarios for potential dog bites. In order to keep your mail carrier and pet safe, we offer these suggestions: 1. Please talk to your children. Let them know not to let the dog, or in many cases dogs, loose while they are out playing in an unfenced yard. If the mail person is later than usual with the mail delivery and the children see the mail person coming, grab the dogs and put them inside until the carrier passes. 2. Please keep your screen doors locked so that dogs cannot jump and accidentally open them. 3. Please teach your children NOT to open the door as soon as they see the mail person coming up the steps, as dogs tend to get excited when we deliver the mail. This will prevent dogs from getting out and possibly biting a carrier. Again, wait for the carrier to leave your yard. 4. Please tell your children, if they walk the dog, to hold on tight to the leash when they see the carrier coming.

The dog may bolt for the carrier and the child may not be able to respond fast enough to stop them. 5. Remember that all dogs are capable of biting if the circumstances are right. Let’s work together to keep your carriers and pets safe! FYI: Did you know that if you decide to take a much-needed vacation for a long weekend of three days (up to a maximum of thirty days), the USPS can help? It is called a vacation hold. This is a sevice provided by the USPS to help keep your mail safe at the postal facility until you return. There are two ways this can be accomplished. First, you can go into your local post office and request a vacation hold form, fill it out, sign it, and hand it to the clerk. The clerk will verify that it is completed and get it to the proper carrier. Secondly, you can generate a vacation hold online at USPS.com, and again it will be given to the proper carrier. When you return, you simply stop by the post office, show your ID, and the clerk will retrieve

your mail. If you generated a vacation hold through our website, you will have the option of having your vacation hold mail delivered to your home. We do recommend that if you receive a lot of mail on a daily basis, you come in to pick up your mail. This will prevent the carrier from leaving a large quantity of mail outside your home unprotected. Most people do not have mail receptacles large enough to hold all the mail that collects while away. So when you are ready to leave for that much-needed vacation, think safety. Just another great service provided by your friendly neighborhood post office. - Your Postal Safety Committee

Jordan’s Family Foundation, founded by Kara Goeller, the incoming LECPTA president and her husband Corey Rossen of Rozi’s Wine, was also present. After discovering their daughter had a heart defect, Rossen

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Lakewood Schools

Harrison Carnival Wraps Up A Year Of Firsts

by Emily Lockshine

The 2007-2008 school year was one of exciting firsts for Harrison, one of the city’s brand new elementary schools located in historic Birdtown. Among the many highlights were a family movie night, a production of the Wizard of Oz, after school art club, class field trips and track and field day. On May 31, Harrison PTA sponsored a carnival, the largest event of the year. Many students and their families came out to participate in the festivities. Even the weather cooperated by defying a gloomy forecast and providing plenty of sunshine.

Students and their families played games of fun and skill, enjoyed pizza by local pizzerias. A giant craft table in the middle of the gym provided children of all ages (and some adults too) the opportunity to get creative with salt art, paint and creative expression. One

of the favorites activities was the cake walk. Teacher Kellie Brown made this event a crowd favorite with her words of encouragement and enthusiasm.

Kindergardner Autumn Saddler best expressed the impact of the event on Harrison community; “I like the carnival because it was fun and the best part was I got to see all my friends.”

Harrison PTA wishes to thank all of the volunteers and local businesses who pitched in to make this year’s carnival a success-their support is why Lakewood is such a great community:

Angelo’s Pizza

Burger King

Charter One Bank

Detroit Theatre

Elmwood Bakery

Giant Eagle

Giorgio’s Oven Fresh Pizza

Joseph-Beth Booksellers

Lakewood Community



Harrison students show off their creative skills at the craft table

Education & Recreation

Pizza Pan

Styling Tips Salon

Sugar Bears Ice Cream

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LHS 2008 After Prom Sponsors

The Lakewood High School Class of 2008 and the After Prom Committee would like to thank the following for their support of this year’s After Prom!

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- Lakewood Christian Service Center

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Lakewood Sports

DNA Evolution Tour Rail Jam At Geiger's

by Thealexa Becker

On Friday, June 20th, Geiger's Sporting Goods in Lakewood hosted the Northeastern Ohio stop for the DNA Evolution Tour Rail Jam. Skiers and snowboarders from the area competed for the chance to go out to Las Vegas in January. The winners were:

- Snowboarding Tournament:
George Gazdick
- Skiing Tournament:
Noah Killen
- Best Trick Female:
1st place- Karin Pasela, 2nd place-Lauren Rudin
- Best Trick Under 15 (years old):
1st place- Brad Bulzan, 2nd place- Brian Kiss



Spiders Centerfielder Mike Allen, who led the team with two hits, is thrown out at second base.

Around The Corner Baseball Team Hammered 9-4 In Non-Conference Game

by Ivor Karabatkovic

It was a bittersweet reunion between the Around The Corner Spiders and the Lakewood High School baseball field as the Spiders took on the Ohio Titans out of Westlake.

The Spiders, who are made up of LHS graduates from 2002 to 2007 and some current baseball coaches, faced a \$500 tab to rent out the field for the non-conference game. The team held two dunk-tank fundraisers at ATC to raise \$420 towards the cost of the field. Some of the players on the roster did not have a chance to play on the new turf surface, since the field was resurfaced in 2003.

Alex Cammock was named the starting pitcher and was ousted after

a dismal performance, giving up eight runs, six of which were earned on 125 pitches in just 5-1/3 innings. Cammock gave up six hits, eight walks, and hit one batter, while striking out three.

The Spiders did not go down quietly, and scored four runs in the bottom of the sixth inning, thanks to two RBI's by Mike Allen (who had a terrific diving catch in deep center field later on) and one RBI from Troy Matthews and Zack Schreiber. Allen led the team with two hits.

The 18-1 Titans collected their nine runs on eleven hits, scoring two runs in the first inning, one in the fourth, three in the sixth and one in the ninth to distinguish a second four run comeback by the Spiders

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Lakewood Events Calendar

Events for June 26, 2008

5:30 PM - 8:00 AM

The World Lives in Lakewood Diversity Potluck

presented by Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Council and RAD Race and Diversity.
Meet and Greet 5:30/Dinner 6-8pm
Activities for the whole family!!
Feel free to bring a dish for about six people which represents your family, cultural or ethnic background!!
Sponsored by: The City of Lakewood, Lakewood City Schools & Lakewood Hospital
Location: Lakewood Women's Pavilion At Lakewood Park

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Pillars

The Lakewood Chamber of Commerce has created a young professionals group, Pillars. Our mission is to cultivate Lakewood's business development by engaging the city's demographic of 20-40 year olds. This month we will be hosted by Put-In-Bay Lakewood, and we will have a very special speaker on the dos and don'ts of interviewing. Cost is \$5 for Chamber members and \$10 for non-members.
Also, don't forget the golf outing on July 25th at Sweetbriar! We will be "Hitting the Greens for a Greener Lakewood"! Location: Put-In-Bay Lakewood

Events for June 27, 2008

9:00 PM

Morticia's Chair & Bela Silva

Location: The Winchester Music Hall
12112 Madison Ave, Lakewood, OH

8:00 PM - 10:30 PM

"Altar Boyz" Book by Kevin del Aguila

Directed by Scott Spence

See page 2 for details...
Location: Studio Theater, The Beck Center for the Arts
17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood

Events for June 28, 2008

1:00 PM

LCPI 2ND ANNUAL CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

See page two for details...
Location: Parking lot at the corner of Sloan and Mathews Avenues. 9:00 PM

9:00 PM

Don Dixon & The Jumprabbits

w/ special guest Marti Jones

Location: The Winchester Music Hall
12112 Madison Ave Lakewood, OH

Events for July 4, 2008

9:00 AM

4th of July Parade down to Lakewood Park!

Events for July 5, 2008

8:00 PM

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Location: HI-FI CONCERT CLUB
11729 Detroit Ave, Lakewood OH

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Pulse Of The City

"Scouts Can Do Anything!" Those Among Us Mr. Robert Lees

by Gary Rice

Although this column was written prior to the tragic events of June 11th, I'd like to dedicate this work to those who recently lost their lives in the tragedy at Little Sioux, as well as to their leaders and the other Scout survivors. Heroes all.

What is it, exactly, that makes a human being special? Sometimes they go and explore lands far away. Other times, they might give extraordinary attention to those in need. Perhaps they might be the first to do some exceptional or outstanding accomplishment. In these and countless other ways, otherwise ordinary people probably can achieve at least a measure of greatness.

Sometimes though, a person's greatness is achieved in special ways infinitely subtle, sublime, and wonderful. You see, this is one of those "Thank You" columns that should have been written a long time ago, about just such a person.

Mr. Robert Lees is one of those quiet special people whose life, in so many ways, has inspired generations of Lakewoodites. Bob is a former Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 512, formerly at Grace Presbyterian Church on Rosewood Ave., where Hilliard and Madison come together. Boy Scout Troop 512 is inactive right now. Fortunately, two Cub Scout packs (ages 8-10) are presently meeting at Grace Presbyterian. (You can call Grace Church at 216-228-6060 for more information about those groups.) Mr. Lees hopes that Grace will be able to reactivate Troop 512 before too long. He is still involved in the church's relationship with the Cub packs.

[Note: For information on current area Boy Scout activities (ages 11-17), other Cub programs, Tiger Cubs (age 7) or their co-ed Venturing program (ages 14-20), you can call the Greater Cleveland Council at 216-861-6060.]

One of the Scouts who passed through Troop 512, way back when, was me. As far as Scouts go, I probably wasn't a very active one, for reasons beyond my control. Too many medical issues limited my time in Scouting. In fact, I never advanced beyond the rank of Tenderfoot. Ear problems kept me out of the water, so the swimming requirement was not in my cards. Foot and leg problems made walking and running difficult at times, as well. Allergies also made woodland activities challenging for me. Although even then there were alternative requirements available for people with exceptionalities, I just had a bunch of other stuff going on, not the least of which was a difficulty with self-confidence.

Oh, in some ways I was pretty confident, I guess. Give me a musical instrument and I could be real confident, even in those days. It was with trying new stuff, that was where my problem was.

Scouting, of course, had lots of new stuff to try. Still does, in fact.

Bob Lees was one of those Scoutmasters who inspired people just by his presence. In the 1960's, Troop 512 had many active Scouts. The boys ran things, as Scouts should, but they were also very careful to make sure that Mr. Lees approved of exactly what they were doing! I was pleased to learn from Mr. Lees that he received the Silver Beaver Award, the highest adult Scouter honor recognition possible from a Boy Scout Council. (As indicated earlier, Lakewood is a part of the Greater Cleveland Council.) To me, Bob Lees is the kind of guy who richly deserves this type of recognition.

One time, Troop 512 planned a trip to a hiking activity called the Silver Moccasin Trail, near Lebanon, Ohio. It was an overnight campout that included a rigorous hike of about 14 miles. Of course, with my leg and foot difficulties, I tried everything to get out of going to that campout. Mr. Lees, however, encouraged me to give it a try. "Gary," said he, "Scouts can do anything!" He also realistically let me know that there were places along the way where adult leaders could pick up any Scouts unable to complete the trail. Before long, off we went in our little convoy, rolling downstate with Troop 512's little black plywood (and fully loaded) equipment trailer bouncing along behind us.

I was surprised to find that I was able to complete that trail. I received a great trail medal to show for it too, as did the other Scouts who participated in that hike.

More important to me was the lesson I learned that day: That Scouts can, indeed, do anything. At least it seemed that way to me.

by Gary Rice

There was a "sun parlor" just off the dining room in my grandparents' old Pennsylvania mountain home. It wasn't very large, but it contained a nice fireplace, with bookshelves situated along the far wall; along with three comfortable easy chairs where one could grab a volume and read a few pages, in between the hard work that came with life in the country.

I've had a love affair with words, since my grandmother took me aside in that parlor, and told me that I needed to expand my vocabulary because having the speech condition that I did, might cause people to question my intelligence.

So I read, and I wrote, and I read, and I wrote. I've been a writer and an aspiring part-time journalist of one kind or another, probably since my junior high days.

Certainly, not everything that I've written has been all that great, but I did develop an appreciation for words, and



Mr. Robert Lees, with Gary Rice and Gary's old neckerchief and Silver Moccasin Trail medal

I lasted a little over 3 years, on and off, in Troop 512. The confidence that Mr. Lees inspired with those 4 simple words, put into action so far from home, helped me through the rest of my life.

When I hit the proverbial rocks with a tough college course, I remembered that "Scouts can do anything!"

When I was discouraged from becoming a school teacher due to my speech impediment, I remembered that "Scouts can do anything!"

When, time and again, some adversity reared its head in my life, I remembered that "Scouts can do anything!"

When, as a teacher of students with special needs, my students would get discouraged from time to time... They would then hear...that they, too, would have no limitations.

When I became an adult Scout Leader, going by the name of "Tenderfoot Gary," this perpetual Tenderfoot

columnist of yours told hundreds of young Scouts about the great lesson from Mr. Lees, given so very long ago... that "Scouts can do anything!"

When one of those legs of mine finally gave out a couple of weeks ago in a lower back strain, and I ended up screaming in pain in the hospital, and unable to walk...once again I remembered..."Scouts can do anything!"

And so it was. First on crutches, then the cane, and now unassisted, I do walk again. Thank the Lord, and Mr. Lees.

"Scouts can do anything!" Yeah, I think they can. At least, that's what my life experiences have shown me. Those four simple words made a world of difference in my life, and they still do today...

Thanks Mr. Lees, and also to all of the other great Scouters who have made a positive difference in the lives of their Scouts, and with the pulse of our city.

A Brief Tribute To Two Special People

by Gary Rice

their value in the exchange of ideas and in the expression of opinion.

We lost an outstanding journalist recently with the sudden passing of NBC's Tim Russert. The fact that Tim was just about my age, was not lost on me. All too often, we lose fine people like Tim unexpectedly, and in ways that cause us to pause, reflect, and reevaluate our lives.

Not long ago, the great Lakewood writer, Dan Chabek, also passed away. Dan's great book Lakewood Lore, has served as an enduring source of information for me, and I am sure, for countless others who have any interest

in Lakewood history.

For those of us around here who continue to live and write, and report, with our all-too-fragile lives, on this all-too-fragile spinning ball of cosmic dirt, these guys helped to serve as beacons of inspiration and guidance. They showed us how to be positive, and to smile through the worst adversities. They showed us how to speak, to work, to write, to laugh, and yes, to live.

I'd like to think that somewhere beyond those pearly gates, Tim and Dan are busy preparing some great material for us to see one day.

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Lakewood Observer

Notes From Iraq:

Lakewood Native Eric Smith Writes Home

by Eric Smith

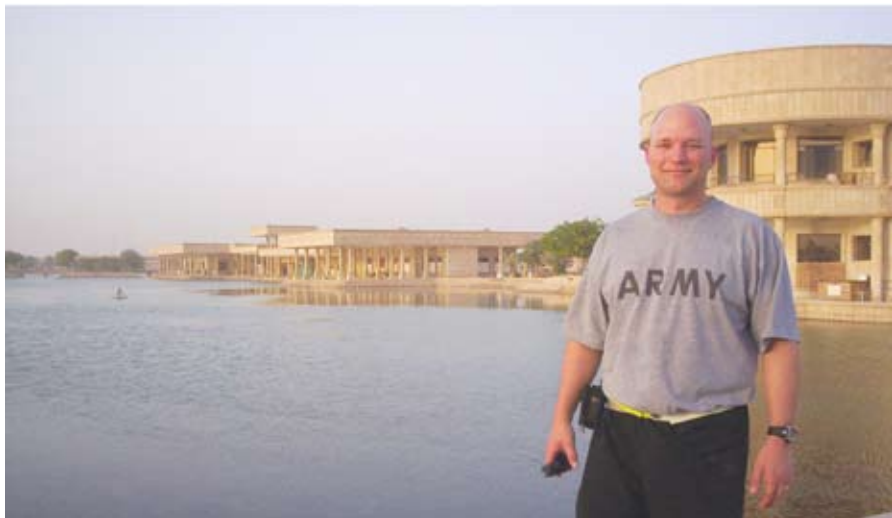
The descent into Baghdad was unremarkable. One hundred thirty-three of us, squeezed into the back of an Air Force C-17, sweating beneath our body armor and helmets, while we craned our necks to see what we could of Iraq from either of the two small portholes in the plane’s fuselage. As the pilot banked we could catch a glimpse of trees or houses, but most of what we saw was sky. The pilot lowered the landing gear with a gasping tear and minutes later we were on the ground.

Blinding sunlight poured into the aircraft as the ramp came down. We were looking at a runway with the Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) Terminal on the far side. As we deplaned and formed up in an old parking lot a few aircraft moved down the runway; a commercial cargo carrier, four helicopters, two small planes, and an unmarked passenger jet. BIAP was remarkable only for its lack of activity. The largest commercial airport in a country of 25 million was slightly busier than Burke Lakefront Airport in Cleveland.

As it has always been, getting a large group of soldiers from one place in the world to another is often an amazing logistical feat for the nation, but a tedious affair for the individual.

Our journey began at Fort Drum where we all assembled in a motorpool bay to say goodbye to friends and family. When we boarded buses and rode to the airfield we passed through a gauntlet of somber-faced relatives; uncles held their nephews while puffy-eyed wives and girlfriends stood stoically by the side of the road, their eyes fixed on their Soldier in the bus. Some held signs: Come Home Soon Bravo Company! We’ll Miss You HHC! We Love Our Soldiers! Some waved. Most just stood and watched.

A chartered DC-10 flew us to Kuwait after a brief refueling stop in Leipzig. It should have been a comfortable flight, kicking back and watching movies while eating pre-packaged meals, but the plane’s designers had not anticipated



I strike a pose in front of some lakeside buildings - they are all used by various units now.

pated a load of passengers each with a backpack and a weapon. “Please keep your rifles out of the aisles and do not put machine guns in the overhead compartments”, the stewardess told us over the intercom.

In Kuwait we waited for a flight to BIAP. The US Air Force is the carrier of choice for this leg of the journey and Air Mobility Command operates a terminal in Kuwait that services destinations across the Middle East. The Kuwaiti desert in May rapidly approaches furnace-like conditions and after a week there, we were regularly experiencing temperatures in excess of 120 degrees Fahrenheit with the occasional sandstorm, giving us the feeling of being sandblasted by a hairdryer. We test-fired our weapons and attended some classes, but spent most of the time waiting. No worries, we told each other, we’ll be busy enough soon enough.

During the heyday of the Baath Party, Sadaam Hussein built a series of palaces and resorts around the country. They are notable for their opulence, comparable to the most gilded palaces anywhere on the globe. Camp Victory is located on land formerly reserved as a private hunting preserve. The Al Faw Palace is now a HQ building, as is the former National Mint. Boathouses, guest houses, and guard barracks are now occupied by military units and contractors. The only structure which remains untouched is the mosque,

standing alone on an island.

The road network, resembling a bowl of spilled spaghetti more than a neat and orderly Roman grid, is packed with all sorts of vehicles. Trucks, cars, busses, lawn tractors, and bizarre armored vehicles, looking like something from a Mad Max film, driven by private security contractors, navigate the warren of paved and unpaved roads, contributing to the ever-present haze of dust that hangs in the heat.

A lot of the little routines remind us of our Non-Deployed Life while we

get used to the reality of our new environment. We watch the AFN (Armed Forces Network) on TV – six channels of everything from “Are you Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?” to “Judge Judy”, there’s a coffee shop, a PX, and mess hall that serves steak and shrimp on Thursday nights (a curious Army tradition). Occasionally an automated speaker announces “Incoming, incoming” and everyone dives under the tables, even the Indian staff in the mess hall. We have laundry service on a three-day turn and all the free bottled water you can drink. We all live in CHUs (Containerized Housing Units) that resemble college dorms, but smaller (no desks) and there’s always a porta-john a short walk away. Not so bad, really.

Eric Smith is serving in Iraq with the 10th Mountain Division. The division’s home base is Ft. Drum in Watertown, New York where Major Smith lives with his wife Dina, three year old twins Kirsten and Skyler, and eight month old son Neil. The son of Pam and Tom Smith of Lakewood, Major Smith graduated from Lakewood High School in 1990 and was commissioned into the US Army after graduation from Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA.

June at Trinity Lutheran

by Pastor Paula Maeder Connor

During June there will be no weddings at Trinity Lutheran this year. Why? Our membership is already attached, widowed, single by choice, too young, or the State won’t allow such. Did you know the median age of membership at Trinity is 42? Many other congregations indicate theirs at 62 or higher. This makes for interesting ministry and life growth programming.

We are active, socially minded, wanting to do our faith as well as celebrate it. We like the current songs AND the old hymns. We want to green our congregation with use of green products and because of our call to cherish the creation of our God. We want to feed the hungry, support those who are oppressed and stressed, and care for those who are sick. How about walking to Trinity this summer? We’re just across from the Detroit Theater. My home is one mile away and the walk takes me about 20 minutes. Or, bicycles could be easily put our lower level for safe keeping during worship. Better yet, lock them on our front porch and make a visual statement to our community that we are taking one step to make the creation slow it’s warming by leaving cars at home and riding bikes.

This July 19th Trinity will collaborate with many Lakewoodites to serve a third Community Meal. (The second was started a year and a half ago in collaboration with Returned Peace Corps



Volunteers.) This third was initiated with interest from Jason Weiner, until just recently on the staff at the Cleveland Foodbank. So, the first Monday, the second Sunday, and the third Saturday there will be a Community Meal served.

We are the ones who pushed the grocery carts through Lakewood’s 4th of July Parade last year. We’ll be at it again in a few weeks. Watch for us and remember to bring your canned or boxed food items or be ready to make a cash donation. All will go to the Lakewood Christian Service Center for distribution. Trinity is among the many wonderful congregations in Lakewood. We pray together, celebrate together, grow our kids through Jesus’ example, and put our faith into action right here at home.

Summer worship is 9:30 am on Sundays. Bring the kids! You’ll have plenty of time to meet new friends, hear the words of Jesus that you are loved, and have the rest of the day to celebrate life! Paula Maeder Connor, Pastor 226-8087

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CROSS INTO THE BLUE

Inspired Space

Clear Clutter-Gain Wealth

by Kristine Pagsuyoin

Everyday we are bombarded with messages about the state of our economy: rising food costs, record high prices at the gas pump, families losing their homes, and mass lay-offs. We all know it is next to impossible to sell a house in this market, right? Not so! Selling a home is a state of mind to be sure, but the chance of success could be the state of your home. I am talking about clutter.

Feng Shui- the process by which we work with energy in our space to improve the quality of our lives- views clutter as stagnant or stuck energy that affects our well-being. Clutter can be defined as those things in our space that we don't use or love, broken objects, or unfinished projects.

Unwanted clutter drains us of our energy and leaves us feeling overwhelmed, tired, sick, or even depressed. Things in our home we regularly use and love give us energy and make us feel focused, confident, and secure.

When we begin to deal with the clutter in our home it is a symbolic shift. We stop looking for answers to financial problems outside of ourselves; instead, we look within for the answers that will change our current financial status.

The state of our economy, for example, is a larger, outside situation we cannot control. But when we begin to clean up our own space, our internal selves and the things we can control, we realize we do hold the answers to our problems. By removing the unwanted clutter we are making room for new opportunities, thus attracting situations that will improve our financial stability.

As you are doing your spring cleaning visualize abundance and try not to focus on what you don't have, but what you want to attract to you. Think, "I have a great job, financial security and a high quality of life", as opposed to "I wish I had a better job and better finances".

To help attract wealth, first try fixing broken items around your house (ie. that unbalanced chair at the table), replacing broken light bulbs and getting rid of broken mirrors on your list. Also, clean your windows, especially those on your front door and remove clutter from your porch or the entrance to your house. Clear away dead plants and flowers -try silk foliage instead. Keep your stove spic and span and make sure all the burners are working properly. Lastly, fix any leaks and drips (in Feng Shui it is always recommended to keep the toilet seat down as the pull of flushing water is equated to a pull on one's wealth).

If you want to plant flowers, consider planting red and purple flowers, which represent wealth. If you want to sell your house, consider potted flowers in shades of yellow at the entrance and avoid prickly or thorny plants in the front of the house.

If it has been a while since you've tried to de-clutter, start on small projects. If you are feeling tired or sick, leave a project for another day and stop if you start to feel overwhelmed. Beginners can use a timer and add time as you get better at de-cluttering. Ask for help and get the whole family involved in the process. Consider your family's busy schedule as well as the time of the year; for instance, big, sticky jobs are better tackled during warmer months with the windows open.

In addition, plan de-cluttering projects when you can commit to

finishing the job. Unfinished de-cluttering projects are just another form of clutter.

Still don't know where to start? Start by asking yourself a few questions as you're looking at the piles around your house or office:

1. *Do I love it?*
2. *Do I need it?*
3. *Does it reflect who I am at this point in my life?*
4. *Does it have positive emotional attachment?*
5. *If it needs to be repaired am I willing to pay to fix it now?*

If you are answering NO to any of these questions then it is time to let it go. Things can be recycled, given with love, or maybe it is time for the garbage. Remember, the benefits of removing unwanted clutter can be felt immediately!

Have Feng Shui or Clutter questions? I would love to hear from you! Please submit your question to, kpag-suyoin@hotmail.com, and watch each month for your question to be featured. Remember to include your name, and city (your real name will not be published).

The Buck Stops Here

Karmic Traces

by Robert Buckeye

J. Edgar Hoover, Mao Tse-tsung, Casanova, Pope Pius and Golda Meir worked in libraries.

At one time, the strongest man in the world, a Belgian, was a librarian.

Machiavelli would take off his dirty underwear before he read classical texts.

Herman Melville begins Moby Dick with extracts and quotes about whales that he titles, "Supplied by a Sub Sub Librarian."

As German troops were retreating from Prague during World War II, Vladimir Nabokov's sister chased after officers to get them to return overdue library books before they left.

According to Section 215 of The Patriot Act, libraries cannot let anyone know the FBI has searched his records.

Public libraries know that on below zero days the homeless have a passion for reading newspapers.

Playboy once did a spread on librarians.

I met my wife at the Madison Branch of the Lakewood Public Library, when the book on jazz I wanted had been checked out of the Main Branch.

"If there is a counterpart to the confusion of a library, it is the order of its catalogue." -- Walter Benjamin.

"The universe (which others call the Library) is composed of an indefinite, perhaps infinite, number of hexagonal galleries, with enormous ventilation shafts in the middle, encircled by very low buildings." --Jorge Luis Borges.

Antonio Panizzi, who had come to England in 1823 to escape death during Italy's unification struggles, formulates his philosophy of the library in 1836: "I want a poor student to have the same means of indulging his learned curiosity, of following his rational pursuits, of consulting the same authorities, fathoming the most intricate enquiry as the richest man in the kingdom." The library he envisioned opened as the British Museum in 1857. For 30 years Karl Marx held a reader's ticket.

Leon Trotsky saw librarians to be soldiers of the revolution. "Since our

reader cannot find his book," he writes, "our book must find its reader. This is a librarian's task." He proposed putting up 'reading huts' in every community.

Ortega y Gasset thought too many books were too like too many cars. They would clog the information highway and prevent you from getting from A to B.

In Birkenau concentration camp, adults would recite stories they remembered to groups of children. Each time they repeated the stories to other groups of children, they called this, "exchanging books in the library."

In the mountains of Colombia, donkeys would take books in large green bags to villagers. Villagers would return practical agricultural books, but hung on to Homer's Iliad. "They feel," Alberto Manguel writes, "it tells their own story."

"My sense of the meaning of a library had been determined to a great extent by hours spent working in the Main Reading Room of the New York Public Library. Sitting at a table there, surrounded by people who regularly pulled out of their pockets bundled slips of paper, held together by rubber

bands, on which they were painstakingly piecing together private theories of the world – the Joe Gould kind of thing – I came to recognize that much of what was to be found in books had very little to do with coursework. As my fellow readers there made clear in the urgency of their investigations, the matters they treated in the pages they were turning were matters of life and death." -- Stephen Donadio.

"The public library looms as community's most dignified haven for labor unfit for the rigors of the businessworld, the preferred workplace, that is, for the eccentric brother, the infirm spouse, the shy daughter. Quietly, in so idiosyncratic a context, the public library struggles to sustain a vision of the public good as free exchange between private and public ways of knowing, going against the grain of economic interests seeking to convert all knowledge into commodities." – Kenneth Warren.

"The glory of libraries is that on the streets the whores work someone may unexpectedly put you up against the wall." As Bob Dylan said, I said that.

“Hotel, Hotel” at Bela Dubby: A Poetic Review

by Marc Mannheimer

"Hotel, Hotel", a band from Texas, played a short set at Bela Dubby on June 7th. Unfortunately, there were only about 8 people there to hear it. I hope you will support your local venues--there is a lot of great music to be found in Lakewood! What follows is my review of the Bela Dubby show in poem form:

Dionysius

is a monk, in the modern age,
revels in the inner Self, with a little help
from warmth of incidental companions,
from warmth of atmosphere
from a little caffeine
in a little café
on a Saturday night's night...

...from harmonic noise,
music by three brainy boys
from Texas,
one electric guitar, one violin, one
drum kit, three inspired musicians;
a mélange of gently soothing waves
moving on the inner aura of the place,
deep space crescendos,
forty-five windows
onto softly shifting, melodic, uplifting,
geometric and analog climbing, quirky
spirals
into river rivulets in a sky
of smiling stars.
Too short the night,
too long the wait for the morning:
to rise, to walk a day on the soothing
waves of a Saturday night's night before
ago
past, all I know
is the urge to create.

Lakewood Observer

Journey Back in Time with the Beck Center Part One:

The Intrepid Little Theatre That Could

by Fran Storch

Whether you’ve been inspired by an art class or dazzled by a play, it would be nearly impossible to imagine life without the Beck. In celebration and recognition of the individuals whose passion and dedication started it all, the Beck Center invites you to take a journey back in Lakewood’s cultural history. President and CEO, Lucinda Einhouse, says she’s proud to share the inspiring history of Beck’s earliest years... “This is the story of people who not only created a thriving community theater from nothing, they used their passion for the theater to entertain and raise spirits during the most difficult times of depression and war.”

The Beck’s origins can be traced back to 1931, when eighteen devoted thespians, known as “the Guild of the Masques,” were rehearsing plays in Lakewood living rooms. Under the direction of London-trained director, Richard Kay, the Guild performed wherever they could, including Lakewood schools and churches. By 1933, they leased an old blacksmith’s shop, where they eventually tore down a wall, built a new stage, and installed theater quality seats to accommodate sold-out crowds. It seemed like they had found a home.

The Guild took its next momentous step on May 12, 1933 when it changed its name and incorporated into the not-for-profit arts organization, Lakewood Little Theatre. Shortly after, the group received a devastating blow when the Lakewood Fire Department turned them out of the old blacksmith shop for code violations. Ultimately undeterred, the players again took their shows on the road. In 1934, Lakewood Little Theatre became known for its radio dramatizations, including the story of the Red Cross and Clara Barton. During the Depression, local papers followed the company as it played for free to “vast armies of the unemployed” throughout Cuyahoga County.

In fact, Lakewood Little Theatre’s reputation for civic responsibility earned the players their next home at the Lakewood Elks Club. The situa-



Lakewood Little Theatre Box Office circa 1940

tion was less than ideal. Sets had to be assembled at other locations and literally carried to the Elks Club in pieces. Local undertakers were called on to provide extra seats. Patrons were routinely turned away from sold-out shows. But tenacity won the day. For three years, Lakewood Little Theatre staged up to ten productions each season at the Elks Club. They performed a

efforts, local businessmen soon formed the Lakewood Little Theatre’s Men’s Advisory Board and began to search in earnest for a permanent venue. After rejecting several sites, the Lucier Motion Picture Theater became available for lease with an eventual option to buy. The fact that the Lucier was in need of extensive and costly renovations was no obstacle. Despite the Great

“Times were different then,”...“we didn’t have television and the theater was quite important to everyone. People volunteered so much of their time and put such love into it.”

rich variety of quality drama to appreciative crowds and rave reviews.

Behind the scenes, however, a group of Lakewood women had bigger ambitions for their beloved little theatre. Observing that the situation at the Elks Club was not sustainable, these determined ladies stepped in and formed The Lakewood Little Theatre Women’s Committee in February 1936. Establishing themselves as a formidable force in fundraising and subscription sales, the committee boasted a closed membership of sixty women with an extensive waiting list.

Not to be outdone by the ladies’

The sold-out crowd of black-tied and top-hatted dignitaries enjoyed Fred Ballard’s Ladies of the Jury on a beautifully lit, fifty-foot stage. Acknowledging that the theater had struggled for eight years against nearly insurmountable odds, Mayor Amos I. Kaufmann declared it “Lakewood Little Theatre Week.” His formal proclamation stated that “The appreciation and development of the drama is a fine and essential activity in any well rounded community.”

Within days, Cleveland papers were splashed with headlines touting the Theater’s great success. In its first week alone, Lakewood Little Theatre had already drawn 2,265 patrons. Far from resting on its laurels, the company planned an ambitious succession of seasons featuring new shows nearly every six weeks. Auditions often attracted up to three hundred aspiring artists. The Women’s Committee continued its tradition of selling subscriptions over sumptuous teas, while the Men’s Board raised cash and painted sets. In 1942, the War effort deprived the little theatre of approximately fifty of its regular contributors, including longtime director, Richard Kay. Once again, difficult circumstances inspired rather than defeated the group. The Women’s Committee devoted October of 1942 to sponsoring a massive scrap metal drive in the theater lobby. Calling for all Lakewoodites to donate their “luxury scrap metal,” the Women’s popular slogan read “Heirlooms and knickknacks of the past will make planes, ships and ammunitions for the future of America.”

Remarkably, the shortage of wartime materials and manpower didn’t hinder ticket sales or audience enthusiasm. In 1944, the group purchased the Lucier Theater, enjoyed one of its busiest seasons and began talking of expansion. Having achieved one seemingly impossible dream, the Lakewood Little Theatre became determined to carry their passion for drama beyond producing plays. Their vision for the future involved providing theater education to the community’s youth.

What were the first steps in developing the educational programming that the Beck Center is known for today? And what did the future hold for the ever adventurous little theatre? Stay tuned for the next chapters, when the Beck will take a look at the creation of the Children’s Theater and the exciting years of expansion and growth that followed the War. In the meantime, visit www.beckcenter.org for a current list of shows and programs.

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Lakewood Music

VMS Students Rock The Winchester!

by Barbara Michel

It was 8 o'clock on Saturday evening on June 14th and the air was thick with excitement at the Winchester on Madison Avenue for the **Vance Music School's (VMS) Third Student Recital**. The evening was jumpstarted with the band **Mobius** who entertained the growing crowd by jamming out some jazz standards by greats like Miles Davis, Cole Potter, Charlie Parker, and Thelonius Monk. Members of the Band include VMS instructor, Tim Lane, Jeff Mercer, Kevin Moore and Tom Obersold.

Fabulous Waste of Time then started out the rock portion of evening by getting the crowd "all revved up" participating in singing: "Hey ho, let's go Hey ho, let's go" as they played a strong rendition of Blitzkrieg Bop by the Ramones. Fabulous Waste of Time did justice to the song: "Sunshine of Your Love" where Nick Hinchley, Jack Curran, Matt Kerrigan and David Flood overlaid their rockin specialties seamlessly.

Venus, an all girl band, with Abbey Boland singing, Bethany Zettler playing guitar, Alex Mosko on bass and Erin King playing drums performed a set of five songs, including an amazing improvisation during their performance of: "Come Together" by the Beatles. Drummer, Erin King dedicated their last song: "I Hate Myself for Loving You" to her mother who was in the audience.

Nuclear GunRack's band debuted Saturday with a set of four songs. A timely, tribute to Bo Diddley included impressive guitar solos by Chazzz Koenigsmark and Peter Quigley. Jerry Koenigsmark the bass player kept the driving rhythms going along with Eric Herald on drums. Nuclear Gun Rack's finale shook the place down with their performance of "Helter Skelter" by the Beatles.

Jusko/Neuhaus/Lang who had only played together for one week prior to the recital changed up the sound by playing "Give It Away" by The Red Hot Chili Peppers where Jackson Jusko had a good time with the crowd playing guitar and singing the song flawlessly. Ethan Neuhaus carried the bass line and Shane Lang knocked out the funky beat.

J to the 4th was recently featured on Channel 8. Their band was formed by two sets of brothers, as you may have

guessed - all with "J" names: Jason and Justin Robinson and Justin and Jeff Thrower. They were the youngest group performing, but make no mistake about it - these kids play like a well-oiled machine. There many hours of practice is paying off.

Little Known Fact played two original songs. Singer / song writer Abbey Boland, prior to performing their original song "What is Love" shared that the song was born out of the closeness reached between all the band members. Their finale, after rocking out six songs was yet another original song called: "In The End" where the music was composed by Clay Verga; words were written and sung by Abbey Boland; Michael Young commanded the drums and Alberto Rodriguez pleased all with his bass playing.

During the eight week session prior to the recital, the students learn how to play and as a band. The students are also encouraged to write additional parts to the songs or infuse creativity in their riffs and beats they learn in their exceptional music program. "I am very pleased with the results. New bands keep forming and existing bands keep growing and improving. This was the best show to date, and hopefully the next one in September will be even better", says owner of Vance Music Studios, Chris Vance.



photos by Hector Castellanos

VMS Show at the Winchester.
top left: J to the 4th who was recently featured on That's Life on TV 8. members: Jason and Justine Robinson and Justin and Jeff Thrower. above: Abbey Boland from Little Know Fact. left: Bethany Zettler, Guitar of Venus.

This process has opened the students' world to creating playing music in a group setting, thus contributing to team building and an increase in the student's self-esteem.

When asked about his experience in the Vance Music program leading up to his performance, Charlie Koenigsmark aka Chazzz extols the talents of his music teachers Chris Vance and Tim Lane. "I enjoy our music teachers because, in our band sessions, we get to be so creative and we learn so much about music," he said. "Very few people, much less a group of kids, ever get the chance to perform in a club in front of so many people."

See all these bands again starting Friday, July 11 through August 29th at the **Band2gether Concert Series** in Sinagra Park. Mainstreet Lakewood, Vance Music Studios and Lakewood is Art(LIA) have joined forces to make this event possible along with support from the City of Lakewood, Lakewood Hospital, Beck Center for the Arts and the Lakewood Observer. Check these websites for additional information all the Bands performing at the **Band2gether Concert Series:** vancemusicstudios.com, <http://www.mainstreetlakewood.org/events.html> or Lakewoodisart.com.

Workin' Men On Holiday

by Thealexa Becker

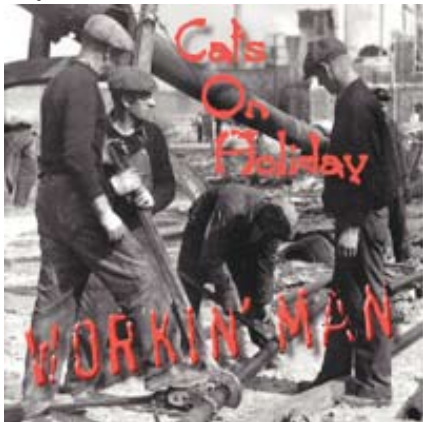
"Workin' Man", the latest record from Cats on Holiday is a mellow amalgamation of country and classic rock with a hint of jazz.

Although "folk" isn't a label that fits their laid-back style, their lyrics suggest just that. The focus of their collection of 11 tracks seems to be on ordinary life and the people who live it. "Train" is a Jack Kerouac themed anthem, "Gotta Be Down" tells the story of a Harvard dropout, "Nellie" can be called little less than a tragedy, and "Workin' Man" is dedicated to the "unsung heroes of America". In fact, their songs are all character studies of the kind of people you might find if

you looked around this country. The most striking part of their album is the vocals by Denis DeVito. He has the perfect voice for this kind of music: both sensitive and honest. It is worth listening to the album for the vocals alone as well as the lyrics.

However, Cats on Holiday, while they are solid musicians who incorporate some interesting musical elements, have few that are distinctive. In short, they are pleasing to the ear, but slightly forgettable.

Some tracks to check out are "Warm Me Up", which is probably what every Lakewoodite is thinking during January and February, "Gotta Be Down", which has a great jazz intro, and "Zydeco Lady", which is the most



hoppin' track on the album. The passion that the Cats have for their music comes through resolutely, which makes them a group worth listening to.

Grade: B

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Conservation Corner

Green(er) Grilling

by Heather Ramsey

If you're planning on hosting a BBQ or other outdoor gathering, consider the impact it will have on the planet. While it may seem a small matter to light the grill on the 4th of July, the impact of the entire country doing so adds up to enough energy to power 20,000 households for an entire year, while releasing 225,000 tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Luckily, there are a number of ways to reduce this impact, from how you cook to what you eat to what you use to serve it.

Though it's probably not in the budget to update your grill, keep in mind that charcoal releases a great deal more dangerous chemicals into the air as it burns in comparison to other grills.

Gas, electric, and propane grills (and solar, for the really ambitious!) release significantly less, with gas grills releasing less than half the carbon dioxide of charcoal. Not only do other types of grills create fewer emissions, but they also work more efficiently than either charcoal or wood. If you decide to hold on to the charcoal grill, opt for lump coal over briquettes, as it is purer, and look for coals or chips that have been sustainably harvested and certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. If you do want to upgrade, but will miss that charcoal or wood flavor, look for hybrid grills, offering the efficiency and convenience of a gas or electric grill with a small amount of

charcoal or wood added in for aroma and flavor.

In addition to the noxious emissions that come from burning charcoal, lighter fuel and self-lighting briquettes contain dangerous VOCs (volatile organic compounds). These compounds, when released, can cause kidney, liver, and nervous system damage, and contribute to ground-level ozone pollution. Consider using a chimney starter, starter wand, or small amount of burning paper to start the grill instead.

Though few things are associated with grilling more than hamburgers and hot dogs, there are more and more options out there that are less energy-intensive to create or potentially damaging to the planet. Soy dogs are a vegetarian favorite, as they contain healthy amounts of soy, no MSG, and take a lot fewer resources to manufacture than conventional meats. Other options include Gardenburgers, Morningstar Farms products, and BOCA burgers. If you do opt for meat, try to get locally raised and/or organic products that come in as little packaging as possible. And, of course, mix in plenty of vegetables (fresh, organic, and local, if possible!) either way. If using charcoal when grilling meats, use the leanest meat available and trim fat before cooking, as excess fat dripping onto the coals can cause dangerous chemicals to seep into the meat.

Beverage-wise, opt for locally-brewed and/or organic beers and wines

(or make your own!). If going the beer route, choose a keg over a bevy of glass bottles or aluminum cans. There are a number of local options in the Cleveland area, including Great Lakes Brewery, CornerStone Brewing Company (Berea), Rocky River Brewing Company, and the Brew Kettle (Strongsville). There are a number of wineries in Ohio, as well, including two in nearby Avon Lake. For a list of Ohio wines and wineries (and online ordering if you decide to try them), see <http://www.ohiowinecountry.com>.

Though it's often easiest to use paper plates and plastic silverware at parties, keep in mind that this creates a LOT of trash. Consider reusable options, like cloth napkins and bamboo plates, or even disposable plates that will hold up to a rinsing and reuse, as these will cut down on your trash burden and save resources (yours and the planet's). If you DO use disposable plates, cups, napkins, or silverware, consider buying recycled and/or organic products. For beverages, try buying the largest practical package and pouring into cups, rather than purchasing little single-serving bottles or cans that create excess waste. This goes for pretty much everything, from chips to fruit to potato salad. And, of course, drink/serve tap water or filtered tap water rather than bottled water to save both money AND energy.

And don't forget to walk, bike, or carpool if you head down to see the fireworks!

Lakewood Real Estate Information

(According to Multiple Listing Service)


by Andy Tabor,,Realtor, GRI-Prudential Lucien

May	2007	2008
Multi-Family (2-4 units) Closed	8	8
Multi-Family Pending (Under Contract)	16	

Interesting Real Estate Information

Lakewood Multi-Family Homes (2-4 units) Currently for Sale in Multiple Listing Service:	147
Contingent in Multiple Listing Service	5

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Real Estate

Strategies For Selling A Vacant Home

by Andy Tabor - Realtor, GRI
Prudential Lucien Realty

As the real estate market continues to stabilize, sellers may find that their property remains on the market significantly longer than the days of “list today, sold tomorrow.” There is also more competition for buyers. So, it can be frustrating to put your home on the market, expecting a fast sale, only to find that after six months you’re still waiting for an offer. This is especially true if you need to move quickly and leave your unsold home vacant.

Besides creating a marketing challenge, a vacant home can also be a target for vandalism. Here are strategies you can use to hasten a sale and protect your property during the process.

Instead of producing a spacious appearance, an empty room tends to look smaller than a furnished room. So, leave behind a few select pieces of furniture and keep the window treatments in place. A chair or lamp on a small table will confer a sense of scale and help potential buyers gauge whether their furniture will fit the space.

If you decide to remove the furniture, have the house cleaned and painted. Furniture, rugs and decorations tend to hide or minimize imperfections. When furniture and artwork have been removed, every blemish and bruise becomes accentuated, faded paint and wallpaper become more noticeable and scratches and nicks stand out.

Repaint brightly and boldly colored

rooms to a neutral tone. What was an eye-popping room when fully-furnished may appear stark and small when empty.

To thwart unwelcome visits, give the house a lived-in look. Set a couple of lamps on timers, and ask a neighbor or friend check on the house daily to collect mail, park a car in the driveway, and close and open drapes and windows. Continue using a gardening service or hire someone to cut the grass regularly.

If available, consider employing a house sitter. Having someone living on site discourages vandalism, protects against deterioration and weather hazards and may even reduce insurance costs. (Check with your insurance carrier.)

Leave the utilities connected. Make sure the thermostat in the house is set at a comfortable level. You don’t want a potential buyer to run through the home because it is too hot or stuffy.

Review your homeowner’s insurance policy with your insurance agent to find out what the stipulations and coverage pertain to your vacant home.

Find a real estate professional with experience selling vacant houses. Often, these sales professionals specialize in relocation. You want to make sure that you are comfortable with your lines of communication. If you will be residing in another town, come up with an agreement on how often your representative will check on the home and what should be done if a problem develops.

Although a vacant house presents certain challenges, it does not need to be difficult to sell.

A Little Early Lakewood Real Estate History...Part 2

by Maggie Fraley
Prudential Lucien Realtor

In the preceding issue of the Lakewood Observer, Part 1 of this early Lakewood history recalled the early 1800’s and the start of a small but beautiful township. By the 1850’s, mansions and stately homes began to replace farmhouses, and buildings of all kinds--modest homes, schools and churches--increased throughout the area. Cross streets developed, as orchards and vineyards disappeared with industry. Many of those cross streets were named after early Lakewood residents

like James Nicholson and Mars Wagar. Lakewood’s population boom continued with developments in transportation, such as railroads and toll roads. Popular destinations, such as the resort area of Clifton Park, increased our population from 450 at the end of the 19th century to more than 15,000 by 1910! People came to enjoy this lovely lakeside community with winding streets and beautiful architecture and then they stayed, telling their friends about what they had found. This growth and popularity led to Lakewood becoming a city in 1911.

Wanted: Photos of Hilliard Square Theater

By Val Mechenbier
Prudential Lucien Realtor

Several members of the Lakewood Historical Society have viewed the inside of the Hilliard Square Theater in recent weeks. Built in 1927, it was a magnificent structure in the days of silent films, and was still attracting crowds in the 1970’s with films such as “The Rocky Horror Picture Show”. In addition to the arcade that connects

Hilliard and Madison (between the theater and Italian Creations), it also had a 98-key pipe organ, and the catwalks and dressing rooms that allowed it to offer live performances to a seated audience of about 1200 people.

The Historical Society is looking for interior pictures of the Hilliard Square Theater. If you can help, please contact me at 216-226-4673 or vmechenbier@sbcglobal.net.

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