

THE
LAKEWOOD
OBSERVER

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

Volume 4, Issue 19, September 16, 2008

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Hurricane Ike Slams Into Lakewood



What was left of Hurricane Ike arrived in Lakewood 7/14/08 with a furry that saw trees and power lines down all over the city. Above left: Lakewood Firefighters risk life and limb clearing a tree in the middle of the storm. Above: A large tree fell on cars and power lines on Westlake and Clifton Blvd. As we went to press, over 100 homes were still without power. **More photos online at <http://lakewoodobserver.com>**

Six LHS Students Named National Merit Semifinalists

by Thealexa Becker

This year six Lakewood High School seniors welcomed some good news to start off the school year. In the official announcement released on September 10, the National Merit Program named these six students as National Merit semifinalists.

Thealexa Becker, Matthew Huffman, Rebecca McKinsey, Peter Malonis, Chris Murrett, and Danny Pizzo were named as six of the 16,000 Semifinalists based on their exceptional performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Qualifying Test (PSAT) last fall. They now have to complete an extensive application in order to become one of the 15,000 National Merit Finalists. Of those students, 8,200 Merit Scholarship winners will be selected based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments.

Later this month, the Commended Scholars will be announced as well. These scholars are students who also performed well on the PSAT, but will not move on to qualify for National Merit Scholar status.

“This is an honor for [the students],” said Kathy Baylog, Lakewood High School’s gifted coordinator. She emphasized that the number of National Merit Semifinalists that LHS has this year is not a reflection of the school’s quality, but one of the quality of the students and their accomplishments. “I think it is a wonderful thing for the students

to be recognized on a national level. We are proud to have them at LHS.”

In fact, this is first time in at least four years that Lakewood High School has been home to six National Merit Semifinalists.

The National Merit Program chooses its top scholars from over 1.5 million high school students who take the PSAT in October of their junior year. From those entrants, 50,000 high scorers are separated into 34,000 Commended Scholars and 16,000 Semifinalists.

At LHS, students are given the opportunity to take the PSAT as sophomores to get a feel for the test. Then they have a year to try to improve their score by looking at their test and answers or using review materials. Students are encouraged to take the PSAT because National Merit awards money to students for college.

As for this year’s National Merit Semifinalists, while they are all college bound, they aren’t sure where they are going, but have an idea of what they would like to study. Murrett and Huffman expressed interest in Engineering. Similarly, Pizzo is thinking about studying Industrial Design and Malonis wants to study either Economics or Biochemistry. McKinsey is hoping to double major in Journalism and Spanish.

The selection of National Merit Finalists will be announced in February with a subsequent announcement of the Scholarship winners in April.

Lakewood Shone Brightly for House Tour

by Melissa Page

If you were among the 1500 people touring last Sunday’s biennial “Come Home To Lakewood” House Tour, you experienced a perfect September Sunday afternoon while taking in a fine selection of Lakewood’s architectural beauty. Although the following are typical to Lakewood homes, I enjoyed seeing so many of them in one afternoon: slate roofs, brick, colorful wood siding, stone, and pillars; inviting

porches and verandas amidst flower beds and trees young and old; wood doors and tiled vestibules; leaded, beveled, and stained glass; wood trim, crown molding, parquet, oak and walnut floors; the craftsmanship of built-in cabinets and fireplace mantels; ornate hardware, etched-glass light fixtures and crystal chandeliers; private back patio spaces in a natural setting.

Much of the homes’ original details are still in place. In cases where modifications were made, they were done so tastefully. **continued on page 17**



A splendid day for a splendid tour of some splendid homes in Lakewood.

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Events & Notices

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

Baby Bargain Bonanza Brings Broad Benefits To Community

by Delaney Gilliland

Lakewood Early Childhood PTA will hold the Baby Bargain Bonanza sale at a new location, Harding Middle School (16601 Madison Avenue) on October 4, 2008. Doors will open at 9am and the sale will continue until 1pm. This sale promises to be bigger

and better than ever. The new location will allow for 50% more sale tables in comparison to previous years.

Shoppers won't want to miss this opportunity to purchase gently used items for baby and youth, as well as the mother-to-be, at great prices. The sale will include clothing and accessories for babies and children up to size 14/16,

toys, baby/youth furniture, maternity clothing and more. Plus, don't miss the bake sale including items from Panera Bread, Hungry Howie's Pizza and Caribou Coffee, which promise to fulfill almost any craving.

Admission to the sale is \$5.00 from 9:00am - 10:00am and only \$1.00 from 10:00am - 1:00pm. All

proceeds will support programs of the Lakewood Early Childhood PTA. As always, sellers will be given the option to donate items left at the closing of the sale.

Lakewood's Burmese Refugee Community will arrive at the close of the sale to browse the items and take home anything available free of charge. The remaining items will be taken to Cleveland's Positive Education Program (PEP). This program helps troubled and troubling children and youth successfully learn and grow through the Re-ED approach, blending quality education and mental health services in partnership with families, schools, and communities.

The Lakewood Early Childhood PTA is part of the local, state and national PTA. It is not affiliated with any one school; but instead, strives to promote the welfare of children and families community-wide.

A Celebration Of Arts, Communication And Education At Beck Center

by Fran Storch

On Thursday, September 18, 2008, the West Shore School Districts - Lakewood, Bay Village, Rocky River, and Westlake - and the Beck Center for the Arts will come together to celebrate arts and communication education and unveil the Arts & Communication Technology Program, a new program of the West Shore Career and Technical School District. The evening will include all four West Shore school districts and an impressive list of partnering organizations, colleges, universities, and media sharing the many arts opportunities that will comprise the program.

At a time when many school districts across this state and nation

are reducing or eliminating arts and communications programs, the school districts on the West Shore continue their strong tradition in both program areas.

In addition, for more than 75 years, the Beck Center for the Arts has been dedicated to providing accessible, high quality arts focusing on theater, gallery exhibitions, and comprehensive arts education. The evening's festivities begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. Guests are invited to socialize in the Daniels Lounge prior to a formal program on the Mackey Main Stage from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. followed by a dessert reception. The Keynote Speaker for the evening will

be longtime radio personality and arts advocate, Robert Conrad.

This event is open to the public. Tickets for this event are \$25 per person, \$15 of which is tax deductible and will be designated to support a Master Class series. Tickets may be purchased in person at the Beck Center box office or by calling 216-521-2540, and at the Lakewood Recreation Department located at the Lakewood Board of Education building, 1470 Warren Road in Lakewood or by calling 440-529-4081.

Information for purchasing tickets in Bay Village, Rocky River and Westlake can be obtained by contacting the school districts as follows: Bay Village City Schools, 440-617-7300; Rocky River City Schools, 440-356-6800; and Westlake City Schools, 440-835-6303.

For additional information about the Arts & Communication Technology Program, contact Lakewood City Schools Superintendent Dr. David Estrop at 216-529-4092.

Lakewood Catholic Academy Fun Race Set for September 21

by Paul Nickels

Lakewood Catholic Academy is now entering its fourth year of operation, and we're celebrating our continued success with the Fourth Annual 5K and Michalko Mile Fun Race on Sunday, September 21st. The race raises funds for LCA and memorializes Jane Michalko, an LCA mom

& volunteer with a passion for youth sports who passed away after a courageous battle with breast cancer.

Race-day registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at the front of the campus. The 5K start time is at 8:30 a.m., with the Michalko Mile Youth Run going off at 9:15. For registration information, contact Holly Lauch at 216.221.6024.

What's New In Art And Design:

Virginia Marti Foundation Fundraiser October 25th

by Marlene Kobzowicz

The Virginia Marti Foundation will host its first event at the Clifton Club in Lakewood, Ohio, on October 25, 2008 at 6:30 pm. The event entitled "What's New in Art and Design" will include dinner, a fashion show, and silent auction. Designs by our Alumni, instructors and current students will be displayed throughout the Club. The cost of the event is \$150 a ticket with all proceeds to benefit the Foundation.

The Virginia Marti College Foundation will provide scholarship opportunities to talented and creative students in the applied arts. Awards are based on financial need or outstanding

skills. Each scholarship award will contribute to a stronger workforce within Northeast Ohio by creating employable people with passion, energy and the ability to function as leaders within their community.

The sponsors of this event are The Women's Journal, Northern Ohio Live Magazine, Cleveland Magazine, The Lakewood Observer, Northern Ohio Printing, Cleveland Women.com, Huntington Bank, Miracle Resources, and Kingsbury Law. For more information or to purchase tickets that are still available, please contact Marlene Kobzowicz at 216-221-8584 or virginiamartifoundation@yahoo.com.

Community Meeting: Downtown Signage

Main Street Lakewood will host a community meeting on Thursday, October 2 at the Lakewood Library Auditorium. The purpose of this meeting will be to solicit input from residents and businesses about signage and wayfinding needs in the downtown commercial district.

Studio Graphique, a brand development consultancy and environmental graphic design firm, will facilitate the discussion. This effort is made possible by a grant award to Main Street Lakewood from Heritage Ohio to design new signage and a wayfinding system to complement the Detroit Avenue Streetscape Plan for the area.

All residents are encouraged to participate - especially those who participated in the streetscape design process. The final product will have a significant impact in establishing a lasting image/brand for our primary commercial district.



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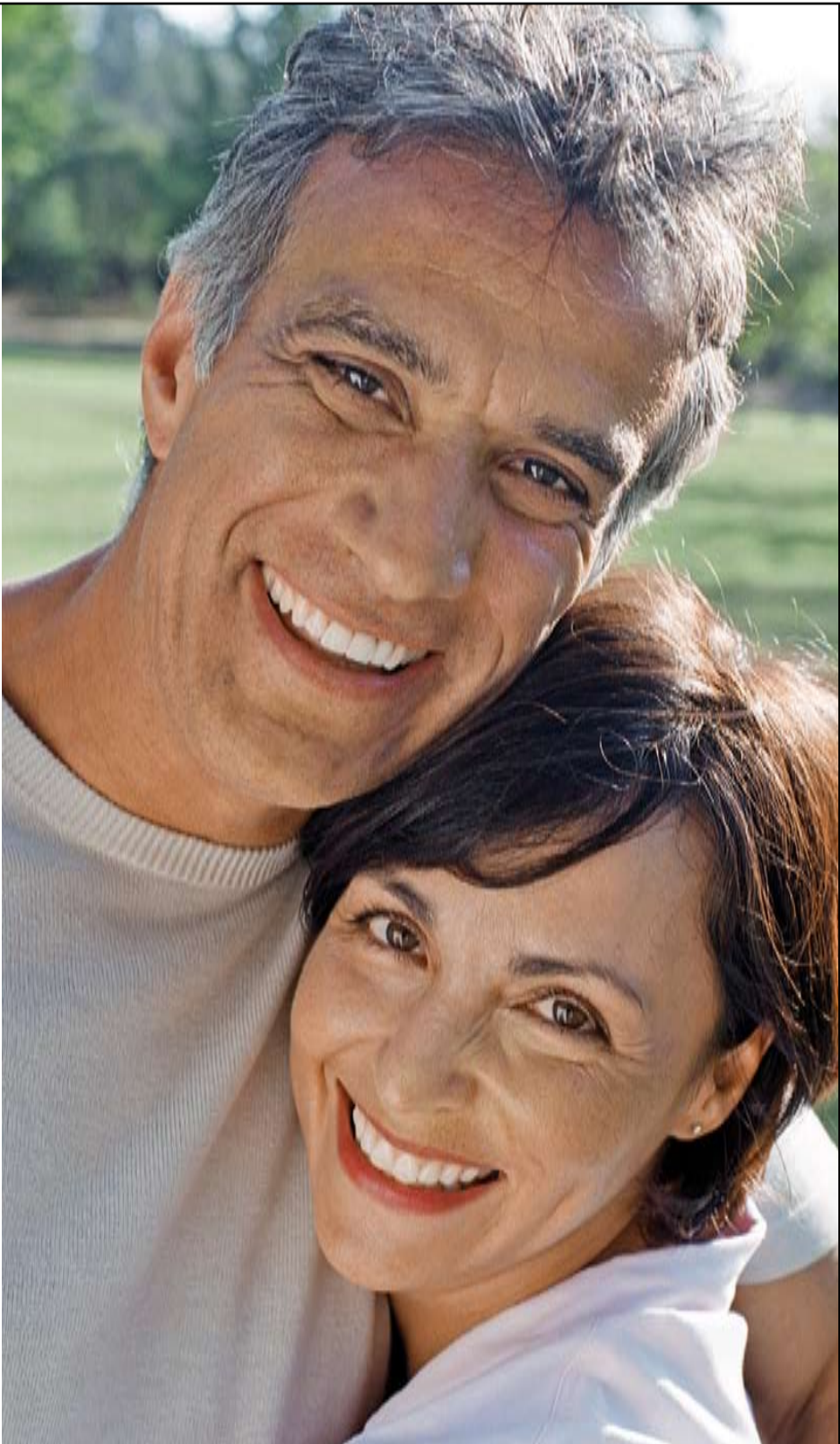


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Lakewood Public Library

Let's Get Silly With Capt'n Willie

by Emmie Hutchison

For several years, pirate speak has swept over popular culture like a tempest on the high seas. On Saturday, September 27, Lakewood Public Library joins in the fun when we welcome Capt'n Willie to the Multipurpose Room of the Main Library at 7 p.m. Instead of talking about exploits of pillaging the Carribean, this fair captain brings a message of education and stewardship over the Great Lakes.

Capt'n Willie recently filled us in on his background and the history of how he became a passionate advocate for the Great Lakes, which are sometimes taken for granted, even by those who live on their shores. As legend has it, "Capt'n Willie 'The Great Lakes Pirate' read many books an' listened t' much music while spendin' a lifetime upon th' mystical island of Limbosa. This is where th' limbo tree grows. Ya' simply snap off a branch an' you've got yer'self a limbo stick!" Willie really came into his role as Captain when he was a tour guide aboard the Nautica Queen boat and realized that many adults who grew up in this region were not informed of even basic facts such as how many Great Lakes there are. (If you don't know, you should definitely come to his show!) He decided that if he could "put Great Lakes knowledge inta' th' minds of young swashbucklers today, they will be smarter adults tomorrow!" He developed his pirate persona after the first Tall Ships celebration in Cleveland, which is still

one of his favorite ways to travel the Great Lakes. He merged his dedication to Great Lakes and water safety education with his colorful pirate performance and the result is a fantastic program for kids known as "edutainment."

When interviewed about the specifics of his program, he shared some facts that illustrate how interesting his subject will be. For example, Cleveland was the first port established on the Great Lakes in 1825 and Lake Erie has the shortest water retention time of all the Great Lakes...every 2.6 years we completely recycle the water in our Great Lake!

As far as the conservation message he delivers, he tailors his lesson to the ages of his audience and keeps it simple: Respect the Lakes. Keep them clean so future generations can enjoy fishing, swimming, boating and all types of recreation. He truly enjoys performing and said that his favorite moments are "seein' th' expression on young swashbucklers faces when they meet me fer'th' first time."

Capt'n Willie is clearly both a devoted advocate for the Great Lakes that he loves and for enjoying them safely. He is also a colorful performer who will surely entertain the little ones and adults alike with his jokes,

trivia and nonsense. The final question of his interview was whether he spoke "Pirate" at the dinner table. He responded by saying, "Ya' best be believin' I do! 'Aye mates, I'd be appreciatin' it if ya'were t' please pass th' grub an' grog!" What more could you want?

Admission to Capt'n Willie's performance is free. Doors to the Multipurpose Room will open at 6:45 p.m. and seating is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Early arrival is recommended. If you have any questions about this show please call Children's and Youth Services at (216)226-8275 extension 140.

Computer Classes Are Back In The Learning Lab!

by Ben Burdick

As soon as the Lakewood Public Library's new Technology Center opened—actually, since before the new Technology Center opened... In fact, even before the old Technology Center closed, everybody in Lakewood has been asking, "When will computer classes be back?" Actually, they're already here.

Classes resumed at the beginning of September and will continue every month hereafter as long people need us. We offer our four traditional Basics classes, a job hunting workshop and other special opportunities for students. Classes are free and

taught by the staff of the Technology Center. Visit www.lkwdpl.org/classes to learn more.

Prospective students should note that a few things have changed with the way we operate the Learning Lab. The number of seats in the classroom has expanded from ten to eighteen, but space is still limited. To make sure everybody gets a turn, reservations are not taken until the first of the month that the class is offered. (In other words, if you want to take the December 13th word processing class, call us up on December 1st.) Students will also need a Lakewood Public Library card in good standing to attend.

To get the most out of the experience, we ask that our students arrive with a working knowledge of the mouse. Anyone who needs help with this should visit the Technology Center and ask the staff to set them up on our mouse training program. It's fun, easy and essential to becoming computer literate.

The first offering in our series for beginners is **Internet Basics**. This practical, hands-on tour of the Internet teaches fundamental skills while painting a larger picture of what the online world is all about. Students with previous web experience can also benefit by unlearning common bad habits and seeing how the pieces of what they already know fit together. The next class will be Saturday, October 4 at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab.

Next, **Word Processing Basics** will provide step-by-step instructions for using Microsoft Word 2007, just like we have in the Technology Center! Please note that this is not a typing class. Instead, we'll be learning how to create, format, save and print digital documents. The next class will be Saturday, October 11 at 11:00 a.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab.

Anyone who has ever used a search engine knows that finding

lots of information on the Internet isn't the hard part—it's narrowing down what you find into something that's useful that can be tricky. Welcome to **Web Searching Basics**! Find what you need with strategies for speed and precision. The next class will be Saturday, October 18 at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab.

Finally, with an e-mail account of their own, our students can get back in touch with all their far flung family and friends to tell them about their new computer skills. E-mail Basics takes a nuts and bolts approach to demonstrating how anyone can operate and maintain a free e-mail account. The next class will be Saturday, October 25 at 11:00 a.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab.

Though these classes can be taken in series, they must be signed up for separately. Newcomers may not want to take on too much at one time, anyway. Reservations can be made in person at the Main Library Technology Center or by calling (216) 226-8275 ext. 127.

Sunday With The Friends Presents Robin Stone

by Eve Klodnick

The self described "skinny, funky, white chocolate center" of SheLovesYouRecords, Robin Stone, will bring her energetic mix of acoustic pop and R&B to the Lakewood Public Library stage on September 28, at 2:00 p.m.

A Cleveland native, Robin Stone has been playing professionally for 15 years. She has been described as having the energy of Dave Matthews and the eloquence of Joni Mitchell, with a kick of Jill Scott style. Stone takes "funk" and infuses it with jazz to create her own unique style.

In 2001, she released her first CD entitled "My Heart." Her sophomore release "Rushmore" received air time on over 1,300 national and international radio stations. While she is currently working on material for her next album, Stone has also released a live DVD, "Cain Park Live."

Not content being an accomplished musician, singer, and songwriter, Stone started her own record label SheLovesYouRecords. She can now add producer to her growing resume, having added



her last album, "All Come Down."

Whether opening for the likes of Jewel and Bonnie Raitt, playing the college circuit, or rocking out at a club, Robin Stone puts on a show people remember with music that stands out. Come to the Lakewood Public Library on September 28, at 2:00 p.m. to see and hear for yourself this emerging local talent. The event is generously funded by Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the Friends of Lakewood Public Library. Robin Stone's CDs are available in stores and on-line at:

www.SheLovesYouRecords.com.

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Lakewood Public Library

SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS:
National Parks: Hidden Gems off the Beaten Path
Our friend, filmmaker Terry Meehan, heads west on a video journey, kicking up dust on less-traveled roads from North Dakota to Utah in search of the hidden gems of the National Park System. After the movie, it's question and answer time with Terry. **Sunday, September 21 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

Robin Stone: After playing professionally for fifteen years, this singer-songwriter is living the dream. Robin Stone is the “skinny, funky, white chocolate center” of SheLovesYouRecords. Her neo-soul groove sound mixes acoustic pop with R&B flavor and never stops moving.. **Sunday, September 28 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
The Peopling of Cleveland: Northeast Ohio began its modern history as the Connecticut Western Reserve—essentially a western version of New England. Today, however, it is a community with cultural influences from around the globe. Professor John Grabowski will trace the history of migration and immigration to Greater Cleveland over the past two centuries in an illustrated lecture that will explain how and why our region has come to be recognized as one of the most culturally diverse regions in the United States. **Wednesday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Women's Club Pavilion in Lakewood Park**

THE WRITTEN WORD
BUSINESS BOOK TALK WITH TIM ZAUN AND FRIENDS
Where Have All the Leaders Gone? by Lee Iaccoca
Learn the Nine C's of Leadership we need in our new President-elect according to the former CEO of Chrysler. Mr. Iaccoca has provided a complementary 25-minute DVD detailing his message for viewing during our discussion. For more information, visit www.timzaun.com or go to www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs. **Thursday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room**

MEET THE TRUE CRIME AUTHOR
Murder on the White Sands: The Disappearance of Albert and Henry Fountain by Corey Recko After helping to bring indictments against several notorious cattle rustlers, Colonel Albert Jennings Fountain took his eight year old son on a three day journey, heading for home. What became of them remains New Mexico's greatest murder mystery. Join the author for a discussion of the facts and a visual presentation of key participants and locations. This book won the Wild West History Association's award for Best Book on Wild West History in 2007. Books will be available for sale and signing. **Tuesday, September 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

SUPERCOLLIDER: Fantasy, Science Fiction and More Join staff member Christine Weaver in a discussion of Eyre Affair by Jasper Fforde. In Great Britain, time travel is routine, cloning is a reality, and literature is taken very, very seriously. When someone kidnaps Jane Eyre from the pages of Bronte, Thursday Next is faced with the challenge of her career. Visit www.lkwdpl.org/bookclubs to learn more. **Wednesday, September 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Meeting Room**

FIVE STAR FILMS
Barbara Steffek-Hill presents a handpicked selection of some of her favorite films. **Shadow of China** (1990-Japan/U.S.) Directed by Mitsuo Yanagimachi Rated R. Starring: John Lone, Vivian Wu and Sammi Davis. Set in exotic Hong Kong just prior to its hand-over by the British to China. A multi-layered, intriguing tale of a powerful young Chinese tycoon who is ruthless in business. Rumors arise that he's really the orphaned Japanese son of a hated officer who had multitudes of Chinese civilians massacred during WW II. He's now a target for revenge. **Saturday, September 20, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium**

LEARNING LAB CLASSES AT THE MAIN LIBRARY
Reservations for computer instruction classes begin the first of each month. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127. We ask that all students come to class with a working knowledge of the mouse. If you need help, visit the Technology Center and ask the staff to set you up on our Mouse Training Program. It's fun, easy and essential to becoming computer literate. You must have a Lakewood Public Library card in good standing the day of the class. No exceptions.

LEAF

Nights

@Lakewood Public Library

18 September 2008

Art Tent
Cheryl Ann Bently photos/paintings

Music Stage
Corinne and Friends

25 September 2008

Art Tent
Bob Peck paintings

Music Stage
Emily Pinkerton @ 4:30
American old time and Latin American music
Hobo Monk @6:30

www.leafcommunity.org

Thursdays through October 30th

15425 Detroit Avenue

Find what you're looking for on the Internet with strategies for speed and precision. **Saturday, September 20 at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab**
E-MAIL BASICS

It's not too late to join the e-mail revolution. Keep in touch with friends and family. **Saturday, September 27 at 11:00 a.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab**
JOB HUNTING WORKSHOP

Put the resources of the Learning Lab to work in the search for your next job. Every week, an instructor will be there for how-to lessons and hands-on problem solving. There will also be plenty of time to work on your resume, submit applications and look for jobs online. **Thursday, September 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Main Library Learning Lab**

CHILDRENS & YOUTH SERVICES
THE ZONE: For students in kindergarten through fifth grade
Get in the Zone and sign up for a week of themed activities! Visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth for the list of fun and exciting programs just for kids. To register, please stop in or call Main Library at (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or Madison Branch (216) 228-7428.

September 22-25: Kids Concoctions
September 29 - October 2: A Week at the Museums
HOMEWORK ER: For students in kindergarten through eighth grade
Tuesday, September 2, 2008 - Thursday, May 21, 2009

Need a little help with your homework or just want a cool place to work? Come to the new Homework Room in the Children's and Youth Services Department at Main Library for help and resources. **Monday-Thursday, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. In the Children's and Youth Services Department at Main Library**

ELECTION! For students in fifth through eighth grade. Become part of the political machine as you and your team of campaigners create a candidate, establish platforms, write speeches and try to win an election. The winning team will earn a special breakfast with local political figures. To register, please stop in, call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Wednesdays, October 1 – November 12
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.
CREATION STATION: For students in kindergarten through fifth grade
Join us for crafts each and every Friday after school. 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. **Fridays, September 5 – May 22 at 4:00 p.m. Children's and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch**

CLUB LIFE: For students sixth through eighth grade **Thursdays, September 11 – May 21 at 4:00 p.m.** Make a difference and join the club. Learn new skills or hone those you already have as you participate in projects designed to help your community. For more information, visit www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/youth. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.

Main Library Multipurpose Room
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.
September 19, 20, 21: Aargh, Pirates!
September 26, 27, 28: On the Field
FAMILY MUSIC & MORE: For the whole family

Let's Get Silly with Capt'n Willie
Arrgh matey! Get your “pirate-tude” on with Capt'n Willie! Through singing, dancing, humor and games, Capt'n Willie will educate us all on water conservation and safety, and the Great Lakes. Pirate-wear is encouraged. Performers are subject to change. Seating is limited. Doors open fifteen minutes prior to the performance. **Saturday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Multipurpose Room**

THE FRIENDS BOOK SALES
Join the Friends and receive entrance to special, members-only preview sale on Thursday, September 18 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Memberships may be purchased at the door or by returning the form in our Fall/Winter Program Guide.

SEPTEMBER BOOK SALE
Saturday, September 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friends Book Sale Area Main Library Lower Level

LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION SPECIAL EVENT
An Evening With Garrison Keillor
Wednesday, October 1 at 7:00 p.m.
Join us for a conversation with Garrison Keillor about Lake Wobegon and his latest Lake Wobegon novel, Liberty, coming out this month. Borders will be on site with Garrison Keillor books for sale and signing. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Lakewood Public Library Foundation. The event will be held at Lakewood Civic Auditorium, 14100 Franklin Boulevard, Lakewood, Ohio 44107. For Venue description and directions: www.lkwdpl.org/schools/civicaud. \$20.00 general admission tickets may be purchased at www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com (credit card) or at Main Library or Madsion Branch (cash or check).

Lakewood Business News

Distinguished Service Award Presented To Scott Duennes, Executive Director Of Nature's Bin

by Mary Johnson

Scott Duennes, Executive Director of Cornucopia, Inc. and Nature's Bin, received Exceptional Parent Magazine's "Distinguished Service Award" on Saturday, July 12 at the Lake County Captains Game. Exceptional Parent Magazine provides information, support, ideas, encouragement, and outreach for families of children and adults with disabilities and special health care needs, as well as the physicians, allied health care and educational professionals who are involved in their care and development.

Scott Duennes has been the Executive Director of Cornucopia, Inc. (which operates Nature's Bin) since 1986. Nature's Bin is a natural foods market located on Sloane Avenue in Lakewood. This natural foods market



Scott Duennes, Executive Director of Cornucopia and Nature's Bin

serves as a training site for a unique and successful program that provides vocational training leading to employment for people with disabilities. Today, programs hosted at Nature's Bin (and Cornucopia's other training sites

at Eliza Jennings Senior Care Network in Cleveland and Target in University Heights) serve people with a wide range of severe disabilities including autism, mental retardation, developmental disabilities, mental illness, visual and hearing impairment, and injuries resulting from accident or illness. What distinguishes Cornucopia's programs from other training programs is the real-work learning environment. Trainees work side-by-side with staff members in all aspects of retail service, facing the challenges and rewards of competitive employment in a caring,

supportive atmosphere. Cornucopia/Nature's Bin has been serving people with disabilities for over 30 years.

The award was presented by the Michael Carter Financial Group at the 4th annual Disability Awareness Night. The national event was created by Exceptional Parent Magazine and sponsored by MassMutual to raise awareness about the 54 million American's living with disabilities. Nessa Siegel, Attorney and Special Needs Advocate, was also recognized for her work representing individuals with disabilities.

AGS Software Appoints Jerry W. Hoegner to Board of Directors

by Tim Curtiss

AGS Software today announced the appointment of Jerry W. Hoegner to its Board of Directors. AGS develops technology products and services for the publishing and media industries, as well as schools, communities and their city halls. AGS' flagship product is its revolutionary NinthEstate multimedia platform, a software as service product that enables simultaneous publication of periodicals, multi-media(TV, Radio) and websites by extremely small efficient groups.

Mr. Hoegner brings substantial experience to AGS from his career in the advertising and newspaper industries. Prior to his retirement, he served as director of marketing services for The Plain Dealer for 15 years. Before joining The Plain Dealer, he was a senior marketing executive for Higbees, the May Company and Halle Brothers. Mr. Hoegner has been a resident of Lakewood, Ohio for 43 years.

He commented, "I am excited to join the Board of AGS Software and look forward to helping this exciting Lakewood business grow. I have enjoyed reading the Lakewood Observer since it commenced publication. The Observer has demonstrated its ability to use NinthEstate Media to publish a quality paper in both print and online for the last five years now.

I see great potential for growth as AGS rolls out this innovative solution to the needs of communities for local news coverage and advertising."

Mr. Hoegner will also serve on the Lakewood Observer Community Advisory Board.

AGS Software clients in this area include, the Lakewood Observer, the Heights Observer and the Westlake Bay Village Observer use NinthEstate to integrate publication of print editions with online capabilities, along with the coordination of schools and civic groups. The Lakewood Observer, a biweekly newspaper with circulation of over 15,000, has published over 100 editions since its launch in 2004.

AGS Software is a leading developer of software-as-a-service (SAAS) packages for schools, communities and their city halls, and media, including Its revolutionary NinthEstate Media package serves the high-growth hyperlocal media market with a remotely hosted software environment that allows publishers to outsource a significant portion of their IT requirements. Designed for profitable use by groups as small as one or two members, NinthEstate provides publishers and community organizations with a cost-effective, easy-to-use solution that coordinates all aspects of their operations.

Main Street Lakewood Wins Grant Award

by Mary Anne Crampton

Main Street Lakewood has been awarded a \$23,175 grant by Heritage Ohio for a comprehensive signage and wayfinding design package for the downtown district. This project is an outgrowth of the much larger community-based Detroit Avenue Streetscape Plan funded by a \$75,000 grant award from NOACA completed in December of 2007.

Main Street Lakewood, a program of Lakewood Community Progress Inc (LCPI) whose mission is to revitalize downtown Lakewood, is working collaboratively with the City of Lakewood, which will match the Heritage Ohio grant award over an 18-month period.

"We congratulate LCPI in securing the initial funding for design solutions to downtown Lakewood's signage, wayfinding and place-making needs," said Mayor Edward FitzGerald. "The grant award makes maximum use of limited resources, and allows us

to continue to take incremental steps towards implementing the Detroit Streetscape Plan."

Studio Graphique, a widely respected, brand development consultancy and environmental graphic design firm, has been retained by LCPI to assist in the project. Rachel Downy, CEO, stated, "Studio Graphique is excited to help provide Lakewood with identity and wayfinding consulting and to be a part of the Detroit Streetscape Plan. Projects like this strengthen the appeal of northeast Ohio neighborhoods and give them a chance to express their authenticity while helping visitors navigate these older, complex neighborhoods with ease."

Main Street Lakewood and Studio Graphique will host a community meeting to gather input on the project on Thursday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lakewood Public Library Auditorium. All Lakewood residents and business owners are encouraged to attend.

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Lakewood Cares

Local Lutheran Churches Initiate International Food Relief Effort

by Luanne Bole-Becker

News of this spring’s rioting in Haiti over dramatically rising food prices held special significance for several area Lutheran churches, including Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Lakewood. Gethsemane members Lynn Scheerhorn, Gary Dittmar (also principal of Lakewood Lutheran School), Andrew Dittmar, and Jesse McDonald had returned home to Northeast Ohio only days before violence erupted in the typically calm coastal city of Les Cayes, Haiti. And a second mission trip was scheduled to leave for Les Cayes in less than a month.

For safety’s sake, the Gethsemane leaders postponed the second trip, saddened by their inability to return to help the families and orphans they work with each year. These were people they knew, children they played with.

The poverty in Haiti has always been dire. Although just hundreds of miles off the coast of Florida, Haiti holds the distinction of being the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The US Agency for International Development reports the annual per capita income as less than \$400. More than half of the population live on less than \$1 a day. With rice prices reportedly rising 80-140 percent earlier this year,



The spring mission trip to Haiti included leaders and youth from Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Lakewood. Lakewood Lutheran School principal Gary Dittmar is seated on the right (red tie).

people took to the streets to protest. Not content to sit idly by, church members from seven area Lutheran churches (Gethsemane; Ascension, North Olmsted; Community of Hope, Brecksville, Broadview Heights, Lakewood; Royal Redeemer, North Royalton; St. Mark, Chesterland; Trinity, Cleveland; and Valley, Chagrin Falls) —whose April trip had been canceled—told their families, friends, and fellow churchgoers about this great need. Internet messages began spreading across the city and beyond. Within hours, funds

started to appear. Two donations arrived all the way from Germany! Now, five months later, the donation total has topped \$10,000. And the dollars keep coming in. “We thought that canceling our trip was the responsible thing to do to ensure our mission-goers’ safety,” notes Lynn Scheerhorn, who coordinates the mission trips to Haiti each year. “Now we wonder whether our trip was cancelled just so that God could work through us to have this broader impact.”

That broader impact has already been felt. Even with rice costing \$70 per bag, the donations have been able to purchase significant amounts of food. Some of the rice was given to lay ministers across the country who receive no pay, yet walk hours each week to learn the Gospel message from a central site, so they can then preach the following day to their home congregations. Other bags of rice were given to the school children of an island community on Ile a Vache (“Cow Island”). Later, missionaries in Haiti held an “end of school” party for the entire community on that part of the island, cooking rice, beans, and a special treat of chicken. The postponed mission trip is now scheduled to leave Cleveland for Les Cayes on September 26th, and Jacmel on Oct. 4th. Mission teams expect to conduct health and hygiene seminars, and medically treat those in attendance. However, with the recent devastation in Haiti caused by several hurricanes, the teams are planning additional ways to help with new relief supplies and cleanup. Anyone interested in obtaining more information or supporting the relief efforts and ongoing mission trips can contact Lynn Scheerhorn at heartforhaiti@yahoo.com.

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One Faith, One Community

by Curt Brosky

On Sunday, October 5, 2008 the six Catholic Churches that make up The Community of Cleveland West/Lakewood Cluster are holding a Liturgy and picnic at Lakewood Park Women’s Pavilion, and the surrounding area. The day is planned as a way for the parishioners of the churches to come together and share in fellowship, worship and a meal. The six churches are Saint Clement, Saints Cyril and Methodius, Saint Hedwig, Saint James, Saint Luke and Saint Rose of Lima.

The day’s activities begin at 1:00 p.m. and end at 5:00 p.m.. This event will go forward rain or shine! The Liturgy will be held at 1:30 p.m. You will

need to bring your own seat for the Mass. The other activities include corn hole, kickball, volleyball, bocce ball and more. A picnic is planned, and you are asked to bring your own meal, cooler, and a dessert to share with fellow parishioners. The Cluster will provide coffee, water, and orange drink. Assistance will be provided for those in need.

Please save the date. Come and spend some time with your neighbors from the other Catholic Churches in the Cluster. Come with your family, friends, or by yourself and make new friends. All are welcome. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Debbie Riddle at 216-228-8246.

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Lakewood Observer

Free Cancer Screening For Uninsured Women A Success

by Anne Kuenzel

A report from the American Cancer Society finds the uninsured are less likely to receive recommended cancer screening tests; are more likely to be diagnosed with later stage disease; and have lower survival rates than those with private insurance for several cancers. When funding for screening mammograms for uninsured became available through the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran hospitals organized a free breast and cervical cancer screening that was held on September 6. Forty women took advantage of the program screening.

One of the women screened, Ms. Rhonda Kline, 49, of Norwalk, attended the screening, even though she had no history of breast cancer in her family. The practitioner noticed a suspect mole on her breast, which Ms. Kline didn't think was anything to be worried about. Fortunately, her daughter, Jessica, insisted that she come to the free screening. "I made up her mind for her," said Jessica. She made the reservation after learning about the W.I.S.H. program. "This screening was a lifesaver," says Rhonda. "Without health insurance, my options were limited. Having this exam and follow-up care would not have been an option for me. I am very grateful."

"Being in the healthcare field for more than 30 years, I am aware of the significant population of uninsured in our community who struggle to find care," says Fred DeGrandis, President and CEO, Cleveland Clinic Regional Hospitals. "Oftentimes they are faced with making a choice of paying for their healthcare or feeding their family, which saddens me. This program gives us the means to reach out and make a difference."

W.I.S.H. (Women Into Saving their Health), was started by Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran hospitals in 2006 to better serve uninsured women in the community. W.I.S.H. 5 was sponsored by Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran hospitals; Lakewood Hospital Foundation; Community West Foundation; Breast and Cervical Cancer Project (BCCP) of Cuyahoga County; and the North Coast Health Ministry. The grant from the National Breast Cancer Foundation will allow the hospitals to continue to provide breast health screenings for the uninsured women of the community and funding from the BCCP will cover the costs for the pap test and follow up care.

"W.I.S.H. 5 has given us the chance to reach out to more women," says Lee Elmore, executive director of North Coast Health Ministry.

"We can help the women through the maze of coordinating referrals. It's a great feeling when we can make a difference in the lives of these women."


Lakewood Hospital, a Cleveland Clinic hospital, is a 400-bed acute care hospital that has served the diverse health care needs of the City of Lakewood and Cleveland's Westshore communities since 1907. Offering a wide range of health services and education programs for women, men and children, each year Lakewood Hospital provides high-quality and innovative patient care for more than 130,000 patients



WISH staff poses in front of the Mammovan. Back Row: Yvonne Flor; Jean Wolpert; Gayle Donahue; Susan Grimberg; Jessica Kline; Kristen Kolarik; Susan Klein; Maureen Stein-Vavro Front Row: Carol Travis; Joyce Szekelyi; Anna O'Connor; Rosemary Miles; Kris Wise; Sara

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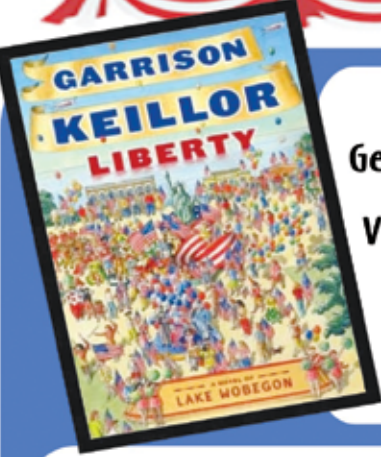
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Lakewood Schools

LHS Key Club Honors September 11 Victims And Families

by Ivor Karabatkovic

I recall the day as clear as the blue sky was that September morning. I sat next to the window in my home-ec classroom at Horace Mann Middle School, dazing into the sky. We had just finished sewing a pillow. Mine was a soccer ball; my friend Eric had a football. We finished cleaning up our supplies and sat down, when our teacher came bursting into the room full of energy.

“Class, do you want to watch the news? A plane just crashed into a building in New York City” she said abruptly.

Confusion filled the classroom. She turned on the TV and we watched flames and thick, dark smoke lift up into the sky, as news reporters frantically tried making sense of a catastrophic situation.

Then, the unexplainable occurred. It was 9:03 AM, and just as one Twin Tower became engulfed in flames, we watched another plane impale the side of the South Tower. The television turns off. Our hearts and stomachs drop.

The dismissal bell signals it’s time to head to our next class, 7th grade English with my favorite teacher, Mrs. Eiben. It was two periods worth of reading and writing, but all of our minds were on the images we just saw on the news. Mrs. Eiben refused to turn the TV on and pressed us to do our work, saying if we complied she would consider turning the TV back on during the last

minutes of class. We complied, and she upheld her end of the deal, too.

By that time, a plane crashed into the side of the Pentagon in Washington D.C, and another crashed in a field outside of Shanksville, Pennsylvania. What had been two burning towers on the New York City skyline became rubble and dust, to our disbelief. They were gone. We could not believe our eyes.

I remember having a conversation with my history teacher at the end of the day. She told me the story of how she remembered the moment she heard John F. Kennedy had been assassinated.

“I was in the hallway carrying books to a teacher’s classroom when I heard the news,” Ms. Kerr told me. “I immediately dropped all the books I was carrying and began to cry.”

I recall her telling me that every generation has its moment of tragedy, whether it was the stock market crash, Pearl Harbor, the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. She said to me that one day, a long time from September 11, 2001, my friends and I will remember exactly where we were when we heard the news of the attacks. Etched in a tragic time of American history, we became part of the “9/11 Generation”.

For the members of Lakewood High School’s Key club, the tragic events of September 11, 2001 serve as a heartrending memory in their young lives. Just as the assassination of President John F.



photo by Mary Breiner

Kennedy embedded November 22, 1963 in the hearts of their parents, the “9/11 Generation” still mourns the events that happened one early morning on a sunny September day in New York City.

“I was on a beach in Delaware, and my aunt came from the beach house and told us all to go back to the house and say a prayer.” Key Club President Eva Nemethy recalls.

“I was 10 years old, so I really didn’t understand what happened, but I remember everyone crying” she added. “I remember being very confused, sad, and scared. I wanted to be at home with my family” Nemethy, who was on a vacation with her aunt and extended family on that day, said.

Fast forward seven years, and the ten year old children are old enough to vote, register in the army, and are ready to enter the real world as they begin their senior year at Lakewood High School. On a Tuesday afternoon, the 15 members of the Key Club that wanted to participate found themselves with 2,977 American flags and about 10,000 square feet of green lawn to serve as their paint and canvas.

“Avon Lake High School made a similar memorial two years ago, and [when the two schools met at a district convention in Columbus] we asked if we could use that idea for our school,” Nemethy said.

The funding to buy the flags came mostly from past fundraisers and family members of everyone involved in the club.

It was a beautiful sight to see. The

green lawn morphed into a sea of red, white and blue. Looking at the gathered flags, delicately placed in the wet soil in front of Lakewood High School, you see 2,977 reminders of the brave mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, firemen, policemen, and emergency workers that the country lost that September day.

“One thing I won’t ever forget was my aunt talking to my cousin and me before we went to sleep” Nemethy said. “She told us how too many people lost their lives today and that we really need to pray for their families and for our country.”

That’s what the nation did. We joined hands as we mourned and prayed for the families, for the country, and for the world. Firemen stood on busy streets holding boots for donations. Flags were raised higher and prouder than ever before. Slowly a sea of pain became a sea of comfort, one heart at a time, one raised flag at a time, and covered the land from the east to the west coast.

As the Key Club members finished their sea of American flags, spanning the entire front lawn, from the east end to the west end, they finished a blanket of comfort. A delicate pattern of tokens of the grievance and empathy that the young 9/11 Generation feels towards those that passed.

Just like our parents and teachers told us stories of how they as Americans faced adversity and overcame it, one day, we will also share our stories of how we overcame the adversity, and how we remembered those who have left us that day; one story, one heart, one American flag at a time.



photo by Ivor Karabatkovic

At the end of a long evening of sticking 2,977 flags into the ground, the five remaining Key Club members that stuck around pose for a photo on Lakewood High School’s front lawn. From left to right: Hallah Amawi, Key Club President Eva Nemethy, Marianne Bosworth, Breanna Rossen and Dragoslav Cvijetinovic.

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Lakewood Schools

Upbeat Opening For Lakewood Schools

by Dr. David Estrop
Superintendent of Schools

Some of you may remember the old “SUCCESS” cheer from your high school days. Well, it’s back, at least in Lakewood. As a result of academic performance improving on the State Report Card, Lakewood Cheerleaders led the approximately 1000 people attending the Annual Convocation of the Lakewood City School District through the “SUCCESS” cheer and there was more to come. As a result of the decision of the Lakewood voters, those in attendance celebrated the opening of two more new schools (Emerson Elementary School and Horace Mann Elementary School). And they opened on time and on budget, bringing to a total of six new schools opened in the last two years, all opened on time and on budget. In addition, the audience was reminded that the District continued its focus on school conduct, school climate and school safety with the work completed by the Elementary School Conduct, School Climate and School Safety Committee, and with programs like Brake 4 Kids, Safe Routes to School, Tracks are for

Trains, and the Walking School Bus. In fact, I was extremely pleased and proud to report that all of the District’s Goals and Objectives approved by the Board of Education for school year 2007-08 had been met.

While we celebrated all of our accomplishments during 2007-08, we also took time to look ahead because now is not the time to rest on our laurels. In today’s economy, education is now more important than ever. Without a good education, our students and this community will face very

hard times. It’s pretty straight forward – good schools keep Lakewood strong! And to that end, our target remains the same, “Excellence for All Students”. So, as some would say, “Keep the Faith”, or “Onward and Upward”, or as the Lakewood Project (Lakewood High School’s Rock Orchestra) said it in music to close Convocation, “Don’t Stop Believing!”

I also want to take this opportunity to thank everyone (staff, student, parents, and community members) for helping us make the opening of school

go very well. In spite of few problems ranging from new schools, to federally mandated School Choice, to students still being registered (if you have not registered your child(ren) for school please help us and your child(ren) by doing so as soon as possible), the opening of all of the schools in Lakewood went very well. Please remember that schools are in session, so we all need to be more careful as we drive around our community.

Note: If you could not attend the Annual Convocation, the program is being broadcast on Cox Channel 74.

West Shore Celebration

by Dr. David Estrop
Superintendent of Schools

At a time when many school districts across this state and the nation are reducing or eliminating arts and communication programs, the four school districts on the West Shore (Lakewood, Bay Village, Rocky River and Westlake) have continued their strong traditions in both areas.

In addition, the West Shore has benefited for over 75 years from the Beck

Center for the Arts in Lakewood which has provided high quality arts focusing on theater, gallery exhibitions, and a comprehensive arts education program.

On the evening of September 18, 2008, the four West Shore School Districts, the Beck Center for the Arts and the many partners of these organizations are coming together to Celebrate Arts and Communication Education at the Beck Center located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. That evening, beginning at 7:00 PM, all of the West Shore public school districts, the Beck, and some of the partnering organizations like the Cleveland Orchestra, the Cleveland Institute of Art, WCLV, the Ohio Center for Broadcasting, Playhouse Square, the Lakewood Observer, and Cleveland State University will be displaying the many opportunities available for students and citizens on the West Shore.

In addition, we will be celebrating the kick off of the West Shore Career & Technical School District’s new Arts and Communication Technology Program adding even more opportunities for our students on the West Shore.

While the bulk of the West Shore Career and Technical School District is housed at Lakewood High School, the new Arts and Communication Technology classroom will be located at the Beck Center. The Celebration is scheduled from 7:00 until 9:00 PM that evening with a formal program followed by a Dessert Reception.

The formal program will begin at 7:30 PM and will feature Mr. Robert Conrad, long time Cleveland radio personality and arts advocate, giving the Keynote Address for the evening. Mr. Conrad’s Address will be followed with a “Behind the Scenes Look at Urinetown” (which will be playing at the Beck) presented by Scott Spence, Theater Director for the Beck.

The public is certainly invited to this event and tickets may be purchased for \$25 per person (\$15 of which is tax deductible) at the Beck Center (Phone - 216-521-2540) or at the Lakewood City Schools’ Recreation Department (Phone - 216-529-4081) located at 1470 Warren Road.

I hope many of you can join in this great Celebration!

Lakewood Alumni Foundation Presents Oktoberfest

by Emily Lockshine

The Lakewood Alumni Foundation (LAF) presents Oktoberfest, on October 4th from 7:00-11:00 p.m. at Around the Corner Saloon and Cafe, 18616 Detroit Avenue. Tickets are \$25 and include an Oktoberfest themed dinner buffet, one drink ticket, musical entertainment by Lakewood alum Jeff Sherman and a silent auction. Proceeds from the event will benefit LAF.

The foundation provides critical support in the way of cultural arts,

capital enhancements and curriculum enriching equipment and supplies to students in all grades throughout the Lakewood City Schools. Additionally, the foundation gives out more than \$50,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors annually. Tickets are available by calling the foundation at 216-529-4033.

Special thanks to First Federal of Lakewood, Geiger’s Clothing & Sports and Mike Summers (class of 1972) City Council Ward 3 for their generous support of the event.

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by Nora Peralta

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Lakewood Sports

Rangers Soccer Stung By Bees

by Todd Shapiro

The rain! The wind! The puddles forming in unusual places! This wasn't a scene from somewhere in path of Hurricane Ike. It was Lakewood Stadium on Saturday afternoon as the Lakewood Rangers took the field against the Medina Bees in a Northeast Ohio Conference Valley Division boys soccer game. By the time the waters receded and sunshine returned to the corner of Madison and Bunts, the Medina

Bees were basking in the glory of a dominating 4-1 victory. Medina scored first in the fourteenth minute when forwards Randy Brown and Joey Valeriano played a two-man passing game around the Lakewood defense and set up midfielder Clay Graham who dribbled into the penalty box and drove the ball past a diving Jordan Fares to put the Bees up 1-0. Both teams had trouble dribbling and passing for much of the first half on the waterlogged field. However, the Rangers had a chance to tie the score

midway through the half when junior midfielder Michael Derezcic's free kick sailed just above the crossbar from 30 yards out. Derezcic, who almost scored on another free kick in the second half, leads the Rangers in assists with three. The Bees have struggled scoring all season, scoring just three goals in six contests before their game at Lakewood, but received an unexpected gift in the 31st minute when a Rangers defender inadvertently kick the ball past his goalkeeper and into the back of the net. The own goal made the score 2-0. Less than a minute later the Bees struck again. This time Graham assisted on a Brown goal to make the score 3-0. When both teams came out for the second half the rain clouds had subsided, but storm clouds hovered over the Rangers defense. Six minutes into the final half the Rangers allowed another goal as the result of another defensive miscue in front of goalkeeper Fares. "There was a lack of communication among our defensive backs," said Rangers coach Andrew Toth. "But we have the second half of the season to correct our mistakes and be ready for the playoffs." Fares recorded 11 saves for the Rangers and played better than the final score

would indicate before being pulled late in the game for junior Joseph Tabeling. The Rangers turned up the pressure late in the game and finally scored in the 77th minute. Senior Desar Seiti headed a Charles Kemp throw-in from in front of the penalty box and over the Bees defense to make the final score 4-1. Kemp has assisted on two Lakewood goals since being called up from the junior varsity squad earlier this season. "Charles is progressing well. He is getting good experience on the varsity level," Toth said. The Bees defense, led by tri-captain Kyle Unsorfer and sophomore goalkeeper Matt Hedberg, befuddled the Rangers all game. Lakewood was held to four shots on goal while Medina peppered the Rangers defense with 14 shots on goal. The loss dropped the Rangers to 1-6-2 on the season, while Medina improved to 3-4-1 at the midway mark of the season. The schedule does not get any easier for the Rangers. In addition to NOC divisional games against Hudson, Solon, and Stow, Lakewood has an October 2 date with the No. 1 ranked Division I team in Ohio, the St. Edward Eagles.

Ranger Cross Country - Tomahawk Run

by Joe Ott

Lakewood High School Cross Country competed Saturday September 6, 2008 at the Walsh Jesuit Tomahawk Run held at Walsh Jesuit High School. Lakewood Boys Varsity placed 5th with 18 teams competing. Boys Varsity Co-Captain Jay Toole was the highest placed Lakewood runner placing 16th out of 123 runners followed by Varsity Team members Matt Miller (23rd), Pat Joyce (24th), Kyle Olson, Sam DeBaltzo, Brian Ritschel, and Clay Verga. Lakewood Girls Varsity placed 13th lead by Varsity runner Hannah Evens.

right: Brian Ritschel (#635) competing at the 2008 Walsh Jesuit Tomahawk Run



L.H.S Cross Country Competes At The McDonough Invitational

by Joseph Ott

On Saturday September 13, 2008, the Lakewood High School Cross Country teams competed at the McDonough Invitational. This event, held at Forest Hill Park in Cleveland Heights, is known as a fairly flat course with one very steep hill. This year, day long rain created an extremely muddy and treacherous course. The Boys Varsity race took place during a down pour. The team placed 5th overall with 12 teams competing. Varsity

runner Pat Joyce was the highest placed Lakewood runner placing sixth overall with 82 competitors. Joyce was followed by Varsity teammates Matt Miller (17th), Co-Captain Jacob Ott (25th), Brian Ritschel (34th), Sam DeBaltzo (36th), and Nick Jackosky (43rd). The Boys JV race was won by Lakewood Varsity Co-Captain Jay Toole. The Girls Varsity team placed sixth overall with 12 team competing. Girls Varsity runner Hannah Evans was the highest placed Lakewood runner finishing 15th overall.

LHS Cross Country Tri-Meet

by Joe Ott

Lakewood High School's Boys Cross Country Team competed in a Tri-Meet on Saturday August 30th, 2008 held at the Akron Goodyear Metro Park. This was a 5k competition between Walsh Jesuit, Cuyahoga Falls, and Lakewood high schools. LHS placed third. right: Lakewood HS Cross Country runners begin the 5k race



Lakewood Recreation Schedule

- LEBL PLAYER ASSESSMENTS**

Lakewood Recreation Department will hold player assessments for 4th, 5th and 6th grade boys and girls who are interested in participating in the Lake Erie Basketball League (LEBL). Assessments will be held Sunday, September 28th and Sunday, October 5th at Lakewood High School from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Participants must attend both sessions. **For more information call the Recreation Department at 216-529-4081.**
- Junior Engineering I**

Technology Connections, LLC. Ages 8 -12: Now is a great time to introduce your child to the fun and exciting world of Junior Engineering! Junior Engineering classes combine engineering processes with creativity in a fun and exciting environment. This class is appropriate for the young engineer, and is recommended for those who wish to enroll in Junior Engineering II or Junior Robotics. Students will work in teams and use the Lego Simple Machines Kit to complete lessons. We'll build fly wheel vehicles, cranes, bridges, and more, and even motorize some of our projects. Topics include: simple machines, structures and forces, levers, wheels and axles, gears and gear math, ratchets and drive trains, motorized systems, and challenges for points! **Class limit 12. (8 weeks) No class 11/13 Thursdays 9/25-11/20 6:30-8:00pm Room 201, Garfield Middle School 13114 Detroit Ave. \$145 Resident; \$155 Nonresident**
- Ballet I**

Patty Hays: Enjoy an hour improving your strength, endurance and coordination through basic ballet techniques consisting of barre, stretching, posture improvements, techniques and performance skills. **Class limit 15. (8 weeks) Wednesdays 9/24-11/12 8:20-9:15 p.m. Dance Room, LHS, 14100 Franklin Blvd. \$45 Resident; \$55 Nonresident**
- Top 10 Medicaid Planning Mistakes**

Candace Pollock: Most strategies about conserving an applicants' resources under Medicaid rules involve the nature, amounts and timing of expenditures of the applicant's resources or the timing of the application itself. This course will cover the top 10 mistakes families make regarding Medicaid and long-term care issues. It will explain terminology, important dates and strategies authorized under Ohio Medicaid rules, including the myths about the new Medicaid laws. **Class limit 30. (1 night) Tuesday 9/30 7:00-8:00 p.m. Room 116, Garfield Middle School 13114 Detroit Ave. \$9 Resident; \$9 Nonresident**
- First Time Home Buying Seminar**

Ray Antonelli

This first time home buyer seminar will help you find and purchase your first home. We will help the first time home buyer with every aspect of the process. This seminar can help take the frustration and confusion out of buying your first home. By educating yourself about all facets of the home purchase process, you know what to expect, you understand the issues and you're prepared to make informed decisions that are in your best interest. **Class limit 25. (1 night) Wednesday 9/24 7:00-9:00 p.m. Tuesday 11/11 7:00-9:00 p.m. Room 101, Harding Middle School 16601 Madison Ave. \$9 Resident; \$9 Nonresident**

Lakewood Observer

Notes from Iraq...Lakewood Native Eric Smith Writes Home: An IED, Sad LAD, And Soccer Diplomacy

Lakewood native Eric Smith has been serving in Iraq since May. Major Smith is stationed at Camp Victory, near Kirkuk, Sadaam Hussein's former home town.

Last week we were reminded that Iraq remains a very dangerous place when one of our vehicles was hit by an IED (Improvised Explosive Device). An unknown insurgent buried some type of explosive along the side of a road and when one of our vehicles drove by, he detonated it. Fortunately, the vehicle was an MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected, pronounced em-rap). The MRAP is extremely popular with the Soldiers and we have had numerous cases of Soldiers choosing MRAPs over other vehicles when they are assigned missions outside the wire. It's fully armored and designed to withstand blasts from mines and IEDs. In this instance, the Soldiers inside bailed out of the truck. No one was hurt. Chips and divots in the MRAP's steel armor on the side of the blast attested to the lethality of the IED, and had it been another type of vehicle, we would have suffered casualties.

As it was, we loaded the MRAP onto a trailer and brought it back to the FOB (Forward Operating Base) to present to our sad-faced mechanics. IEDs remain the single greatest hazard in Iraq and the lethal competition between us and the insurgents for freedom to move on the roads resembles the Spy vs. Spy comic strip in Mad Magazine. In our area, we have had a dramatic decline in both the numbers and lethality of IED strikes.

Nevertheless, one IED is one too many, and in this case, we were fortunate. For those of us who labor under the misconception that life in Iraq revolves around skimming the desert surface in helicopters and scanning distant hillsides with binoculars for insurgent caches, we were humbled when our LAD failed. The LAD (Laundry and Dryer system) is a giant machine that washes our clothes. It has two washer/ driers on a trailer, is controlled by a computer, and can wash over 100 loads at a time. The crew that operates it only works at night to prevent the drying cycle from overheating, and in some ways, our weekly life revolves around dropping off and picking up our laundry. That's why we all immediately spun into crisis mode when the LAD broke down.

If you've lived in close proximity to 800 other people who work 18 hours a day in 115 degree heat, you know that by dinner time, we all smell ripe. A steady rotation of clean clothes helps us get along with each other. So when the LAD coughed, sputtered, and stopped working, it was a major crisis. My commander sent me an urgent e-mail to the effect of, "We need the LAD to work. Get it up and running in 24 hours."

Armed with my priorities, I made a beeline for the LAD to assess the situa-



Above: Eric awards the winning trophy. Inset: Soldiers on patrol in Hawija with MRAP vehicles

tion. Soldiers dripping in sweat, motor oil, and spent detergent were crawling all over it like ants yelling things to each other. "Are you sure the hose is tight?" and "Blow out the fuel filter and try it again," and "I'm still not getting any power! Try it again." My senior maintenance officer was exasperated. He knew a lot about fixing wheeled vehicles, but this was outside his expertise. He assured me they would work all night, but the prognosis was grim. It was time to ask for help. After a few phone calls, I found out that the nearest replacement LAD was in Mosul and could come down on a convoy within three days. Sadly, this LAD was broken as well, so we would have to depend on our mechanics to combine the two machines and come up with one that could save us from the inevitable increase in foul odor.

As unpalatable as it was, it was our only option, so we started tracking the convoy's every move as it navigated the roadways down from Mosul. Three days later it pulled into the FOB and the crew was swarming all over it before the airbrakes were engaged. They replaced the generator, charged the air cylinders, threw salt over their left shoulder, and hoped for the best. After two hours I received an excited phone call, "The LAD is working! They're washing clothes now!"

When I arrived at the giant trailer, swaying and thumping as it washed a test load, the senior operator met me and started talking like Scotty on an old episode of Star Trek. "We rewired the bypass cut-off valve and adjusted the pressure sensor. I don't know how much longer she'll hold together, but she's working now!" I went back to my room to get my laundry bag. Life within the district surrounding our base is returning to some semblance of normalcy. Shops are opening amid the shuttered storefronts, roads are being repaved, children are attending school, and people can simply move around and do the things they want to do without fearing for their lives. (The District Chief of Police told us that he has two eight-year old sons whom he had not

let leave the house for four years, until last week when he took his whole family shopping downtown and ate dinner at a restaurant.)

We want to emphasize the return to normalcy, to show people that the insurgency doesn't offer anything, and that by working together with the government and the Americans their lives will improve. Sports can symbolize that normalcy. A few months ago, we Americans started playing soccer against each village's home team. The games have been a raging success and every mayor in our area clamors for the next one to be in his village. For the Iraqis, they get to play soccer (which they are very good at) against the Americans (who are not very good). Our players don't wear body armor or carry weapons, so they look like normal people when on the field.

In addition to being very popular with the people, the games send a strong message to the insurgents that their attempt to disrupt daily life is failing, and failing so miserably that the Americans are willing to play games in shorts and a t-shirt in what used to be their backyard. Last week, we drove across the sector to the small village of Zaab. When we arrived, our team began to warm up while the Zaab village team, bedecked in soccer jerseys and shin guards, started running com-

plex drills. I sat down under a tent with the Mayor and the local sheiks while the game commenced. As expected, we were thrashed. We scored our first goal in the second half, after their eight in the first. I didn't have much time to watch the game, however, as this was an opportunity for me to talk to the local politicians about the condition of their villages and for the local politicians to ask me for favors. One mayor was concerned that a local insurgent group, Naqshabandi, was distributing propaganda at night and becoming more active. One sheik wanted my assistance in increasing the size of his security force by fifty men while another wanted me to provide him with pickup trucks. There was a dispute between some local men and the Iraqi Army about who should guard a bridge and a city council member wanted some assistance with getting paint so he could start a small-scale urban renewal project. Some of the requests were outlandish and some were legitimate. I was polite and I wrote down their concerns so I could send them to the appropriate people, but made no promises.

By the end of the match it was clear that the local team's superior skill and acclimatization to the heat had bested our Soldiers. We held a brief ceremony to pass out trophies and t-shirts to all the players. As we were putting our kit back on and getting ready to leave, the Mayor turned to me and said, "You know, everyone in Iraq is hearing about our soccer games and they are all jealous. We are the only ones who get to do it." "Playing soccer is better than patrolling," I answered, "I can't wait till the next game."

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



Sunday, September 21

The Fourth Annual LCA
5K & Michalko Mile

FUN RACE!!!!

Join us at Lakewood Catholic Academy's lakefront campus for our fourth annual fun race! Race-day registration begins at 7:30 a.m., with the 5K run starting at 8:30 a.m. and the Mile Youth Run following at 9:15. The 5K fee is \$20, while the Mile Youth Run costs just \$10. Questions? Contact Holly Lauch at 221.6024.

Pulse Of The City

How I Spent My Summer Vacations...

The Tale Of Mother's Golden Lunch Box

by Gary Rice

How many of you have written one of these types of essays on your first day back to school? For that matter (and let's be truthful here) how many of you still get that special feeling when you hear those ubiquitous words "Back to School" annually? But I digress. One column topic at a time.

The truth is, I haven't been to many places far away for my summer vacations in a number of years. Taking care of my dear late mom and now my dad (along with our epileptic parrot Gilligan and the other two birds) has kept me from getting away to those tropical islands of my dreams where the hula girls would fan me and feed me grapes and all...Still, I have many terrific memories of traveling vacations past.

Oh, Dad and I do get away, once in awhile these days. We have a great trailer on a lake a few miles south of here, and that provides some relaxing moments. Additionally, we travel to musical jam sessions in the area and enjoy the company of good friends made over the years. Still, those long multi-day vacation car rides are no longer part of our lives. Those were often the most beautiful, yet at times the most stressful, days of our lives.

By the time we'd checked over the house, unplugged the appliances, packed more than we'd ever need, and made it thirty miles down the road, there was often something back at the house that still needed to be done, so we'd have to turn around and make the trek back home.

The real fun with road travel, in the old days, was with the great sights to see along those two-lane asphalt highways that comprised the long road



Mother's golden lunch box; a repository of happy memories of friends, family, and our home's history.

south. South, you see, was the principal direction we headed each year, as frankly, that's where Mom's relatives were. Staying with relatives was an economical way that many people could take long vacations back then. Motels were not always in our budget.

The one thing you always hoped would not happen was getting stuck behind a slow moving vehicle of some kind. In the "no-passing" hills of Kentucky and Tennessee, in those days before the interstates, when you were stuck you were indeed stuck well! Slow speeds needed to be maintained for sometimes three or four hours. At times, a wagon train would have made better time than you would, especially on those hundred degree days before the family car had air-conditioning. One also quickly learned about the chrome strip that framed many '50's era car windows. To put one's

arm on that strip on a hot day was akin to touching a red hot branding iron.

As we headed south, there were many roadside diversions to lure vacationers off the highway. Along with seeing those "See Rock City" signs, "Chew Mail Pouch" barns, and the small multiple "Burma Shave" billboards dotting the roadway, there was always the opportunity to stop at a fireworks stand, or to get boiled peanuts, or to buy "fresh roasted pecans" that sometimes tasted as if they'd been sitting around for months! One could always find a sideshow attraction, like "See the Amazing Five-Legged Dog!" or "The Man Buried Alive With Rattlesnakes!"

One of my favorites was a "House That Defies Gravity!" That was a small home that was purposely built at an angle on a hillside. Going into that place, you had no idea how to find your center of balance! In "The Great Smoky Mountains" between North Carolina and Tennessee, you could drive on a "highway above the clouds." In the 1950's there were places where you could get your picture made with an "Indian Chief," although back then who knew that the area Cherokees did not historically dress in the manner of Native Americans from the Great Plains? Live black bears freely roamed the picnic areas, and war bonnets and rubber tomahawks were sold on virtually every roadside stand.

Other stops that we made along those long hot roads included "Lincoln's Birthplace" in Hodgenville, Kentucky. Although if you read the story about the not-exactly "Lincoln's birthplace" log cabin enshrined there, it will probably make you shake your head in wonder. "My Old Kentucky Home" in Bardstown is a beautiful residence as well. Songwriter Stephen Foster apparently never lived there, although he may have visited the place. It was, I seem to recall, in Virginia's Luray Caverns, where the tour guide pointed to two formations looking like cooked eggs and asked young Gary which one resembled his mother's cooking. To Mom's chagrin, I picked the ugly one!

These days, you can get in your car, hop onto President Eisenhower's inter-

state highway system, and arrive at your destination so much faster than back then. Using these interstate highways, I once determined that there were less than half a dozen stoplights between our home and my cousin's in Alabama. Of course, there are often far fewer sights to see along those highways, and often the same motel and restaurant chains are seen along the entire route.

So often, our final vacation destination was the snow-white, ninety-mile long beach along Florida's panhandle. As August was (and still is) a prime hurricane month, we sometimes were nearly blown off that beach or arrived there a few days after a storm, when the undertow was still too vicious for a safe swim. Still, there was always the pool, and that great Florida seafood. Once in awhile, I still get a craving for red snapper, or grouper, although fresh Lake Erie walleye suits me just fine these days.

One time, along that long road south, the family stopped into a small family restaurant called "The Lunch Box." The principal decoration for the place was a plain lunchbox, framed and hung onto a simple brown pegboard. When Mom asked the significance of that lunchbox, we were told that the owner had recently retired from another job, and the box was a trophy of sorts.

Well, my dear late Mom absolutely had to have one like it, only fancier. So when we got home, Dad dug out a frame containing a portrait that he'd painted of my grandmother (Mom's mom) that he'd never really been satisfied with. He reversed the picture in the frame, draped it in red fabric, found a lunch box, painted it gold, and VOILA! We had a breakfast room masterpiece! (Whether my dear late grandmother agreed or not, she did not say--or perhaps she never knew that her portrait was hiding behind that lunchbox!)

Now the question presented itself as to what the lunchbox might possibly mean to the family? At that point, there was no family retirement to celebrate, so what purpose COULD the lunchbox possibly serve? Well, as she usually did with family matters, Mom arrived at a beautiful solution. People who visited our home were invited to deposit their name, along with a short note and the date, into that golden lunchbox. It became an ideal repository for tradespeoples' business cards, as well as for many beautiful and touching personal messages.

Once in awhile, I look through that golden lunchbox. Through laughter and tears, I recall those friends and relatives, present or now absent, who graced our home over those many years. While we still have great photo albums, those personal messages written so long ago also remind Dad and me of the many friends and family that we have, and did have. Even more than that is the ever-present reminder of a lasting legacy of love from a dear wife and mother, who in so many ways WAS the pulse of this city--to us, and to so many others.

Who Are Those Guys And Girls?

by Peter Sackett

I have always ignored the Police Blotter page in that other newspaper. Anyone can get arrested. A better question is: Who is found guilty? Or, where were they when they got caught? Or, where do they live? So, let me express a challenge to the community. And, a way to meet that challenge.

The challenge is simple: We need to identify who is drinking and driving in violation of the law; who is drinking and acting disorderly; who is serving them all the alcohol; when they are getting arrested; and where they live.

The court docket down on Detroit Avenue is full, every week of every month, and every month of every year, with people charged with offenses regarding alcohol. They are all over 18. If they are under 21, they face different/additional issues. So, how do we learn who is convicted of violating the alcohol-related offenses in our fair city (and how they are punished)?

Simple: The Clerk of Courts

keeps copies of the docket. Every day. The Police Department maintains a public record of every arrest. Our state's Sunshine Law will help make all of this 'public'.

Who is to grasp all of the facts and figures? Easy. Our high school has aspiring journalists who write for the school newspaper. I propose that the students become involved in a research program relating to the offenses noted. I know the public has a right to this information. I know the staff at the court and police department will make the information available. I know the kids would learn a lot from doing this work.

And, the public would learn as well. Let's see which bars lead the pack. Let's see the names and addresses of the guilty offenders in this newspaper. Let's see how they are punished. Maybe we can make a dent in the problem. Regardless, we will all be educated. Thus, the 4th estate will be doing their jobs.

The sooner the better.

Lakewood Perspective

Experience Counts, But For What?

by Bret Callentine

So, how long did it take you to get that all-important, resume-saving experience? If you're a recent graduate, you know exactly what I'm talking about. Did you ever sit through a job interview virtually begging the person to give you a chance to prove yourself? Yeah...me neither.

Actually, I don't mean to brag, but the title of my very first job after college was "Vice President". Although, truth be told, that had less to do with actual job responsibilities than the fact that I was the one who ordered the stationery and business cards. But, regardless of the title, the position was priceless not simply for the paycheck I stuffed in my pocket, but rather, in what was learned in hands-on business experience that I was able to tuck under my belt.

At this point in my life, I've held a variety of different jobs, some with more responsibility than others, but all had one thing in common: a need for prior experience. Not simply because the job itself was tough, but as I've told several classrooms on Career Day, many times it wasn't just about being able to do the job, but being able to win the job in the first place. To obtain one previous position, I had to beat out more than two hundred other qualified applicants. And having an abundance of applicable experience certainly helped in that battle.

But experience isn't everything.

Case in point is this years' hotly contested Presidential elections. While the economy, the war on terror, and the struggle for energy independence are all major policy issues, a focus of many political debates has become "experience". I find it interesting that while the McCain camp spent a lot of time hammering away on Barack Obama's limited time in elected office (too little experience?), Obama spent an equal amount of effort stressing that McCain is too much of a Washington insider (too much experience?). Meanwhile, both picked Vice-Presidential nominees at the opposite end of the experience spectrum.

Lost in the rhetoric is any sub-

stantial debate over defining what qualifies as "enough" experience. But don't look to history to help you sort that one out. Our Presidential voting record doesn't seem to offer much clarity on the issue. After all, in 1976 a man who was a war veteran and lawyer, who had twenty-four years in the US House of Representatives (including eight as Minority Leader), and who held the office of Vice President of the United States for one year and President for three, lost the election to another man who was only a State Senator for three years, and a Governor for four (although he was a Naval officer, farmer and teacher as well).

And after four years of holding the office, that man lost the election to a former actor who only had eight years playing the role of Governor.

Yet another man lost his bid for re-election after four years in office as President, eight years as Vice President, four years in the House of Representatives, a year as Director of the CIA, two years as Ambassador to the United Nations, and a multitude of private business experience (not to mention being a decorated war veteran). And the guy who beat him out only had about half as much experience, with eleven years as Governor and two as a State Attorney General.

When that guy concluded two terms, his Vice President of eight years, who also had another eight in the US Senate and a further eight in the House, lost out in his bid to become President to a guy who was only a Governor for five years, although he did have the all-important private business experience and some time in the National Guard.

Clearly, the American people have some other qualifications on their minds when they punch their ballots. The US Constitution only has three main qualifications: You must be a natural born citizen; you must be at least 35 years old; and you must have been a permanent resident for at least 14 years. So what's the story?

Well, personally, my qualifications would go something like this: I would like my President to have at least four years experience in some sort of leadership role at a "for profit" company. But, I would also prefer that he/she have another four years at a non-profit charitable organization. I would like my President to have a close-knit family so that he/she has a better understanding of the needs of aging parents, as well as growing kids. I would like my President to have gone to college, so he/she knows the stress of performing under the pressure of

final exams as well as the strain of financing tuition, books, and a running bar tab.

I'm willing to overlook a candidate's misguided adventures in youth as long as they can back it up with a track record that shows how they learned from their mistakes. As I suggested in my last article, I'd like my president to be financially viable, as an example to those still striving for the American dream. In addition it's imperative that they display an equally strong moral and ethical standing.

When push comes to shove, most of today's candidates have a majority of those bases covered. So what it really comes down to is trust. Trust that the candidate will do what they promise. Trust that they will surround themselves with the right people, who are knowledgeable and wise. And trust that they will then listen to those people. Trust that they are seeking the position for the right reasons and will hold the reigns of power with a consciousness of the will of those who elected them.

It's about trust, more than it was ever about experience, and more than it will ever be about any given issue or topic. And in that race, as far as I'm concerned, we're a long way from establishing a frontrunner.



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Lakewood Observer

Ready, Set, Retire!

by Carl Baldesare

Retirement is considered by many Americans as a time to realize their dreams or experience some well-deserved leisure. For others it is the opportunity to embark on a new career. How you live out your retirement will largely be determined by your ability to sustain the lifestyle you desire. And your success will depend in part on how well you have planned for your future. Sound daunting? It doesn't have to be, if you develop a sound financial strategy.

Annuities, particularly fixed annuities, are investment vehicles that span well across all income groups. Regardless of your income or net worth, having a fixed annuity as part of your product portfolio might be a wise choice.

As a long-term investment vehicle, a fixed annuity will give you a tool you need to pursue your retirement goals: the potential to accumulate assets while deferring taxes on earnings; financial protection for your beneficiaries; and a choice of annuity payout options you can depend on.

Together with your IRAs and 401(k) plans, fixed annuities can help put you on a path toward realizing your retirement goals. Consider the following hypothetical scenarios:

Carlos, a high net worth individual, might make good use of a fixed annuity's tax-deferred growth. Carlos can delay distributions from his annuity when

he doesn't need the monthly retirement income (unlike distributions from many qualified retirement plans). Also, if Carlos carefully selects his beneficiaries, he can expand the value of his annuity.

Elizabeth, a middle-income individual, has several financial assets and still might need to supplement her monthly retirement income. Elizabeth might also need to qualify for government benefits someday and might have difficulty qualifying due to her financial assets. By purchasing an annuity, she might be able to reduce her financial assets enough to qualify for government benefits, while also supplementing her monthly income. (You should know that regulations vary significantly from state-to-state, so it is very important to consult experts,

including elder law attorneys, prior to using this technique.)

Paul, a lower-income consumer, needs a source of retirement income that will provide a consistent monthly income. A fixed annuity might be ideal for his purpose. A fixed annuity can provide guaranteed retirement income payments for life, eliminating at least some concern about having enough money to live on during retirement.

A fixed annuity can be a valuable part of your retirement planning, regardless of your financial status. In addition to offering some tax benefit, annuities provide flexible options for both growth and income. In fact, annuities are a major source of income for many consumers who are over age 65*, regardless of whether they are fully

retired or working part-time. These consumers receive a monthly income to live on while their investment grows tax-deferred, and their earnings are taxed only when the money is paid to the annuity owner or the beneficiary.

Unlike other investment vehicles, an annuity can provide monthly income for the life of the annuity owner or for the life of both the owner and survivor, typically the owner's spouse.

Regardless of your financial situation, owning a fixed annuity might be a good investment vehicle to include in your financial portfolio. Together with your other investments, such as IRAs or 401(k) plans, fixed annuities can help redefine your retirement.

* Society of Certified Senior Advisors, 2006 data.

USPS Safety Corner: Safety Programs

Recently at the Lakewood Post Office, we have put together a strong safety committee to help abate problems found in the station as well as problems when the carriers are in the street. The reason the committee was put together was the high number of accidents involving vehicular damage or personal injury.

We have established a couple of very good programs. The main goal was to communicate with our customers. The first program was writing

these monthly safety articles in The Lakewood Observer. This is a great tool to educate and communicate to our customers postal policies and regulations pertaining to mail delivery and vehicular safety. Our goal is to keep your daily mail delivery on time and most importantly, keep your mail carrier safe.

The second program is directly addressing any safety issues in the street that need immediate attention. This is done by writing a letter addressing the specific problem. For example, a broken step is a very serious issue for a carrier. The carrier will relay the information to the safety committee who will in turn send a letter to the customer addressing the safety issue and possible solutions to abate the problem. A fair amount of time is given in order to repair the problem. The rest is up to the customer. They have the option of either fixing the broken step so the carrier does not get hurt, or moving the mail box down to a safe location so the carrier does not have to use the steps. It is the customer's choice. Once we hear back from either the carrier or the customer that the problem has been addressed, the safety committee immediately sends out a Thank You letter.

We have been operating these programs over the past few months and

have had a great response. Many times customers do not realize that something is a problem until it is brought to their attention.

The Safety Committee knows that we cannot solve all the safety issues out in the street. Our goal is to eliminate as many unnecessary hazards as possible to ensure not only your regular delivery, but also the safety of all our personnel.

We are all aware that when you lose your carrier due to injury, your mail service is not the same. Let us all work together to keep our carriers safe and on their routes.

We will continue to communicate information about the Post Office's Procedures and Policies to help make your postal experience a pleasant one. We welcome feedback from our customers. If you have questions of any kind pertaining to the Post Office feel free to call The Safety Committee at (216) 226-9691. Ask for Carmen, Terri, or Ramona between 7am-9:30am, or write us at 1475 Warren Ave. If we don't have the answer, we will get back to you promptly when we do.

For all our customers who have helped make these programs a success, a great big THANK YOU!!!

USPS Safety Committee



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Lakewood Home Tour

Lakewood Shone Brightly for House Tour

continued from page 1

ern alterations have been made they were done with deep respect for the house’s integrity. Even the most modern home on our tour, a condo in the Waterford, built in 1972, has a timeless and striking traditional character that merges with Lakewood’s historic homes but expresses its own identity. Equally as striking are the homeowners’ personal furnishings and valued treasures, as original and significant as the house itself.

Although she is longing to be restored to her original glory, the Hilliard Theater gave us her best. We could admire the lobby’s glazed Spanish tile work and trim, stone staircase with

brass and iron railings that lead to the balcony, and arched plaster ceilings and windows to the auditorium built to evoke an outdoor setting. The Historical Society collected three pages of names of people interested in staying abreast of ideas for restoration and reuse of the theater - let’s hope the interest created on Sunday blossoms into a viable plan to find a creative new use.

It was so nice to see these beautifully maintained houses. With such care, all our timeless treasures will still be standing long after we leave this world. Thank you to the owners for sharing their labors of love and reminding us why it is we have chosen to be stewards of our own Lakewood homes.

Home Tour Party Photos On Page 20



The Marlow Home



The Clifton Blvd. Home.



Ms. Bluemel’s Discovery Class and their History Project on Cowan Pottery. Pictured here with a Jenna Thomas, house tour patron is Isabel Ostrowski, Maryann Costello and John Kompur at the Nicholson House.



The owner Bob Dobish, Phil Florian and Tate Ricker showing the first movie featured at the Hilliard Theater, Harold Lloyd in “The Kid”.

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Conservation Corner

Eliminating E-Waste

by Heather Ramsey

For many of us, life without electronic devices is hard to imagine, whether it be computers, MP3 players, cell phones, digital cameras, printers or fax machines. Technology improves very quickly, leading many to throw out old models in favor of new ones, usually after less than 2 years of use. And, if you're anywhere close to as clumsy as I am, your cell phone gets dropped and damaged even before that 2 year contract is up.

These items often contain valuable components that can still be used, as well as dangerous ones that should not be allowed to leach into landfills, making it beneficial to consumers and producers alike to eliminate them from the waste stream. However, it is estimated that the US created 1.5 billion pounds of e-waste in 2006, including 44 million computers and

televisions. Currently, electronic waste is the fastest growing segment of waste, and, though it still makes up a small percentage of the total, it is likely responsible for more than half of the heavy metals in landfills.

Electronic waste, or e-waste, in addition to wasting useable aluminum, copper, and plastics, contains dangerous ingredients like lead and mercury, which can leach into the soil and water. The heavy metals in these materials and the chemical solvents and plastics used with them can cause brain damage, kidney damage, cancers, hormone disruption, and immune and reproductive harm if humans are exposed to them. Unfortunately, though, we throw away more than three-quarters of our electronics rather than reusing and recycling them, and this means that they end up in landfills where they

readily seep into the earth.

Older model TVs and monitors, known as cathode-ray tube (CRT) models, contain several pounds of lead. Lead can be dangerous even in small amounts, so one can only imagine the problems awaiting us if consumers nationwide discard their old TVs in order to meet new digital standards, which take effect nationwide in February; it has been estimated that 2008 sales of digital televisions will reach 32 million. If you do purchase a new television, be aware that Samsung (beginning in October), LG, and Sony will accept their old models back for free, and will accept other brands for a fee. If your TV is still in working condition, you can also donate it to Goodwill or the Salvation Army.

In addition to monitors, the rest of your computer contains dangerous chemicals, too. Circuit boards, for example, often contain mercury,

cadmium, and lead. Luckily, many computer manufacturers now offer take-back programs. Apple, for example, accepts any old computer if you are purchasing a new Apple computer and gives a discount on a new iPod if you turn in your older model. Dell and Lenovo take back any of their own computers for free (sometimes even paying you), but Gateway's and HP's programs include a fee. Next time you purchase a computer, be sure to purchase from a manufacturer offering a take-back program for your old computer, unless you plan to donate it or recycle it elsewhere. These programs do change and have terms and conditions. Check out computertakeback.com for a list of programs and details, and consult the manufacturers. For a list of places to donate an old computer, check out sharetechnology.org or mygreenelectronics.org. You can also drop off an old computer for recycling at the Lakewood Refuse & Recycling Facility on Berea Road. If you have an ever-growing collection of CDs, you can recycle those, too. The CD Recycling Center of America will recycle them for free (though you pay to ship them).

Cell phones may seem like a small amount of waste, as they are getting smaller in size all the time, but, with an average usage life of only a year and a half, they are being discarded in multitudes. Cell phone coatings sometimes contain lead, and the batteries include toxins such as cadmium, lithium, or, that's right, more lead. Many stores will take old cell phones, including Staples and Office Max, and you can also donate (or sell) it through a variety of programs, including ReCellular and Collective Good.

Rechargeable batteries (like the ones in your cell phone, laptop, digital camera, or camcorder) can be dropped off for recycling through the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation's Call2Recycle program at an increasing number of stores, including Radio Shack, Home Depot, and Target. Just bring in a cellular phone or a battery in a plastic bag (one battery per bag) and they'll take care of the rest, including donating some of the proceeds to charity.

On September 19th and 20th, the Steelyard Commons Best Buy will be having an electronics recycling event where they will accept computers, printers (and printer cartridges), fax machines, TVs, stereos, DVD players, camcorders, phones, and rechargeable batteries from 10am-4pm, so if you already have e-waste around the home that was headed for the landfill, load it up and take it to this event. Don't forget that taking care of your electronics is one of the best ways to reduce e-waste - a working computer or phone doesn't need to be discarded. Consider a protective sleeve for your laptop, cell phone, or mp3 player and clean your electronics (as recommended by the manufacturer) regularly.

Inspired Space

Double Living

by Kristine Pagsuyoin

Q: I want to use the Feng Shui map to determine the different areas in my apartment, but I live in a double. Which door do I use as my entrance, the one I use to enter the house or the one that opens into my apartment? I live upstairs. -S.B., Lakewood

A: For people who live in doubles, as a significant amount of Lakewoodites do, practicing Feng Shui can pose some real challenges. There is predecessor energy left by the last occupants, and you never know how loud or polite your housemate will be. A trained Feng

Shui consultant can help you clear out old energy or problems with neighbors. Overall, Feng Shui can be extremely beneficial in helping your space feel more like your own home even while you are co-existing with very close neighbors. Keep in mind that your front door is always considered the main entrance, whether or not you usually use a back or a side door to enter. After that, it really depends. Master Lin Yun, one of the most followed Feng Shui masters in the world, suggests using the door that actually opens up to the apartment. This is especially true if you live in a high rise or in a building in which all of the tenants use the same door. However, if the house you live in has more than one door to enter, one for the downstairs tenants and one for the up, then use the door you enter to go up.

Having a very welcoming entryway that is clutter-free is crucial to attracting new opportunities and sets the tone for the entire space. Think back to when you were house hunting. You were drawn to a house that looked like it was being taken care of by the owner. No matter what the inside of a house looks like, if the door looks battered, or if the porch is run down with a crumbling railing or stairs, we tend not to want to enter the house. A house like this is not attracting positive, fresh

energy or new opportunities. Opportunity is literally driving by.

Whether you're living in a double or a building with many tenants, you'll want to be sure your door stands out. You may have heard that in Feng Shui it is recommended to paint your door red. Red is a very auspicious color that gets you noticed. It symbolizes fame and reputation, wealth and passion. The goal is to attract energy, and opportunities, to you. Put a welcome mat in front of the door, and if you can't paint the door (doesn't have to be red—it can be a color that just helps your door stand out), hang a wreath or ornament that will get you noticed. If you live upstairs in a double, it is a good idea to attract the energy up the stairs to you. Arrange potted flowers on the stairs that create a path of energy leading to your door, hang a wind chime at the top of the stairs, or put a small table with a lamp in the corner. You can also hang another wreath, or something else creative, on the inside door and add a mat. Make sure that the door leading into the apartment can open fully--don't store anything by the door that prevents it from opening all the way. Upon entering, your entryway should be free of clutter, and if you do have permission to paint, use a color in the entry that is warm and inviting. One last bit of Feng Shui advice: Make sure you have a working doorbell on the door. Broken doorbells symbolize missed opportunities. You can't hear them to let them in!

Do you have a Feng Shui question? If you would like your question featured in an upcoming column, please email to inspiredspace@gmail.com. Your full name will not be published. **Feng Shui classes through the Lakewood Recreation Department start on September 17th. Call 216-529-4081 to register.**



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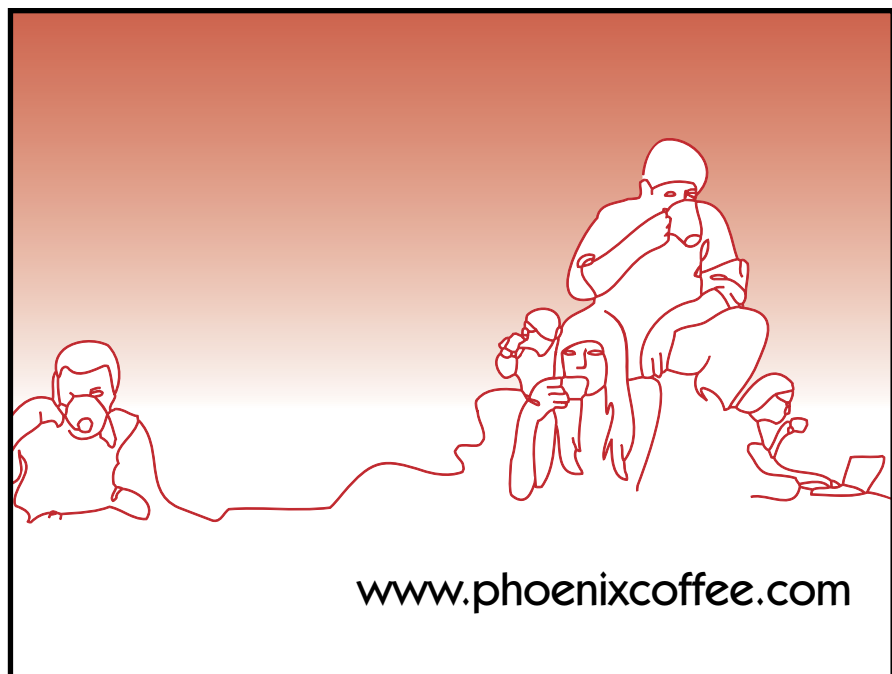
Thinking Of Buying Bank Owned?

Realty Reality Q & A: “What Is Feng Shui?”

Some of the concepts are sim-

If you are a buyer looking to purchase and occupy a bank owned home there are rehab loans available. A rehab loan will enable you to purchase a bank owned property and factor in the assessed repair work. An appraisal is done based on what the finished product will be and the loan is made for the amount needed to do the repairs. One such loan is the 203k loan. Not every lender offers them so you may have to ask around. Again, you have to have patience and be ready for a project, you also have to qualify for the loan. But you can find bank owned homes in virtually every community, so Good Luck and Happy Hunting!

With a slower real estate market, many Homeowners are exploring untraditional ways to make their homes more appealing and this is one that has recently become quite popular. With the many books available and even HGTV programs on this subject, it's a topic that can be easily explored and implemented whether selling your home or just to increase the 'chi' of your own living space.



Lakewood Home Tour VIP Party

House Tour Patron Party

by Melissa Page

The Lakewood Historical Society’s “Come Home To Lakewood” Patron Party drew over 150 people to Forest Cliff for a rare event to tour four homes. These homes were built in 1910, 1923, 1936, & 1990. A fifth house, currently empty and for sale on the lakefront, was a last minute added bonus open for tour. The party was held outdoors with music provided by Mike Jacobs and the Highlighters and the Phat Four String Quartet. Food and beverages were provided by local caterer, Karen King, and Rozi’s Wine House.


Through numerous donations the society had collected an assortment of wines for the ongoing “Instant Wine Cellar” raffle fundraiser. All one hundred bottles were at the party and the raffle winner was picked. Gordon and Susan Geiger were the lucky winners having bought just 6 tickets for \$20!



Clockwise from top left, Heather Rudge (middle) packing up 100 bottles of wine for winners Gordon and Susan Geiger., Norma Collins, Kathy Haber (Chair of the House Tour) and Mazie Adams (Executive Director of LHS), Ken Haber (President of LHS), Betty Boeff and Val Mechenbier, Janie and Paul Gaydos

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