

THE
LAKESWOOD
OBSERVER

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

Volume 4, Issue 15, July 22, 2008

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Superintendent’s Resignation Official

by Thealexa Becker

On Sunday, July 21, the Lakewood School Board officially accepted the resignation of Dr. David Estrop as superintendent of the Lakewood City Schools.

Estrop, who turned in a copy of his resignation on March 12 of last year, is currently in the running for the State Superintendent position. The previous State Superintendent, Susan T. Zelman, resigned on May 28 of this year to actively pursue a position as the Dean of Education at the University of Oregon.

While his resignation does not take effect until August of next year, the School Board made the official acceptance in order to begin the search for a replacement.

“The idea was that we needed to get started on a superintendent search,” said Linda Beebe, a member of the School Board. “We have to be able to start looking for a new superintendent.”

The School Board voted in favor of accepting Estrop’s resignation. All members were present with the exception of Ed Favre who could not get away from work. He concurred with their decision to accept the year old document.

However, he had voted against Estrop’s three year contract renewal because his resignation letter was turned in beforehand.

“I was not particularly comfortable with the situation,” said Favre of his vote against renewing Estrop’s contract. He added that he did agree with the Board

completely in accepting the resignation. “The district is moving forward and there is much planning to be done.”

Estrop submitted his resignation letter on March 12, 2007, but other than to say that now was the right time to act, the members of the Board were unable to give specific answers as to why it took a year to approve it. Charles Geiger, the School Board President was only able to say that that they were leaving Estrop options to do his own searching process.

But in February of this year, Estrop announced that he would be leaving the School District. Board Member Matt Markling said that he was unable to explain why that announcement was on, and that it was done so independently of the School Board. He said the first time that he heard about it was on the Observation Deck at the Lakewood Observer website.

Estrop said to his administrative staff on February 29, 2008: “Given events that have developed in the district over the last two to three months, my wife Virginia and I have decided it is no longer in our interest for me to remain in the Lakewood schools.”

While he would not elaborate on these “events”, the only significant change was the election to the School Board of Markling. Yet, despite these “recent events”, Estrop’s resignation was on file for almost a year.

Now, the School Board will begin the search for a replacement for Estrop.

In order to garner a pool of candidates for the position, the School Board must put out ads in the December issues of all the professional magazines outlining what they are looking for in a candidate. This means that the criteria for a new superintendent will be solidified no later than November to meet this deadline.

“It will be a step by step process,” said Beebe about selecting Estrop’s replacement. “We must know what we are looking for and we must begin having discussions.”

Before the actual search process can begin, the Board will have to meet and decide exactly how they wish to proceed. By September, they will announce

their plan for hiring a new head of the School District.

“The Board does want to begin the process of moving forward with district planning,” said Geiger. “This is part of a process that the Board goes through from time to time. It’s nothing really unusual.”

“It has always been our intent to work with the community,” Geiger continued, adding that there are other big issues confronting the School Board this year, such as various financial challenges and Phase 3 of Lakewood High School’s reconstruction.

Pit Bulls Banned In Lakewood

Stan Austin, City Council Reporter

By a vote of 6 to 1 Lakewood City Council tonight enacted legislation to ban pit bull dogs from Lakewood. Pit bull dogs currently living in Lakewood would not be affected by this ban if their owners comply with requirements outlined in the new law.

This controversial legislation was proposed by council member Brian Powers (at large) in May. Extensive hearings by the Public Safety Committee chaired by Tom Bullock (ward two) went down to the wire with an amendment to the legislation at the committee meeting tonight before it went in front of the regular council meeting.

A companion piece of legislation establishes an Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board. This group will help educate the public about animal welfare and specifically the enhanced dangerous dog ordinance. Also, it will serve as a sounding board for any changes in the new approach to dangerous dogs.

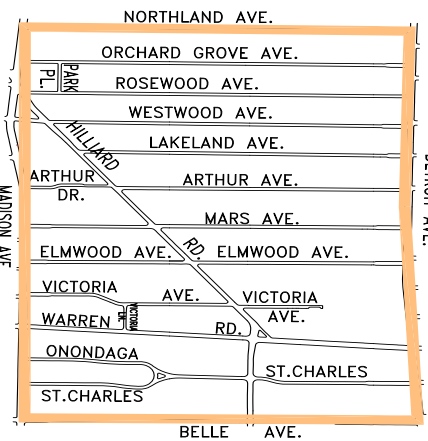
A list of requirements, which include micro chipping, warning signs, spaying and neutering, and insurance provisions will be published by the city. The Lakewood Observer will help to educate Lakewood dog owners as to their responsibilities under the new ordinance.

Mayor FitzGerald Walks Lakewood To Listen To Lakewood

by Melissa Garrett

Mayor Ed FitzGerald kicked off his *Listening To Lakewood (L2L) Program* on Thursday, June 19, 2008. He is walking different neighborhoods in the City for several weeks with members of his Administration and talking with residents to find out what questions and concerns they have about the City. At the end of each walking tour, a neighborhood meeting is held which includes a question and answer session along with a Power Point presentation addressing the challenges our city faces and what City Hall is doing to overcome them.

The Mayor has already walked two neighborhoods and held two neighborhood meetings. Issues dis-



cussed during his walks have included high grass and weeds, law enforcement concerns and potholes. Resident concerns are logged and forwarded to the appropriate city department for fol-

low-up. The Mayor anticipates it will take him a little over a year to walk each neighborhood in the city.

He will begin his third walking tour the week on July 21 and will be walking the area of Northland Avenue to Belle Avenue between Detroit and Madison Avenues. He will hold a neighborhood meeting for this neighborhood on Tuesday, August 12 at 7:00 PM at Harding Middle School.

“I want to hear what residents have to say about the City and I want to address their concerns,” stated Mayor FitzGerald. “Listening to Lakewood is an opportunity for us to go into a neighborhood and hear what residents are talking about. It’s a way for us to get our building, public works, police and all city departments more in touch with our residents.”

See Coverage of Walk N’ Roll and Band2Gether in Centerpage Spread!

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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

”Four Fridays” Returns:

Lakewood Baptist Presents A Free Gift To The Community!

by Rev. Jonathan Glass Riley

Let’s face it: Times are tough. People are feeling “the pinch.” Even with all the great developments in our city, many folks in Lakewood, and many people around the nation are contending with the harsh realities of inflation, political angst, unemployment, rising living expenses, and – of course – the “pain at the pump” as gas prices have reached an all time high.

Meanwhile, many churches from coast-to-coast, and right here at home,

are contending with challenging times. Many congregations of varied denominations are dwindling... finances are low... and many people in our nation have decided that the church is antiquated, if not entirely irrelevant.

But even in the face of these challenging realities, Lakewood Baptist Church believes we ALL have reason to celebrate. Celebrate Abundance. Celebrate Hospitality. Celebrate Community! And we invite everyone to come and join in the celebration!

For the second consecutive year,

Lakewood Baptist will host its “Four Fridays” Community Festival. The remaining dates for this year’s event are July 25, August 1, and August 8, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm each night.

This is a FREE opportunity for the Lakewood community to come together, relax, and enjoy some simple pleasures; live music, free food, miniature golf, crafts, games and more! Plus, we’ll welcome a juggling clown, a fantastical stilt-walker, a balloon artist, and “Outback Ray’s exotic animals!”

Plus, in the spirit of “bigger and



better,” this year’s musical selections will include contemporary songs, choir selections, hand bells, and even a barbershop quartet!

There’s truly something for everyone... and it’s all offered free of charge! No tickets will be sold... no charge for food or attractions... no hidden costs. “Four Fridays” is not a fundraiser. It’s our free gift to the community! And we welcome everyone to come and be part of the excitement!

Lakewood Baptist Church is located at 14321 Detroit Avenue (corner of Lincoln). For more information, call the church office: 216-221-4005.

“Trinkets And Treasures” Bazaar At The Lakewood Masonic Temple

by Ann G. Mollick

The Busy Bee Auxiliary of Ann Rutledge Chapter #453 of Ohio Eastern Star (a non-profit charity) will host its 2nd. Annual Open House and “Trinkets and Treasures” Bazaar at the Lakewood Masonic Temple on Saturday, August 2nd. from 10A.M. to 5P.M., located at the far west end of the Lakewood Arts Festival.

The Lakewood Masonic Temple was completed in 1916 and maintains three levels, accessible by white marble staircases or elevator. The building is

frequently rented out to organizations such as Lakewood Kiwanis, Contra and Swing Dancers, and receptions and member organizations.

The Open House will include guided tours of the historic building by Masonic members and will feature a Historical Pipe Organ Society registered pipe organ played by organist Elaine Hammond.

Activities will include all day live folk music with Lakewoodite, Jim Schafer and others, free Contra Dance Lessons from 1- 2 P.M., and 3-4P.M. accompanied by local band “Mud in Yer Eye”, and a book

signing by “Bugs” Williams, author of West Park Historical Society’s 2007 Book of the Year “Remember When? Growing up in the ‘50’s In Cleveland.”

Many “Trinkets and Treasures” will be offered including, cosmetics, soaps, handmade beaded bracelets, embroidered goods, hand-painted tote bags, Malley’s chocolate bars, collectible and rummage items. Refreshments will be provided by the DeMolay youth group. Vendors are wanted! Call (440)779-4014 or e-mail: anniem_4168@yahoo.com Ann G. Mollick, President of Busy Bee Auxiliary for Reservations.

North Coast Health Ministry Hosts Celebration of Caring Aug. 28

by Jeanine Gergel

The North Coast Health Ministry will host its 13th annual Celebration of Caring gala auction and dinner Thursday, Aug. 28 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Lakewood Hospital Atrium, 14519 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood.

This annual event supports the life-saving health care provided at NCHM for an increasing number of our neighbors in need. Tickets are \$125 per person. Early responders can purchase a table for eight for \$875 through Aug. 15.

Special features of the evening

include gourmet food stations, gift balloons, and a raffle for a game loge for the Cleveland Browns, donated by Workflow.com. The live and silent auctions will feature game tickets for the Cleveland Indians, Browns, and Cavaliers; jewelry, theater tickets, restaurant gift certificates, salon and spa gift certificates, a Five Seasons family gold pass, and much more.

Located in Lakewood, NCHM serves more than 2,000 patients a year from western Cuyahoga and eastern Lorain counties. The faith-based free

clinic has seen an increase of 20 new patients per week this year. NCHM serves uninsured individuals and families earning up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

NCHM is able to provide primary health care, specialty referrals, prescription assistance and health education to the medically underserved through the support of dozens of volunteer physicians and nurses as well as clerical volunteers.

For more information, contact Jeanine Gergel, director of development, at 216-228-7878, ext. 107.

St. Peter’s To Hold Rummage Sale

by Kathy Martin

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church is holding a rummage sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sat., July 26. The church is located at West Clifton and Detroit Avenues. The sale will be at the house behind the church on W. Clifton. For more information, call the church office at (216) 226-1772.

The Men of Independence Performing “A Night at the USO” Sunday, July 27

by Staff Writer

The Lakewood Summer Concert Series presents the Men of Independence barbershop chorus on Sunday, July 27th at the Lakewood Park band shell, 7 until 8:30pm. The chorus will perform “A Night at the USO”.

Experience a musical salute to the defenders of our great nation with great music from the 1940’s; barber-

ship, jazz, and pop.

Bring your dancing shoes and be a part of the dance segment of the show, featuring a live 1940’s band!

The Sunday Summer Concert series continues the following week, Sunday, August 3rd with the Lakewood Hometown band. All concerts begin promptly at 7pm. For more information visit the City of Lakewood homepage <http://www.ci.lakewood.oh.us>



THE

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Your Independent Source for

Lakewood News & Opinion

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Starry Night 2008 is the most charming yet, and here’s one reason why! We invited everyone in the community to create their personal interpretation of Van Gogh’s Starry Night. More than 40 artists submitted their creative works, and you will have a chance to bid on them at a live auction during the event.

Raffles, art activities, music, dancing and delicious food are in store, too. Proceeds benefit the Lakewood Hospital Diabetes Center and Lakewood Arts Festival Scholarship fund.

Here’s a sneak peek of some of the amazing pieces.

Torn Canvas Wade Nichols Cleveland	Painted Bowls Leslie Moore Lakewood	Looking for Sirius Carol Langley Lakewood	Starry Night Envelops Cleveland Raccine Williams Cleveland	You Gogh Girl! Chrystene Thomas Cleveland	Hooked on Starry Night Joan Heinrich Lakewood	Ceramic Vase Susan Miranda Lakewood	A Wish to Wish on a Starry Night Sylvia Masek Lakewood	Whimsical Ode to Starry Night Peg Asensio Lorain

Starry Night

Friday, August 1

6 p.m. VIP event

7 – 10 p.m. Cocktails and gourmet food stations

On Belle Avenue in front of Lakewood Hospital



Buy your tickets today by calling 216.529.7009 or visiting www.lakewoodhospital.org/starrynight

Lakewood City News

The Signs Are A Changing At The Chamber Of Commerce

by Patty Ryan

When the Chamber of Commerce moved to their new building at 16017 Detroit Avenue, one great advantage was the opportunity to market Chamber businesses more effectively to the community.

The new sign in front of the Chamber building affords Chamber members this opportunity. A business or organization can select a month in which they wish to sponsor Chamber of Commerce events. That organization's name and logo is added to the sign during that month, giving them great exposure to the public.

The first business to take advantage of the monthly sponsorship was the law firm of Buckingham, Doolittle and Burroughs, LLP. "The visibility of the sign from Detroit Avenue is great, providing excellent exposure in the community," said Terry Vincent, an attorney with the firm. "I've had several calls from people just to say they saw our firm's name on the sign. I'm very pleased that Kathy Berkshire from the Chamber allowed my firm to be the first."

For more information about the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, call us at 216-226-2900 or email us at info@lakewoodchamber.com.



Terry Vincent in front of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce Sign



Pictured: Seated (L to R): Marge Stopiak, Rose Slavik, Susan Butler and Helen Pohorence from the Lakewood Community Festival
Standing (L to R): Lakewood Veterans Committee members John Kikol, Patrick McAllister, Andy Bodi, Dan Engle, Tom Farkas, Bill Corrigan, Jim Quisenberry, George Pieh and Frank Murtaugh

Lakewood Community Festival Inc. Donates \$1000 to Lakewood Veterans Memorial Renovation Project

by Melissa Garrett

The Lakewood Community Festival Incorporated donated \$1000 to the Lakewood Veterans Memorial Renovation Project. Lakewood Community Festival commit-

tee members Marge Stopiak, Rose Slavik, Susan Butler and Helen Pohorence presented the check to the Lakewood Veterans Committee.

The Lakewood Veterans Committee and the City of Lakewood

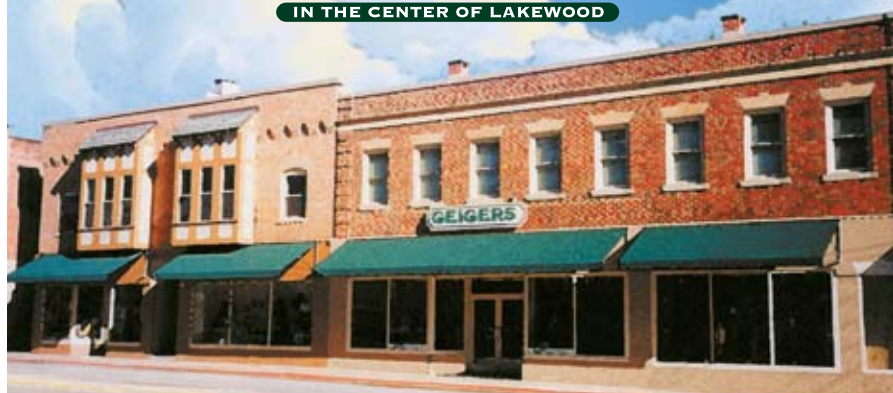
are collaborating on a project to renovate the Lakewood Veterans Memorial at Lakewood Park. Anyone interested in making a donation can send it to: The Lakewood Foundation, c/o The City of Lakewood, Lakewood Veterans Memorial, 12650 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107. Checks should be made payable to The Lakewood Foundation.

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Ducktown Day 30

We're celebrating the 30th anniversary of the legendary westside gold and friendship event. The first day of August, the traditional "Ducktown Day," has been special not only for hundreds of guys now pushing 80, but also for their sons, grandsons and old friends who realize it has become something very, very special.

Friday, August 1 at Bob-O Links Golf course, 4141 Center Road (Rt. 83) in Avon. The first tee off is 8:00am. Prices are as follows: Social only (food and drink) = \$30.00 or Golf, Cart and Social = \$60.00

One name stands out among the hundreds of participants. Without Bill Toole there would be no annual "Ducktown" Invitational.

This year we will support 25 Infantrymen in the 173rd Airborne Brigade deployed in Afghanistan.

We are collecting donations of healthy, high protein foods such as; pop-top canned goods (tuna, ham, chicken, baked beans, beef-a-roni), Velveeta cheese, oatmeal cheese, string cheese, nuts, crackers, beef jerky, peanut butter cookies, gum, candy (excluding chocolate), and peanut butter as well as hygienic and household items such as; wipes, skin lotion, lip balm, shampoo, toiletries and other miscellaneous goods.

Make checks payable to: Tom Corpus, 25539 Hilliard Blvd., Westlake, OH 44145, ph: 440-871-8832

Design by: www.jenniguladesign.com

LAKEWOOD BAND2GETHER

08

WHAT: A **FREE** outdoor summer youth concert series

WHEN: Friday nights, beginning July 11 and ending August 29 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Municipal parking lot next to Sinagra Park in the heart of downtown Lakewood
(see back for schedule)

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

For more info: www.vancemusicstudios.com • 216.227.2886

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The Beck Center for the Arts

COX

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11A

Lakewood Hospital News

Lakewood Hospital Supports Surrounding Communities By Upgrading The Facility And Its Services To Ensure Excellence

by Aimee Smith

As the largest employer in Lakewood, Lakewood Hospital, a Cleveland Clinic hospital, continues to be a leader in Northeast Ohio's healthcare community by continually upgrading its facilities, technologies and services; thereby improving the quality of care available for patients on Cleveland's West side.

In a commitment to the future, Lakewood Hospital has invested more than \$13 million in the creation, renovation, or upgrades of its building and programs. In 2007, Lakewood Hospital took the lead in the fight against diabetes by opening a comprehensive Diabetes Center on its campus to meet the growing needs of patients who have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.

Furthermore, Lakewood Hospital opened two primary care physicians' offices to bring quality healthcare closer to home – Lakewood Medical Associates, Rockport, located at the eastern corridor of Lakewood and Lakewood Medical Associates, Beachcliff, located in Rocky River. "Establishing these locations for primary care services supports our long-term strategy, which is to continue to invest our resources in the community as well as support the economic growth of our communities," says Fred DeGrandis, CEO and president of Cleveland Clinic regional hospitals.

Additionally, scheduled to open in the fall of 2008, the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute at Lakewood Hospital will provide neurological patients' greater access to some of the world's most advanced treatments of the vascular system and nervous system.

Lakewood Hospital is in the final stages of its three-year Critical Care renovations with the completion of its Intensive Care Unit scheduled to re-open in the fall of 2008. The renovations of the Neuro Integrated Care Unit and Coronary Care Unit were completed earlier in the year.

Lastly, additional areas of the

hospital that have received renovations or are scheduled for renovations include: the Birthing Center and the Orthopaedic/Medical Surgical Unit. The partnership with Cleveland Clinic allows Lakewood Hospital to provide patients with care closer to home by offering the following Cleveland Clinic programs: a Pelvic Floor Disorders Center, a Pain Management Center, and an Adult Driving Rehabilitation Program.

The quality of care at Lakewood Hospital has been consistently recognized by external organizations, such as: Joint Commission, Ohio Department of Health, American College of Radiology, American College of Surgeons, and the most important evaluator – satisfied patients. "It will always be our mission to be a provider of high quality patient-focused healthcare that is readily accessible, cost effective, and meeting the needs of our



Lakewood Hospital Neuro Integrated Care Unit received a complete renovation in 2008.

community," says Jack Gustin, president of Lakewood Hospital.

"Lakewood Hospital is fortunate to have the support of the City of Lakewood, dedicated employees, medical staff, volunteers, and a diverse

community that is committed to its success and dependent upon our services," states Gustin. "We have been around for more than 100 years, and I expect Lakewood Hospital will be here for a hundred more."

Lakewood Hospital Hosts Third Annual Starry Night Event, August 1st

by Aimee Smith

On Friday evening, August 1, Lakewood Hospital will host its third annual Starry Night, a patron benefit presented by Signature Sponsor, Regency Construction Services, Inc. The event will be held under the stars on Belle Avenue near Detroit Avenue on the hospital campus.

Proceeds from Starry Night will benefit two worthwhile causes – Lakewood Hospital Diabetes Center and the Lakewood Arts Festival Scholarship Fund. Each year, this event gets bigger and better and this year is no exception. Guests will enjoy delicious food, raffles, a live auction, music by The Bottom Lineband, dancing and much more. Health anchor Monica Robins of WKYC-TV3 will emcee the event.

"I am excited that Lakewood Hospital will once again have the unique opportunity to collaborate with the Lakewood Arts Festival in raising money for two great causes. Last year's Starry

Night event was a tremendous success," said Jack Gustin, president of Lakewood Hospital. "To spend an evening with friends and colleagues all while raising money for two causes makes Starry Night an unforgettable event."

New to Starry Night this year is a live auction. Lakewood Hospital worked closely with Local Girl Gallery's Linda Goik asking the community to submit their personal interpretation of Van Gogh's Starry Night. Nearly 50 talented, local artists submitted their work of art and a juried selection will be auctioned off during the event. A preview of these amazing pieces will be on display in Lakewood Hospital the week prior to the event.

Lakewood Hospital Diabetes Center, one of the beneficiaries of this event, has been meeting the needs of patients with diabetes since its opening last year. The Diabetes Center offers endocrinologists, dietitians and educators in one, convenient location.

The VIP Reception will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. for those purchas-

ing tickets at sponsorship levels. The private reception will feature art activities, palm reading and caricature artists. The main event starts at 7 p.m. with gourmet food stations, cocktails, raffles, music and dancing.

Ticket prices for Starry Night begin at \$100. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 216.529.7009 or visit our Web site, lakewoodhospital.org/starrynight to purchase tickets online.

Health Screenings and Family Fun During Lakewood Arts Festival – August 2

Lakewood Hospital will be offering health screenings and fun activities for the whole family under the tent on Belle Avenue during the Lakewood Arts Festival on August 2. In an effort to detect signs of diabetes, stroke, heart disease and cancer, the community is invited to stop by the tent for cholesterol, glucose and waist circumference screenings. Bring the kids to enjoy a DJ who will be playing music and line dancing, and a magician will also be on hand for some fun magic tricks.

LAKWOOD KIWANIS

87 YEARS SERVING LAKEWOOD AND IT'S CHILDREN

"Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time"

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Contact us for more information: lakewood_kiwanis@att.net <http://www.lkwdpl.org/kiwanis/index.html>



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LEAF Nights



Artists and Musicians

The Lakewood Earth and Food community invites you to join us for a community festival on the front porch of the Lakewood Public Library every Thursday!

24 July 2008

Art Tent
Jeff Hurligan
graphics

Music Stage
Just Folkin' Around

Lakewood Public Library

Experience ELEGANCE At The Lakewood Public Library

by Amy Kloss

Summertime, and the music is elegant. Soprano Kathleen Bosl and Flautist Roberta Holliday will light up the Lakewood Public Library Auditorium on Sunday, August 3 with their musical ensemble, ELEGANCE.

According to Bosl, the music of ELEGANCE expresses the warmth of summer, conjuring images of butterflies, birds, sunshine and flowers. ELEGANCE has performed on various stages in Northeast Ohio, including the Cleveland Playhouse, Beck Center and Lorain County Community College. Their music has aired on classical radio station WCLV.

After receiving a music degree from

Baldwin-Wallace College, Bosl studied and performed in Milan, Italy at La Piccola Scala and has performed with the Cleveland Opera Chorus. In addition to her work as a singer, Bosl is also a pianist and a voice and piano instructor. Both she and Roberta Holliday are college conservatory graduates.

“Music remains part of a life-time curriculum,” says Bosl of her musical training. “Unless you have a passion for this art, there is no life, no heartbeat in it.” If you wish to see a demonstration of Bosl’s passion, visit the Lakewood Public Library at 15425 Detroit Avenue on August 3 at 2 p.m. Programs are free and open to the public.

EVENTS CALENDAR

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS:

LOCAL FOOD, DEMOCRACY AND FILM: Real Low Calorie Diet

Honor the land by eating locally—that’s the message at the heart of this film documenting the diverse, grassroots movement that aims to reconnect hungry Ohioans to the people who grow their food. Eat right, preserve the environment, and safeguard democracy! **Sunday, July 27 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

SUMMER DELIGHTS WITH ELEGANCE

It’s finally time for butterflies, birds, flowers and Elegance. Soprano Kathleen Bosl and flautist Roberta Holliday bring you music that radiates sunshine and the warmth of summer. **Sunday, August 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

LAKESWOOD PUBLIC CINEMA:

THE BROTHER FROM ANOTHER PLANET (1984) Directed by John Sayles
Rated R When a runaway slave from outer space crash lands on Earth, will the good people of Harlem help him stay one step ahead of the bounty hunters? Social commentary and science fiction come together with a wry sense of humor and a dash of neighborhood history in this one-of-a-kind American masterpiece.

Saturday, August 2 at 6:00 p.m. in the New 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.

July 25, 26, 27: Slip, Slide and Skid

August 1, 2, 3: All Aboard!

SPECIAL FRIDAY PERFORMANCES:

Creatures with Many Legs (and some with none) presented by the Lake Erie Science and Nature Center **Friday, July 25 at 3:00 p.m. at the Madison Branch**

All ages welcome. Seating is limited. Doors open 15 minutes prior to 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**

“Come Home to Lakewood” House Tour, Sunday, September 7

by Melissa Page

The Lakewood Historical Society and the many community volunteers putting this tour on want you to be the first to hear about the upcoming ninth biennial Lakewood House Tour. And-

what better way is there than bringing it to you through Lakewood’s very own community newspaper.

With the recent recognition by This Old House Magazine that Lakewood is one of the “Best Places to Buy an Old House”, neighboring Clevelanders have been

reminded of, or maybe just now enlightened as to, the beauty that Lakewood holds. They might find themselves drawn to see what all the fuss is about!

Mark your calendars and make arrangements with your friends and families now for Sunday, September 7, from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. (That’s easy to remember -- it is the Sunday after Labor Day.) A limited number of tickets will be sold. So, don’t wait too late to purchase yours.

Through nominations from our community, this year’s tour will include: a grand Georgian Revival with Victorian elements; a charming Craftsman-style bungalow; an eclectic Arts & Crafts bungalow; a Clifton Park Italian Renaissance; the home Joseph Marquard, of the locally-renowned Marquard Building Company, designed for himself; a Waterford lake-front aerie with expansive vistas; and the lobby of the long-shuttered Hilliard Theater. The Nicholson House will be open for refreshments, day-of-tour tickets (if available), and our educational feature and display of the history of Cowan Pottery in Lakewood.

Advance tickets are \$15 and go on sale Saturday, August 2. Tickets can be purchased during the Lakewood Arts Festival at the Lakewood Histori-

cal Society booth on Saturday, August 2; in Lakewood at The Beck Center for the Arts, First Federal of Lakewood, Geiger’s Clothing & Sports, Local Girl Gallery, Rozi’s Wine House, and The Oldest Stone House Museum; in Rocky River at Geiger’s Store for Women, Mitchell Sotka, and V Regalo/The Desk Set; and in Westlake at Borders Book Store. Advance tickets are also available through The Lakewood Historical Society’s website (www.lakewoodhistorymuseumstore.com), via mail order (Lakewood Historical Society, 14710 Lake Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107), and by phone (216-221-7343).

See upcoming Lakewood Observer issues for more details of what you will experience on the House Tour. Also, the Patron Party location and details, held the night before the tour, will be announced soon! Tickets for this are \$75 and include a House Tour ticket.

If you missed the complete story of how Lakewood became recognized by This Old House Magazine, see The Lakewood Observer’s July 8 issue, either online at www.lakewoodobserver.com or in print at the Lakewood Library. And check out www.thisoldhouse.com for all their “Best Places to Buy an Old House” selections and categories.



A wonderful afternoon was had by all as some of the residents of Lakewood Senior Health Campus. Assisted Living enjoyed a wonderful Sunday afternoon at Lakewood Park on July 13th, enjoying the vintage baseball teams, of the Akron Blackstockings vs. the Forest City Baseball Club. Residents Ray Mallinak, Ralph Buchmueller, Ed Urbanowicz, and Gerry Shaffer were ready to go batter up. Wilda Shaffer accompanied her husband and Activity Director Christine Dorsey was there as well.

Lakewood Cares

What Do You Want In A Church?

by Mark Moran

“Every day,” quipped Lenny Bruce. “people are straying from the church and going back to God.”

It was more than 50 years ago when the acerbic comedian made that observation, but there are indeed signs that “church-going” could become a thing of the past.

There are over 40 churches in Lakewood, but the great majority of Lakewood citizens—especially those between the ages of 18 and 35—are not there on Sunday morning. For many, church is a quaint but irrelevant anachronism to which you pay some homage on Christmas and Easter. Others, with a more bitter taste in their mouths, may think of church primarily as a place where you go to be reminded of your own personal wickedness and depravity. Still others may simply associate church with mornings of exquisite boredom, irrational beliefs and bad organ music.

Yet for many of us, church remains a bastion of community—not an “online” community, not a “virtual” community, but a real one that is one of the few remaining places where people gather intentionally to actually commune with each other: to pray, sing, worship, work, recreate, break bread together, serve others, study, think and meditate on matters of ultimate concern.

For Christians, of course, the charismatic life of Jesus of Nazareth is central: his heroic confrontation with authorities resulting in a brutal death and his transformation after death into a vital presence in the lives of his followers. Church is where we go to share a faith in the redemptive power of that life and to struggle with that faith and question it at times. In all these ways, we believe church is still, after 2000 years, a place that people can go to be transformed, and to be agents for the renewal and transformation of the world.

Led by our pastors, the members of Lakewood United Methodist Church (located at Summit and Detroit) have been thinking critically about how to make church more welcoming to everyone in our community. There is

nothing especially sacred about church as we traditionally think of it: a building with stain-glass windows, pews lined up in straight rows, organ music and ancient hymns. And there are many in our community—singles, young couples, and families—from every strata and demographic who might welcome a new way to worship God.

Certainly all people—perhaps especially those who are not in church on Sunday—yearn to find a purpose beyond the daily round of working and partying, getting and spending, and would welcome a venue in which they could put their skills and passion in the service of something more than their own self-interest. We want church to have an impact on lives and to be a place where people can in turn have an impact on the community and the larger world.

So in the coming months, we will be developing a new kind of church experience that we call “Impact.”

We ask you to seek us out at the upcoming Lakewood Arts Festival (where LUMC will have a booth) and we ask you to look for other special events related to “Impact” in the coming months. But this new worship experience is still very much a work in process and we want very keenly to know what people in the community—that is, you—think about it. We need to know what you want in church, and of equal importance, what you don’t want.

The struggle by Christians to define what is meant by church is not a new one. Two thousand years ago, James the brother of Jesus wrote a letter to one of the primitive Christian churches in Jerusalem scolding them

for showing favoritism to the wealthy “pillars” of their society while shunning the poor and marginalized who walked through their doors. It seems the ever-human talent of turning any community into a club for “those of our kind,” is an old one. But in the Church we seek to create with “Impact,” there is no such thing as “our kind.”

If you seek a place to do justice, share kindness and love, and walk humbly with your God, you are one of us and we want to hear from you. So we invite you to write to us with answers to these three questions: Do you go to church? What needs do you have that a church could meet? What would be the ideal type of church? Send your answers to one or both of the following email addresses: lumcdm@earthlink.net or churchcomments@sbcglobal.net.

Celebrating the Call To Social Justice: Sister Annette Sinagra

by Kenneth Warren

Sister Annette Sinagra, the sister of former Lakewood Mayor Anthony Singara, celebrated her Golden Jubilee Anniversary as an Adrian Dominican Sister on Sunday July 13th.

Currently ministering at the Motherhouse in Adrian, Michigan, Sister Annette served rural and urban people in the Dominican Republic. Her ministry in the Dominican Republic focused on the education and organization of struggling farmers.

With experience in the Dominican Republic, Sister Annette developed expertise and interest in matters of economic, political and social equity and responsibility. Now working as a corporate responsibility analyst, Sister Annette brings her commitment to social justice to the Congregation’s Portfolio Advisory Board.

As a pure Lakewood product committed to the moral order and betterment of the world, Sister Annette believes not only that a publicly-owned business must be challenged to act justly but also that everyone must share

in the process of conscience and system of justice that establishes accountability and mutuality.

“She has taken the lead for the Adrian Dominican Sisters, when approaching large commercial banks, such as Bank of America, Citigroup, and J.P. Morgan Chase and Co., on issues of money laundering, predatory lending, equal access to capital, both domestically and internationally,” explains Anthony Sinagra who with his wife Lucy and family organized an event in celebration of Sister Annette’s Golden Jubilee.

“Her ministry affords a venue for practicing her deepest beliefs that greed must be abolished, racism and sexism confronted, structures that institutionalize poverty transformed,



“She was a great communicator, even in her tender years.”

Tony Sinagra - an eye-witness

and the integrity of the earth’s ecological balance must be protected,” notes the former Lakewood Mayor in testament to the accomplishment of Sister Annette’s practice.

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Lakewood Observer

Geiger Contributes To Lakewood

by Laura Leatherman

Virtually every resident in the city of Lakewood is familiar with the local shop called "Geiger's." But not everyone knows the man behind the store quite as well.

Mr. Charles Geiger III and his brother, Gordon Geiger, are partners in the store's management. Geiger's has been in business now for three generations.

In 1932, Charles Geiger senior started "Charlie Geiger's Haberdashery" with his brother. The men's furnishing store was located on the corner of Detroit and Warren, just a few storefronts from the present location. It was passed down to Charles Geiger II and his brother, and then to Charles III and his brother Gordon.

Growing up in Lakewood, Geiger always loved the city. He is an alumnus of Hayes, Madison, Harding, and Lakewood High School. Throughout junior high and high school, he worked for his dad at the store, but was never set on owning it

one day. Geiger majored in business and economics at Wittenberg University and was interested in studying law. He took the law boards and could have gone on to be a lawyer, but got married instead in 1974, and made the decision to take over the family business and to keep his family in Lakewood.

Geiger and his wife Patti have three children - Elizabeth, 29; Charlie, 26; and Christy, 24. All three went to Lakewood schools as well. He says that his children are "involved in their own careers at this point" and does not know whether they will carry on the Geiger family business or not. For now, though, Geiger said, "I love this work enough and hope I can continue to work for quite some time."

Since 1932, the store has, as Geiger says, "expanded to adapt to the changing market. We have reinvented ourselves." Sporting goods has always been a significant element of this family business. It wasn't until the early sixties that skiing became a popular



Historical shot of Geiger's interior.

sport and Geiger's took full advantage of the expanding market.

When asked how he and his brother handle a day-to-day partnership, Geiger said, "we are very fortunate that we do get along." The brothers "divide respon-

sibilities" and have "no arguments."

Geiger's is not the only place in Lakewood where Mr. Geiger is seen regularly. On January 7 of this year, Charles Geiger III was named President of the Lakewood Board of Education for the fifth time since being a member. He describes the selection of President each year as a "gentleman's agreement" that each member on the board gets his or her turn. "We are all equal people anyway. Why not share and allow everyone to have their turn?"

Geiger says the board's "primary goal is the educational welfare of all students and families in Lakewood." It hires and sets compensation for the Superintendent, Dr. David Estrop, and the treasurer, Richard Berdine. Geiger explains that although the Board displays great "passion for public education and community service," it has to be careful not to "run the operation of the schools."

Thoughts for the current renovating of Lakewood's school system began with the Board of Education. In the late nineties, money was constantly being spent to fix old buildings, and the Board realized it might be a better investment to build rather than repair. "We needed help evaluating whether we should fix the buildings or build new ones," says Geiger regarding the Board's earlier decision-making process. The voters approved bond issues, and the plan formulated in 2000 and 2001 is now well on its way.

It is projects like this that Geiger helps along in his position on the Board of Education. It's a "365 day job" and he has a passion for it. But he doesn't stop there - along with his position as President of the Lakewood Board of Education and co-owner of the family business, Mr. Geiger is also on the board of directors at First Federal of Lakewood, a trustee of the Lakewood Hospital Foundation, and board member of Lakewood Community Progress Inc, a non-profit support group for economic development. He describes his multiple services as "a good balance. If I just did one job, I'd get bored!" Geiger often goes above and beyond the call of duty as a citizen of Lakewood, but says he is "just a regular person trying to help the community."

H2O Campers Champion Recycling

by Mollie Evans, Nathan Golba,
Katie Michalko

H2O "Help to Others" Summer Service Camp, sponsored by the City of Lakewood, is a place for middle school students to learn about helping the community, local and global, through organized volunteer work. Each summer H2O has a different theme that the service revolves around. The theme for this year is, "Study the Past, Live in the Moment, Plan for the Future." We are turning our focus to the current environmental situation, and making an effort to increase recycling in Lakewood.

We are beginning our efforts to improve recycling by educating the kids of Lakewood about it. By helping H2O campers establish good recycling habits at a young age, our hope is that, through them, we may reach out to their parents. In order to do this, H2O is bringing in guest speakers who are in the recycling field. They are coming to teach the campers proper recycling habits, as well as the importance of recycling.



H2O Campers with Recycling truck

cling. In addition to educating campers, H2O is making a conscientious effort to cut down on our waste by placing recycling bins in Lakewood High's L-Room, where H2O summer camp meets every day. We are trying to incorporate the theme into our service sites in other ways as well, such as reading a book to daycare kids that teaches them about recycling. Also, we are collecting used clothes for our annual end-of-the-summer Clothes for Kids sale, and refurbishing old materials and furniture to make crafts for the Lakewood Arts Festival. We've even partnered with COX Cable and filmed a segment about recycling tips for Lakewood residents.

Once our H2O campers have developed their own excellent recycling habits, it then becomes possible to have

them reach out to the larger Lakewood community. H2O campers are already doing this by making posters and jingles containing simple instructions for recycling properly that they will share throughout Lakewood. H2O is also in the process of targeting certain streets in order to see if we have impacted residents and improved their recycling habits. To do this, we will be going door-to-door, talking to residents, and asking them to fill out a survey to ensure the accuracy and efficiency of our information. At the beginning of the summer, we learned that only 39% of Lakewood recycles. Through all of our ambitious actions, we hope to raise awareness, improve Lakewood's recycling efforts, and help our community maintain its greatness.

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Lakewood Renaissance

A Tree Grows In Lakewood

by Thealexa Becker

Lakewood Earth and Food (or LEAF) is, in the literal sense of the word, a grass-roots organization. In fact, this year’s slogan says it all: “Planting the seeds that change a city into a community.”

And while many Lakewoodites have most likely heard the name, read something about them, or seen them march in the 4th of July parade, LEAF is actually a great deal more complex than its most publicized Community Garden project. In addition to Community Gardening, LEAF supplies affordable produce on a weekly basis, brings in vendors who sell bulk, and tries to reuse waste materials.

Community Gardens

Despite success in its first official year, the organization had a rocky start. During Mayor Tom George’s administration, several current LEAF Board members approached the mayor about the possibility of community gardening, but were unsuccessful in getting a definitive or a supportive response. So they continued to work on their own.

“There were various people trying to do projects involving city support,” said Chris Trapp, the treasurer of the LEAF Board. “We ended up with a group really into it, with all sorts of ideas.”

“Initially, we decided to focus on only a few goals with the overriding concept that this kind of group could really bring a community together and make the city a more attractive place to live.”

When Edward FitzGerald came into office his administration offered its support and even went above and beyond what LEAF could have expected by tilling the soil, transporting humus, and getting water to the sites.

“This administration is more receptive to these ideas,” said Trapp. “They are more responsive to what people want to do.”

The city tilled the land and helped get the gardens up and running in order to help offset LEAF’s late season start. Currently, there are 65 individuals gardening, with at least 130 plots, a statistic that “exceeded expectations.”

Plots can be purchased for \$25 for the entire season and Trapp said that he expects that the plots available at Webb, Madison, and Cove Parks, and Plover Gardens will be filled next year. “It will be interesting to see how each garden develops its own personality,” said Trapp of different gardening techniques and their impact.



A view of Madison Community Gardens.

“I would like to see 100% capacity next year,” said Amy Bennett, the Community Garden coordinator and ESL teacher at Horace Mane Elementary. “I worked with the 4th grade to get a plot in Webb. I hope we can make a close bond between schools and community gardens. I would like to see schools near gardens work on them.”

The benefit of these gardens is that they provide a great deal of produce, so gardeners get more than their money’s worth. One plot produced 5 pounds of beets in a short period of time. LEAF also believes that the gardening process, among other things, can bring a community together.

As for expansion, he added that there are several other locations in Lakewood - both city and privately owned - that are possible candidates for the Community Garden projects.

Community Support of Agriculture

“We want to improve people’s access to good food,” said Annie Stahlheber, a member of the LEAF Board in charge of the Community Support of Agriculture (CSA) program.

Stahlheber, who works for the Board of Health and is a dietitian, is a passionate advocate for fresh, local food. So, in 2007, she looked into a program called City Fresh, which helps provide good quality food to low income patrons.

The LEAF Board, which was already familiar with City Fresh, decided in the winter of 2007 to create a “fresh stop” in Lakewood. Stahlheber was given the control over this project and throughout the next season, participation in the program grew rapidly, mostly by word of mouth.

“There is so much interest in this community, it’s crazy,” said Stahlheber.

Aside from volunteering for City Fresh, people can receive a share (or

half share) of food each week at a reduced price. The “shareholders” pay from week to week and get a portion of each of the different produce. Stahlheber estimates that there are at least 300 people a week receiving food through both City Fresh and another Community Supported Agriculture program Covered Bridge.

Covered Bridge Gardens is a conventional, family-owned and operated farm out of Ashtabula, whoses owners, Mick and Kay Prochko, deliver their produce in person during each LEAF Night.

“It’s rewarding to see this program take off like this,” she said. The food is picked within 24 hours and delivered directly to Lakewood. All of this fresh, local produce originates within 75 miles of the Cleveland area. “It helps economically and environmentally. By keeping the money in the local economy, it helps the community improve itself.”

She added that some of the other benefits of a program where shareholders receive local foods are that it supports local farmers, who normally don’t get great prices when they sell in bulk to grocery stores.

Also, the truck that delivers City Fresh produce to the Urban Community School in Ohio City, where it is picked up by volunteers, is run on Veggie Oil.

LEAF Night

Probably the most visible vestige of LEAF’s ever growing presence in Lakewood is LEAF Night. Held every

Thursday in front of the Lakewood Public Library, it is a chance for shareholders to pick up their produce, buy more goods from vendors, or barter for their preferred veggie. Art and entertainment are also provided. On the most recent session, the two featured artists were musician Joe Landes and painter Kris Williams.

“This is my first time selling at LEAF,” said Williams, a half-share holder who specializes in painting big and little animals, although the favorite at her home are fat, round birds. “Everyone gets a turn.”

But the main event is the queue for fresh produce. “I like it,” said Danielle Masters, a shareholder who was at LEAF Night with her children. “The kids get good produce and they know it comes from a farm.”

There was everything locally grown from basil to dill to zucchini to squash to potatoes to bok choy just to name a few. Occasionally, there are berries, which seem to be a favorite.

“I love when there are berries,” said Masters.

“The berries last week were awesome,” said Williams of what she thinks were giant blackberries.

But not every vegetable is to everyone’s liking, which is why LEAF provides a Barter Table. “Whatever you get in your share, you can trade one for one,” said Amy Bennett, a LEAF Board member who was working at the Barter Table. “Some people kick it up a notch and bring in extra from their garden for community consumption. What can you do with [5 pounds of radish]?”

Bennett said she loves to work the Barter Table because she gets to talk to people and get all their recipes as they trade food.

“I’m going to write them down and publish them in the newsletter,” she said enthusiastically. “I almost wish I had a camera because they are so animated and passionate about their recipes.”

Expansion

Two of LEAF’s four main projects are still not fully realized.

“We tend to take on something new

continued on page 12...

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The Warren and Detroit intersection filled wi

On Saturday, Lakewood joined Cleveland in hosting a Walk + Roll event. After shutting down Detroit from Marlowe to Arthur, and Belle from Detroit to Lakewood Park, Lakewoodites were encouraged to walk, ride their bikes, or roller-skate through the streets.

In addition to the main goal of the event-to get to know the city better and to use a simpler, more efficient means of transportation-there were numerous activities and booths lining Detroit Avenue.

“We’re so happy this is happening in



The crowds have been steadily growing. Come early and bring a chair.



The Sinagra clan. Tony and Lucy brought the family down to Band2Gether. Both have done so much to bring art to the community. After introducing the first band, Tony turned to me and said, “All I want is one band to play some Fats Domino before the end of summer. Lakewood, and it’s art and music are so important to us, we were thrilled to kick off this music series.” Let’s not forget that it was Lucy Sinagra that started the Lakewood Arts Festival, and did so much work to grow the Beck Center into a regional gem. The Sinagra family stopped by on their way out of town to celebrate “Sister Annette Sinagra’s” Golden Jubilation, 50 years in the service of the church. Read about Sister Annette Sinagra on page 7.



Abby Boland thrills the crowd with her band “Little Known Fact.”

Walk And Roll In Lakewood

And Rolling In Lakewood



th people joining in Walk + Roll.

Lakewood,” said Thomas Mulready from CoolCleveland.com, one of the event’s supporters. “It’s so nice to see the streets alive with people.” Mulready added that Lakewood has many assets, including walking distance to the lake and restaurants and nightclubs.

“I’m just jazzed,” he said of the festivities.

While jazz was not featured, the activities included square-dancing, Pilates, soccer, and gymnastic, fencing, karate, and belly dancing exhibitions.

There were groups like the Luke-

mia and Lymphoma Society’s Team in Training, Mercy for Animals, and the Jordan Family Foundation that were giving out information, and sometimes prizes, to “walkers and rollers”. There was even a clown making balloon animals who had a line of “customers” as long as the cords on the humvee (which bikers managed to move at least a block).

Considering the heat, humidity, and chance of rain, the turnout was solid as Lakewoodites turned out to “celebrate a street that everyone wants to live on.”



Michael Gill of BikeLakewood heads up a group of seven bikers that were demonstrating green bike power pulling a HumVee a couple blocks. Good fun!



Who would of ever thought that recording artist and TV personality Sam Phillips would be sitting in the back with friends drumming away.



photo by Thalexa Becker



Director of LIA Ruthie Koenigsmark, with King of Cool Thomas Mulready (Cool Cleveland) and Ward 4 Councilwoman Mary Louis Madigan.



photo by Rhonda Loje

Lakewood Renaissance

A Tree Grows In Lakewood

continued from page 9...

each year,” said Lynn Rodemann, the head of Madison Gardens, LEAF Bulk Buying and a LEAF Board member. “Our goal next year is a giant industrial compost site, so we could turn it over and work with our gardens.”

Rodemann’s own Bulk Buying program is still being developed. For one of the LEAF Nights, she was able to secure one vendor who sold in bulk, and hopes she will be able to return.

“I am in hunt of vendors to come and sell flour and locally grown goods,” said Rodemann. The bulk vendor who did come had cornmeal, honey, oats, and split peas.

“She seemed pretty popular,” Rodemann commented who added that she is looking for people to come and sell winter items like dried fruits, cheese and milk.

The last leg of LEAF is titled Earth Building and is concerned with soil composting, water collection, and a healthy environment. While this part of the organization is still being defined, the reuse of materials is a major factor in its development.

“Now people are recognizing LEAF,” said Trapp. “It’s just making people aware of the ‘green’ movement and being mindful of how we’re doing things. With energy costs the way they are, we don’t want to be dependant on food coming



LEAF Night’s Barter Table, where you can exchange or donate produce.

from California or Chile. It’d be good to create energy resources out of waste.”

He continued to say that there is room for people with other ideas not necessarily related to food to hook up with LEAF as long as these ideas are at least loosely tied to sustainability.

“It’s better than going on your own,” said Trapp while dropping that some ideas he thought would be helpful were solar power and biodiesel fuel. “We need to be as close to the community as possible.”

“We have a lot of potential,” said Bennett about further growth of the program.

Impact

“We’re building a community,” said Dan Slife, the President of the LEAF Board. “We’re bringing people together for a healthy cause.”

In fact, most involved with LEAF will echo those same sentiments.

“I really enjoy meeting people at LEAF night,” said Rob Burgoyne, Vice President of the LEAF Board. “It’s a great celebration of food...we’re building this community in Lakewood around food.”

“Food brings people together,” added Bennett. “I’ve met people and fostered relationships with people who I wouldn’t normally have a relationship with.”

After just a few minutes at LEAF Night, it does become clear that people come not only for the food, but to see friends and socialize.

“I feel as if I’ve seen every face in my community,” said Rodemann. “It’s amazing how food can bring people out of their houses and turn it into a community event.”

“I personally know many more people in the community,” said Trapp. “It illuminates that there are a lot of people around who are concerned about the city and the environment... the more people the more power you have.”

But the biggest lesson, as Stahlheber put it, is how great, friendly, and helpful the community is. She’s seen other communities try to do this kind of program, and the results have not been as impressive.

“It’s really a miracle that this happened,” said Slife. “127 plots and four city gardens in one and a half months, that must be some sort of record.”

Lakewood Renaissance is a series of articles that focuses on the efforts of citizens and grass-roots organizations toward improving the community we live in. Each story will feature one of these organizations that has made a significant impact on Lakewood. If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions for future stories, please send them to lakewoodrenaissance@lakewoodobeserver.com.

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Lakewood Observer

Beer On The Sidewalk

by Mark Timieski

I've been having a conversation by email with Stan Siebert for some time now. Stan is a Professor of Economics at the Business School of Birmingham University, Great Britain. We've been discussing some of the economic problems that we see here in Lakewood and nearly identical problems that are occurring in his country. He's made a number of insightful observations, some which sound quite bizarre at first blush but rather logical after further study.

One of the things we discussed is how the once concentrated population of many cities both here and abroad has become spread out over large and still increasing areas. Often our local media will refer to this in terms of the shrinking city and inner ring suburbs against the growing outer ring suburbs. This line of reasoning is misleading, and rummaging through census data paints a different picture. In Northeast Ohio, the population for the area is not really growing or shrinking, just becoming diluted over a large area. While the general consensus is that this phenomenon is caused by the presence of the automobile, the notion that this is a major problem is not often discussed. Ideas for ameliorating or reversing the problem are even more rarely put forth.

The popular theory here is that when gas prices become sufficiently high, people will move back towards the central city. Stan debunks this notion, "I think that British cities are sprawling almost as much as in the US - the government here keeps putting in new interstates, and widening existing ones. There is even a plan to double the size of interstates all over the country!"

At the time of writing, gas prices here hover around \$4.00 a gallon, while the prices in Britain are over \$9.00 a gallon. Stan continues, "Gas prices are a weak disincentive to car use. As you say, gas prices in Britain are much higher than in the US, but we hardly notice."

While automobiles are a fact of life in Britain, continental Europe, and the United States, Stan notes that in a number of European countries, cities are actually doing very well despite the ubiquitous presence of automobiles. He draws a link between these strong cities and lax liquor laws. This appears to be an odd combination, but the trick in creating a strong city appears to have much to do with a welcoming environment for alcohol consumption.

The key is the presence of sidewalk cafés. The theory is that sidewalk cafés create a visible population, engaged in a social activity, making for an inter-

esting and safe place to be. In contrast, a ban on street cafés effectively transfers property rights to commuting cars, making places good to drive through but not to be in. Stan provides evidence showing that countries that permit street cafés tend to have less urban sprawl, attract more tourists, and have citizens who are less obese.

We discussed the sidewalk cafés that are now part of street life in New York City. Stan responds, "Like you, I have seen that NYC is exceptional in the US, in that there are sidewalk cafés, though with vestigial barriers to mark the beginning of "public" space. These cafés obviously make NYC safer." New York City boasts that it is now the safest big city in the United States.

Poking through Ohio law reveals that drinking on public space is forbidden. Only outdoor music festivals that last longer than three days seem to be exempt from this rule. While we may consider that our city is much like a music festival that lasts all year, there has been another route that cities have taken to allow sidewalk cafés. Part of the sidewalk becomes a private extension of the bar or restaurant, so that no alcohol container exists in the public place. Usually some sort of short, decorative fence provides a demarcation for the private area.

Cleveland is experimenting with the idea. Given the crowds that appear outside bars and restaurants along West 25th in Ohio City during the summer months, giving the area a rather jovial appeal, the experiment seems to be working.

A number of restaurants and bars here in Lakewood have attempted various methods to give their customers outside access, especially since the smoking ban has taken effect. This is certainly a cause for concern for people who live over or next to these establish-



ments, as they often deal with a late night eruption of intoxicated patrons leaving the closing establishment. Does opening up a bar or restaurant to the outside make noise and disruption a permanent installation to the neighborhood?

Stan thinks this is a real problem, and notes that our high drinking age has created a perception among some youths that intoxication is a sign of maturity. Stan continues, "British laws are even more restrictive than the US, because under-aged young people are not allowed into a bar even if they drink non-alcoholic drinks. They are not allowed, period. There is no way your children can be in a bar, which means that parents are driven out. The macho punch up is inevitable. In France, or Italy, on the other hand (where wine and beer are not classified as alcohol),

many bars cater especially for young people, who do not drink much in fact, but play pool and table football, etc - and amuse themselves nicely rather than roaming the streets."

Stan continues, "Actually, I have noticed that minors are at least allowed to be present in some bars in the US, so long as they do not drink alcohol. So families can go into these bars, which civilizes them."

While changing national drinking laws is a bit much to ask, the point to note is that the intent of promoting the sidewalk café is to promote the existence of society, not intoxication. The continental European countries have been able to maintain safe and pleasant cities with the help of lax liquor laws, but there are certainly other ways to work with, or around, existing laws to do the same.

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Pulse Of The City

Just Another Dog-Goned Column...

by Gary Rice

When I was a Political Science major in college, there were frequent discussions about the world of politics generally, and running for office, particularly. I seem to recall that there were at least two topics virtually guaranteed to be off-limits (if handled in a negative way) for anyone wanting to get elected to any kind of office. One was cats, and the other was dogs.

Let's face it. The topic of one's pet can be a very personal issue for each of us. Pets become an integral part of our families. They touch our lives in ways that simply cannot be measured in quantifiable terms. They provide for us a sublime connection to other kinds of lives, and by extension, to the greater world beyond.

No matter what the animal, I've seen love at work in every pet I've owned. My own parrots express this every day to me, as did my dogs, cats, gerbils, and all the other animal friends that I've made along the way. There's even a certain squirrel that has me very well-trained...but that's another story.

I've been following the controversial proposal about banning so-called pit bulls in Lakewood with great interest. There was also a question raised about whether or not dogs should be allowed into city parks (they are not, currently). At the time this column was written, there had been an incredible nine thousand plus views and over one hundred and seventy contributions to a particular Lakewood Observer online Observation Deck discussion regarding pit-bulls and the issue of so-called dangerous dog breeds. Obviously, people feel passionately about their dogs, as do those having the point of view that dangerous dogs (whatever that might mean) need greater regulation, if not banning in our city.

Since I was born a country boy, I've been around dogs since before I could talk or walk. Although we haven't had one in many years, I certainly like dogs as a general rule. (Although I'll be the first to admit that one should not assume that all dogs are friendly.)

Thinking that I might write a col-



umn about the Lakewood dog story, there was only one thing for me to do, and that was to go to Lakewood's dog park. For those of you who haven't been there, it's a large, gravel-paved and fenced-in exercise area, next to Lakewood's waste-water treatment facility in the Metroparks near the Detroit entrance to the valley.

You might recall there was an issue awhile back with a complaint from some people in Rocky River about that park. Well, the park's still there, and is very well utilized. You really ought to see it...or better yet, actually go inside the compound! Dad and I went down there recently on a Sunday afternoon. We entered the double gate and found a bench to sit on. At the time we were there, I would guess there were thirty or forty dogs running around freely, enjoying each other's company while their proud owners looked on and supervised. Any doo-doo issues were quickly managed by their respective owners. Barking issues were minimal.

Now I will admit that I was extremely reluctant to go into that compound with all those free-ranging dogs. (The things I go through, just to get a story for you...) All, however, seemed to have a far greater interest in each other than in me (with the particular exception of a Jack Russell terrier, who insisted upon leaping into my lap and licking my face!). Some of the big-boy doggies, by the way, started to bother that Jack Russell and found out very quickly that he was not one to be

messed with!

I was particularly interested in the behavior of any dogs having the characteristics of pit-bulls, or any other of the so-called dangerous dog types that some people were talking about. Interestingly enough (as far as I've been able to figure out), there is no official "pit-bull breed," and that's been one of the problems with trying to legislate these animals off the streets. Historically, pit bull-type dogs seem to have been mixed-breed animals, having larger heads and stocky, muscular bodies. Commonly, these dogs were some mix of bulldog and terrier. Their bad political aspect seems to have come from the historic development and use of these animals in dog-fighting rings. Although dog fighting is illegal in our country, it is still unfortunately practiced every now and then. Ironically, while these types of dogs can sometimes be hostile to other dogs, they are said to be often quite accepting with humans and supposedly can make affectionate pets (according to a variety of sources--although I would quickly add, in my opinion, that NO animal should be allowed unsupervised interaction with young children).

There were a number of those types of dogs running with the others on that Sunday afternoon at the dog park. Along with these were numerous other dogs, some of whom would no doubt fit into other categories that some politicians might like to ban. Yes, I did indeed have a small case of the jitters at first, as

these beasts freely romped around our bench. (The dogs seemed to LOVE our bench!) As time went on, however, I felt to be truly among friends. Those dogs, all of them, were far more alike than different. The little ones would chase the big ones, and then the game would reverse. Friendships were made and broken by each dog. When it seemed as if some kind of trouble might be starting for a particular dog, they would find refuge: sometimes with their owners, and sometimes under our own bench! We stayed at the park for about an hour, utterly fascinated by the many new friends we had made and by their behaviors. We've also been back there a few more times as, frankly, it's fun to see all those doggies interact with each other.

Well, I'm still not sure about letting dogs into Lakewood's municipal parks. Dogs are, after all, only as well-trained as their owners will train them, and let's face it, some owners are more responsible than others about training and managing their dogs--or with picking up after them. (Even in my front yard, I will occasionally find an unpleasant reminder of some owner's lack of responsibility.) Once in awhile, too, I've seen people around town running their animals without a leash, and I think that's a really bad idea. If the dog sees another dog, squirrel, cat, or whatever, a chase is more than possible, and a potentially tragic result that is certainly avoidable.

On the other hand, I see the banning of so-called "breeds" in Lakewood to be a really bad idea too. The dogs that Dad and I saw at the dog park were, after all, dogs. They behaved like dogs do, until their owners reminded them who ruled the roost. I would think that if a particular dog does something bad, then that's a particular issue to be dealt with at that time. While different dogs have been bred over the years for different purposes, the fact remains that a well-trained animal will generally do as its owner directs it to. It is certainly the responsibility of the owner to keep their dog safely under control. As was pointed out on the online discussion, owners also need to check with their insurance companies about owning certain dogs, as liability coverage issues can arise. As a further observation, some of the dogs at the dog park wore muzzles, reflecting understandable precautions by their respective owners.

In the pulse of this city, I think that we need to learn to accept each individual--human or animal--on their own terms. I feel that to do otherwise would be to categorize a group of living beings based on utterly subjective political norms. It seems to me that far too many tragedies have transpired in the past due to human prejudice. Let's not start pre-judging a group of animals. We really should know better by now.

At least, that's my opinion, and that's the doggoned truth. (Now, where was that flea powder?)

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Lakewood Perspective

Defining Principles

by Bret Callentine

Maybe it's a good thing that the Olympic games are starting soon. Even if they are held on the other side of the world, I think it's as good a time as any to remind this nation of the spectacular feats of strength, speed, and sport that can be accomplished when talent is combined with hard work and perseverance. But more than just being a welcome distraction for sports fans, I'm hoping that the entire nation takes note of these individual stories of trial and success.

While I don't know who will win medals this August, I can tell you fairly confidently that those who do will all share at least one thing in common: They have all faced times in their lives when they dealt with the hardship of putting their long-term goals ahead of short-term gain. They all accepted the absolute need for sacrifice while facing only an uncertain probability of success.

That's why the athletes who participate in this Summer Olympics are to be cherished, not because they run faster, jump higher, or throw further, but because they prove the value of strength in character that enables strength in competition. It's a lesson that we all need to learn in our own daily lives, whether or not we ever pick up a javelin or strap on a pair of cleats.

In my opinion, it's this lesson that is often escaping a growing percentage of the American population. With the individual struggles that flourish in an unstable economy, now is a time to hold fast to the values that made this nation great. Hard times call for a strengthened resolve and a passion to persevere. I'm not suggesting that we all don't need a helping hand once in a while, or that the government can't take an active role in assisting its citizens in need. But, what determines whether or not the ideals of social assistance will work is not how programs are established or how much money is allocated. What matters most is each person's definition of the words "can't" and "won't".

I have no problem with helping a person who CAN'T do it on their own, but it gets a little more complicated when we're talking about mandatory assistance for those who simply WON'T do it on their own; because it's difficult, because they might have to take a longer road to success, or because they might have to work harder, overcome more obstacles, or fight unfair prejudices or policies.

My concern is that the politicians who currently inhabit most of Washington seem to allow any given circumstance to qualify as a valid reason to quit. And it's teaching people the

wrong thing. If things aren't equal, you don't stop fighting; you fight harder. If the game is not to your advantage, find a way to win anyway; don't just sit and wait for someone to change the rules.

Kids today aren't even allowed to play certain games at school because parents are worried about the implications of any possible failure. Well, I'm here to tell you that when I was a kid, we played dodgeball, we played tag, and we even played a game called "smear the queer". I was small, I wasn't that strong, and yes, I was constantly picked last. And you know what? I lost more often than I won. But I picked myself up again and again, and eventually persevered. And those lessons stay with me to this day.

With gas prices skyrocketing and the rest of our utility bills sure to follow suit, it's an unfortunate reality that we as a nation will face an increasing

number of needy and underprivileged families. But while a government check might sound simple and straightforward, it doesn't necessarily provide the best method of assistance. As the proverb says, give a man a fish and he eats for a day, but teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime. But what's lost in that lesson is that the man has to WANT to fish, has to want to learn the trade, has to want the opportunity to work hard and bring in the catch.

And that desire isn't something that can be given. It has to be learned on its own. It has to come from the heart of a person who realizes that failure is not a final destination, but a necessary risk toward eventual achievement. And that is why I cringe when I hear politicians offering broad sweeping handouts or revolutionary new welfare programs that do nothing to assure that the effort will be put forth.

With the cost of living soaring and the average income failing to keep pace, we will all face challenges and choices. The true cost of convenience will have to be evaluated by every individual and the price of short term luxury will have to be weighed against the need for long-term security. Just as an athlete must overcome mental boundaries and physical limitations, we will all likely face new hurdles.

But, I'm hoping that the competitive nature in all of us will pull through. I'm hoping that a new American teamwork will prevail. I hope that those who can will help those who can't, and that those who wouldn't before will now make an attempt. And this August, I hope to see those who fought hard rewarded, if not with a medal, then at least with the admiration of all of us who recognize the importance of the will to try.

Letter To The Editor

PD's Steve Kaufman Spins A Double-Bind

by Bill Call

Steven Kaufman's recent article (<http://www.cleveland.com/plaindealer/stories/index.ssf?/base/opinion/121334585985950.xml&coll=2>) in the Plain Dealer suggested changes in the structure of County government. He touted those changes as the solution to the County's economic problems.

The economic decline of the County is blamed (in part) on corruption and the lack of transparency under the current system. As you might expect, Mr. Kaufman names no names, lists no specific projects, and details no dollar amounts. Who is corrupt? What projects spent money in a questionable fashion? Don't ask. The County's decline is attributed to some mysterious "they".

They are corrupt, they are incompetent, they are unresponsive, they are "aimless" and "insular". Who are "they"? Is it Jimmy Dimora? Tim Hagan? Peter Lawson Jones? Some other mysterious cabal of secretive government operatives who conspire against the County? Apparently it is impolite even to ask the question.

Half-way through the article, Mr. Kaufman reveals his true agenda. The declining economy in Cuyahoga County is blamed on County Gov-

ernment. The solution? Eliminate 57 separate municipal governments and replace them with one larger, more powerful County government. Apparently the incompetence and corruption endemic to County government are caused by all those "other" levels of government.

Who is to lead this new order? Who are the stakeholders? Who gets a seat at the table? According to Mr. Kaufman, they are the "minority groups, business and civic organizations, labor unions, political parties, public officials, the media, civic foundations, and [my personal favorite] neighborhood groups".


Wonderful. The new order will be led by groups dependent upon government for their survival, groups with their own vested interests. Groups populated by the kind of people who never want the meeting to end. Apparently the decline of the County is caused by too little power exercised by tax-free foundations, tax-free civic organiza-

tions, tax-free labor unions and tax-free neighborhood groups.

Who is missing from the leadership list of the new order? You and me, the people who pay the taxes, support the families, build the businesses and sustain our "57 separate" communities. Under the new order, our job will be to surrender sovereignty, surrender tax dollars, surrender development decisions, surrender schools, and surrender our communities to the "stakeholders". We provide the money; the stakeholders decide how to spend it. It is the new order in action.

Here is a novel idea. If the decline of Cuyahoga County can be laid at the feet of an incompetent, corrupt, and bloated County bureaucracy, why not first try competence, honesty, and efficiency in County government? First show us that you can run the current County bureaucracy before you ask us to let you run our schools, police departments, and communities.

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Letters To The Editor

Modern Suburban Toxicity Sickens Lakewoodite

by Dr. Chuck Greanoff

Have you ever noticed how the most inspiring moments can sometimes become nightmares?

I re-learned this “Raiders of the Lost Arc” lesson the hard way recently on a trip to the Sandy Ridge Reservation, a Lorain County Metro-Park, advertised to feature a bird-rich wetland with heron, geese, woodpeckers, swan etc. Well, the park didn’t disappoint: my sister and I saw all that and more, including two beautiful Baltimore orioles and some egrets. But just when I felt at peace—connected to the majesty of the natural world—one wrong turn transformed my ornithological bliss into a horror show.

I literally turned the wrong way onto Otten Road and immediately found myself in the middle of a terrifying neighborhood, one that left me feeling smothered, depressed and scared. I was smack in the middle of hell: modern suburbia, or Anywhere, USA.

At first, my symptoms were mild: I felt slightly disoriented (I couldn’t see any trees higher than 4 feet—where was I?) and a tad nauseous. I became feverous soon thereafter; as I was pummeled repeatedly by images of big, aggressive attached garages, blistering, shiny concrete, and the lack of any direct signs of

human life, save a few plastic back-yard swing sets and a couple walking a pair of small pure bred dogs (West-Highland White Terriers).

The neighborhood presented a barren homogeneity that almost choked the life out of an unsuspecting intruder like me. No stores, restaurants or any commercial activity nearby. Just an unrelenting redundancy of assembly-line houses. They say that in prison, every day is the same—and, yes, I was beginning to feel like I was at Shawshank. Finally, my survival instincts kicked in—realizing there was no barbed wire or armed guards, I managed to turn the car around and head back for Route 254 (Detroit Avenue). But I wasn’t “out of the woods” yet.

My sister needed art supplies, so we headed for “Avon Commons”, a lovely sounding place that calls up images of town greens—an open air, grassy meeting place for citizens: the center of the community. Maybe there would even be some music. But instead of being soothed by music and grass, I was assaulted by Muzac and concrete. My symptoms returned with a vengeance.

Disoriented and a tad delusional, I staggered into the nearest store in search of someone who might actually own the business, a sign of something “home grown.” But I was still in Any-

where, USA. I was met with odd stares when I ask if Mr. or Mrs. “Old Navy” was available, or if I could have a word with the owner of Home Depot. Fortunately, my stay in the “Commons” was brief, and I returned to normal quickly. I later learned that the combination of over-exposure to box chain stores and/or emersion in a vapid modern suburban neighborhood can lead to an illness know as “Durable, Unremitting Preference for Everything-the-Same** Disorder” (Duped). (**“Everything” refers to people, income levels, architecture, stores, etc.)

My exposure was brief, but I sought out a specialist to make sure I would know what to do if I was ever exposed to this suburban toxin again. This specialist is a new type of health care professional known as a Community Perspective Restorer (CPR). He offered the following specialized, fast-acting anti-venom for a Lakewoodite like me: Stand in front of Geiger’s and The Melt for ten minutes, absorbing the local flavor of each. Talk to someone who actually owns a business. Walk down a tree lined street, say Belle or Arthur. As you absorb the uniqueness of the houses, the suburban toxins will begin to dissipate. Have dinner in a local restaurant (i.e., Waterbury Coach House, West-End Tavern, Players, etc.), one that cannot be found at any on the contrived faux communities like Crocker Park or the ironically named “Legacy” Village.

Of course, we all know that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, so I asked my CPR what could be done to inoculate friends and family from getting DUPED. After all, getting DUPED could not be good for the individual or Lakewood, that has an interest in retaining its citizens. What could be done?

He had several suggestions:

Spend lots of time on the front porch. The more time one spends on front porches, the more connected one becomes to the community. For kids, consider a “scared straight” intervention. A week or two in one of our local “Pleasantville’s” can help build an immunity from DUPED. Spend at least some vacation time/dollars at National Parks and/or historic sites. Avoid over exposure to Disney-World type places. Avoid over-exposure to Anywhere, USA restaurants where servers are overly scripted. i.e., “Can I start you out with...” or “Did you save room for dessert today?” Such scripting helps build preferences for all things prefabricated. Walk or ride your bike to stores, restaurants, parks, etc.

Regular exposure to the “Urban Blend”—the magical mixture of indigenious businesses, big trees that date everyone in town, unique homes and yes, a few chain stores—are the best hedge against contracting DUPED. In the end, it is up to all of us to make our town as safe and clean as possible (we lose site of these fundamentals at our peril) while promoting and enhancing the vitality and energy that makes our place so special.

Frankly, those of us that love our community need to be more committed, more assertive, and more creative than we have been in the past. Creative, cool, safe, fun, edgy, sounds a bit like the LHS rock orchestra “The Lakewood Project”. But this is the foundation of our “brand.” We need to make sure that fewer people get DUPED. Our menu will keep changing. Cleveland Magazine will never rate Lakewood as a top suburb. We can never offer the sometimes comforting banality of Anywhere, USA.

Thank goodness.

Long Live Lakewood.

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“I Should Have Moved Here Sooner!”
– Marian Siddall, 1-Year Resident

My apartment here is large and bright. I am happy living at Lakewood Senior Health Campus with good friends who, like me, enjoy being active enjoy being active. We have so many activities and outings to participate in that I have to do my laundry on Sunday.

If you need assistance, the staff are all kind and caring people. I encourage my friends to come and enjoy living at Lakewood Senior Health Campus. I should have moved here sooner!



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Lakewood Arts & Entertainment

Local Music Lovin' On Clifton Boulevard

by Emilee Brightman

14613 Clifton isn't your typical punk house full of college-aged kids putting on shows. Nope, it's a much nicer version, one parents wouldn't mind sending their kids to. Since April of 2007, four boys have lived there, three of which are members of the locally based bands The Sidekicks and Asinine.

Matt Climer, Kenny Dix, Scott Waslik and Kevin Auger are the young men who occupy the Soggy Dog house. Yes, the Soggy Dog house. The name derives from Augers, whose bad moods earned him the nickname Soggy, and the phrase just grew from there. In fact, inside of the house the entire left wall of the living room area is devoted to poster boards full of stickers. Each boy's name is written on the chart and whichever person is in the worst mood that day gets a sticker; the person with the most stickers wins "Soggiest Dog" at the end of the month. But just because these boys play a game based on their bad moods, doesn't mean they are stereotypically angry, loud, "I-don't-care-about-anything" punks. Actually, these boys are just the opposite: as friendly as can be, and so respectful your grandma would love them. In fact, their neighbors even approve, and those neighbors happen to be an elderly couple, their landlord, and a preacher with a wife and child.

All of the boys hail from the greater Cleveland area, and are currently or planning on attending local colleges. The Sidekicks and Asinine originally met at the Phantasy in Lakewood, and upon becoming better friends decided that this would be the ideal place to live. The boys warned the neighbors upon moving in that they were planning on playing music, and have been upstanding boys-next-door ever since. The Soggy Dog house is so respectful that the shows have a start time of 6 pm and an end time of 9 pm. "Well...an absolute, must be over time of 10pm," laughs Matt Climer, an occupant of the house and the drummer for The Sidekicks. "We set the ground rules ourselves- early shows, and no drinking, either. We definitely don't want a bunch of people to be doing anything that could get us or them in trouble."

Climer acknowledges the fact that another reason there is a no drinking rule at the house is because of the growing amount of high school kids hanging around the Soggy Dog- more and more, new faces are showing up. Climer thinks that new faces are always good things, though. Sure, the regulars will always be around, the kids that have been going to shows since they could convince a parent to drive them to one; but now a new generation of fifteen-year-old local band groupies has emerged. The Soggy Doghouse isn't only a place for the kids who can only get as far as there bike will take them, either. It might go down in Cleveland punk scene history. Recently a documentary being shot as the final project of a Cleveland

State University film student focused on the Cleveland local punk music scene shot a show at the house, with The Sidekicks and Asinine playing.

Upkeep of the Soggy Dog house doesn't require much, just the mutual understanding between the boys of the house and those who come to the shows that it's better for everyone if there isn't trash everywhere. There are buckets outside for cigarettes and such, and Climer always picks up remaining lawn litter in the morning. As for who mows the lawn, the boys get lucky- their landlord usually does! "This house is treated as something almost

sacred," Climer admits. There aren't many other places where the parents will check inside to see what their kids will be up to for the night, and get an enthusiastic and reassuring response.

Kevin Zieber, drummer for No Target Audience, a band that has played several times at the house thinks it is "nicer to play there, because it is free. So you feel like the people that you are playing for really care about you as a band, and as a friend even. This is a good place to play if you want to be treated like a person, not just money."

That's what the Soggy Dog house is really all about in the end. Music.

"Punk houses are usually thought of as just big party places, dirty. But we focus on the music and the people," admonishes Climer. In fact, when parents do come to check it out before they leave their kids in the basement for a couple hours of folk-punk sing-a-longs, they seem relieved to find it's not just a bunch of cliché college kid; but rather some good people, just trying to have fun without causing problems or emptying the oh-so-limited wallets of local teens. The four boys plan to stay in the house... "Well, until we get sick of each other," Climer says through a smile.

Embracing His Birthright As An Artist

by Diane Helbig

It's not often that successful contemporary art gallery directors or curators who have academic training in art history, and none in studio art, leave their profession to later return as practicing artists. However, that's exactly what Tom Kochheiser did.

With academic training in art history, a BA and MA from Ohio State and Oberlin College respectively, and no formal studio art training, everything Tom has learned about making art he has figured out on his own. And the result is outstanding.

Professionally, Tom has worked as a university art gallery director, a lecturer in art history, and a contemporary art museum curator. He left the professional art world in the mid '90s to become a stay-at-home dad. Tom then home-schooled his children for 6 years. About four years ago, after Tom's children enrolled in the Lakewood School system, he began to concentrate on developing a signature style of abstract drawing. He drew every day - a feat many artists struggle with. Last year he transitioned to painting and has produced a large body of watercolor works.

Tom's art is a visual interpretation of how he views the fundamental energy that underlies the material world. Through pencil and watercolor he transforms chaos into beauty. His paint-

ings lately have involved scientific themes such as astronomy, quantum physics, biological reproduction, and evolution. His painting for the Lakewood Hospital's Starry Night Fundraiser is Tom's attempt to capture the energy in Van Gogh's painting by applying his style of watercolor painting to Van Gogh's composition. He produced a fragmented and stained glass-like artwork that breaks down Van Gogh's composition and reassembles it according to his own vision. Remember to look for it when you attend the fundraiser on August 1st.

Tom also has five large scale watercolors hanging at Porcelli's Bistro in downtown Cleveland. According to Tom it's provided him with a great opportunity to showcase his work where it is



Starry Night

seen by hundreds of restaurant patrons.

Tom is currently exploring other venues to display his work. To learn more about Tom's work or to commission a piece you can visit his website at <http://tomkochheiser.wordpress.com> or call him at 216-221-4725.

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Conservation Corner

Keeping Cool

by Heather Ramsey

Regardless of your views on global warming/global climate change, there is no denying that the last few summers have been among the hottest of the last 150 years. The heat waves of 2003 claimed thousands of lives in Europe and heat waves in 1995, 1999, and 2006 each killed several hundred here in the US. Unfortunately, for the energy conscious, one major response to the heat consumes great quantities of energy in the process.

Though air conditioners are more efficient than they used to be, they still use ozone-damaging flurocarbons

and constitute up to half of a typical US household's summer energy bills. Air conditioning can aggravate health conditions such as arthritis and sinus problems, and the body becomes stressed when moving between the temperature extremes created by air conditioned interiors and hot summer exteriors. Additionally, making the body accustomed to artificial cooling can result in a weakened natural ability to cope with high temperatures.

If you already have an air conditioner, clean the filter (or replace it) regularly to improve air flow. If you are

looking into purchasing one, be sure to look for an Energy Star approved model. Models with Energy Star approval use at least 10% less energy than their less efficient counterparts and save you money over the life of the machine. Check out the Room Air Conditioner section of Energy Star's webpage for more detailed analysis of what's available (http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=roomac.pr_room_ac).

If your thermostat is involved in both heating and cooling your home, try setting it to 78 degrees, and get a programmable thermostat. If programmed well, you'll conserve energy

and money by only cooling your house when you are at home and awake. Annual savings with a programmable thermostat for both heating and cooling can be around \$180. Other energy-saving household improvements include insulating your roof and installing an attic vent or fan. If you are planning any landscape changes on your property, consider utilizing plants that will shade your house in the summer.

When it is hot outside, be sure that your home is well-sealed to prevent the hot air from entering and your cooler air from leaving. Draw the drapes or shades to keep out the sun (or utilize awnings, which are more effective because they stop the sun's rays before they hit, and consequently warm, the windows). When it gets cooler in the evenings, open the windows and/or doors to draw in the cooler air, then re-seal everything in the morning before it gets too hot out

Inside your home, make use of ceiling fans, either instead of air conditioning, or to supplement it - ceiling fans use up to 90% less energy than air conditioners and make a room feel 7-10 degrees cooler. Turn off any unnecessary, but heat-producing appliances or electronics, like computers or the drying cycle on a dishwasher. When they are on, keep them away from the thermostat so it does not misread the temperature and work harder to cool the room. If you have incandescent lightbulbs, consider making the switch to compact fluorescents (CFLs). Incandescent bulbs use energy very inefficiently, emitting 90% of it as heat rather than light; CFLs will reduce this heat creation while using less energy

To keep yourself cool, wear loose, light colored clothing and drink lots of water. Put cool water on your pulse points (wrists, elbows, backs of knees, neck) or wear a damp bandanna. Also, eat small, light meals rather than heavy ones (your body heats up when working hard to digest them). When cooking, opt for the range, a microwave, or a toaster oven rather than turning on the oven.

And, beware the symptoms of heat illness: nausea; vomiting; fatigue; weakness; headache; muscle cramps; dizziness; cool, moist skin; fast, weak pulse; and fast, shallow breathing.

Realty Reality- Q & A

by Maggie Fraley

"What's an energy audit?"

With so much attention focused on "being green", energy audits are becoming more common. They're a good way to know how to reduce our carbon footprint and simultaneously save money in monthly utility bills. The audits take 2-3 hours and are conducted by independent, professional, and certified third-party companies for the purposes of identifying and remedying major energy leaks in houses. Contact your utility company or

realtor for more details.

Although older homes are typically less efficient than newer homes, they certainly can be improved. Surprisingly, according to Realtor.com, the biggest loss of energy doesn't come from drafty windows and doors, but from construction shortcuts such as the absence of building wrap around joists between floors and walls, and improper insulation in attics, basements and crawl spaces, which can affect houses of any age.

Energy auditors usually focus on improvements that will provide the greatest efficiency at a reasonable cost. Spending a few thousand dollars makes sense, if it will pay for itself in a few years, and it might even increase the value of your home, as our communities become more green conscious. If you are a homeowner and if you want to reduce your energy bills and help the environment, or if you are selling your home and looking for ways to make it more appealing, then an independent energy audit might be a practical plan to look into.

Also, homebuyers looking in our charming community of Lakewood might find it helpful to consider updating an older "home of their dreams" to be more affordable in the long-term. For example, I recently attended a meeting where I learned that National City Bank has a Green Mortgage Program that offers an energy audit and, based on its results, allows a homebuyer to finance energy efficiency improvements for up to 5% of the home purchase price. (Of course, check with a lender for specific details about your individual circumstances and always compare your options.)

But no matter what your circumstances are, an energy audit is a sign of the times – a contemporary service that's an effective and objective way to determine the best way to be more green and to save money at the same time.

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Real Estate

Consider Choices When Buying & Selling A House At The Same Time

by Kathy Lewis

Life changes, families change, and housing requirements change -- and so, folks move on. But what if you have a house to sell while trying to purchase your next home? Consider the following options, as you think through a plan.

You may decide to put your house on the market before you've found your next house or while you are searching for it. If you receive an offer on your home before you find a house to buy, you can agree to a contract, but you'll need a backup living situation if the buyer takes possession prior to your ability to get into your next home. Do Mom & Dad have room for you and the kids? Perhaps you can arrange to rent back from the new owner. Another option would be to agree to a contract with your buyer subject to locating a home of your choice and securing an acceptable purchase agreement on a specific property within a specified time frame. Most buyers, however, are probably not likely to want to risk losing your house to this condition.

If your house is on the market and you find a home you wish to purchase before you have a purchase agreement on your home, you may write an offer on the home you wish to purchase and use existing or borrowed funds to complete the purchase. These options are subject to your lender's terms and approval. Funds could come from savings, a bridge

loan, a home equity line of credit, other borrowed funds, and/or gift money.

You may write an offer on the home you wish to purchase with a concurrency addendum. This means you are offering to purchase the new home when yours sells, but you are not asking the seller of the home you want to buy to take theirs off the market until yours sells. If the concurrency is accepted, and your home sells before the home you want to purchase sells to another party, your offer becomes a contract. If the concurrency is accepted, and the home you wish to purchase receives an offer from another buyer that is accepted by the seller, your offer becomes null and void.

You may write an offer on the home you wish to purchase with a house-sale contingency -- a condition that you sell your house before having to contract to purchase the home you want to buy. Most sellers will not take their house off the market while they wait for your house to sell. Some sellers might consider a house-sale contingency if you put a time-frame on the contingency after which you will proceed with the purchase of the house whether yours is sold or not.

A real estate agent can help you work through these choices to help you decide which is the best one for you. Your mortgage lender needs to be involved as well. Weigh the pros and cons and decide how to make your next move. It's tricky -- but with the help of professionals it can go quite smoothly!

Farmer Profits From Real Estate Ventures

by Val Mechenbier

Henry Beach arrived in East Rockport in 1864. Fruit farming was well underway in the township, so Henry began to grow fruit trees on his 28 acres near Beach and Detroit Avenues. Toward the end of the 19th century, residents of Cleveland began looking west for places to build new homes. Beach quickly discovered that he could

make even more money by dividing his farmland into housing lots and selling them to buyers from the city. Unlike other Rockport residents who were subdividing and selling parcels of land, Beach also constructed buildings on his lots, such as the ten-unit Beach Terrace. One of the first row houses built in Lakewood, Beach Terrace still stands at the northwest corner of Beach and Detroit.

Lakewood Real Estate Information		
(According to Multiple Listing Service)		
by Andy Tabor,,Realtor, GRI-Prudential Lucien		
June	2007	2008
Multi-Family (2-4 units) Closed	4	12
Multi-Family Pending (Under Contract)	13	
Interesting Real Estate Information		
Lakewood Multi-Family Homes (2-4 units) Currently for Sale in Multiple Listing Service:		147
Contingent in Multiple Listing Service:		4

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Other Items: 1973 Thompson 18' tri-hull fiberglass speed boat w. Evinrude 85hp outboard motor on ShoreLine s/a trailer Admiral refrigerator; dehumidifier; tiki torches; snow skis; (2) wheel barrows; garden tools; chain saw; car ramps; ping pong table; Yard Machines 10hp lawn mower; alum. ext. ladder; Sno-Flite 24" snow blower; 8ft s/a trailer; yard tools; hand tools; and more!

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